

2023



QUALITY REPORT

EVALUATED PERIOD: 15.01.2021 – 14.10.2022
PREPARED BY PROJECT ADVISORY GROUP DOO

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1. Introduction

The evaluation report presents the semi-term quality evaluation of the Erasmus+ project “Development of Regional Joint Master Program in Maritime Environmental Protection and Management (MEP&M)”, project no. 619239-EPP-1-2020-1-ME-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP that covers the period from 15th January 2021 to 14th October 2022 stated in the Grant Agreement (Reporting period 1: from month 1 to month 21).

The Quality Report is aimed at assuring the quality of the project implementation. The report considered wide range of actions that have been performed to impact the target groups; to demonstrate the quality of project outcomes, both tangible and intangible results; management efficiency and relevance to the activities foreseen in the application proposal.

The Quality Report is based on the evaluation of three aspects of the project:

- The management and cooperation in project activities;
- The outputs of the project in the reporting period;
- The impact and sustainability.

MEP&M project (website available at: www.mepm.ucg.ac.me) aims toward solving multiple issues. First, novel master program covers coastal zone and marine environment protection that are some of the Montenegrin and Albanian Governments' priorities. Also, this field is one of the priorities toward the EU accession process for all Western Balkan Countries. Lack of an adequate number of professionals in governmental institutions, and Blue economy sector enterprises dealing with issues in this field should be overcome through enhanced education and research at Montenegrin and Albanian HEIs. Secondly, strengthening international competitiveness within European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and European Research Area (ERA) are the main driving forces for Montenegrin and Albanian HEIs.

Project activities are organized in six work packages (WPs):

- WP 1. State of the art on Maritime Environmental Protection and Management;
- WP 2. Development and implementation of master degree program;
- WP 3. Capacity Building through staff training and equipment purchase;
- WP 4. Quality Control and Monitoring;
- WP 5. Dissemination and Exploitation of Project Results;
- WP 6. Project Management.

MEP&M project gathered nine partners, including three Montenegrin partners (one academic and two non-academic partners), three EU HEIs, and three partners from Albania (two academic and one non-academic). The list of project partners is presented in Table 1, while in Table 2 are given the associate partners. According to MEP&M project activities within work packages at <https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/pagegr.php?id=Work%20packages> and project outcomes at <https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/pagegr.php?id=Outcomes>, this quality evaluation is aimed to complement the developed Quality Assurance (QA) body, in coordination with Establishment of project management structures (Project Management Board - PMB) in the project who delegated persons who have provided all the necessary information and data. External Quality Control and Evaluation will also assist in realization of the Impact Analysis of the MEP&M project.

Table 1. MEP&M project partners

Partner No.	Partner name	Country
P1	University of Montenegro	Montenegro
P2	Aleksander Moisiu University of Durres	Albania
P3	University Ismail Qemali	Albania
P4	University of Ljubljana	Slovenia
P5	Université Côte d'Azur	France
P6	University of Cadiz	Spain
P7	General Maritime Directorate	Albania
P8	Nature and Environmental Protection Agency	Montenegro
P9	Ecological Center DOLPHIN	Montenegro

Table 2. Associate partners

Name of organisation	Type of institution	Country	Role in the project	Activities and related WP
Portonovi Marina Management Company	Business sector - SME enterprise	Montenegro	Support the idea through providing recommendations and feedback on the quality of gained results as a stakeholder, as well as active participation in dissemination and exploitation of outputs and outcomes	WP4, WP5
Technical Institute Foundation for higher education on mobility – infomobility management and logistic infrastructure - GE.IN.LOGISTIC	Technical Institute Foundation for higher education	Italy	Providing competence-based learning methodologies and fully exploiting digital technologies. Support the efficient implementation of transversal activities.	WP4, WP5
Students' Parliament of the University of Montenegro	Non-governmental organization	Montenegro	Providing strong relationships between P1 and students/graduates aiming to contribute substantial impacts on project success and sustainability. Promotion of CB indicators and student benefits.	WP5
Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Vlore	Public	Albania	Support the idea through providing recommendations and feedback on the quality of gained results as a stakeholder, as well as active participation in dissemination and exploitation of outputs and outcomes	WP4 and WP5

Generally, project results have been assessed per each WP, according to a scheduled time of the workplan, measuring the following criteria, in agreement with project team:

- Relevance of the meetings;
- Relevance of the trainings;



- Relevance of the outputs;
- Dissemination and exploitation;
- Conclusion and recommendations.

