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Place: Banja Luka

Knowledge **FO**r Resilient so**CI**ety

PRESENTATION OF THE K-FORCE PROJECT K-FORCE

*University of Tuzla
Faculty of Mining, Geology
and Civil Engineering*



Co-funded by the
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THE HISTORY OF THE IDEA

- PRELIMINARY SURVEY (2015): VERY FEW SIMILAR STUDY PROGRAMMES AT ALL BOLOGNA LEVELS IN SERBIA, ONLY FEW MODULES IN WESTERN BALKANS AND SE EUROPE, NOT ENOUGH AVAILABLE RESOURCES TO IMPROVE EXISTING OR ESTABLISH NEW STUDY PROGRAMMES
- NO DOCTORAL STUDY PROGRAMME = NO SUSTAINABILITY OF STUDIES
- WE NEED ASSISTANCE FROM MORE DEVELOPED HEIs AND EU



COMMON REGIONAL NEEDS
TO IMPROVE THE RESILIENCE OF
THE REGION TO HAZARDS ARE
RECOGNIZED AS THE NEEDS FOR
EXPERTS CAPABLE TO IMPROVE
REGIONAL
CAPACITY/COOPERATION IN RISK
PREVENTION AND RESPONSE



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K-FORCE Consortium

University of Novi Sad

HE Technical School of Professional Studies Novi Sad

University of Tuzla

University of Banja Luka

University of Tirana

Epoka University

Technical University of Denmark

Aalborg University

Lund University

University of Žilina

Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje

Protection and Rescue Directorate of the Republic of Macedonia

National Fire Protection Association –NUZOP

European Youth Parliament Serbia –EYP

Associated partners: Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Union of chambers of commerce and industry of Albania



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K-FORCE CV

Project Title: *Knowledge FOrResilient soCiEty*
Project acronym: *K-FORCE*
Project Number: *573942-EPP-1-2016-1-RS-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP*
Project Website: *<http://kforce.uns.ac.rs/>*
Project duration: *3 years*
Start: *15th October 2016*
Programme: *ERASMUS+ Key Action Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices*
Action: *Capacity building in the field of higher education*
Total cost of the project: *1.237.129,00 EUR*
Grant for Project Activities: *985.474,00 EUR*
Additional Grant for Special Mobility Strand: *251.655,00 EUR*

Coordinator: *University of Novi Sad*



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THE AIM OF THE K-FORCE PROJECT

- *to improve regional resilience to hazards and capability for regional cooperation in risk prevention and response and*
- *to ensure national professional resources and regional capacities in order to build regional-based disaster preparedness and a culture of safety and resilience at all levels according to EU Integration Strategies and National relevant strategies.*

The overall broader objective to which K-FORCE project will contribute is to ensure national professional resources and regional capacity for resilient society.

In order to achieve this, K-FORCE project has created 7 effective, contemporary and sustainable Study Programs in the field of Disaster Risk Management and Fire Safety Engineering (DRM&FSE).



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SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

- SO1.** Modernization of DRM&FSE master study programme and development and implementation of new Master programmes/modules in WBC partners HEIs, according to regional needs and contemporary EU trends. **DONE!**
- SO2.** Development and implementation of DRM&FSE Doctoral study programme in accordance to available resources, regional needs and European partners' expertise, in aim to ensure regional capacities and sustainable education and research in the field. **DONE!**
- SO3.** Continuous professional development of employees in DRM&FSE sector in WBC through creation and implementation of certified LLL courses for practitioners. **ALMOST DONE!**
- SO4.** To improve cooperation between project partners in order to modernize teaching and training process on novel technical and technological solutions, exploiting the ICT application. **DONE!**



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SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

Over the past 3 years we have modernized/developed/implemented 7 new curricula at 6 WBC HEIs:

- *DRM&FSE academic master programmes/modules (UNS, UT, UBL, EPOKA),*
- *DRM&FSE PhD programme (UNS),*
- *Protection Engineering vocational master programme (VTSNS)*
- *Economic and Financial Resilience vocational module (UT).*

*All newly developed study programmes are **interdisciplinary** and created and implemented in a way that enables continuation of the studies for a number of different profiles of engineers.*

*The **LLL courses** developed by the project enables **continuing education** of DRM&FSE oriented professionals.*

*Study programmes, LLL courses and learning material are available in EN/SR/BH/AL **Education material** is available in **blended way** (ICT learning platform, e-Library, DRM&FSE Glossary) as open source educational resources.*



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SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

Interdisciplinary curricula include subjects from various academic disciplines:

- *Engineering and engineering trades as the dominant academic discipline,*
- *Environmental protection,*
- *Architecture and Construction,*
- *Civil Protection,*
- *Fire Science,*
- *Rescue studies,*
- *Climatology,*
- *Hydrology,*
- *Seismology ,*
- *Economy,*
- *other disciplines (Health, Sociology).*



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IMPROVING QUALITY OF EDUCATION AND TEACHING

Educational ICT based laboratories (created in WBC HEIs with interoperability capacities), K-FORCE On-line Library, Glossary of DRM&FSE key words and terms and ICT platform provide national/regional/international case-studies, integrated risk methodology assessment, hazard, risk and vulnerability cross-border/regional mapping and results publication.

That insures continuous common regional problem-based approach and knowledge/skills compatibility, also aligned with contemporary EU trends in DRM&FSE field.



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SPECIAL MOBILITY STRAND

Within the SMS scheme, several activities were carried out:

- 1. Students mobility between WB HEIs **ONGOING!***
- 2. Staff mobility from WB HEIs to Programme countries HEIs for the purpose of training **DONE!***
- 3. Staff mobility from project partner HEIs to WB HEIs for the purpose of teaching **DONE!***

Objectives of SMS activities are:

- Contribution to the improvement of Master programmes, Modules and PhD programme implemented in WB HEIs*
- Creation of international learning experience for students at project partner HEIs,*
- Development of cultural awareness among students*
- Exchange of innovative teaching practices*
- Learning about teaching methods and practices from Programme countries HEIs*
- Development of complementary skills and competencies in the field of DRM&FSE*
- Promoting international understanding and cooperation*



EXPECTED IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

- Students will be educated within an **interdisciplinary and problem-solving framework**, through acquiring theoretical, practical and applicable knowledge, skills and competences, according to National qualifications framework and European qualifications framework, WB countries' needs and EU trends, which will be well recognized by the national and regional labour market.
- Students on other HEIs study programmes will gain **basic or improved knowledge** of DRM&FSE issues, consequently resulting in raised awareness among student population.
- Implemented programs will enable regional and **international mobility of students** and teachers from WB and their horizon broadening in this specific field.
- Teaching staff had opportunity to **upgrade their teaching experience**, capacity to pass on the knowledge updated with novel trends both in the field and teaching tools and methodology.
- Professionals in DRM&FSE area will **expand and upgrade** their knowledge and skills through LLL courses.



EXPECTED IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

- *Public bodies and administration in charge for civil protection will **improve qualification structure** and better act as liaison between the emergency sector and scientific and education institutions as well as liaison between educational institutions and stakeholders from the emergency sector.*
- *Employees in various industrial sectors will have an **open access** to created Online Library, ICT portal and LLL courses database, through which they can gain knowledge on various DRM&FSE issues, thus raising their awareness about fires and disasters.*





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Thank you
for your attention

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