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BESTSDI – Western Balkans Academic Education Evolution
and Professional's Sustainable Training for Spatial Data
Infrastructures

With the support of the Erasmus+ program:
Higher Education – International Capacity Building
N° 574150-EPP-1-2016-1-HR-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

BESTSDI Project Status Report

Deliverable: D5.4-3

Version 0.2

Author(s) / Organisation(s):

Željko Bačić / UNIZG FOG

Work Package / Task:

WP 5 Management

Task 5.2: Project Coordination, Administration and Monitoring

References:

Description of the project (Annex I to the Grant Agreement)

Project Management Plan

Short Description:

The Deliverable provides the Project status for first half year of its lifetime: 15.10.2016 – 15.04.2017. in all its main elements describing legal status, managerial, financial and communication issues, project execution, results achieved and problems occurred.

Keywords:

Project status, Management, Reporting



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V0.1	11-03-2018	Željko Bačić	Working draft	Document structured and initially filed with data
V0.2	18-04-2018	Željko Bačić, Vesna Poslončec Petrić	Draft	Full document

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1. Introduction

Project proposal for “Western Balkans academic education Evolution and professional's sustainable training for spatial data infrastructures – BESTSDI” project has been proposed by project consortium led by University of Zagreb, Faculty of Geodesy for Erasmus+ Key Action 2 – Capacity Building in field of Higher Education call for year 2016 and accepted for execution.

The wider objectives of the BESTSDI project is to improve the quality of higher education in Geographical Science and Technology field, SDI and geodesy, enhance its relevance for the labour market and society and to improve the level of competences and skills in HEI's by developing new and innovative education programmes within the field of SDI.

The specific project objectives are to develop, test and adapt new curricula, courses, learning material and tools within the field of SDI. In doing so, existing undergraduate and graduate geodesy and geoinformatics curricula's in the academic institutions in the Western Balkans region will be lifted to higher levels, recognising the of spatial data for modern society and its development. By the incorporation of SDI concept and other modern concepts based on spatial data and information, the students of the new courses will be able provide efficiently spatial data and services to SDI users. In parallel, the project also introduces SDI and related concepts in undergraduate and graduate study programs on academic institutions which profiles are well recognized as SDI users, raising awareness among the students and professionals about the relevancy of SDI and advantages of well-organized spatial data.

In this context, the specific objective of the project is to develop appropriate curricula, courses and their content for both target groups (SDI providers and SDI users) of academic institutions. This includes the development of SDI compulsory and elective courses, modules or parts of courses as well as development of sustainable training courses (life-long education) of broad scope of professionals.

An additional project objective is to disseminate the project experiences and results to create additional value and multiply the impact of the results.

A third objective is to establish the necessary foundation for the participation of partner universities in the European academic SDI arena.

The introduction of modernized curricula will provide new kind of professionals equipped with broader cognition, knowledge and skills about SDI and other modern spatial data related concepts. The new students will be able to foster development at all levels of SDI's in their countries and therefore adopt EU directives faster and more efficient. In practice, this should also result in growth of a SDI based spatial data market.

According to the Grant Agreement between the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency of European Union and University of Zagreb (Project coordinator) for execution of project a grant in size od 978.166,66 Euro's has been approved. The action (project) shall run for 36 months, from 15th October 2016 till 14th October 2019.

BESTSDI project has been successfully launched at the kick-off meeting held in Zagreb between November 14th and 16th 2016.

Document scope

The scope of this document is to provide in brief status of project execution on semi-annual basis to all partners and interested parties (EACEA, National Erasmus Offices (NEO’s), etc. covering six areas:

- Legal status,
- Organization & Management status,
- Project execution,
- Financial status,
- Deliverables and
- Evaluation and Quality Assurance.

With each area of reporting in the summary, internal project risks have been evaluated.

This is the **third Project Status Report** for the second half year of BESTSDI project execution covering period from **15th October 2017 till 14th April 2018**.

2. Legal status

Regarding legal status of the Project, three changes of the rector at partner university have been reported by partners (UKIM, KU Leuven and UNIMO). Project office informed project officer at EACEA about those changes.

Subcontracts with subcontractors LANTMÄTERIET and NOVOGIT have been signed in December 2017/January 2018.

There were no other legal status issues or changes which could influence legal status of the BESTSDI project.

Legal status quantification & internal risk evaluation:

Action	Expected no.	Executed no.	Rate of execution	Risk evaluation
Subcontracting	2	2	100%	No threat

3. Organization and management status

3.1. Organization

During this reporting period several partners (UNIZG GTF, UNITZ, UNSA FASF, UBT and UNS FCE) have made changes in their project teams strengthening their capacities. There were no other changes in organization of the project in reporting period.

