

PART III: SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

Erasmus Mundus Action 2 – Strand 1

Reference number		
Project Title	SIGMA Critical Skills Learning for Innovation, Sustainable Growth, Mobility and EmployAbility in the Multicultural Environment of the Western Balkans	
	Name of organisation	Country
Applicant	University of Warsaw	Poland
Partner 1	City University London	UK
Partner 2	Freie University Berlin	Germany
Partner 3	Lund University	Sweden
Partner 4	University of Milan	Italy
Partner 5	University of Montpellier 2	France
Partner 6	University of Salzburg	Austria
Partner 7	University of Twente	The Netherlands
Partner 8	Wrocław University of Technology	Poland
Partner 9	Shkodra University	Albania
Partner 10	University of Belgrade	Serbia
Partner 11	University for Business and Technology	Kosovo*
Partner 12	University of Montenegro	Montenegro
Partner 13	University of Nis	Serbia
Partner 14	University of Novi Sad	Serbia
Partner 15	University of Prishtina	Kosovo*
Partner 16	University of Sarajevo	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Partner 17	University “St. Kliment Ohridski”, Bitola	FYR of Macedonia
Partner 18	University of Tuzla	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Associate 1	National Co-operative Council	Poland
Associate 2	Albanian Center for Economic Research	Albania
Associate 3	Foundation “Cultures of the World”	Poland
Countries targeted	Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Kosovo (as defined under UNSCR 1244/99), Montenegro, Serbia	
Project duration (months)	37	
Grant awarded (EUR)	3 863 657 EUR	
Partnership Website	http://portal.uw.edu.pl/web/sigma/sigma-1	

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Project objective:

Exposing students, researchers, academic and administrative staff to academic **mobility** (studies, research or training in other countries) with the focus on the **development of critical skills necessary for functioning in the knowledge-based society and increasing their chances for success on the labour market**; building specialist knowledge in the area of entrepreneurship and skills how to apply this knowledge to a career or research industry, thus, bridging the gap between the worlds of education and work; **capacity building and developing structured, sustainable cooperation among the European Union and Western Balkan partners** in relation to academic mobility, innovative joint programmes, research, university management, administration and high quality services; **mutual enrichment, while building bridges across borders, cultures and languages** for a greater cross-cultural understanding, cross-fertilization, peaceful cooperation, inclusion of vulnerable groups, supporting talents and developing hard, transferable skills for employment. Special attention was paid to **quality planning, assurance and control**, ECTS documents and **Bologna process** provisions were used. All the activities were performed in accordance with the **principles of equal opportunities, social inclusion, non-discrimination on any grounds, brain-drain prevention**.

Activities and accomplishment of programme objectives

The mission of EMA2 SIGMA was to address the real needs of the Western Balkan higher education institutions and, in the long run, contribute towards sustainable development, institution and academic infrastructure building, human resources professional development, stability, stronger ties with the EU. The specific SIGMA and EMA2 programme objectives were successfully accomplished:

1. Mobility of 260 students, researchers, academic and administrative staff, including 9 students from vulnerable groups (IDP, refugees, ethnic minority students, including 3 students of Roma origin); focus on high academic quality and excellent opportunities for further academic development. High recognition of the credit points, grades, skills, and qualifications was achieved.
2. Through the mobility, international experience and additional activities, development of critical skills necessary for functioning in the knowledge-based society and increasing chances for employment. According to the scholarship holders, the following skills were particularly improved: linguistic skills, functioning in the multi-cultural society, cultural-awareness, communication skills, adaptation skills, flexibility, open-mindedness and tolerance, independence, organizational skills, problem-solving, creativity. Actual career advancement after the mobility period was reported.
3. Improvement of quality measures and administrative procedures at the partner universities; effective use of the Bologna process and streamlining mechanisms for smoother transfer of grades, credits, programmes, diplomas, skills and qualifications between the EU and Western Balkan higher education institutions. At the same, promotion of the EU higher education system in the Western Balkans and greater visibility of the EU and EMA2 programme.
4. Transfer of know-how; building academic, managerial and administrative capacity in the Western Balkan partner institutions; mutual enrichment; participation in the international academic community. Organization of workshops, seminars, webinars, usually in cooperation with other EMA2 partnerships and external organizations.
5. Ensuring long-term structured cooperation among the partners with emphasis on sustainability and joint initiatives (e.g. agreements of cooperation, research and educational projects, publications, workshops, conferences, networks). Throughout the life-cycle of the project and after its completion, good practices and lessons learned were gathered and analysed.

6. Raising awareness of cultural and linguistic diversity, developing greater cross-cultural understanding, peaceful cooperation, inclusion of vulnerable groups, promoting equality of all groups and non-discrimination of any kind; brain-drain prevention e.g. through the acquisition of expertise and good prospects for employment.

Achieved results in terms of mobility flows:

Type of Mobility	Outgoing	Third country ¹	Incoming			TOTAL
	Europeans		Third-country nationals			
	Target Group 1		Target Group 1	Target Group 2	Target Group 3	
Undergraduates ²	20	AL	0	0	0	85
		BA	7	0	0	
		MK	2	0	0	
		Kosovo*	6	0	0	
		ME	10	0	0	
		RS	38	0	2	
Masters	19	AL	4	3	0	89
		BA	6	3	1	
		MK	1	3	0	
		Kosovo*	11	1	1	
		ME	4	1	0	
		RS	25	5	1	
Doctorates	8	AL	1	2	0	34
		BA	3	3	0	
		MK	0	0	0	
		Kosovo*	2	1	1	
		ME	0	0	0	
		RS	9	1	3	
Post-doctorates	3	AL	0	0	0	15
		BA	1	0	0	
		MK	2	1	0	
		Kosovo*	0	0	0	
		ME	1	0	0	
		RS	7	0	0	
Academic staff	10	AL	2	3	0	37
		BA	3	1	0	
		MK	2	2	0	
		Kosovo*	4	1	0	
		ME	1	0	0	
		RS	7	1	0	
TOTAL	60		159	32	9	260

¹ Please insert the appropriate country code as indicated in the following website:

http://www.iso.org/iso/fr/english_country_names_and_code_elements

² Undergraduate mobility is covered only under EM A2 Strand 1 and not under EM A2 Strand 2 (please delete the row accordingly)

Third country	Undergraduates	Masters	Doctorates	Post- doctorates	Staff	TOTAL
AL	0	7	3	0	5	15
BA	7	10	6	1	4	28
MK	2	4	0	3	4	13
Kosowo*	6	13	4	0	5	28
ME	10	5	0	1	1	17
RS	40	31	13	7	8	99
TOTAL	<u>65</u>	<u>70</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>200</u>

* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence