

QA Annual Report 1

“Developing Research and Innovation Capacities in Albania and Kosovo / DRIVE”

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Report prepared by
Universum College

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Document information

Project Acronym:	DRIVE
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Project Number:	610307-EPP-1-2019-AL-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP
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Related Work Package	WP6 – Quality Control
Lead Organization	Universum College
Dissemination level	Institutional level

History

Version	Date	Submitted by	Reviewed by	Notes
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Introduction

DRIVE is a project funded by the Erasmus+ Programme Key Action 2 – Cooperation for Innovation and exchange of good practices – Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education. The general objective of this project is to contribute in the development of the research and innovation capacities of HEIs in Albania and Kosovo by enhancing their institutional capabilities, staff skills and networking. In attaining the main objective of DRIVE, consortium partners will dedicate their resources in attaining the following resources

1. Enhance the teachers' capacities and their methodologies so that they effectively equip the students (graduate level and beyond) with the skills to conduct independent research.
2. Enhance the mentors' capacities to effectively guide the students in their research activity.
3. Enhance the research capacities of the academic and managerial staff through study visits and tailored training.
4. Strengthen the managerial capacities for research activities and innovation in institutional level by setting or strengthening dedicated research and innovation support structures (RISS).
5. Promote research excellence and innovation by developing a network that eases the interdisciplinary and cooperation among local and international actors.

This report is a part of the DRIVE project Quality Plan and Monitoring Work Package 6. Respectively this report represents activity 6.3 Mid-term report. As described in the QA Plan, the overall aim of Quality Assurance is to monitor and evaluate all project activities. To do this, a number of tools have been developed. This mid-term report aims to provide a detailed overview of the progress and processes of each WP in the first half of the project (November 2019 – June 2021). It will further provide an overview of the impact of the activities implemented on the target groups, taking into account the key progress and performance indicators which were defined in the QA Plan.

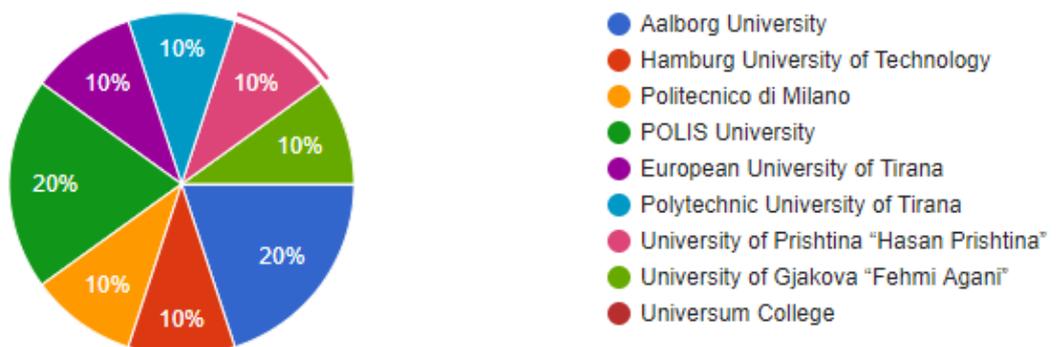
In order to track the progress and achievements of all project activities, we have asked all of the consortium partners who are leaders of WPs of the DRIVE project to fill out a dedicated questionnaire (a shorter questionnaire) in order to evaluate the WP implementation, progress, and drawbacks. With this questionnaire UC aimed to collect the necessary feedback from WP leaders because they are directly in charge in implementing the work packages dedicated to them upon the initial planning and design of the project proposal. Below in the annex section of this report you can find attached the questionnaire used to collect information for monitoring and evaluation.

Overall Project Feedback Analysis

Universum College in coordination with all of the consortium partners has attended and received feedback from WP leaders. In total there are 10 respondents, respectively 10 leaders leading or co-leading work packages defined by project planning and design. This questionnaire in particular aimed at assessing the cooperation, progress, satisfaction as well as issues encountered so far (mid project lifetime). QA team acquired a good overview of the activities carried out in the 9 different Work Packages. To get a deeper insight into the progress of all work packages and to identify possible strengths and weaknesses during implementation, we asked respondents to answer the questions sincerely, report any issues as well as provide honest feedback in order to address any given issue to the steering committee, partners and project coordinators.