3.2. Management

Management issues (together with financial ones) have been object of continuous activity of the Project Coordinator, Project Office and managers of Project Partners. There were problems in communication and level of participation with some partners, as well as problems on relations between partners University and Faculty. Therefore, Project office (Ž. Bačić and V. Poslončec-Petrić) has organized several visits and meetings with project partners aiming to solve problems or discuss coming activities as listed below:

- 12.10.2017. meeting in Zagreb at FOG with UNS FCE project team representatives (D. Kukaras and V. Ogrizović) about project management, project team reorganization and strengthening, opening study of Geodesy at FCE and future cooperation,
- 16.11.2017. meetings in Zagreb at FOG with UBT project team representatives (E. Hajrizi and N. Preniqi) about project management, procurement, launching new master study on geoinformatics and future cooperation between FOG and UBT.
- 28.02.2018. meetings in Prizren with vice-rector prof. S. Idrizi, dean S. Krrabaj and project team E. Canhasi, Z. Hasani and J. Jusufi about project management at UNIPZ, ensuring necessary capacities, involvement of Prizren staff at events, procurement and future cooperation.
- 28.02.2018. meeting in Pristine with rector prof. E. Hajrizi and project team N. Preniqi, H. Cardaku, H. Dana, H. Metin about project execution, procurement, introduction of new study program on geoinformatics, organization of Q8 workshop in Pristine in November 2018 and future cooperation.
- 28.02.2018. meeting in Skopje with project partner representatives from UKIM (Z. Srbinoski, Z. Bogdanovska and G. Gjorgiev) about project activities, especially tasks led by UKIM, and future cooperation.

During March 2018. UNIPZ has reorganized its Project team and as new project partner manager has been appointed prof. Perparim Ameti, while Jasmin Jusufi is contact person.

For successful management of the Project, web-page (<http://www.bestsdi.eu>) and Moodle platform (<http://science.geof.unizg.hr/moodle/>) are regularly maintained and updated with information.

During reporting period three numbers of internal monthly e-newsletter BESTSDI-Info have been published.

Information dissemination quantification & internal risk evaluation:

Action	Expected no.	Executed no.	Rate of execution	Risk evaluation
BESTSDI Info	12	12	100%	No threat
BESTSDI-Newsletter	4	1	0%	Threat*

* After successful launch of BESTSDI Newsletter there has appeared problem in Newsletter editing and no more issues have been released. This is jeopardizing visibility of the Project and reducing effects of Project's work. Therefore, BESTSDI Newsletter problem has been put as a point on a PMB meeting in Banja Luka (24/04/2018) to be discussed and solved.

4. Project execution

4.1. Events

According to the Project Workplan during whole project life time it is foreseen to organize minimally one project event per quarter. During reporting period, two project workshops have been organized:

- Q5: Workshop held at University of Mostar, Faculty of Science and Education, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on November 6th – 8th, 2017, with 43 participants

Events quantification & internal risk evaluation:

Action	No. of participants attending event		Rate of attendance	Risk evaluation
	Foreseen	Present*		
Q5-Workshop Mostar	47	43	91,5%	No threat

* Number of foreseen participants corresponds to those for whom funding in project budget has been foreseen. The figures in column present corresponds to number of persons which attended the event.

4.2. Project Bodies

According to the Project Workplan following Project Body meetings have been organized during this reporting period:

- 1st Project Advisory Committee meeting during the Q5 Workshop held at University of Mostar, Faculty of Science and Education, Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina, held on November 7th 2017.

- 2nd Project Management Board meeting via conference call on 22.02.2018.

Meetings quantification & internal risk evaluation:

Action	Meeting / Participants		Rate of attendance	Risk evaluation
	Foreseen	Held		
	Foreseen	Attended		
PAC meeting	1	1	100%	No threat
	5	3	60%	No threat
PMB meeting	1	1	100%	No threat
	16	10	62,5%	No threat
PSC meeting	6	0	0%	No threat*
	0	0	0%	No threat*

* Continuous communication with partners and TG leaders has put idea to keep regular PSC meetings on side. The re-managing of PSC work will be on agenda of PMB meeting held on April 24th during joint IMPULS-BESTSDI project workshop.

4.3. Work Packages & Task Groups work

During reporting period work of all Work Packages has been initiated and launched. Emphasis was on finishing work in WP1 – Preparation, WP2A Development of Curriculum, WP3 – Quality, WP4 – Dissemination and exploitation and WP5 Management. During reporting period T1.4 and T3.1 have finished their work and on Project Management Board meeting held via conference call on 22. 02. 2018. they have been closed:

- TG1.4 – Specification of Project Curriculum and
- TG3.1 – Development of Quality plan.

Already active Task groups which continued their work were:

- TG1.5 – Curriculum adaptation specification,
- TG2.1 – Development of project curriculum,
- TG2.3 – Equipment purchase and installation,
- TG2.4 – Training of teachers,

- TG3.2 – Evaluation of progress and results,
- TG3.3 – Quality Assurance Plan,
- TG4.3 – Dissemination material production,
- TG4.4 – Development plan for dissemination and exploitation of results,
- TG5.2 – Project coordination, administration and monitoring and
- TG5.3 – National stakeholder coordination.

Following Task groups have started with their work:

- TG2.2 – Long-life learning (LLL) courses,
- TG2.5 – Localisation of curriculum and
- TG2.6 – Implementation of local curriculum.

In accordance to project Workplan, TG3.1 delivered second deliverable and TG1.4 and TG1.5 delivered foreseen deliverable.

