

## Report of field monitoring visits carried out in Georgia (March 2015)

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### **Preparation for the monitoring visit**

The field monitoring visit to the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University is part of the work package of activities within the Tempus project in the partner countries. The given field monitoring visit was prepared by the coordination office of the DIMTEGU in Tbilisi.

The sighted monitoring action plan included the following:

Actions:

- *10 meetings*
- *1 Excursion*
- *1 survey*

Inspection of the departments:

- *The Headquarters of the DIMTEGU*
- *The Administration of the 7th academic building (The target group building)*
- *The Faculty of Humanities*
- *The Faculty of Psychology and Educational sciences*
- *The Infrastructure Section at the department of IT*
- *The Quality Assurance office of the faculty of Humanities*

Conversations with Staff:

- *Academic staff – authors of the syllabi of MA program in Multilingual Education*
- *The target groups of the MA program in Multilingual Education (Armenian and Azeri students)*
- *OSCE representative*

### **Implementation of the monitoring action plan**

After the first meeting with the coordinator of DIMTEGU; Professor Darejan Tvaltvadze, some corrections in the monitoring action plan were made. It was shown how the project progress at the time of monitoring was, and which barriers can endanger the achievement of the project goals.

During the whole time of the monitoring visit, DIMTEGU office staff provided me with practical assistance and advice. The office had organized and coordinated all the meetings and initiated all the necessary steps for the frictionless implementation of the monitoring work. All planned events

took place although with small temporal corrections. All involved personnel were highly cooperative and helpful with clarification from different administrative and academic personnel.

## **Observations**

The project management at the Ivane Javakhishvili Tbilisi State University performs an excellent work in regard to international and national coordination of involved institutions and organizations. The circulation of project relevant information happens on time and effective. The maintenance and continuance of all important project data occurs systematically and comprehensibly.

The project faces challenges arising from the latest resolution N.68 of the Georgian Government which made arrangements for the reconstruction of the teacher educational system in general. The resolution regulates the transformation of two current education programs (Bachelor B.A. and Master's degree) with 240 credit points (similar to ECTS - European Credit Transfer System) in a new one graduate program (Diploma of Education) with 300 credit points. All state universities of Georgia have to implement the transfer given in the resolution as soon as possible but not later than winter semester (2016-2017). Some time ago, the Ivane Jvakhishvili University created the new department of pedagogy which acts as a new collaborator within DIMTEGU processes.

In case of DIMTEGU the resolution N.68 charts new circumstances which require the re-adaptation of all existing elaborations in the new teacher education system in Georgia. The Bachelor program of the multilingual teacher education for the elementary school is developed and accredited within the DIMTEGU project, so that first candidates can be registered in the following winter semester (2015-2016).

The Master degree program was prepared for accreditation in 2015. After the commencement of the resolution 68, the work to the accreditation of the Master degree program from the vintage point of the present seems to be pointless. The reason for this is the following: the first graduates of the Bachelor program of the multilingual teacher education for the elementary school (2018-2019) will doubtlessly choose the new Diploma study program with multilingual teacher education content and possibly not the Master study program, which does not promise a professional success in comparison to the graduates of the Diploma study program. That is why the DIMTEGU project staff in Tbilisi is currently oriented to create an action plan for the transfer of BA and MA programs into the new Diploma program with 300 CP.

The integration of the modules and courses for the multilingual teacher education in the new Diploma study program represents both administrative and academic challenges. The responsible party for the integration is the newly created faculty of psychology and educational sciences although greater part of disciplines taught, like languages (Georgian, Armenian, Azerbaijani) and historical science, will be provide by the faculty of humanities.

The original timeframe of the project is too tight for the implementation of that transfer, because all the necessary administrative steps to the obligatory implementation of the resolution N.68 will be completed probably not before September 2015. Hence, it is hard and even unthinkable to manage the program transfer tasks in the remaining one month if the originally planned finish of the project in October 2015 doesn't change.

The time pressure concerns also the initial number of online magazine volumes – 12, which is unrealistic. The publishing of run-down number - 3 new volumes by the lack of the time left also does not seem to be feasible.

## Findings

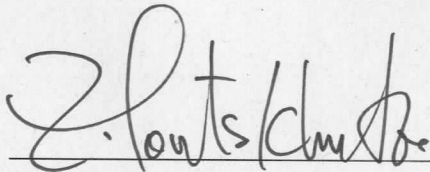
The project is progressing well and all planned outcomes would be achieved if the legal conditions at the beginning of project were the same.

Altered requirements of new educational policy in Georgia could be complied with. All previous activities are implemented with strong motivation of the project team, supported by its competence and effective collaboration between project partners. The Tbilisi State University as the project coordinator is handling all managerial issues with a high degree of efficiency. That fact justified the supposition, that new challenges within the project will be managed by the project time extension.

## Recommendations

The recommendations of JWGU were the following:

1. It is recommended to extend the time for one year in order to ensure smooth project implementation and re-adaptation of all existing elaborations in the newly planned teacher education system in Georgia (Resolution N.68).
2. It is recommended to support the project staff in Tbilisi during the integration and adaptation process with workshops or/and consultations.
3. It is recommended to intensify discussions and consultation with the Ministry of Education in Georgia in order to ensure the programs approval.



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