

DOCUMENT TYPE External document
PLACE Università degli Studi Guglielmo
Marconi | Rome | ITALY
TIME September 26-30, 2017



FINAC
FINancial management,
Accounting & Controlling
in public administration

Financial Management, Accounting & Controlling curricula development for capacity building of public administration

STUDY VISIT AT UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI GUGLIELMO MARCONI

MEETING MINUTES

TO BE ADOPTED AT THE 3rd STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

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| University of Belgrade | SERBIA



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MINUTES

Introduction

The second Study visit, hosted by Università degli Studi Guglielmo Marconi, was organized from 26th to 30th of September, 2017 and it was held in Rome, Italy.

The Study visit meetings were chaired by **Sladjana BENKOVIĆ**, project coordinator, and **Susanna CORRENTI**, partner institution coordinator.

All project partners received the documents included and referenced in these minutes and were notified about all matters discussed prior to the meetings.

The list of all participants at the meetings can be found at the end of the document in APPENDIX 1.

Agenda

The Study visit had the following agenda:

- [1] Establishing the quorum
 - [2] Welcome note, moderation, and Special Greetings by project leader, project coordinators, and Vice-Rector of USGM
 - [3] Erasmus+ Projects for USGM – Why FINAC Matters?
 - [4] After last four months, where we are? – elaborated by project leader
 - [5] Steering Committee meeting #2
 - [6] Distance learning methodologies and production of multimedia learning paths at Guglielmo Marconi University – presented by Professor Paolo Francescone
 - [7] Multimedia lessons and Simulations for the School of Business – presentation by Professor Michele Petrocelli
 - [8] Meeting of Albanian, Croatian, and Serbian representatives
 - [9] The recent Italian budget reform and spending reviews – presented by Aline Pennisi
 - [10] Discussing the management reform in Italian Public Administration: the practical application to Ministries and Public Authorities – presented by Francesco Tufarelli
 - [11] Budgeting, modernization and ethics in the Public Sector: further evidence from an international comparison – presented by Professor Michele Petrocelli
 - [12] Report on financial management knowledge & qualification structure employees in Albania & Serbia (WP.1)
 - [13] Report on financial management knowledge & qualifications structure employees in Albania (WP.1.)
 - [14] Future steps in next 3 months
 - [15] AOB (Any other business)
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I Working Day

Session 1: Establishing the quorum

The list of attendees is available at the end of this document.

Session 01 conclusions:

Representatives of each 12 consortium partner institutions participated in the second Study visit to EU partner institution - Università degli Studi Guglielmo Marconi.

Session 2: Welcome note, moderation, and Special Greetings by project coordinator, project partner team and Vice Rector of USGM

Project partner coordinator, **Susana CORRENTI**, moderated the session and welcomed all the participants of the second study visit and wished them to have fruitful and pleasant study visit.

Vice Rector of the Università degli Studi Guglielmo Marconi, Professor **Giovanni BRIGANTI**, on behalf of the University wished a warm welcome to the participants of the FINAC project and representatives from Western Balkans governments. He stressed that topic of FINAC project is crucial for public administrations even for developed countries, and left alone for candidate countries.

Professor **Arturo LAVALLE**, head of R&D Department, addressed the participants of the second study visit to Università degli Studi Guglielmo Marconi, and wished them welcome.

Project coordinator, **Sladjana BENKOVIĆ**, opened the meeting with a welcome speech addressing all the participants. She thanked all the participants for the attendance and all the efforts put into completing the required activities. **Sladjana BENKOVIĆ** expressed gratitude to the partner institution coordinator, **Susana CORRENTI** for the hospitality and all the efforts that Università degli Studi Guglielmo Marconi put into organizing the second study visit of the FINAC project. She presented suggestions that FINAC received from the project supervisor. One of the suggestions of FINAC supervisor was to prepare institutional and financial sustainability plan, project management and risk plan, and to present purpose of study visits. Those suggestions were taken into account and plans were prepared and distributed to the partner institutions. One more suggestion was related to preparing a joint Master program, and project coordinator reacted since that was in collision with initial instructions. **Sladjana BENKOVIĆ** informed participants that detailed information regarding each step in the project can be found on the project's website. She announced that the next study visit will be held in Slovakia and that draft Agenda is already prepared.

Session 02 conclusions:

The representatives of project consortia have been informed about the partner institution, current state of the FINAC project, and the Agenda of the second Study visit.

Session 3: Erasmus + Projects for USGM – Why FINAC Matters?

Professor **Arturo LAVALLE** as a Head of USGM R&D Department gave his perspective on why FINAC project as an Erasmus project is important. FINAC project can be seen in a light of three aspects.



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Enlargement of the EU can be seen in a light of a new perspective, economic system shifts on the east, which represent an opportunity which can be taken if all parties work together. Public financial management and control is a second aspect, which is important. Good use of EU funds is significant, and FINAC project prepares member countries to be able to deal with issues when they become members in the EU. Third aspect is related to Università degli Studi Guglielmo Marconi is digitalization, which is the key in today's world.

