



This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> newsletter of VERITAS which introduces the progress and current status of the activities within the project.

# VERITAS

STRUCTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE THIRD CYCLE BASED ON SALZBURG PRINCIPLES

JANUARY - JULY

2015

## DEVELOPMENT OF ROAD MAPS AND QA STANDARDS AND CRITERIA FOR PHD

To start the second year activities the consortium embarked on the development of PhD award criteria and QA standards. But before that the finalization of the guidelines for Road Map development and implementation was carried out. With this aim a working group involving YSMU, YSU, NASRA, YSULS and ANQA representatives from AM and UHMF and UdG partners from EU was established. The Armenian side worked on the current situation of PhD education and outlined the major changes to be carried out with this regard. The EU partners brought their insight and based on the feedback the document was finalized and the guidelines were developed.



## EVENTS

- Workshop on development of PhD award criteria and QA standards (26-27 JANUARY 2015, YSULS)
- Workshop on Road Map development and implementation (13-14 APRIL 2015, YSMU)
- Workshop on internal and external QA of PhD education (11-13 MAY 2015, YSU)



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## TWO WORKSHOPS ON DEVELOPMENT OF PhD AWARD CRITERIA AND QA STANDARDS

Two workshops were organized and held to implement the activities outlined in WP3: Formulation of Award Criteria and QA Standards in Doctoral Education.

The first event, held in the premises of Yerevan State University of Languages and Social Sciences (YSULS) from 26 to 27 of January 2015 focused mainly on the PhD award Criteria at different EU institutions, as well as the role of supervisor in doctoral education.

The second event was hosted by Yerevan State University (YSU) on 11-13 May 2015 and the main aim was to discuss the internal and external QA in PhD. EU and AM partners shared experience and ideas on developing the QA indicators for PhD.

The management team presented the activities carried out and set the deadlines for the further developments during the management sessions at both events.



### PROGRESS TO DATE

- Established and/or revised Research Units (RU) at 11 HEIs and integrated into University structure
- Developed strategy of RUs operationalization and selected staff (defined roles and responsibilities)
- Training kit on Salzburg Principles and PhD Promotion tools (in AM and ENG, 200 copies, published)
- Trained staff on Salzburg Principles, PhD promotion tools, road map development and implementation, PhD award criteria and QA standards, PhD Internal and External QA
- Fact-findings by AM HEIs and respective analyses
- Guidelines on the Road Map development and Implementation
- Effectiveness evaluation surveys, respective analyses, intermediate report
- Project web-site – [www.tempusveritas.am](http://www.tempusveritas.am)
- Two newsletters published on project achievements
- Published materials (video, print, etc.) via local media
- Established project Management team, Governing Board, local Working Groups at all partner institutions/organization
- Kick-off meeting, coordination meetings, GB meeting, local meetings, etc.
- Financial reports, minutes and correspondence on daily management



### WORKSHOP ON ROAD MAP DEVELOPMENT

To finalize the guidelines on road map for PhD education in Armenia prepared by the working team, EU partners from Heidelberg University and University of Girona were invited to Yerevan State Medical University. The workshop was held on 13-14 of April 2015. The discussions led to the finalization of the document as well as drafting the sample on strategic plan. Both documents were circulated among consortium and the AM partners were asked to draft their strategic plans to be discussed during the workshop in May at YSU.

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Next, the development of the PhD award criteria and QA standards was launched. Based on the workshops and materials provided ANQA prepared a draft of QA standards and indicators for PhD education and presented to the consortium. The final draft is now being circulated and soon will be finalized and published.

## FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

- Purchased and installed equipment for RUs
- Definition of Road maps by 11 HEIs
- In-house trainings
- Study visits to EU HEIs
- Inter-project coaching
- Development/revision of PhD programs
- External evaluation of PhD programs (self-assessment reports, desk-review, site-visits and final reports)
- Launch of PhD programs
- Effectiveness evaluation surveys, respective analyses, monitoring reports, final report
- Publication of newsletters, updates on website and in local media on developments
- Guidelines on PhD program establishment and implementation
- Dissemination conference
- Adoption and validation of PhD programs
- Adoption of PhD award criteria and QA standards
- Reports on factual findings
- Coordination meetings
- Financial reports, minutes and correspondence on daily management

The activities above are to be carried out by the end of the project.

## TRAINING KIT

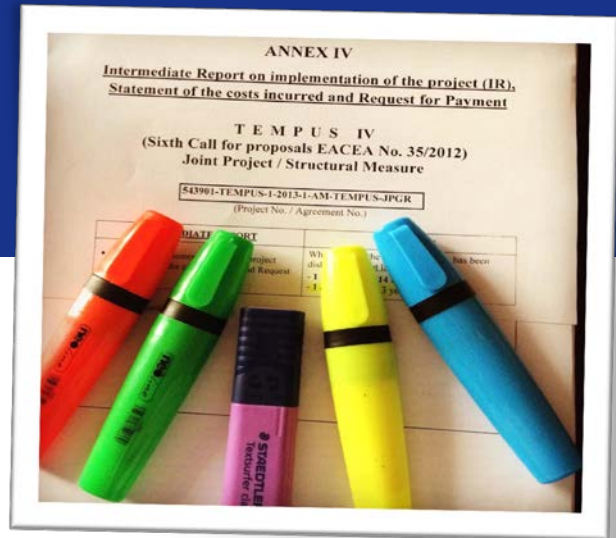
The training kit on Salzburg Principles and PhD Promotion tools prepared by the EU partners drawing on the two capacity building events in Graz (May 2014) and Yerevan (June 2014) was finalized, translated into Armenian and published in 200 copies. The publication involves materials from the trainings and is to be used by the Armenian partners during their in-house trainings. The first copies of the kit were disseminated among the participants of the seminar on internal and external QA at Yerevan State University (YSU). Each of AM partners will get their copies to share among the institution staff as well.





# INTERMEDIATE REPORT (IR)

The interim report for the VERITAS project was prepared and submitted to EACEA by 1<sup>st</sup> of JUNE 2015. All partners provided information on the completed and current activities within the project. The report presented the progress up to date and future developments.



## **TO LEARN MORE PLEASE CONTACT US**

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