Evaluation of the meetings comprises the summary, the quality of cooperation amongst partners and the impact and sustainability. Evaluation of trainings is consisted of the short summary, the relevance of the training, quality of cooperation between partners and the impact and sustainability of the activity. The evaluation of the outputs is starting with the comparison between projected deadline of the achieved results and comments and deviations in reported deliverables. Also, some recommendations are provided for the better project management. The dissemination and exploitation is gathered in accordance with the related plans in DISS&EXPL 5.1

For quality assessment, the following tools have been used: e-mail correspondence, virtual and in-vivo meetings, and analysis of the MEP&M website and realized deliverables/outcomes.

MEP&M project team has uploaded all project results on their official web site that has two separate domains:

- public domain with open access to all published project results, and
- encrypted Team Zone that can be accessed only through user name and password dedicated for members of the project consortium for documents exchanges and posting of confidential documents that are not allowed to be publically accessed due to specific confidentiality aspects. Accordingly, evaluation of all project results can be done through the project website, in coordination with consortium representatives in this project evaluation. This reflects the high quality of organization and realization of the MEP&M Erasmus+ project.

Assessment of each project deliverables has been realized based on common quality expectation for each of them. Common quality expectation for all deliverables is their relevance to reach the overall objective and the specific objectives, as well as their timely delivery.

This evaluation report comprises several chapters, including evaluations of meetings, trainings, outputs, dissemination and exploitation, and conclusion and recommendations.

2. Evaluation of the meetings

MEP&M project bases its objectives on actual needs. The PC HEIs continuously communicated in the preparation stage, deciding jointly on the priority activities that can be implemented given the timeframe, development level, and existing capacities at each institution. Having this in mind ensures that the objectives are set realistically.

Even though the MEP&M project envisages series of activities that cover different aspects of increasing capacities in Montenegrin and Albanian HEIs, there is little or no concern to the feasibility of their implementation. First and foremost, it will involve as many people as necessary to complete each task successfully and with high quality, as each activity and expected outcomes are set in a clear and precise manner, with relevant indicators attached to them. All structures relevant for meeting MEP&M project objectives will be involved, including teaching, administration, and technical staff, as well as students, who will all directly benefit from the activities in defined ways. In that way, the comprehensive ownership of the process will be achieved, and the motivation level of those involved in the process maintained.

The selection of EU HEIs was performed meticulously in order to assure all the expertise needed to achieve the project's anticipated results. Since the development and delivery of the regional joint interdisciplinary master program in MEP&M does not depend on the state-of-the-art subject domain expertise only, it was also crucial to engage the EU HEI with broad experience in preparing and delivering the studying programs online, in the form of digital or blended e-learning. In this way, the proposed project encompasses all expertise and experience necessary to assure high-quality standards:

- necessary organizational and procedural expertise and experience in developing e-learning course materials for each teacher involved,
- necessary pedagogical expertise related to innovative pedagogical approaches, and
- last, but not least, in-depth technical knowledge is needed to perform such a program, using ICT and multimedia.

Furthermore, the national authorities in charge of coastal and marine environmental protection in Montenegro and Albania have expressed their commitment to support all activities. In this context, the wider project objective, as well as its specific objectives have been defined taking into account the situation in the field, the existing capacities, and the potential of the participating institutions to achieve them.

Considering that the topic and focus of the MEP&M Erasmus+ project, the mobility represents very significant factor for acquiring new knowledge and skills by different target groups in the project: teaching staff, students, trainees, administrative staff, technical staff, librarians and other stakeholders of the university life in general. However, unprecedented appearance of COVID-19 pandemic imposed Force majeure, due to extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of the parties. Hence, mobility has been limited and stopped for quite a long period of time when the MEP&M project started. However, project consortium have used all available means and tools to organize virtual mobility schemes and all planned activities in this part of the project has been successfully organized within distance virtual environments and by using tools such as Zoom, Skype, phone meetings, Viber, WhatsApp, and e-mail correspondence.

The list of realized meetings both in-vivo and via distance virtual environment are also given in Table 3.

For the reported full period, 19 meetings were organized (divided into three sections: PMB meetings, in-vivo meetings, and online meetings) that were always used also for discussions about the project activities. Project team participated in meetings and some of the meetings were dedicated to staff/project team, as it can be seen at MEP&M website (<https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/page.php?id=13>):

Table 3. Realized meetings

No.	Meeting	Type
1	Kick-off Meeting Virtual meeting, 22 – 23 February 2021 Organized by: University of Montenegro	Online
2	Overview of MSc programs in field of MEP&M at EU HEIs March 30, 2021 Organized by: Université Côte d’Azur, Nice, France	Online
3	Overview of MSc programs in field of MEP&M at EU HEIs April 29, 2021 Organized by: University of Ljubljana, Slovenia	Online
4	Overview of MSc programs in field of MEP&M at EU HEIs 18-19 May 2021 Organized by: University of Cadiz, Spain	Online
5	Meeting at the Aleksander Moisiu University Durres 2nd July 2021 Organized by: Aleksander Moisiu University Durres	In-vivo
6	Minutes of NEO Montenegro monitoring visit @ UoM on 16.7.2021	In-vivo
7	Meeting at the Agency for Control and Quality Assurance of Higher Education in Podgorica, Montenegro July 20, 2021 Organized by: University of Montenegro	In-vivo
8	PMB meeting via Zoom application September 27th, 2021 Organized by: University of Montenegro, Montenegro	PMB
9	Technical Meeting – WP3 University of Ljubljana 06/10/2021	In-vivo
10	Project Meeting University of Ljubljana 11/11/2021 - Online Meeting	Online
11	PMB meeting via Zoom application December 21st, 2021 Organized by: University of Montenegro, Montenegro	PMB

12	Bilateral meeting UAMD & UoM Durres, 02.02.2022	In-vivo
13	PMB meeting via Zoom application February 8th, 2022 Organized by: University of Montenegro, Montenegro	PMB
14	Trilateral Meeting (UoM, UV, UAMD) @University of Montenegro 10th - 11th February 2022 Organized by: Faculty of Maritime Studies Kotor of the University of Montenegro	In-vivo
15	PMB meeting via Zoom application March 28th, 2022 Organized by: University of Montenegro, Montenegro	PMB
16	PMB meeting via Zoom application April 11th, 2022 Organized by: University of Montenegro, Montenegro	PMB
17	Meeting at the Aleksander Moisiu University Durres, Albania April 14-15, 2022 Organized by: Aleksander Moisiu University Durres	In-vivo
18	PMB Meeting at the Faculty of Maritime Sciences Kotor, University of Montenegro July 12th, 2022 Organized by: University of Montenegro, Montenegro	PMB
19	PMB Meeting at the University Côte d'Azur October 4-5th, 2022 Organized by: University Côte d'Azur and University of Montenegro	PMB

Mostly, the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic made it impossible to organize live meetings or live events for the project activities. However, the project coordinator initiated and organized high quality meetings while using available virtual tools. Accordingly, the consortium avoided any postponing of the foreseen activities and used these digital solutions to fully overcome the risk of project being stopped due to COVID-19 pandemic, and allowed the project activities to be realized smoothly even in such extraordinary circumstances.

In accordance with project plans and the work plan, all meetings were organized with relevant agendas, topics and participation of the important project stakeholders: teachers, administrative staff, administrative staff, university management of Montenegrin and Albanian HEIs, EU HEIs, and non-academic partners. Meetings served as an efficient method to develop mindsets of all HEIs stakeholders in a process of the preparation for the structure of the joint master program in English in the field of MEP&M.

