

## **REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT**

### **Overall achievements**

The Tempus Project InterEULawEast was launched in February 2014. During the first year of its implementation period, several activities were organised including the organisation of two conferences (Maribor and Kazan) and a summer school (Zagreb) (WP 5 and 3). In addition, preparations were made with respect to curricula development in international and EU law (WP 1); three Tempus Centres (in Zagreb, Voronezh and Odessa) were opened (WP 2) and the journal InterEULawEast was launched. In terms of project management (WP 6), the coordinators responded flexibly to external factors (such as the crisis in Ukraine) and internal challenges (such as accreditation requirements in Russia and Ukraine) (for further comments, see last year's implementation report). In the year 2015, further progress was made with respect to project implementation. Of particular significance are the steps towards local accreditation of the master programmes in European and International Law at the National University "Odessa Law Academy", Voronezh university and Kazan university (WP4). The new master programmes have been presented at student fairs which were attended by around 200 potentially interested students. At Voronezh university, twelve students already enrolled at the new master programme. Efforts were made to improve curriculum development in line with the Bologna process (WP 1 and 3). This included, amongst others, the organisation of a methodological workshop on 'writing and using learning outcomes: a practical guide' in Voronezh (May 2015) and an advanced course on European company law in Odessa (November 2015). The Tempus centres in Zagreb, Voronezh and Odessa are fully operational (WP 2). As far as dissemination is concerned (WP5), all activities of the consortium are regularly published on the project's umbrella website. In addition, the webpages of all co-beneficiary institutions cross-refer to the project's website. A new issue of the InterEULawEast Journal for International and European Law was published in 2015 and a textbook on European law is in preparation. In terms of project management (WP 6), a project coordination meeting was organised in Riga (March 2015). In addition, the project coordinator and the co-beneficiary institutions entertain frequent contacts to ensure the smooth implementation of the project. Mechanisms for internal and external quality control (WP 5) are established and function in accordance with the work programme.

### **Coherence with the workplan and comments on deviations and modifications**

Following the illegal occupation and annexation of Crimea and Sevastopol by the Russian Federation, the envisaged participation of Taurida National V.I. Vernadsky University (TNU) has been suspended. The project coordinators made the necessary arrangements in cooperation with the EACEA. As a result of the occupation of the Donbas region, the seat of Donetsk National University moved to the city of Vinitsa. The required adaptations to the workplan and initial project proposal have been discussed with the EACEA.

These external circumstances have an impact on the implementation of the project. For instance, it implies that the funds allocated to the TNU are frozen until further notice. As a result, the number of scholarships is reduced from 12 to 10 whereas certain expenditures for staff costs within WP1 are lower than expected. The advanced summer course of June 2014 took place in Zagreb instead of Odessa due to the political situation in Ukraine. According to the work plan (WP 3.2), the advanced summer course for 2015 should be organised at TNU. Due to the suspension of this institute's participation, it was decided to organise the event in Riga instead (according to the minutes of the March 2015 Riga project coordination meeting). Given the more stable situation in Odessa in 2015 (in comparison to the year before) and taking into account the project's objective to organise the advanced courses in the partner countries, it was later decided that Odessa – and not Riga – would be hosting this event. This actually took place a bit later than scheduled (on 4-8 November 2015) as the "advanced course in European company law".

## **Obstacles and shortcomings**

Apart from the obstacles deriving from the domestic evolutions in Ukraine, which have been carefully handled by the project coordinator, the involvement of the third European partner (Socialo Technologiju Augustskola (STA) was identified as problematic in the previous evaluation report. With the appointment of a new local project coordinator for Latvia (Mr. Igors Markovics), the participation of STA was re-activated. This resulted in the hosting of the March 2015 project coordination meeting in Riga and a commitment to organise the advanced summer course in September 2015 (which was later transferred to Odessa for the reasons explained above). Notwithstanding this renewed commitment, the project implementation on the EU side remains largely in the hands of the Zagreb and Maribor universities. The actual input from STA to the programmes of the May 2015 conference and workshop in Voronezh and to the November 2015 advanced course on European company law in Odessa was limited. Moreover, the STA did not provide a report for the Logistical Framework Matrix (LFM), which makes it very difficult to assess the actual contribution of this institution to the implementation of the project. Nevertheless, some improvement could be observed. Four STA representatives were present at the Advanced course in Odessa. In this framework, their further involvement in the project was discussed leading, amongst others, to the preparation of a contribution to the next issue of the InterEUlaw academic journal. With respect to the other identified obstacle, i.e. the administrative requirements for the accreditation of new master programmes, significant progress was made, most notably with the local accreditation of the programmes at Odessa and Voronezh university (and with Kazan and Tyumen to follow in the beginning of 2016). Despite the difficult political context, Donetsk national university in Vinnitsa remains committed to the project, as evidenced by the representation and active participation of Donetsk representatives at the Odessa advanced summer course. It is, however, not clear at this point to what extent the new master programme in international and European law can be effectively implemented at this institution.