Session 03 conclusions:

The representatives of project consortia have been informed about the partner institutions R&D activities, and they obtained a new perspective on FINAC project.

Session 4: After last four months, where we are?

Project coordinator, **Sladjana BENKOVIĆ**, presented the progress of the FINAC project in the last four months. She was delighted to inform participants that several very important activities are completed in the previous period, such as Project management and Risk plans and Institutional and Financial Sustainability plans. **Sladjana BENKOVIĆ** described the current activities on the Accreditation of the Master programs in Albania and Serbia. Also, she explained the progress of the training design for employees in public administration in Albania and Serbia.

Session 04 conclusions:

The representatives of project consortia have been informed about the activities that are completed in the previous period, and about the ongoing efforts project representatives.

Session 5: Steering Committee meeting #2

All partner institutions had representatives who participated in the second Steering Committee meeting, and proposed Agenda was adopted without any complaints or reservations. The Agenda from the second Steering Committee meeting can be found in APPENDIX 2.

Session 05 conclusions:

Project coordinator presented advances of the project. The representatives of project consortia agreed on project results and reports.

Session 6: Distance learning methodologies and production of multimedia learning paths at Guillermo Marconi University

During the second study visit, representatives of partner institutions had the opportunity to learn more about the new technologies for distance education from Dr. **Paolo FRANCESCONE**, who is responsible for Multimedia Educational and Creative Production Department at USGM. Since portable devices are becoming dominant in everyday lives, this calls for review of methods and instructional design models. Different open learning management systems are used to deliver online courses and augment on-campus courses. The discrepancy between formal and informal learning could be overcome with usage of mobile devices, which would conform to habits of new generations of students in 21st century. However, the traditional teaching approach ignores the potential that technology has in training. This might be in part because new technologies for training require educators to adopt and develop new knowledge and skills. Dr. **FRANCESCONE** presented several cases of distance education.



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Session 06 conclusions:

Presentation of Dr. FRANCESCONI was very useful for the representatives of the partner institutions, since it offered them insight in the future of learning with the usage of new technologies. Such advances can be incorporated in the program curricula.

Session 7: Multimedia lessons and Simulations for the School of Business

The first day of the study visit incorporated a lecture by **Michele PETROCELLI**, who gave an insight on how to develop soft skills which are necessary for the new age machine revolution. Since economic and financial context is subject to continuous change, USGM redesigned some of their courses by introducing new interactive teaching/learning tools. These new tools enable students to deal with complex, changing systems, and the first results show that a higher percentage of students passed exams in the innovative courses compared to the traditional ones.

Session 07 conclusions:

Presentation of Michele PETROCELLI was very valuable to the representatives of the partner institutions, since it offered them innovative solutions for a course design.

Session 8: Meeting of Albanian, Croatian, and Serbian representatives

The afternoon sessions were closed with the meeting of the Albanian and Serbian institution representatives, where they agreed on the upcoming activities concerning work package 5 and Accreditation of Master programs. At the beginning of November of 2017, regional representatives will meet to agree on how trainings in Albania will be organized, in order to conform to the requests of all the parties and requirements of the project. Project coordinator informed representatives of the partner institutions that accreditation materials in Serbia will be submitted till the end of November, 2017. Albanian representatives informed other representatives that they will be able to submit Accreditation materials in February 2018.

Session 08 conclusions:

Regional partner institutions will be focused on accreditation activities and training organization in the upcoming months.

II Working Day

Session 9: The recent Italian budget reform and spending reviews – Lecture by Aline Pennisi

Aline PENNISI as a Senior manager in the State General Accounting Department has a vast experience in budgeting and public finance, and she presented what were the important steps in the Italian budget reform. She elaborated how aligning the Italian budget with the new EU framework took place. The aim of the reforms in Italy was to strengthen the allocation function of the budget. Further advances will be related to the integration between budget and Treasury accounts, and to the cash flow planning.

Session 09 conclusions:

The representatives of project consortia have been familiarized with revisions of regulatory and legislative framework in Italy, regarding budgeting.

Session 10: Discussing the management reform in Italian Public Administration: the practical application to Ministries and Public Authorities – Lecture by Francesco Tufarelli

Francesco TUFARELLI contributed to the second study visit, with his extensive experience in public and private sector. He discussed an important issue which is related to the changes of the model of the public administration in Italy. Italy adopted French model, but they for some issues implement an Anglo-Saxon model which is very different. Many governments changed in the past twenty years, and organization of the public administration has changed accordingly. Privatization played a crucial role in this process.

Session 10 conclusions:

The representatives of project consortia have been familiarized with transformation of public administration that took place in Italy in the past few decades.