2.1. Evaluation description

No. 1: Kick-off Meeting; Virtual meeting; 22 – 23 February 2021; Organized by: University of Montenegro (<https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/page.php?id=39>)

Summary: P2 presented the Quality control and monitoring plan. The QA report was adopted. The presentation of DEV 1.1 was given by P5. P1 presented the questionnaire for the GAP analysis within WP1 (for academic staff, students and stakeholders).

Quality of the cooperation: Good

Impact and sustainability: The importance of QA plan and GAP analysis for the future project implementation.

No. 2: Overview of MSc programs in field of MEP&M at EU HEIs; March 30, 2021; Organized by: Université Côte d'Azur, Nice, France (<https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/page.php?id=42>)

Summary: WP1 refers to identify the state of the art in education and research in the field of MEP&M to be implemented through MSc program at PC HEIs. Methodology to be used involves identifying best practices from EU HEIs in the field of education and research in field of MEP&M with adequate teaching methodology, GAP analysis, and delivering guidelines for development of joint interdisciplinary master program in MEP&M and teaching methodologies at PC HEIs. Other WPs were also discussed.

Quality of the cooperation: Good

Impact and sustainability: Delivering guidelines for development of master degree curricula in MEP&M and teaching methodologies at PC HEIs based upon GAP analysis report, with designated specific educational needs in field of MEP&M in PCs.

No. 3: Overview of MSc programs in field of MEP&M at EU HEIs; April 29, 2021; Organized by: University of Ljubljana, Slovenia (<https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/page.php?id=42>)

Summary: P4 gave the presentation on the Digital learning presenting institutional support provided by the Digital University Center of UL. Web based online training and dissemination were presented including pedagogical consultations, R&D activities, P4 unified learning environment, and collaborative tools and MM repository.

Quality of the cooperation: Good

Impact and sustainability: Delivering equipment specification for PC HEIs with the assistance of P4.

No. 4: Overview of MSc programs in field of MEP&M at EU HEIs; 18-19 May 2021; Organized by: University of Cadiz, Spain (<https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/page.php?id=42>)

Summary: P6 presented: Master's Degree in Integrated Coastal Zone Management, Master's Degree in Conservation and Management of Natural Environment, Master's Degree in Maritime Transport, Master's Degree in Aquaculture and Fisheries, and Doctorate Program in Management and Conservation of the Sea at the University of Cadiz.

Quality of the cooperation: Good

Impact and sustainability: The details of the different master and PhD program structures important for the development of MEP&M master program.

No. 5: Meeting at the Aleksander Moisiu University Durres; 2nd July 2021; Organized by: Aleksander Moisiu University Durres (<https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/page.php?id=42>)

Summary: Participants used opportunity to discuss more in details about the methodology of curricula development for the joint master program in MEP&M, accreditation procedure, principles of two-year study process organization, etc.

Quality of the cooperation: Good

Impact and sustainability: Identification of legal differences between these two countries (Albania and Montenegro), and creation of working group, coordinated by contact persons from each PC HEI.

No. 6: NEO Montenegro monitoring visit at the UoM on 16th July 2021 (<https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/page.php?id=39>)

Summary: As part of the regular monitoring of current Erasmus + CBHE projects, representatives of the National Erasmus + Office in Montenegro visited the University of Montenegro - Faculty of Maritime Studies Kotor on July 16th, 2021, regarding the project MEP&M. The goal of the preventive meeting was to get acquainted and additionally connect with the representatives of the management and partner institutions on the project, present the realized and planned project activities, expected project results, and discuss the evaluator's recommendations in terms of improving the implementation process.

Quality of the cooperation: Good. In addition to the mentioned, the meeting was also attended by representatives of partner institutions on behalf of the Environmental Protection Agency and the NGO Eco Center "Dolphin".

Impact and sustainability: The monitoring visit went in good order and the general observation of the monitoring body was very positive with the recommendation to provide the results of the equipment purchasing and master program accreditation on time.

No. 7: Meeting at the Agency for Control and Quality Assurance of Higher Education in Podgorica, Montenegro; July 20, 2021; Organized by: University of Montenegro (<https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/page.php?id=45>)

Summary: A working meeting was held at the premises of the Agency for Control and Quality Assurance of Higher Education in Podgorica, Montenegro. The Agency is in charge of program accreditations in Montenegro. The meeting was organized regarding the accreditation of a joint regional master program MEP&M in English.