A final point of attention concerns the implementation of the scholarship mechanism. According the project proposal, scholarships will be granted for study abroad and can cover costs of stay and travel costs. The university of Maribor has not enough English language courses and the cost of study is relatively high. With regard to the STA no information about possible scholarships is provided; which means that only the University of Zagreb can host 10 students to be enrolled in European company and European market law courses. All co-beneficiaries agreed on the recognition of ECTS credits earned abroad.

## **Development of programmes and courses**

New master programmes in European and International Law were prepared for Russian and Ukrainian partner universities. In this context, the project resulted in the publication of a European Market Law Handbook as a tool for education of the new master course on EU internal market law. A textbook on European law is in preparation. Local accreditation has already been achieved for the universities of Voronezh and Odessa; this process is almost finished for the universities of Kazan and Tyumen whereas the complex situation in the Donbas region explains why this could not yet be achieved for the university of Donetsk. The courses of the new programmes are announced on the Tempus websites of the universities of Voronezh and Odessa. It is advisable to publish also the full ECTS files for the courses on offer.

## **Restructuring: university management and governance**

The project resulted in the opening of three Tempus centra, in Zagreb, Odessa and Voronezh in full accordance with the objectives under WP 2.

### **Staff (re-)training**

An advanced course on European company law was organised at the university of Odessa (November 2015) The course aimed to provide in-depth training on modern issues of European company law for staff, young researchers, assistants and lecturers employed at partner countries institutions. In May 2015, Voronezh university hosted an international forum on educational cooperation in the commonwealth of independent states and a workshop on writing and using learning outcomes. This involved the participation of external experts such as prof. Declan Kennedy from Cork University, which allowed for the exchange of knowledge and training for the staff involved in the Tempus project.

### **Staff mobility**

In 2014, Prof. Hana Horak and Prof. Rajko Knez and Dr. Domonik Vuletic provided guest lectures (in Voronezh, Kazan and Tyumen respectively). Academic staff from the partner institutions took part in the academic conferences and workshops organised in in Maribor and Kazan (2014) and in Voronezh and Odessa (2015). At the advanced course on European company law in Odessa, European perspectives were presented by Professor Hana Horak, Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Zagreb, Professor Rajko Knez, Faculty of Law, University of Maribor, Assistant Professor Kosjenka Dumančić, Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Zagreb, Assistant Zvonimir Šafranko, Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Zagreb, Assistant Kristijan Poljanec, Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Zagreb. Four representatives of STA (Mrs Inna Lebedeva, Mr Jurijs Počujevs, Mr Jurijs Nikulcovs and Mr Artjoms Labejev) also participated to the event. On behalf of Partner Countries' co-beneficiaries, lectures were given by Assistant Professor Mykhailo Katsyn, National University „Odessa Law Academy“, Julia Dorozhkina, lecturer at Donetsk National University, Vinnitsa, Assistant Professor Daryna Dvornichenko, National University „Odessa Law Academy“, Assistant Professor Dmytro Kova, National University „Odessa Law Academy“ and Assistant Professor Yulia Akimenko, National University „Odessa Law Academy“.

### **Student mobility**

Students of the different partner universities are widely associated to the project. They took part in the international quality committees of each partner and in the organization of the conferences in Zagreb, Maribor, Kazan, Voronezh and Odessa.

An advanced summer course in European internal market law took place in Zagreb from 23 to 28 June 2014. There were 48 students enrolled in this program : 10 Ukrainians, 8 Russians and 35 Croatians.

In November 2014 a lecture titled "The Economic order of the European Union and its Member States - Legal aspect", took place at the Institute of State and Law, Tyumen State University. The lecture was attended by more than 150 participants, students and professors.

Advanced Course in European Company Law took place from 4th to 8th November 2015 in Odessa, Ukraine, at National University "Odessa Law Academy". There is no indication about the attendance of students

However, the main goal of the Tempus programme is the creation of a master in international and European law involving students and academics mobility. The programme should help to organize this mobility. An important instrument for this purpose is the scholarship mechanism envisaged under the

project proposal. The university of Zagreb can host 10 students which can be enrolled in European company and European market law courses. Russian and Ukrainian students which followed these courses can benefit from a transfer of the ECTS credits earned during their stay abroad. No scholarship options are available at the other EU partner institutions. The selection procedure for scholarships needs to be transparent and should be published on the co-beneficiaries websites as instructed by the project coordinator on the occasion of the Riga project coordination meeting. At this time there are no clear indications about these procedures.

The main issue, which is a key element for the success of the Tempus programme, is the mutual recognition of the ECTS credits obtained in different partners universities for the deliverance of a common master. All the partners gave their agreement on recognition of ECTS credits. Different partner universities ensured the promotion of this future programme during student fairs organized in Voronezh, Kazan, and Odessa until spring 2015.

On 1st September 2015 a ceremony of awarding students' ID cards took place at Voronezh State University for students enrolled at Master Programme "International and European Law. Already 12 students enrolled for this programme. It is difficult to assess at this point how many students will be engaged in the new master programmes at other partner institutions.

