

Matej Bel University participating in FINAC, a capacity building project funded within the European Programme Erasmus +

FINAC - FINancial management, Accounting and Controlling for capacity building of public administration is a project funded within the programme Erasmus + KA2 - Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices - Capacity Building in Higher Education, in which **Matej Bel University** is one of the partners. For Matej Bel University the lead researcher is Maria Murray Svidronova, PhD., other members are prof. Beata Mikusova Merickova and prof. Juraj Nemec.

As stated by SIGMA (Support for Improvement in Governance and Management), it is essential to strengthen the basis to improve public governance and support socio-economic development by means of the reinforcement of the capacities of the public sector in order to join EU aims. Therefore, it is crucial to work on strengthening the public governance systems and public administration capacities.

Project aims to contribute to higher quality of budgeting, finance management, accounting and controlling in Albanian and Serbian public administration. This aim will be achieved throughout meeting **specific objectives**:

- Designing and developing three new master degree programmes in Serbia and two new master degree programmes in Albania in the field of financial management, accounting and controlling for capacity building of public administration in Albania and Serbia,
- Provision of trainings at university centres/institutes for public administration employees in Serbia,
- Modernization of one master degree programme in the field of public financial management in Serbia.



The first **Project kick-off meeting** was held in Belgrade, Serbia in November 2016. The aim of the meeting was to gather all project partners and discuss the broader agenda of the FINAC project. For this occasion, the coordinator invited Mrs. Tanja Mišćević, Head of negotiating team for accession of Republic of Serbia to EU to talk about Chapter 32, and relevance of this Chapter for the financial system and obligations for the public administration in regional countries. During this meeting, the representatives from the ministries of both regional countries presented challenges with which are employees in public administration are facing off.

After several regional visits to universities in Serbia and Albania, **the first study visit** took place in Split, Croatia in June 2017. During the visit, results of the project activities in previous six months of the project duration were presented, as well as [the work packages](#). During the study visit at University of Split, the representatives of partner institutions had a great opportunity to enjoy the lecture of Professor Robert Faff - full professor of Financial management at Queensland University, Australia. Presentation "Pitching the research" was very useful for higher visibility of the project.

For further information, please visit www.finac.org.rs or send an email to maria.murraysvidronova@umb.sk.