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**Public Administration Education Quality Enhancement Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership KA203 (PAQUALITY)**

**No – 2018-1-SK01-KA203-046330, Slovakia, 09/2018-08/2021**

**Workshop on PA curricula in CEE**

**and their conformity with European Quality**

**PROGRAMME**

***Working plan: Schedule, Objectives, Methods***

**Term:** September 16 – 18, 2020

**Format:** A virtual event (originally planned to be organised in Bratislava, Slovakia)

**Platform:** ***MS Teams hosted by the University of Economics in Bratislava, an invitation having been sent to participants today, September 11, 2020 with the opportunity to test the connection on Monday, September 14, 2020.***

**Participating institutions:**

Representatives of the grant holder (NISPAcee) are responsible for the preparation and organization of the event. Concerning its content, six other members of the project consortium will be represented in the event, namely:

* European Association for Public Administration Accreditation (EAPAA)
* Masaryk University in Brno
* Corvinus University in Budapest
* Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica
* University of Economics in Bratislava
* Pavol Jozef Šafárik University in Košice
* St. Cyril and Methodius University in Trnava
* Technical University in Kosice
* Comenius University, Bratislava

**Executive summary**

**Objective**

The main objective of the workshop is to focus on current PA curricula of participating countries and their conformity with European quality. Based on the workshop’s outputs, review and analyses of all discussions and materials, the intellectual output 6 (IO6) will be elaborated by project partners: “Methodological framework for developing public administration curricula in conformity with European quality”. The IO6 will be focused on the exploration of opportunities and challenges for EAPAA evaluation of public administration programmes in the new EU member states with particular focus on programmes in Slovakia and other participating countries.

Besides the grant holder (NISPAcee), representatives of six other partners will participate. They will focus on their own experience with the development of public administration curricula in terms of European quality. In addition, special attention is going to be paid to the Slovak experience and opportunities in order to involve more stakeholders (i.e. HEIs) in European accreditation in the field of public administration.

**Contents**

Taking into account the main objective and expected outputs of the workshop, it will concentrate on the following blocks of activities:

* Review of present experiences with accreditation processes and readiness of other universities in the CEE region concerning the applicability of European standards on PA programmes.
* Applicability of the European accreditation and its criteria in the CEE region (with a focus on PA programmes).
* Challenges and methodological recommendations for developing PA curricula and improving of PA programmes.

**Working methods**

Taking into account current and uncertain developments of the COVIC-19 spread, it is intended to hold the workshop online.

During the on-line workshop, four different working methods will be employed.

* Lectures will be used for broader introductions in relevant topics and/or sub-topics.
* A short group discussion will usually follow the lectures in order to support further development of ideas and gain new knowledge.
* It is also expected that individual work will be used, especially on the first and second days of the event. Its main objective is to offer each individual participant the opportunity to prepare his/her own position and related arguments based on his/her individual experience as well as knowledge for more in-depth discussions.
* Last but not least, the group work is planned for the third day of the event. The group of participants will be divided into two sub-groups and they will have the opportunity to develop their own view on present challenges as well as opportunities for developing public administration curricula.

**Time schedule**

**Day 1 (September 16, 2020)**

8:30 – 9:00 **Opening session**, *Chair: Ľudmila Gajdošová (NISPAcee)*

8:30 – 8:35 Welcome by *Gyorgy Hajnal, NISPAcee President*

8:35 – 8:50 Introduction of all participants.

8:50 – 9:00 Brief summary of the project, information on its present implementation stage and expectations towards the IO6 (introductory information on the project itself is necessary due to the participation of guest participants from other Slovak HEIs).

9:00 – 9:45 **Lecture 1** (including 15 minutes discussion**): EAPAA accreditation,**

**experience and challenges in the CEE region,** *Taco Brandsen (EAPAA)*.

9:45 – 10:30 **Lecture 2** (including 15 minutes discussion): **Requirements and standards of**

**EAPAA's accreditation linked to public administration curricula of**

**various levels of PA programmes: bachelor, master, PhD**,

*Taco Brandsen (EAPAA)*.

10:30 – 11:00 Break

11:00– 11:10 Summary of main challenges pointed out during the lectures,

*Daniel Klimovský (NISPAcee).*

11:10 – 12.30 **Group discussions**, *Moderator: Ľudmila Gajdošová (NISPAcee).*

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

14.00 – 17:00 **Individual work** (the main goal is to offer sufficient time to reflect on the applicability of the EAPAA findings on individual participating programmes and preparation for related discussions the next day and also group work planned for the third day).

