Final report on external evaluation of the TeComp project "Strengthening Teaching Competences in Higher Education in Natural and Mathematical Sciences"

ERASMUS 598434-EPP-1-2018-1-RS-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

Improvement of the quality in delivery of higher education in the field of natural sciences and mathematics is the main goal of this project. Activities include integration of modern pedagogical approaches, methodologies and technologies in teaching and learning.

Although the main objective is the focus on natural sciences and mathematics, the project deliveries relate to more general topics without addressing specifics of natural sciences and mathematics.

The final evaluation will need to integrate assessment by the students who attended these classes. I suggest that the project team to develop assessment methodology and prepare questionnaires that reflect specifics of the natural sciences and mathematics, which require much more than the application of standard quality improvement methods. Concepts in understanding and acquiring knowledge in natural sciences and mathematics need more experimentation, rather than learning material presentation and explanation of concepts, and therefore, the improved methods will need to address them appropriately.

The project consortium consists of five EU partners (University of Ostrava, University of Oviedo, University of Granada, Ghent University, University Mateja Bela), four beneficieries from Serbia (University of Kragujevac, University of Nis, University of Belgrade, and University of Novi Sad), and two from Albania (University of Gjirokaster and Fan S. Noli University of Korce). The project was extended due to Covid pandemic.

Report on achievement of project activities and outcomes

Project consortium has implemented a lot of measures to improve the reporting and realization of the overall project activities according to the suggestions in the previous quality report. Most of the quality related reports provide sufficient evidence on realization of the project tasks.

The action plan contains more general objectives and integrates a strategy, and needs details on realization of specific activities, including timeframe when each objective that needs to be realized.

The final evaluation report addresses each workpackage. A better approach would be to add details on the purpose to be carried on each activity. Note that the reporting on the quality of realized activities needs to be accompanied by a selection methodology on who would realize the activities, including persons with corresponding skills.

A new platform was in use extended beyond the planned dimension. However, the consortium needs to provide a final report on its use in WP 3 "Professional development of teaching staff", and WP4. "The formation of online learning environment".

Quality management procedures are specified in the corresponding quality manual for WP5 "Quality assurance and monitoring" and a quality report should address realized assessment procedures.

After project realization, the project consortium needs to prepare a report that reflects all activities carried on in WP6. "Dissemination and exploitation", assessing how the objectives in the dissemination and sustainability plan were fulfilled.

Overall project relevance

Project results delivered are relevant to the general modern trends in the higher education area. The consortium needs to explain how the specific topics in natural sciences and mathematics are addressed and to improve the reports with quality related information, especially assessing how the planned activities were realized and what is the realization evaluated measure and effect.

Overall project efficiency

As the project was prolonged due to Covid pandemic the activities were fulfilled within the approved expended timeframe. However, the consortium needs to deliver the quality-related reports focusing on the assessment of transforming the project inputs into efficient outputs.

Overall project effectivity

The consortium should update the project web site with final versions of reports as currently, there are some clarified as draft versions, linking the reports with associated activities, and providing conclusions and statistics omitting too general declarative statements.

Overall project impact

There is an indirect evidence that project activities were performed, such as initiating the learning platform, but the final reporting needs proper relevant evidence and documentation on the project outputs and assessment of the corresponding quality.

Project sustainability

The consortium needs to report the realization of the dissemination and sustainability plan in documents. Disseminating the project results to an increased international audience is an add-on which will make the project results widely visible and accessible.

Also, the consortium needs to elaborate details on financial sustainability measures, including details on what, how, who and when.

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