Organization's name

10 responses



respondents from Polis University and Polytechnic University of Tirana

Cooperation satisfaction level

In general all the consortium partners express high satisfaction level regarding cooperation between different partners of the consortium. In general there are no project outcomes that have not been attained as planned by project timeline for this period of the midterm reporting. In the respective questionnaire provided to WP leaders only, the following questions were asked: **With which partner(s) do you cooperate in this WP? How satisfied are you with the cooperation?**

University of Gjakova "Fehmi Agani"-Very Satisfied

Aalborg University,-Very satisfied

Cooperation under this WP is with all partners and mostly with the coordinator of the project. All partners in consortium. So far very satisfies with cooperation among partners and cooperation with

This Work Package requires cooperation with all partners; however, the WP9 has not yet been started

All, Highly satisfied

Polis University- Satisfied

Polytechnic University of Tirana- Satisfied

Overall achievements: Please provide a description of the activities carried out under your WP lead so far. Which outcomes and outputs have been achieved?

WP1 is finalized in the third month of the first year of the Project. Kick of Meeting was held at the premises of the Coordinator; Structures of the Project were established as well Partnership Agreement signed among each partner and Coordinator

Training workshop on teaching methodologies; Training workshop on mentoring research students

7.1 Development of dissemination/exploitation strategy - Done

7.2 Design dissemination products and project website - Done,

7.3 Define agenda and logistics for the national info days - 1 info day in Albania done by UET

6 Disseminations/exploitation reports - In total there will be two reports: half time of the project - end time Reports will be available on project website.

Kick Off meeting;

Establish the project mng structures;

Validate the work plan

WP 2.1 and WP 2.2 were conducted as a Virtual seminar including training workshop for all Partner Universities after introduction of teaching methodologies from EU Partners (case studies). After interactively discussion and conclusion each Partner University made competency gap analysis; knowledge transfer challenges and address problems in mentoring relationship.

2. Is your WP on track or are there delays in implementing activities with respect to the project plan? Why are there delays, and could they be an issue for overall project implementation (e.g. delay of activities of other WPs)

It is in track

We are on track with the WP activities

There are no delays, except the update of the webpage with the information and event organized by each partner.

Regarding the publication of the leaflets and brochures we are waiting the confirmation from the Lead partner.

WP is on track with very small delays, in terms of days not months.

There are no delays

The WP is on track and will start in third year of the project

It is on track. It is expected to start in the future

The Pandemic situation makes seriously delays in implementing activities.

3. Please describe the main problems/difficulties encountered during the implementation of your WP and the mitigation actions you have taken.

We have not encountered any problems.

There are no problems or difficulties in implementation of WP7.

No problems so far, but might be an issue organization of EU study visits in pandemic time.

We will consider all possible ways of organization of trainings and will decide for blended, online or on site trainings.

No problems, despite the fact that the meetings were realized online

The Pandemic situation

Please describe the impact of the WP activities implemented so far on the target groups. If possible, provide a quantitative value (e.g. Website – overview of visitors; publications / leaflets etc – number of items; events – number of participants etc). If it is not possible to quantify the impact, you may instead provide a qualitative appreciation.

The activity (Kick Off event) was disseminated on the Webpage of the project, as well at social media of each partner; Many dissemination materials were prepared such as folders, banners, notebook

This WP has included new mentoring and teaching methodologies, which are well appreciated and considered by our staff, who are now contributing in development of the guidelines.

Website- overview of visitors 2020 - 4,741 Unique visitors- 9,398 No. of Visitors 2021 - 2,200 Unique visitors- 4,604 No. of Visitors 2. Info day - 40 participants -DRIVE project Info Day presented during Erasmus Days 2020 at the premises of European University of Tirana. The impact added values and connection to labor market is stressed during this event. organized 10th of November 2020

Not related with activities of this WP only, but in general with project activities. The project is listed on official website of University of Prishtina with direct link to project website. Project activities are promoted at UP Facebook and also are shared to relevant internal and external stakeholders. The trainings organized with project DRIVE are mentioned on faculty evaluation report compiled by external experts in last round of accreditation.