**Day 2 (September 17, 2020)**

9:00 – 10.00 **Lecture 3** (including 15 minutes discussion): **Experience of the project**

**consortium with European accreditation in the field of public**

**administration.**

*David Špaček (Masaryk University in Brno) and Gyorgy Hajnal (Corvinus University in Budapest).*

10:00 – 11:00 **Lecture 4** (including 15 minutes discussion): **Experience with university**

**education in the field of public administration in Slovakia,**

*Juraj Nemec (Masaryk University in Brno), & Daniel Klimovský (NISPAcee).*

11:00 – 11:30 Break

11:30– 11:40 Summary of main challenges highlighted during the lectures,

*Daniel Klimovský (NISPAcee).*

11:40 – 13:00 **Group discussion** *Moderator: Ľudmila Gajdošová (NISPAcee).*

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 17:00 **Individual work** (main goal is to offer sufficient time to reflect on the main challenges of individual participating programmes and relevant measures for developing high quality public administration curricula, and preparation for the related group discussions the next day)*.*

**Day 3 (September 18, 2020)**

9.00 – 10.00 **Session 1** –group discussion (topic 1) *Moderator: Juraj Nemec and David Spacek* (***Topic: Main Challenges related to content area/criteria and measures that have to be taken into account).***

10.00 – 11.00 **Session 2** – group discussion (topic 2) *Moderator:*  *Gyorgy Hajnal* ***(Topic: Main Challenges related to the so-called procedural area of EAPAA accreditation and measures that have to be taken into account).***

11.00- 11.30 Break

11.30 – 13.00 **Concluding discussion** *Moderator: Ľudmila Gajdošová (NISPAcee).*

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 -17.00 **Group work** on two reports on the two topics discussed in the previous two sessions.

**Contents description**

**Day 1 (September 16, 2020)**

**Accreditation of PA programmes in Europe, applicability and challenges in the CEE region**

**Outline and time schedule**

This working day will begin with a review of current criteria used in the accreditation of PA programmes in Europe and experiences with accreditation processes in the central and eastern European region from the perspective of the EAPAA. Its representative will provide a brief quantitative overview of the diffusion of European accreditation in the region. At the same time, he will point out cases of good practice in order to help guests to identify those accreditation procedures that might be considered cases to be followed. In the second lecture, the EAPAA's representative will present and explain the requirements of the EAPAA linked to public administration curricula. He will focus on criteria, their importance and challenges.

The work schedule of day 1 will include two lectures, one group discussion and individual work. Lectures will be scheduled in the morning and they will follow a brief project introduction dedicated, in particular, to the guest participants from other Slovak HEIs. After the lectures, participants will continue with a group discussion. They will discuss the contents of the lectures, and agree on the main framework for the following individual work activity.

Thanks to individual work, participants will have sufficient time to prepare for the continuation of the event, and, at the same time, have the opportunity to prepare own contributions which will be further discussed by other participants.

Time schedule:

8:30 – 9:00 Opening session

9:00 – 9:45 Lecture 1 (including 15 minutes discussion)

9:45 – 10:30 Lecture 2 (including 15 minutes discussion)

10:30 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 12.30 Group discussions

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch

14.00 – 17:00 Individual work

**Description of the contents**

***Lecture 1***

Topic: EAPAA accreditation, experiences and challenges in the CEE region

Objective: The main objective of this lecture is to outline the EAPAA´s accreditation and certification criteria and present the EAPAA's experience with European accreditation in the field of public administration in the CEE region. It is expected that the lecture will contain some brief quantitative overviews of both successful and unsuccessful applications. However, the main emphasis will be on the identification of cases of good practice. Last but not least, the lecture will emphasise the crucial strengths of the cases mentioned of good practice.

Responsible persons: Taco Brandsen (the EAPAA), lecturer.

Duration: 45 minutes (including 15 minutes for feedback, comments or brief Q&A part).

***Lecture 2***

Topic: Requirements and standards of the EAPAA's accreditation linked to public administration curricula at various levels of PA programmes: bachelor, master, PhD.

Objective: The lecture will show the minimal requirements and standards of the public administration curricula in terms of European accreditation. In addition, it will point out crucial criteria, and explain their importance.

Responsible persons: Taco Brandsen (the EAPAA), lecturer.

