



## FIRST YEAR IS OVER...

Here you can find a summary of activities implemented within VERITAS project in 2014 and more...

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## WORKPACKAGES

- WP1 Capacity Building of HEIs to Deliver Quality Doctoral Programmes
- WP2 Establishment of Pre-conditions for Quality PhD Education and Research
- WP3 Formulation of PhD Award Criteria and Quality Standards in Doctoral Education
- WP4 Development of 11 PhD Programmes in Armenia
- WP5 Quality Control and Monitoring
- WP6 Dissemination
- WP7 Sustainability
- WP8 Management



## VERITAS: Structural Development of the Third Cycle Based on Salzburg Principles

543710-TEMPUS-1-2013-1-AM-TEMPUS-SMGR

Three-year national project under the priority of Governance Reform, EACEA N35/2012, 6th call

# VERITAS

STRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE THIRD CYCLE BASED ON SALZBURG PRINCIPLES

TEMPUS VERITAS project, launched in December 2013, has successfully accomplished its first year activities set by the project proposal and highlighted during the Kick-off meeting at Yerevan State Medical University (YSMU) on 13-14th of January 2014. Drawing on the main goal of the project that is to ameliorate doctoral education in Armenian Higher Education System through alignment with European Qualifications Framework and Salzburg Principles, the consortium managed to



conduct capacity building activities (Training and a Workshop on Salzburg Principles) for the staff to implement PhD programmes and to establish Research Units at Higher Education Institutions to be responsible for the Doctoral Education. With the support of the European colleagues Armenian partner institutions studied the PhD education abroad and were able to compare with the current situation in Armenia and establish pre-conditions for further developments within the frames of the project.



## ACTIVITIES IMPLEMENTED FROM JULY TO DECEMBER 2014

### Fact-finding on PhD Implementation in Armenia and Respective Analyses: Road-map Development

Based on the SWOT analyses conducted by the Armenian higher education institutions after the Training on Salzburg Principles in Graz and taking into account the materials provided and discussed during the workshop on PhD promotion in Yerevan, Armenian HEIs embarked on the fact-finding of PhD education at each partner institution.

During the local meeting at Yerevan

State Medical University it was also agreed to establish a group to analyze the fact-findings and have discussions before the development of road maps and workshop in Heidelberg. As a result fact-findings were analyzed by the National Center for Professional Education Quality Assurance Foundation and Education Quality representatives. The results were

summarized during the local meetings at ANQA and finalized on the workshop in Heidelberg.

After the workshop on Road-map development it was agreed to establish a group to develop a common guidelines of road-maps. By the end of December the Guidelines were presented and each of HEI started to develop their road-maps.



#### WORKSHOP ON ROAD-MAP DEVELOPMENT IN HEIDELBERG

University of Heidelberg (UHMF) as a lead partner of the WP2 hosted a workshop on Road-map development. All consortium partners were present in the discussions from **1st-6th of November**

2014 at UHMF and discussed the major lines for the development of road-maps. In groups Armenian and European partner discussed the possible formulation of road-maps and presented by the end of the workshop. It was agreed to have road-maps per HEI by 1st of March and before that a Guideline will also be developed.



# + SUMMARY 2014

## veritas activities within the first year

VERITAS is a three-year national project, which aims at establishing and formulating criteria and quality standards to develop and implement Doctoral Education and Research at Armenian partner higher education institutions in compliance with the Qualification Frameworks and Salzburg Principles.

Three major phases are planned to accomplish within the project, which are:

- a. capacity building with the aim to train the staff to develop and

implement quality doctoral programmes at target institutions;

- b. establishment of pre-conditions for doctoral education in Armenia and formulation of PhD award criteria and quality standards for the implementation of programmes;
- c. development and testing of the PhD programmes.

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**CAPACITY BUILDING** activities were evolved within WP1, which launched after the kick-off meeting in January 2014 at Yerevan State Medical University (YSMU). From the start of the project it was agreed to set a team with involvement of European colleagues to prepare a training kit for two events: one on Salzburg Principles (May 2014 in Graz) and another on PhD Promotion: Why? and How? (June 2014 in Yerevan). Meanwhile the Armenian partner institutions established and/or revised their Research Units (RU) dealing with the Doctoral Education. Respective documentation was also prepared and provided. Each of 11 AM Higher education institutions (HEIs) selected staff and outlined their responsibilities to develop and implement a PhD programme. RU staff participated in the capacity building events to be ready for the implementation of the programme along with the Salzburg principles. The training kit was finalized and translated into Armenian as well by the end of the year and it is ready for publication and dissemination among partner institutions.

