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Date: June 26th, 2019

At the ninth Project Management meeting held on June 26<sup>th</sup>, at the University of Banja Luka, K-FORCE PMT presented the current state of K-FORCE project realization, and proposed to Consortium members to send the Request for the extension of the eligibility period of the ERASMUS+ CBHE Project no. 573942-EPP-1-2016-1-RS-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP Knowledge FOr Resilient soCiEty (K-FORCE) to Project Advisor Ms Inmaculada Rodriguez in Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA).

The Consortium of the project voted unanimously and reached the following

## DECISION

**K-FORCE project partners agree to send to EACEA the Request the extension of the eligibility period of the ERASMUS+ CBHE Project no. 573942-EPP-1-2016-1-RS-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP Knowledge FOr Resilient society, for additional six months.**

Rationale:

According to project proposal, one of the main outcomes of the K-FORCE project is to develop, accredit and start with implementation of PhD studies *Disaster Risk Management and Fire Safety* at University of Novi Sad, Faculty of Technical Sciences. This task represents the basics for newly established WBC master programs sustainability, since we all need new academic teaching staff specialized in this area to further develop studies and cooperation at WBC.

The PhD programme curriculum was developed in time, during the first project year. According to Serbian Law on Higher Education, the first step is to establish the new title, and after the title is announced in Official Gazette RS, the accreditation process begins.

The Faculty of Technical Sciences had initiated the procedure and submitted a request for the title *Doctor of Science – Disaster Risk management and Fire Safety* in May 2017, and this process was finally completed in July 2018, due to the fact that the new Serbian Law on Higher Education had been introduced in September 2017. The new Law prescribed new rules and new National bodies, so



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the title adoption was delayed. It was published in Official Gazette RS No 52, 6 July 2018 (Rules on the List of professional, academic and scientific title).

University and Faculty administration completed the procedure and the Senate of the University of Novi Sad approved the proposal to accredit the interdisciplinary academic PhD Studies DRM&FS on session on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The documentation for accreditation was completed according to the new changes of standards - which were adopted meanwhile, and Request for accreditation was delivered to the National body on November the 11<sup>th</sup> 2018.

On April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 we received a Certificate of accreditation from National Entity for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education of Serbia for PhD study programme Disaster Risk Management and Fire Safety. The three years (180 ETCS) PhD study programme is accredited in SRB and ENG. After this, we also received the license issued by Provincial Secretariat for Higher Education and Scientific Research, which was necessary to start with procedure for students' enrollment. The Call for enrollment was published on May 31<sup>st</sup> 2019, for the academic 2019/2020, and in spring application submission period (June 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>) we had 14 applied candidates, and we expect more candidates to apply in autumn terms (September 16<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> and October 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>), so we could invite them all and select the best 12 candidates to be enrolled in the first generation of Disaster Risk Management and Fire Safety PhD study programme.

The teaching process is important for finalizing the b-learning material for PhD studies, and the textbooks, as well as to get the feedback from students regarding the quality of learning materials and programme itself, so we could do the fine tuning and safeguard the project results.

To provide the highest level of dissemination and sustainability of project results, the Consortium plan is to introduce all eligible tools and mechanisms for cooperation among project partners beyond the K-FORCE project, therefore each partner has prepared the proposal for our next meeting in Albania which is to be realized in additional 6 months period. It is also possible to organize additional dissemination event, since we have not spent Travel and Stay funds – selected public guest lectures planned in the scope of the core project were realized during SMS activities.

K-FORCE consortium members agreed that extension of eligibility period for 6 months would be necessary and valuable not only for realization of PhD studies, but also for realisation of teaching and training mobilities proposed by K-FORCE Consortium in our Request for amendment of SMS fund, sent in March 2019.



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Project delivered valuable results so far and all important activities have been successfully fulfilled: six master programmes are implemented as we planned, LLL courses implementation is still on-going, and Glossary will be promoted at Tirana meeting. The project management succeeded to overcome barriers and risks to set the grounds for effective K-FORCE operation; however the extension of the eligibility period will be very important to fully and successfully accomplish all tasks as planned and successfully secure the achievements already made. During this extended period and with the respect of the budget allocated to the project, activities will be carried out resulting in overall project quality enhancement in order to achieve the full capacity of K-FORCE.

On behalf of all project members

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Prof. dr Vlastimir Radonjanin, Project Coordinator

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