In the Kick off at least we was 100 persons present, for all other activities are sign sheets.

5. Please provide any further relevant information you think might be useful for the assessment of your WP's implementation

The implementation of this WP is in process, actually we are working on the guideline for research mentoring.

Newsletters should be published every six months announcing and reporting about relevant achievements and events. No newsletter published. now we are working on the 1st one and will share the draft with the partners.

One of best partners to cooperate so far!

The Pandemic situation makes limitation in the accomplishment of task.

Evaluators Conclusions and Recommendations

This report is based on a survey and individual contact with work package leaders of Drive project. Members of partnering institutions were asked for feedback on activities, cooperation with partners, implementation of activities and accomplishments.

All partners contributed to the survey and have provided an overall positive assessment of the project activities and project progress especially cooperation between partners.

Implementation

Is going according to the plan with minor delays due to pandemic. We suggest WP leaders to look out for other solutions and try not to postpone activities due to possibility of delays and clashes with other activities.

Cooperation of partners

Communication, cooperation and exchanges between partners are described as good and excellent there are no remarks by our side. We suggest that partners especially WP leaders to keep constant communication and cooperation with everyone.



Dissemination activities

All partners keep on utilizing social media channels and their communication methodologies in exploiting project results. Dissemination has been going a little slower than expected. We encourage partners to keep on reaching out to target groups and do more in promoting project results, activities and such.

Overall, the partnership shows quite a high level of satisfaction with implementation of project activities. The cooperation between partners seem to work well overall and overall management and coordination is rated as satisfying as well. We would like to highlight positively that all partners have submitted their feedback. We wish that the commitment of partners to provide feedback will remain as high in the next project years, as it is very important to get a comprehensive picture of the implementation progress and possible issues that require attention.

Annex

Annex 1 Monitoring Questionnaire for WP Leaders

DRIVE Project - Monitoring Questionnaire for WP Leaders

DRIVE

Erasmus+ Capacity Building for Higher
Education Monitoring Questionnaire for WP
Leaders EVALUATION FORM

About this Questionnaire

This questionnaire aims to monitor the progress of each WP. Each WP leader, please fill in one questionnaire for each WP you lead (i.e., if you lead more than one WP, please fill in two separate questionnaires, one for each WP).
Please answer referring to the above-mentioned period of performance

Your responses will be treated in strict confidentiality according to the rule of data protection. They will be aggregated and the identity of those completing particular questionnaires will not be disclosed.

Thank you very much for cooperation and your contribution!

For any doubt or further comment, please refer to Hadis Karatashi hadis.karatashi@universum-ks.org

Organisation's name *

- Polytechnic University of Tirana
- European University of Tirana
- University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina"
- University of Gjakova "Fehmi Agani"
- Universum College
- Hamburg University of Technology
- Politecnico di Milano
- Aalborg University
- POLIS University

Leader of WP (in case you lead more than one WP, please select the one for which you are filling in the present questionnaire and fill in a second questionnaire for the other WP).

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9

With which partner(s) do you cooperate in this WP? How satisfied are you with the cooperation?

1. Overall achievements: Please provide a description of the activities carried out under your WP lead so far. Which outcomes and outputs have been achieved? You can use the description of activities, outcomes and outputs in the file "WP Overview" on Google Drive.

- a. Please try to quantify the level of achievement of your WP so far. *
No activity implemented so far/ all activities completed

- 0
- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10

2. Is your WP on track or are there delays in implementing activities with respect to the project plan? Why are there delays, and could they be an issue for overall project implementation (e.g. delay of activities of other WPs)?

3. Please describe the main problems/difficulties encountered during the implementation of your WP and the mitigation actions you have taken. *

4. Please describe the impact of the WP activities implemented so far on the target groups. If possible, provide a quantitative value (e.g. Website – overview of visitors; publications / leaflets etc – number of items; events – number of participants etc). If it is not possible to quantify the impact, you may instead provide a qualitative appreciation.

5. Please provide any further relevant information you think might be useful for the assessment of your WP's implementation.