WP & TG work quantification & internal risk evaluation:

Action	Expected no.	Executed no.	Rate of execution	Risk evaluation
TG formally established	26	22	84,6%	No threat
TG performed and task finished in foreseen or acceptable time	6	5	83,3%	No threat
TG performed and task finished with delay	3	2	66,7%	No threat
TG did not fulfil task	-	-	-	-

In reporting period next purchases and installation of equipment has been realized (UNITZ and UNIPZ). Other partners have conducted procurement procedure (UNIBL, UNSA, UNIMO, UNS, UBT and PUT), while UNIBG and AUT are in procurement procedure.

Procurement quantification & internal risk evaluation:

Action	Expected no.	Executed no.	Rate of execution	Risk evaluation
ICT equipment purchased for partner faculty	15	11	73,3%	No threat

ICT equipment installed at partner faculty	15	3	20,0%	No threat
Remaining education equipment purchased for partner faculty	15	2	13,3%	No threat

4.4. Quality Assurance

During reporting period BESTSDI project quality assurance mechanisms become fully functional and they are executed now as planned. Meaning, that TG3.3 Quality assurance has established system of following success indicators and delivering Project Success Indicator Reports including also risk assessment. Till end of reporting period three Project Success Indicator Reports have been published:

- D3.3.1 – Project success indicators report 1 (Month 6)
- D3.3.2 – Project success indicators report 2 (Month 12)
- D3.3.3 – Project success indicators report 3 (Month 15)

Considering risk assessment, no major threat has been reported in submitted Reports!

Further, considering external evaluation of the Project, in accordance to the signed contract between BESTSDI project and subcontractor Novogit, the subcontracting consultant has delivered his first Evaluation report in April 2018. The document will be presented on joint IMPULS-BESTSDI workshop in Banja Luka 23-25/04/2018 for discussion and adoption on PMB meeting which will be held in Banja Luka.

The second external evaluation procedure, conducted by Project Advisory Committee is ongoing, the result of their evaluation is expected to be presented at Q8 workshop in Tirana on September 2018.

Quality assurance & evaluation quantification & internal risk evaluation:

Action	Expected no.	Executed no.	Rate of execution	Risk evaluation
Project success indicator reports	3	3	100%	No threat
Internal evaluation report	2	1	50%	No threat
External evaluation report Novogit	1	1	100%	No threat
External evaluation report PAC	0	0	0%	No threat

5. Financial status

In reporting period funds have been successfully spent in accordance to executed activities per partners and purchases executed. On April 14th 2018, BESTSDI project has spent 249.354,00 Euro (50,98% of first pre-financing rate).

Since several partners have conducted procurement and payed for equipment the reported they have spent or nearly spent funding from first pre-financing rate (UCG, UNITZ, UBT). Number of other project partners (UNIBL, UNSA, UNIMO, UNS and PUT) conducted also procurement but did not jet reached status for payment of purchased equipment. In a moment some 175.000 Euro of procurement funding is pending to be payed to supplier (inside next 30 days).

It is expected by Project office that we will come in to the position to request second pre-financing around mid of May 2018!

Financial management quantification & internal risk evaluation:

Action	Expected no.	Executed no.	Rate of execution	Risk evaluation
Transfer of funding	16	16	100%	No threat
Registered expenditure	978.166,66	249.354,00	25,49%	No threat
PPAP for Y2 delivered	16	12	75,0%	No threat
Quarterly reporting Q5 (delivery of JD, TS, TC, FS)	16	10	62,5%	No threat

6. Deliverables

According to Project description and workplan, following deliverables were foreseen for delivery during the reporting period (bold marked deliverables have been delivered):

- **T1.5 – Project Curriculum Adaptation Report**
- **T5.4-2 – 2st Project Status Report (2ndPSR)**
- **T5.4-3 – 3rd Project Status Report (3rdPSR)**
- **T5.5.1-1 BESTSDI National SDI Report – Albania**
- **T5.5.1-2 BESTSDI National SDI Report – Bosnia and Herzegovina**
- **T5.5.1-3 BESTSDI National SDI Report – Kosovo**



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- T5.5.1-4 BESTSDI National SDI Report - Montenegro
- T5.5.1-5 BESTSDI National SDI Report - Serbia

Deliverables quantification & internal risk evaluation (except QA):

Action	Expected no.	Executed no.	Rate of execution	Risk evaluation
Deliverables 1 st half Y1 (adopted)	8	8	100,0%	No threat
Deliverables 2 nd half Y1 (adopted)	4	2	50,0%	No threat
Deliverables 1 st half Y2 including delayed from Y1 (adopted)	6	6	100,0%	No threat
Deliverables 1 st half Y2 including delayed from Y1 (final draft)	2	2	100,0%	No threat
Deliverables 1 st half Y2 including delayed from Y1 (published)	6	5	83,3%	No threat
Deliverables total (final draft)	20	20	100,0%	No threat
Deliverables total (adopted)	18	18	100,0%	No threat
Deliverables total (published)	6	5	83,3%	No threat

In Zagreb, 15th April 2018.

Project Coordinator:

Prof. dr. sc. Željko Bačić