#### **PRE-CONDITIONS FOR DOCTORAL EDUCATION: PhD AWARD**

#### **CRITERIA AND QUALITY**

**STANDARDS:** To develop and implement a doctoral programme meeting the Salzburg principles it was agreed to conduct fact-finding at Armenian HEIs based on the current state of PhD education and highlighting the strengths and weaknesses of the programme implementation against the Salzburg Principles. The reports by the Armenian HEIs were summarized by the National Center for Professional Education Quality Assurance Foundation (ANQA) and Education Quality (EQ), were discussed among all parties during the local meetings and presented at the workshop on Road-map development in Heidelberg (November 2014). It was agreed to better understand the development of road-maps at each partner institution and have them by March of 2015, to establish a team with the involvement of the lead partner – Heidelberg University (UHMF) and Armenian partners – National Academy of Sciences (NASRA), Armenian State University of Economics (ASUE), Yerevan State Medical University (YSMU), ANQA and EQ to develop a general Guidelines on Road-map development. The document has

been circulated among all partners (both AM and EU) for feedback and is finalized. With the next steps all institutions are supposed to develop their road-maps and prepare a



#### **WIDER OBJECTIVE**

To ameliorate doctoral education in Armenian Higher Education System through alignment with European Qualifications Framework and Salzburg Principles.

- VERITAS

Guideline on PhD programme development and implementation in 2015.

Once there was a start of establishing pre-conditions for PhD implementation in Armenia, the consortium also embarked on the formulation of PhD award criteria and quality standards. With this aim two working groups will develop the respective documents, one with the involvement of AM HEIs and EU HEIs and the other one – ANQA, EQ, Supreme Certifying Commission (RA

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Did you know?

VERITAS has its anthem.

SCC) and Ministry of Education and Science of RA (MoES). The workpackage will launch in January 2015 with the seminar on PhD award Criteria and QA standards at Yerevan State University of Languages and Social Sciences (YSULS).

#### **DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING OF 11**

**PhD PROGRAMMES:** The third phase of the project will start in 2015 once the road-maps are set and award criteria and QA standards are formulated. However, in the beginning of project all 11 institutions were asked to identify the possible PhD Programs, which will later be developed/redeveloped and piloted. Preliminary list is available and will be finally confirmed in mid of 2015.

#### **DISSEMINATION, SUSTAINABILITY AND MANAGEMENT OF THE PROJECT:**

To ensure the successful implementation of VERITAS major goals and objectives during and after the project lifetime a certain strategy was developed in the beginning of the project and the following steps have been underpinned within the first year:

- a. A project official web-site – [www.tempusveritas.am](http://www.tempusveritas.am) was developed, which contains all the necessary information relating to the project and its progress (all publications, events and major developments and necessary

documentation can be found here).

- b. Dissemination of the project is also provided by the local mass media. All AM partner institutions provided links to the articles that highlight the progress of VERITAS.
- c. The RUs established and/or revised at AM HEIs are adopted by the university councils which are successfully functioning.
- d. Financial, technical and operation management of the project is regulated by the Management team, as well as by the contact persons at each partner institution through regular local, coordination meetings. Major issues are collected and discussed during the Governing Board meetings.

### WHAT IS NEXT...?

The launch of VERITAS can be considered a successful one. Moreover, the progress within the first year is quite significant as the consortium involved managed to tackle the activities described in the major phases and includes the revision/establishment of research units dealing with PhD education, analyses of the current state and respective fact-finding, as well as the development of the guidelines for road maps

However, the definition of road-maps, the development of a guide on PhD implementation, as well as development of award criteria and QA standards are still to be completed within the next 2015 year. And the start of the PhD programme development should be launched in 2015.

**VERITAS team is ready to face the challenges for 2015.**

STANDARDS



PhD



### Should you have comments, here are our contact details:

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