

Report for SIPUS project Erasmus Student Network Novi Sad (BINS) Novembar 2016

1. The Importance of the Erasmus Student Network in the Development of Student Mobility at Universities in Serbia (Novi Sad, December 2014)

On Thursday, 18th December 2014 Erasmus Student Network (ESN) Novi Sad and the International Relations Office of the University of Novi Sad organized a meeting on the importance of the Erasmus Student Network in the development of student mobility at universities in Serbia. The purpose of this meeting was to present the work of the biggest student organisation for student mobility in Europe (Erasmus Student Network) and to encourage Serbian Universities to recognize the quality and necessity of ESN. It was explained how beneficial ESN is for further development of incoming and outgoing student mobility at Universities in Serbia and proposal for collaboration between ESN and all Universities in Serbia was offered.

ESN Novi Sad gave an overview of the Network, explained its purpose, and presented the projects (SocialErasmus, ExchangeAbility, ErasmusIntern, Buddy system) that would be relevant for the promotion and development of student mobility at other Universities in Serbia. We managed to give an insight into services that ESN offers to foreign and local students, and type of activities that ESN organizes for foreign students to integrate them into the local community. The model of good practices between the International Relations Office and its local ESN section was presented in order to encourage this cooperation at other Universities.

At that point of time Erasmus Student Network existed only in Novi Sad and in Belgrade, but on this meeting we managed to set a strategy for the establishment of ESN sections at remaining Universities in Serbia, with the support of International Relation Offices. The meeting ended with proposal of follow up activities. Representatives of International Relations Office of University of Niš officially invited ESN on a meeting in Niš, where setting up of the new upcoming section was discussed.

2. Study visit of ESN Novi Sad to the University of Niš (Niš, November 2014)

The main goals of the study visit were introduction of ESN to University of Niš and providing more information about ESN and its significance in the field of mobility to representatives of International Relations Office of University of Niš and to motivated students interested in setting up an Erasmus Student Network in city of Niš.

Delegates of ESN discussed the current state regarding student mobility at the University in Niš. It was pointed out by International Relations Office representatives there is a lack of interest for youth activism and volunteer work and that there is a gap in communication channels with students. SIPUS and FUSE projects were mentioned as two of the biggest projects and factors

contributing to the creation of mobility and internationalization strategies. However, it was established that there is a strong need for an organization such as ESN that will encourage students to volunteer and that will work on informing students about the opportunities for student mobility.

The goals of the presentations were to present goals and projects of ESN, the importance of ESN for student mobility, youth activism and non-formal education. This visit showed that there is need for forming an organization such as ESN at the University of Niš and it was obvious that the International Relations Office and students are highly motivated to work on creation of an ESN section in Niš. After the meeting, students at the University of Niš have set up temporary Local Board and organized various activities in the field of student mobility for international students. As a result of this meeting, those students presented their work and their candidacy for becoming an official ESN section at the National Platform of ESN Serbia and were accepted as a full member. Therefore, SIPUS project contributed to the creation of ESN Niš section in ESN Serbia network. Also, as a result of this collaboration, ESN Niš was registered as an organisation and Contract of collaboration was signed with above mentioned University.

3. Meeting at Singidunum University with ESN BelUPgrade (Belgrade, January 2015)

ESN BelUPgrade and Singidunum University had a meeting where they discussed the terms of their collaboration. On one hand, there was no need for establishing a separate ESN section at University of Singidunum, due to the small number of exchange students at this University. But, on the other hand, there was a huge need to connect local students from University of Singidunum students with ESN section that already exist in Belgrade, called ESN BelUPgrade.

The terms of collaboration between ESN and Singidunum University included holding a presentation about ESN both for local and exchange students and promotion of ESN on website of Singidunum University. In addition, ESN facilitated stay of exchange students at Singidunum University. Thank to this meeting, ongoing and long lasting collaboration between ESN and University of Singidunum was created, since this University continued to support local ESN section with premises for National Platforms.

4. Collaboration between Technical Faculty in Bor and ESN Serbia (Zlatibor, May 2015)

At SIPUS meeting in Belgrade called 'Challenges of Serbian participation in ERA' representatives from ESN Novi Sad had a chance to meet representatives from International Relations Office of Technical Faculty in Bor who reached out to ESN, seeking support. Representatives of this Faculty were invited later on invited and present at the conference that ESN Serbia had organized in Zlatibor, called 'Let's Get Mobile'. At this conference, development of Erasmus+ program was discussed and it was agreed that ESN BelUPgrade will continue providing this Faculty with help and support for their local and exchange students. It was concluded that there is no need for establishing an individual section in Bor, especially since Faculty in Bor is a part of University of Belgrade.

5. University of Kragujevac (Novi Sad, November 2016)

At all SIPUS meetings, ESN has established solid contact with International Relations Office at University of Kragujevac. As a result of that collaboration, they attended National Platform of ESN Serbia in November 2016. On this occasion, IRO representatives from University of Kragujevac presented their work in fields of mobility and reached out to ESN Serbia seeking advice on how to coordinate the group of motivated students already organized at their University. It is obvious that there is a big need for establishing an ESN section at this University, which is a goal we are aiming towards. Currently, creation of new section at University of Kragujevac is our our main occupation. Thus, with support of SIPUS project good collaboration with all Universities in Serbia was established, ESN became more visible and respectful partner among Universities and Erasmus Student Network in Serbia has expanded in three more cities: Niš, Kragujevac and Bor.