

Subject: Kind Request for Extension of the Eligibility Period

Belgrade, November 27th, 2011

Respected and dear Ms. Róisín McCabe,

Throughout the course of the project we tried not to bother you and your Brussels colleagues too much with questions and correspondence. This was largely due to the fact that we had an excellent help from your and our TEMPUS office here in Serbia whenever we needed it.

However, the time has come to address to you directly. Following the instructions given on your site under the titles: "Conditions for extending the eligibility period" and "Recommendation and procedure", we waited as much as possible with this letter, having in mind that extension of the eligibility period can be asked for only once and that it must be done at least one month before the current eligibility period expiry date. So, having now the overview of all happenings during the project, we send to you this Kind Request for Extension of the Eligibility Period.

Our request is duly motivated with the two major exceptional circumstances (forces majeure for us in the project):

1. Political situation in Cairo, Egypt, for a longer time (and still going on);
2. Significant delay of the first installment of finances.

We could also mention other significant reasons like difficulties we faced as one of the first projects where Serbia was allowed for coordination (such as implementation of the project according to the TEMPUS rules by respecting the national regulations), problems of Egypt's private university relationship with their government regulations and TEMPUS rules, and others, but they seem less important than the two numbered ones which are in our opinion obvious and thus do not require any special written evidence.

All these reasons led to the situation that we did not manage to fully complete planned activities, especially the preparation of the whole accreditation documentation needed and passing the whole process of accreditation which lasts for at least six months.

As you are also aware, we have not asked for the second installment of finances yet (we do it now in parallel to this request). Namely, the project practically started on November 1st, 2009, since the money arrived in August during the two months summer break at university, and then in September the university administration had a problem how to administrate the projects since this was the first time for them. You may even recall that for this project we even had to transfer the finances to university, since originally it was supposed to be run by faculty administration. So, the university organized itself at the end of October, which can be easily checked by the first financial page opened there, and also of the first official information of the National Bank of Serbia, the scan of which is given as the attachment to this request, where dates of October 21st are shown twice – top right and middle right in hand.

Because of both numbered reasons we have consequently been very cautious with budget expenditure, making sure that project progresses as planned but with a force majeure delay. We even managed to make results better than promised for the Intermediate report, but still the main outcomes are to be reached. Intermediate report was very satisfactory for us, but then the instabilities in Egypt started, which produced another delay.

In the table below we summarize the activities that were affected by the numbered reasons and the estimated length of delay (in percentages). Obviously, these delays are such that they would have a strong consequence on the achievements of the objectives.

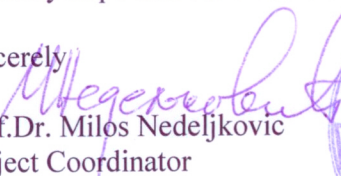
Activities planned and not completed	Planned duration (months)	Started Yes/No	% completed	% to complete during requested period of extension	Remarks
1.4 Promotion of necessity of quality assurance and enhancement system based on the best international practice	9.5	Yes	80	20	
1.5 Implementation of quality assurance and enhancement system at beneficiary faculties	24	Yes	85	15	
3.3 Developing of partnership with enterprises through student practice organization	14	yes	60	40	
4.1 Accreditation of at least two selected study program with ASIIN <i>(for the final year)</i>	12	yes	30	70	
5.1 Consortium and TEMPUS meetings 5.2 Project coordination and project reports generation <i>(both for the final year)</i>	12	yes	60	40	At least two Consortium Meetings plus final one to be held at the end of the project extension
6.1 Quality control and monitoring ensured	8.5	yes	85	15	Final quality control at the end of the project extension
7.1 Dissemination analyzing and actions planning 7.2 Sustainability analyzing and actions planning	11	yes	70	30	

As these activities cannot be finalized until 14/01/2012, we kindly request for the extension of the eligibility period for the project to January 14th, 2013 (for one year). Looking only on forces majeure, additional grant for one year from November 1st would be apparent, but considering the consequences they made on activities, and current situation in Egypt where political instability still exists, requested extension is little longer, also taking into account that it cannot be asked for any more.

As, we have fulfilled all contractual requirements and we submit our request in a timely manner, we sincerely hope that our Kind Request for Extension will be accepted.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Milos Nedeljkovic
Project Coordinator




Rector of the University of Belgrade
(Coordinating Institution)

Prof. Dr. Branko Kovacevic