Quality of the cooperation: Good.

Impact and sustainability: The recommendation to start master program accreditation on time.

No. 8: PMB meeting via Zoom application; September 27th, 2021; Organized by: University of Montenegro, Montenegro (<https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/page.php?id=39>)

Summary: P2 presented the Quality control and monitoring plan. The QA report was adopted. The presentation of DEV 1.1 was given by P5. P1 presented the questionnaire for the GAP analysis within WP1 (for academic staff, students and stakeholders).

Quality of the cooperation: Good

Impact and sustainability: The importance of QA plan and GAP analysis for the future project implementation.

No. 9: Technical Meeting – WP3; 6th October 2021; Organized at the University of Ljubljana (<https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/page.php?id=44>)

Summary: P4 suggested adequate DL technology that PC HEIs should install at their premises and later on to provide know-how transfer of usage of such high end technology. Hosts presented their DL technology systems that whole University of Ljubljana is using.

Quality of the cooperation: Good

Impact and sustainability: Deliver the specification for the equipment to P1 as soon as possible with the assistance of P4.

No. 10: Online project meeting; 11th November 2021; Organized by the University of Ljubljana (<https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/page.php?id=44>)

Summary: P4 presented to all PC HEIs their thoughts on general equipment specification for Distance learning. P4 gave general ideas what would be the best technology solution for PC HEIs having on mind that for PC HEIs that would be something completely new and it could take time to learn how to adequately use it for some of staff. Equipment is suggested to be uniform for all 3 PC HEIs, which is more practical.

Quality of the cooperation: Good

Impact and sustainability: Complete the specification for the equipment with the assistance of P4.

No. 11: PMB meeting via Zoom application; December 21st, 2021; Organized by: University of Montenegro, Montenegro (<https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/page.php?id=39>)

Summary: Overview of the activities performed in 2021.

Quality of the cooperation: Good

Impact and sustainability: Partners need to start with planning activities of WP2. WP3 is generally related to the purchase of the equipment and e-books. Also, the trainings for DEV3.4 are going well. Regarding WP4, WP5, and WP6, we are on time and with very good achievement.

No. 12: Bilateral meeting at the UAMD; Durres; 02nd February 2022 (<https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/page.php?id=49>)

Summary: Main purpose of the meeting was multiple including DEV 1.2 and DEV 3.1 outcomes, preparation of big trilateral meeting at P1 in February 2022.

Quality of the cooperation: Good

Impact and sustainability: Suggestions from EU partner HEIs are discussed, and agreed that should be accepted. Other discussions were related to organization of big trilateral meeting at P1 in February 2022.

No. 13: PMB meeting via Zoom application; February 8th, 2022; Organized by: University of Montenegro, Montenegro (<https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/page.php?id=49>)

Summary: Adopted GAP analysis - the report DEV1.2. Preparation of subcontracting change.

Quality of the cooperation: Good

Impact and sustainability: Announce of trilateral meeting at P1 in February 2022.

No. 14: Trilateral Meeting (UoM, UV, UAMD); 10th - 11th February 2022; Organized by: Faculty of Maritime Studies Kotor of the University of Montenegro (<https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/page.php?id=50>)

Summary: The main item discussed were: DEV 3.1 and the procurement of e-books and equipment. It was agreed that P1 will lead the joint tendering procedure.

Quality of the cooperation: Good

Impact and sustainability: Finalization of DEV 1.3. The draft proposal of courses (fields/topics) included in the two-year master study program. Further steps on equipment procurement procedure were discussed.

No. 15: PMB meeting via Zoom application; March 28th, 2022; Organized by: University of Montenegro (<https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/page.php?id=39>)

Summary: The status of report DEV 1.3. More involvement of P4 staff is needed. DEV 2.1 is postponed due to the finalization of DEV 1.3.

Quality of the cooperation: Solid

Impact and sustainability: The specification of the equipment is still missing. The risk for the late equipment and e-books procurement shall be mitigated.