Duration: 45 minutes (including 15 minutes for feedback, comments or brief Q&A part).

***Group discussion***

Topic: Specific experience of the HEIs from the CEE region with European accreditation in the field of public administration

Objective: All participants will present their opinions on the contents of the lectures. They will focus especially on the reasons why HEIs in the CEE region are less successful in European accreditation compared to their Western European partners. In addition, participants in the group discussion will propose a basic framework for the following individual work.

Responsible persons: all participants in the event will be invited to reflect upon the lectures based on their own experience; discussion moderator: Ľudmila Gajdošová (NISPAcee).

Duration: 90 minutes.

***Individual work***

Topic: Development of personal views on the importance of European accreditation in the field of public administration with special regard to the CEE region.

Objective: Each participant will elaborate his/her personal opinion on the importance of European accreditation in the field of public administration within a four-dimension framework: 1) micro-dimension (individual organisation/institution importance), 2) mezzo-dimension (national/system importance), 3) macro-dimension (international/transnational importance), 4) meta-dimension (importance for the public administration academic field).

Responsible persons: all participants in the event.

Duration: 180 minutes.

**Day 2 (September 17, 2020)**

**Review of present experience with accreditation processes and with readiness of other universities in the CEE region**

**Outline and time schedule**

The first part of the workshop day will be aimed at a review of present experience with accreditation processes in the central and eastern European region from the perspective of representatives of local universities. The project consortium consists of several experienced HEIs which are located in this region. Their experience with the accreditation processes is very valuable. Therefore, the review of this experience will be a suitable starting point for further steps.

At this point, it is necessary to stress that the review will be based on the relevant experience of some members of the project consortium, but it will also follow up on the previous intellectual outputs of the project. On this matter, the IO6 will somehow summarise the contents of the already completed previous IOs.

Two lectures, individual work and a group discussion will be used within the working plan of this day in order to meet its goals.

Time schedule:

9:00 – 10.00 Lecture 3

10:00 – 11:00 Lecture 4

11:00 – 11:30 Break

11:30 – 13:00 Group discussion

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch time

14:00 – 17:00 Individual work

**Description of the contents**

***Lecture 3***

Topic: Experience of the project consortium with European accreditation in the field of public administration.

Objective: The main objective of this lecture is to sum up the crucial points of the European accreditation which have been identified by successful members of the project consortium (i.e. by those who have already successfully passed the EAPAA accreditation) with special regard to curricula and their development.

Responsible persons: David Špaček (Masaryk University in Brno), lecturer & Éva Kovacs/Gyorgy Hajnal (Corvinus University in Budapest), lecturers, preparation of the lecture to be supported by Soňa Čapková, M. Bel University, Banska Bystrica.

Duration: 60 minutes.

***Lecture 4***

Topic: Experience with university education in the field of public administration in Slovakia.

Objective: The main objective of this lecture is to provide an overview of the development of public administration as a study field at university level in Slovakia. In addition, the lecturers will offer a preliminary analysis of existing public administration curricula from the Slovak HEIs which are included in the project database.

Responsible persons: Juraj Nemec (Masaryk University in Brno), lecturer & Daniel Klimovský (the NISPAcee, Bratislava), lecturer.

Duration: 60 minutes.

***Group discussion***

Topic: Comparison of individual opinions on the European accreditation in the field of public administration.

Objective: All participants will present the outputs of their individual work activities. These contributions will be the appropriate input to begin the group discussion. The main objective is to conclude the main arguments, supporting the importance and usefulness of European accreditation in the field of public administration in the CEE region.

Responsible persons: all participants in the event; discussion moderator: Ľudmila Gajdošová (the NISPAcee).

Duration: 90 minutes.

***Individual work***

Topic: Identification of the main challenges and relevant measures for developing high quality public administration curricula.

Objective: Each participant will elaborate his/her list of main challenges which should be taken into account by anyone who is responsible for the development of high quality public administration curricula. In addition, each participant will try to propose measures that could help applicants of European accreditation to deal with the identified challenges in the appropriate manner. This individual work will be preparation for the activities of the last working day.

Responsible persons: all participants in the event.

Duration: 180 minutes.