Session 11: Budgeting, modernization and ethics in the Public Sector: further evidence from an international comparison – Lecture by Professor Michele Petrocelli

Public governance is a process by which society organizes its affairs and manages itself. Professor **Michele PETROCELLI** stressed that greatest challenge today is to adapt public governance to social change in the global economy. Budgeting represent the cornerstone of public administration. Roles of a budget process are related to control of aggregate expenditure, promotion of efficiency, and reallocation of resources. He explained the relations of control, and put emphasis on budget rules and stressed that most countries adopted not individual but combination of rules. Also, he compared traditional and performance oriented values of public sector. Professor **Michele PETROCELLI** in a vivid presentation showed international evidence on bureaucratic and market oriented public systems, and their relation to flexibility.

Session 11 conclusions:

The representatives of project consortia have seen how public systems differ among countries, how they evolve, and how they can be divided based on their openness and flexibility.



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III Working Day

Session 12: Report on financial management knowledge & qualification structure employees in Albania & Serbia (WP.1)

The third day of the Study visit meeting started with presentations conducted by Mr. Dejan STANKOVIĆ. The presentation topics has covered the results gained after processing data for WP1 in cooperation with partners from the Ministry of Public Administration and Local Self - Government, the Ministry of Finance, Human Resources Management Service of the Republic of Serbia and regional partners from University of Tirana. The main goal of topic was to present results regarding knowledge and competencies of financial managers, accountants and controllers within public sector, on the base of gained and processed information.

Session 12 conclusions:

Final reports for WP 1 will be prepared till the end of October, and shared with partners .

Session 13: Report on financial management knowledge & qualifications structure employees in Albania (WP.1.)

Significant input during the third day came from project coordinator from European University of Tirana, Ms. Blerjana BINO and professor Husein MUCEKU who indicated some critical issues in public administration of Albania, particularly in the field of financial management knowledge and qualification structure employees.

Session 13 conclusions:

Presentation from professor MUCEKU presents good input for designing trainings in public administration of Albania, that will be developed in upcoming period for a purposes of WP .5.

Session 14: Future steps in next 3 months

- WP.2 To finish activities of purchasing of equipment and literature at regional universities & Study visits at USGM & MBU
- WP.3 To finish activities of designing Master degree programmes according inner university capacities and project goals and start with activities of accreditation
- WP.4 – * * * *
- WP.5 To finish activities of designing and start with delivering trainings in Serbia – BMU
To finish activities of designing trainings in Albania - BMU
- WP.6 Upgrading Quality assurance plan and evaluation of events that will be organized
- WP.7 Issuing 2 more Newsletters to boost project progress
 - 4th issue of Newsletter will be dedicated to results of WP1
 - 5th issue of Newsletter will be dedicated to Study visit at Universita degli Studi Guglielmo Marconi
 - Country reports dissemination of WP.1.
- WP.8 To prepare report about specific teachers' trainings (act. 2.1), such as the learning outcomes, selection process/criteria, duration of trainings and their structure

Session 14 conclusions:



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Coordinator professor Sladjana BENKOVIĆ has indicated steps that partners have to take in order to fulfill obligations allocated by project. She stressed the importance of anticipating and predicting possible obstacles and taking actions on time.

Session 15: AOB (Any Other Business)

At the end of the second Study visit at **Universita degli Studi Guglielmo**, all partners have expressed great satisfaction with organization and content of the second study visit. It was concluded that we have to continue with such a high level and quality of activities.

Session 15 conclusions:

The Study visit at **Universita degli Studi Guglielmo** is rated very positively. Best regards to the host institution.

APPENDIX 1: ATTENDEES LISTS



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APPENDIX 2:

DOCUMENT TYPE **External/internal document**

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AGENDA OF STEERING COMMITTEE #2



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FINAC Steering Committee meeting No. 2

Università degli Studi Guglielmo Marconi, Research & Development Department – International Projects, 27. September 2017. 11:20 - 11:40

Chair: Professor Sladjana Benković, Ph.D., Project Coordinator (University of Belgrade)

AGENDA

| | Item | Time (estimated) | Input prepared by | Voting | Reference documents |
|---|---|------------------|-------------------|----------|---|
| 1 | Establishing the quorum | 2 min | N/A | N/A | N/A |
| 2 | Adoption of the Agenda | 3 min | UBG | Yes | Draft Agenda |
| 3 | Adoption of the minutes from Steering Committee meeting #1 | 3 min | UBG | Yes | <i>Minutes from Steering Committee meeting#1</i> http://www.finac.org.rs/site/results |
| 4 | Report on the implementation of the last 3 months activities (adoption) | 3 min | UBG | Yes | Power point presentation & oral input |
| 5 | Adoption of FINAC Project management and Risk plans | 6 min | UBG | Yes | Workspace WP.8.0. http://www.finac.org.rs/site/workspace |
| 6 | Adoption of FINAC Institutional and financial sustainability plan | 3 min | UBG | Yes | Workspace WP.8.0. http://www.finac.org.rs/site/workspace |
| 7 | AOB (any other business) | 3 min | N/A | Possible | N/A |