

598465-EPP-1-2018-1-ME-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP

Response of the Quality Management Group to the External Reviewers

Project title: Reforming doctoral studies in Montenegro and Albania - good practice paradigm

Project acronym: MARDS

Project reference number: 598465-EPP-1-2018-1-ME-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP

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Work package and ref. No.: Quality Plan-Control / 5

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Date: 28.9.2021



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1. Response of the Quality Management Group on the external evaluation report from external evaluators dated 26th of July 2021

Report of the external evaluators dated 26th of July 2021 realistically evaluates the current state of the project. Report is based on the detailed phase reports of partners. The situation is objectively assessed, and critical issues emphasized.

Regarding the equipment external evaluators find that there are no technical omissions. The equipment purchases have been rechecked and all the equipment has been purchased.

The following issues have been emphasized:

- At the delivery D4 - the accreditation of joint doctoral schools some delays have been witnessed. As MARDS QM group has already emphasized, the delay on the side of Albanian partners has been indicated. This was caused by the Albanian regulators. Therefore, one should expect, that the accreditation of the program in Albania might take more time than expected. Nevertheless, it is good, that the request for the accreditation of the Albanian programs has already been prepared.

- Activities regarding deliverable D6.4 are delayed (doctorial colloquium, which was foreseen to be prepared and held during the implementation of the new study programme, where the students would present their work/achievements), as well as the establishment of the system of awarding the scholarships (D7.3), which is still to be defined, while the first generation of students will not pay their studies, at least the first year.

From the recommendations, the main issue is accreditation of the programs on the Albanian side as well as dissemination activities of the project (international conference might be conducted to disseminate the results).

Provided external evaluator report provides the guidelines for further corrective actions in order to timely achieve the project goals.