



University of Rome "Foro Italico"

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European Commission-DG Education and Culture – Lifelong Learning Programmes/TEMPUS

JEP – 40087 - 2005 "Sport Science Curricula in Albania & Bologna Process"

144683-2008-IT-JCPR "Harmonizing Sport Science Curricula in the Balkans in the Eu Perspective"

EUROPEAN MASTER IN HEALTH AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Rome, 5 March 2009

05/03/2009
PROT.0002375-01 P

To the Ministry of Education and Science
Republic of Albania
M. Gjolleasha, 1001 Tirana

To the Agency of Accreditation
Bui Zhan D'Ark, Pali Lanes
1001 Tirana

Re: **Tempus Joint European Project** (JEP 40087-2005: Sept 2006 – Aug 2008)
Sport Science Curricula in Albania and the Bologna Process
Partner Country Albania --Tirana Academy of Physical Education and Sport
EU Partners: Univ.of Rome (IT, Grant Holder), Vienna (AT, Coordinator),
Odense (DK), and Athens (GR)

Report on the program's achievements

With reference to the above Tempus Project of the European Union, for which I have served as Grant Holder and general coordinator, and on behalf of all of the European partner institutions, I am pleased to issue the following short report on the main achievements that have been realised.

This program was approved and funded by the European Union with the following objectives: to reform the Tirana Academy and redesign its Curriculum structure and specifically its undergraduate programs, according to job-market needs and the Bologna Process, promoting harmonisation with the European system and the acquisition by the Academy's Faculty of modern teaching skills and technologies, mobility, wider occupability of graduates, and a research context for the implementation of postgraduate programs.

The program took place as planned and was successfully completed. Its objectives were reached, and in particular the following was achieved:

- 1) A socioeconomic and job-market survey was conducted, with graduate tracking and structured interviews of operators; socioeconomic data were analysed and needs identified. Relevant curricula and materials were collected from EU partners and discussed with local Faculty,
- 2) The Academy underwent substantial reorganisation, with an upgrading of administrative services, and the implementation of an International office to support mobility; a Language center and English and Italian courses for students; IT facilities, skills and procedures and a web-site, an entirely new Library, etc. Study visits of Academy's officials and personnel to the Universities of Rome and Vienna considerably helped in the process, which paved the way for the transformation of the Academy into a full University.
- 3) Several Faculty members and some 20 students visited the Universities of Rome, Vienna and Odense, and took part to the European Master in Health and Physical Activity with many students already getting the final degree issued jointly by European partner Universities. An Intensive Course and some training sessions took place in Tirana with the participation of many European lecturers. This set the basis for curriculum reform and new curriculum developments.

4) A new curriculum structure was designed, coherent with the 3-tier and ECTS-based European system, as well as with the identified socioeconomic needs of Albania. The old curriculum was transformed and a new undergraduate curriculum was designed and implemented, in the context of a first Faculty, the Faculty of Movement Science, while a second Faculty, in Physical Activity and Recreation, was also implemented, thereby allowing the transformation of the Academy into a full University. The new curricula are aligned to the Bologna Process and the contents and structure of European curricula and will allow an increased level of exchange and mobility with European countries.

5) Research skills and facilities have also been implemented and new laboratories have been structured, such as in Exercise physiology, Movement analysis, Language, etc. Through an additional and substantial intervention by the Albanian government, a modern National Sport Library is being implemented. Government funding has also allowed building an entirely new and very large gym that will considerably enhance the standards of sport education in the institution and in the country. Research projects are being carried out, which will support the development of research-based doctoral programs in the European sense, further contributing to scientific exchange and mobility.

6) The results of this action, and particularly the new curricula, were widely disseminated throughout the country, and public authorities, as well as the school system and private operators were kept informed of these achievements and developments. In fact, based on the results of this project, a new Regional Project, involving other Balkan countries in addition to Albania, has been developed and approved by the European Union and is now being carried out with the same EU partners and Tirana University as the reference institution for partner countries.

Based on the above, and on behalf of all of the European partners involved in this Tempus Project of the European Union, I am pleased to state that the project has achieved its objectives, and that these achievements and particularly the curricula developed are in line with the Bologna Process and will certainly contribute to the increase of mobility and scientific and educational exchanges of Albanian with European scholars and students:


Paolo Parisi

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Chair, European Master in Health and Physical Activity
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