### **Academic co-ordination and administrative management**

The coordination of the project is under the direction of professor Hana Horak from Zagreb university. The Interlaw management group of the project includes representatives from different partners universities (two representatives for Zagreb, one for the other partners). The management group is responsible for methodological, organizational and financial management, development of strategic decision-making on project implementation, mid-term reviews, progressive planning and potential adjustments. Tasks are clearly divided between the different partners, with more or less involvement (see logical matrix reports of the project). The internet site of the project gives a very clear and very complete information about the organization of the consortium, the different tasks given to the university partners and the aims of the project.

From the European side, the representatives of the universities of Zagreb (Prof. Horak and her team) and Maribor (Prof. Rajko Knez and his team) have been the driving forces behind the project whereas the involvement of the third partner (Socialo Technologiju Augustskola) was limited. On the partner universities' side, the co-beneficiaries agreed that Voronezh state university is in charge for co-ordinating the master programme structure for the participating Russian universities and the National University Odessa Law Academy will do the same on behalf of the Ukrainian co-beneficiaries. Notwithstanding the difficulties resulting from the conflict in the eastern part of Ukraine (see above), academic co-operation with the Russian and Ukrainian partners developed smoothly.

### **Equipment**

The project allowed for the opening of three Tempus centre in Zagreb, Voronezh and Odessa. The issue of purchase of equipment for Donetsk National University, Tyumen State University and Kazan Federal University has been discussed with the project coordinator which gave clear instructions on the procedures to be followed.

There is a complete list of the equipment purchase until January 2015. It's indicated in the information on procedure for equipment purchase that the project coordinator has not received supporting documents from Donetsk national university. The purchase was postponed due to the war situation in Donbass region. Finally, on 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2015 Donetsk national university team successfully finished procedure of

purchase of equipment. Most of the equipment was bought for the Tempus centres in Voronezh and Odessa, for almost the same amount of money. At this time there is no indication about the money spent to buy equipment for Donetsk university team.

### **Dissemination**

Dissemination activities essentially concerned the organisation of academic activities in Zagreb, Maribor and Kazan, Voronezh, Tyumen (December 2014) and Odessa (November 2015).

Dissemination also concerns the publication of the review “InterEULawEast - Journal for International and European Law, Economics and Market Integrations”. The journal collects the papers from the area of Law and Economics, with an emphasis on international law, law of European Union and economic and legal aspects of market integrations. It is published twice a year, in June and December, in both printed and electronic edition, and allows free access to published articles through the review website. The third issue of this review was published in June 2015. This review should continue to be published after the end of the Tempus project even if it's not clearly announced on the website of the publication.

In 2014 the “European market law handbook Vol. 1” was published (authors: Hana Horak, Kosjenka Dimanic, Kristijan Poljanec, Dominic Vuletic). The publishers are the University of Zagreb and the Voronezh State University.

At this period all the partners are fully involved – but at different levels - in the dissemination of the project.

### **Sustainability**

The objective of the Tempus project is the creation of a common master programme in European and international law. This program is supposed to continue after the EU's financial assistance has ended.

In a very difficult international context, the different partner universities managed to progress in the process of establishing this new degree. The creation of a common master programme, very original in the landscape of superior education in Russia and Ukraine, is of course essential for the sustainability of the project. It was crucial to carefully monitor the local accreditation procedures, which has been launched in 2015 so that the programmes can become operational by 2016.

In June 2014, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the University of Zagreb and Voronezh State University. In 2015 another Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Donetsk National University and Faculty of Economics and Business University of Zagreb and National University Odessa Law Academy and Faculty of Economics and Business University of Zagreb.

In November 201 the official signing of the Partnership Agreement between Russian co-beneficiaries and Project Coordinator was organized. The agreement governs organisational and financial aspects of the project implementation.

Local accreditation procedures for the master programmes at Voronezh and Odessa universities ended in July 2015; for the Universities of Kazan and Tyumen this procedure is to be finished at the beginning of 2016

An important challenge for the success and sustainability of the project concerns the establishment of a scholarship mechanism. According to the project proposal co-beneficiaries in the partner countries must take the necessary initiatives in 2015.

### **Quality control and monitoring**

The conditions of quality control and monitoring were defined at the beginning of the project. This report is the second external midterm report realised about the project

All representatives of the partner universities were introduced to the goals and conditions of participation in the Tempus project. They are also involved in the implementation of the project objectives, curriculum development, and dissemination activities. In addition to the external quality control, there is an internal evaluation committee with representatives from the partner universities. So far, four Logical Framework Matrix Reports (Report on Internal Quality Control) have been published on the project's website. In March 2015, Zvonimir Safranko from Zagreb university also prepared a report on the online dissemination of the project in order to monitor the quality of the dissemination requirements under the project.

### **Gender balance**

The project is organized and managed by women and men in almost equal proportions. The Tempus Project Coordinator is a woman.