STUDY VISIT + TRANING UNIVERSITY OF ZILINE
January 28th to February 2nd, 2018

DRM&FSE SELF EVALUATION

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ROLE IN THE PROJECT

- As a project partner, Epoka University role is to modernize the curricula in Disaster Risk Management and Fire Safety Engineering via opening a professional master at the department of Civil engineering, Faculty of Architecture and Engineering in 2018-2019 academic year, according to the regional needs and EU trends.

- Epoka University is responsible to implement certified LLL courses for practitioners in order to insure continuous professional development of employees in DRM&FSE sector.

- In addition, Epoka University role in cooperation with the other projects partners needs to further modernize teaching and training process on different methods including the ICT application.

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EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO OVERALL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

- Implementation of an accredited professional Master Program (60 ects) with a Curricula aligned with EU trends and including the installation/activation the equipment

- Improvement of the teaching methodologies including the ICT in learning material. Epoka University teaching staff will be trained on both DRM&FSE topics and b-learning methodologies

EFFICIENCY OF IMPLEMENTATION TO DATE

- To what extent are your activities implemented on time? Are there delays or deviations compared to the original workplan?

The activities implemented by Epoka University are in a high percentage including:

a. *WP1 Define directions for development of Master programs (Analyze DRM&FSE MPs in EU and WBC, Analyze WBC needs for DRM&FSE MPs and learning outcomes, develop new DRM&FSE MPs Curricula aligned with EU trends)*

b. *WP3 Improve teaching methodologies and embed the ICT in learning material (e.g. Analyze and agree on the modalities of using ICT for b-learning, Develop b-learning materials for MPs)*

c. *WP4 Implementation of Master Programs (Selected MP lectures held by K-FORCE guest lecturers, Ms. Julinda Keci)*

d. *WP6 Implementation of LLL courses (Analyze the WBC needs for LLL courses, Adapt selected learning material for LLL courses)*

- What are the reasons for these delays?

There is a delay on the Procurement, installation and activation of the equipment

- Are there any positive (or negative) impacts of the project up to date?

The reasons are as follows: Internal procedures in the organization of the university ii) during this period a re-organization scheme was implemented followed by a new law for the higher education in Albania
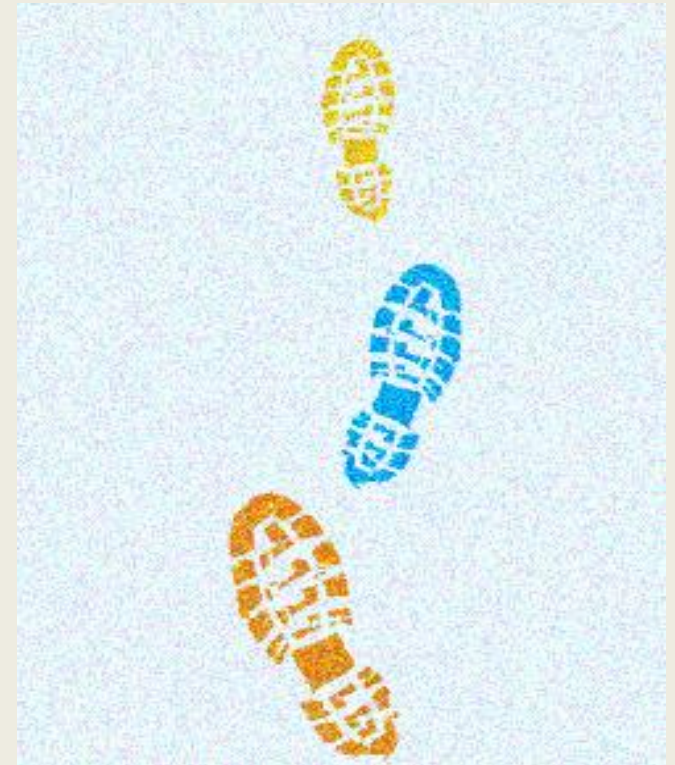
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FUTURE STEPS

- Activities to be done in following period?

Submission of the MP file to Ministry of Education and Sports of Albania for the Licensing of the DRM-FSE Professional Master Program.

Opening of the MP in DRM&FSE for the 2018-2019 Academic year

- How you will increase the efficiency of the project implementation in future?

By being continuously in contact with the target groups such as public and private institutions

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PROMOTION AND COOPERATION

How is the K-FORCE project and its expected outcomes promoted? Do you organize any networking events? What is your dissemination concept?

Networking activities are conducted with the alumni of the university and professionals in the labor market

How is the cooperation organized between K-FORCE and other parties (other units within the university, students, companies, other external parties)?

Information activities are organized with last year Bachelor students of relevant departments considered might be interested in the DRM&FSE MP at Epoka University

SUSTAINABILITY

- How much support is there for the project (Faculty and University level, political, public and private)?

- Will the K-FORCE be financially and economically supported after the completion of the project (state financed students on new master programmes, cooperation with industry, etc...)?

- How are long-term needs for support being addressed (maintenance of equipment, continued retraining of staff, continuity of staff and financing)?

- What is the likelihood that target groups will use the project results?

- Do you think students will be using e-learning platform created through the project? If not how to assess that issue?

The project is strongly supported from the Faculty and University level, also the group has been in contact with several public and private entities which are interested to increase the qualification of their staff by enrolling in this Master Program.

After the Project the K-FORCE will be financially supported from the student fees and cooperation with public and private sector.

The long term need such as maintenance of equipment and staff retraining will be supported from Epoka University.

Being the first master program in DRM-FSE in Albania the target groups are very interested to use the project results

The students will have to use the e-learning platform because it will be an integrated part of the education methodologies.

SWOT ANALYSIS

STRENGTHS	OPPORTUNITIES
1. There is a very positive perception about Epoka University in the area of Higher Education in Albania	1. The DRM&FSE Master program opened at Epoka University is the first of its kind in the field of Engineering in Albania
2. Being a HEI which teaches in English language facilitates the implementation of literature relevant to DRM&FSE	2. Continuous improvement and upgrade of the Laboratories and other facilities from the HEI.
3. Quality of the Academic staff at Epoka University	3. Implementation of b-learning as an avant-garde methodology
4. Offering of scholarships for successful students from the HEI	
5. Very good relations of the University with the public institutions and private sector	
6. Strong cooperation with the local administration and NGOs	

HOW TO EXPLOIT IT
Epoka University will use its strong relationships with the public and private sector as well as other organizations to increase the awareness for the field of DRM&FSE. Also to disseminate the LLL courses program.

SWOT ANALYSIS

WEAKNESSES	THREATS
1. Limited regulations for the arrangement of LLL course in Albania 2. Limited time period to professionalize for the staff 3. Limited staff resources within the field of DRM&FSE	1. Unpredicted changes in the regulations in Albania related to the organization of LLL courses 2. The risk of student application within the field in longterm

MITIGATION STRATEGIES

- Dissemination activities to promote the master program
- Continuous meetings with offices and directories in Albania
- A strong connection with the WBC countries to support and sustain the program
- WBC partner countries cooperation platform for decision-making

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THANK YOU