**Day 3 (September 18, 2020)**

**Challenges and methodological recommendations for developing public administration curricula (with special regards to Slovakia)**

**Outline and time schedule**

The first part of this workshop day will begin with 2 group discussions. Participants will be divided into two sub-groups and they will organise their own work according to their preferences (video-calls are recommended). Each sub-group will focus on a few challenges and the main objective is to elaborate a sound set of proposals on how to deal with those challenges. It is expected that the sub-group members will take into account the results of their individual work (working day 2) and use proper and high quality arguments in order to support own proposals. If some issues remain unanswered, the sub-groups will keep them open and present them in the second half of this working day. It will be organised as a moderated group discussion where each sub-group will present its own results and the other two sub-groups will play the roles of reviewers. Specific attention will be paid to the needs and issues raised by participating guests from other Slovak HEIs in order to encourage them to follow further the idea of European accreditation in the field of public administration.

Time schedule:

9.00 – 10.00 **Session 1** –group discussion (topic 1) *Moderators: Juraj Nemec and David Spacek*

10.00 – 11.00 **Session 2** – group discussion (topic 2) *Moderator:*  *Gyorgy Hajnal*

11.00 - 11.30 Break

11.30 – 13.00 **Concluding discussion** *Moderator: Ľudmila Gajdošová (NISPAcee).*

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 -17.00 **Group work** on two reports on the two topics discussed in the previous two sessions.

**Description of the contents**

***Session 1*** *–* ***Topic 1: Main Challenges related to content area/criteria and the measures that have to be taken into account,*** *Group Discussion.*

***Session 2*** *–* ***Topic 2:******Main Challenges related to the so-called procedural area of EAPAA accreditation and measures that have to be taken into account****, Group Discussion.*

Objective: Participants will deal with two main areas of the challenges linked to European accreditation in the field of public administration from the perspective of the CEE HEIs within two groups. The first is the content area, i.e. area of the criteria. Therefore, the first discussion will focus on those challenges and measures that must be taken into account by any HEI that intends to apply for European accreditation. The second is the so-called procedural area and participants will analyse those challenges and necessary measures that must be taken into account before, during, and even after the process of European accreditation. All levels of PA programmes: bachelor, master and especially PhD will be taken into consideration.

Responsible persons: all participants in the event; *Moderators: Session 1 Juraj Nemec and David Spacek, Session 2 Gyorgy Hajnal.*

Duration: 120 minutes.

***Concluding discussion***

Topic: Discussion on the division of tasks and further steps in regard to the elaboration of the IO6.

Objective: The IO6 (i.e. Methodological framework for developing public administration curricula in conformity with European quality) and its elaboration will be discussed during this part of the event. The participants will agree on the division of tasks and they will also agree on a time schedule.

Responsible persons: all participants in the event; discussion moderator: Ľudmila Gajdošová (NISPAcee).

Duration: 90 minutes.

***Group work***

Topic: Challenges and suitable measures for the development of public administration curricula.

Objective: The two groups will focus on the two topics discussed in the morning. They will be led by representatives of well-experienced HEIs in the field of European public administration accreditation Masaryk University and Corvinus University and they will elaborate two final workshop reports on the two targeted topics in cooperation with workshop participants.

Responsible persons: all participants in the event.

Duration: 240 minutes.

**Follow up activity: Finalisation of the IO6**

The IO6 (i.e. Methodological framework for developing public administration curricula in conformity with European quality) will be finalised after the online workshop. The main resources of its contents will be elaborated during the working days of the workshop but its finalisation will require proper reflection on the closing group discussion and its results (working day 3). Several core persons will be responsible for this finalisation, namely:

***Main coordinators of the IO6:***

* Daniel Klimovský (the NISPAcee)
* Juraj Nemec (Masaryk University in Brno)

***Other core contributors:***

* Taco Brandsen (the EAPAA)
* David Špaček (Masaryk University in Brno)
* Calin Hintea (Chair of the EAPAA Accreditation Committee, Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj)
* Gyorgy Hajnal (Corvinus University in Budapest)
* Ľudmila Gajdošová (the NISPAcee)

***Additional contributors:*** participants in the workshop, all project partners.

All participants in the workshop will have the opportunity to contribute to the IO6 and they will be invited to submit their contributions within two weeks after the end of the workshop. It is expected that a preliminary version of the IO6 will be launched within a two to three month period after the workshop. The IO6 will be finalised following IO5 finalisation, which has been postponed from August 2020 to the end of December 2020 due to the move of a related Varna workshop from June 2020 to November 2020. The deadline for IO6 finalisation is the end of April 2021.