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Developing Higher Education in Serbia

Danube University Krems partner in Erasmus+ project
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The international Erasmus+ project "Institutional framework for development of the third mission of universities in Serbia" (IF4TM) is focussing on higher education structural reforms and university-business cooperation in Serbia. Danube University Krems is one of 18 partner institutions in this project. In March, project partners from Serbia came to Krems for a study visit.



Between 17th and 18th march the Center for Educational Management and Higher Education Development at Danube University Krems hosted a capacity building and benchmarking seminar for Serbian partners in the project IF4TM. The seminar on the third mission cooperation and life-long learning services of Danube University Krems opened with a welcome address by Friedrich Faulhammer, rector of Danube University Krems. It hosted 12 participants from Serbian higher education institutions, business incubators, and from the ministry for higher education and Serbian patent office. Attila Pausits, head of the Center for Educational Management and Higher Education Development at Danube University Krems and designated EAIR-president, on occasion of the seminar: "Universities have contributed directly and indirectly to much decision making in wider society since their inception, such activities have not been the essential to their role in

the same way as the first two missions of university activity -- research and teaching. Now, developments in this field have reached the stage where university 'Third Mission' contributions are seen important and distinctive on their own, deserving specific policies and resources to ensure their effective functioning." The IF4TM Erasmus+ project, according to Pausits, was one of such resources, which fosters the regulatory and institutional change for the accommodation and reshaping of the third mission agenda in Serbia.

Technology transfer and innovation, continuous education and social engagement
IF4TM will be implemented over a period of time from October 2015 to October 2018. The project is co-funded by Erasmus+EU programme and implemented by a consortium of 18 partners from Serbia, Great Britain, Austria, Portugal, Italy and Slovenia, which consists of five European and six Serbian universities, as well as The Serbian Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development, the Serbian Intellectual Property Office, the Technical College of Applied Sciences in Zrenjanin, three business incubators and one business enterprise, Intranea.

The primary aim of the project, along with the two existing missions regarding education and research at universities in Serbia, is the development and implementation of the third mission which encompasses three dimensions: technology transfer and innovation, continuous education and social engagement of universities.

Apart from the improvement of legal and policy framework, with the objective of motivating professors, researchers and students at universities, their greater involvement in innovation activities and knowledge transfer, activities on the project will be oriented towards the development of:

- a targeted training programme for capacity improvement
- a programme for raising technology readiness level
- an annual competition for the best students idea
- recommendations for faculties regarding the modification of study modules, through the introduction of topics in the area of entrepreneurship, innovations, intellectual property management, etc.
- five Creativity centres
- numerous mobility activities towards European institutions.