No. 16: PMB meeting via Zoom application; April 11th, 2022; Organized by: University of Montenegro, Montenegro (<https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/page.php?id=39>)

Summary: Adoption of report DEV 1.3.

Quality of the cooperation: Good

Impact and sustainability: Steps for DEV 2.1.

No. 17: Meeting at the Aleksander Moisiu University Durres; April 14-15, 2022; Organized by: Aleksander Moisiu University Durres (<https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/page.php?id=45>)

Summary: The main topics of the meeting were related to the: report DEV1.3, procedure of the upcoming accreditation of master programs in English at partner

institutions in Montenegro and Albania, procurement of appropriate equipment that will improve distance learning and presentation of activities, and models for verification of developed master program in English.

Quality of the cooperation: Good

Impact and sustainability: Defined a travel plan for the current year and a list of consortium meetings for the implementation of work packages WP2 and WP3. Also, members of the project teams took the opportunity to attend an international conference entitled “3rd International Scientific Conference of the Faculty of Professional Studies” and present part of the analysis of DEV 1.2 related to the development of this program at the University of Montenegro. In the next period, team members will attend training within the DEV 3.4.5.

No. 18: PMB Meeting at the Faculty of Maritime Sciences Kotor, University of Montenegro; July 12th, 2022; Organized by: University of Montenegro, Montenegro (<https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/page.php?id=39>)

Summary: Draft curricula and syllabi were prepared and discussed. Each course syllabus was presented and some minor changes were adopted. After discussion whole curricula with syllabi was adopted by consortium. Realization of DEV 2.2, DEV 2.3, and DEV 3.1 were also discussed. Other WPs status were elaborated. The subcontracting lines’ modification have been adopted by the Project Officer.

Quality of the cooperation: Good

Impact and sustainability: Emphasis on the obligations for the interim report to the EACEA, especially related to the financial reporting.

No. 19: PMB Meeting at the University Côte d'Azur; October 4-5th, 2022; Organized by: University Côte d'Azur and University of Montenegro (<https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/page.php?id=39>)

Summary: Prof. Nikolić (P1) explained about the consortium obligations in regard of midterm reporting to EACEA. First reporting period is up to October 14th 2022. He presented the template for the technical report, with specific categories. Tasks were divided so each partner has its role in preparing narrative midterm report depending on leadership in WPs. Discussion about achieved results in each WP.

Quality of the cooperation: Good

Impact and sustainability: The public procurement procedure has been launched. The first step for the joint accreditation procedure of master program has been delivered by P1.

3. Evaluation of the trainings

For the reported period, four training activities within WP3 were organized by the side of EU HEIs, as it can be seen in Table 4.

Table 4. Organized trainings by EU HEIs within WP3

Deliverable	Training
DEV 3.4.1	Know-how transfer to teaching staff related to marine and coastal pollution and emission of GHG
DEV 3.4.2	Know-how transfer to teaching staff related to climate change and marine pollution effects on marine ecosystems
DEV 3.4.3	Know-how transfer to teaching staff related to international laws on climate change and marine pollution
DEV 3.4.4	Know-how transfer to teaching staff related to the environmental management

All trainings were organized as online events (except for DEV 3.4.4) for teachers and administrative staff, with participation of all partners and wider audience, due to the restrictions in the travel. All details of the training activities can be found on the MEP&M website (<https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/page.php?id=43>).

3.1. Evaluation description

DEV 3.4.1: Know-how transfer to teaching staff related to marine and coastal pollution and emission of GHG; Held on 28th, 30th June, 15th July, and 27th September, 2021; delivered by the University of Cadiz and University Cote D'Azur

Summary: The main aim of this task is to provide to Montenegrin and Albanian HEIs' teaching staff additional know-how with research activities in topics on marine and coastal pollution and emission of GHG. Training will address the various topics including shipping, nautical tourism, coastal tourism and off-shore activities influence on GHG emission and marine and coastal pollution. Reports on each training will be produced, disseminated and incorporated into the general overview report.

Relevance of the training: Efficient

Quality of the cooperation: Good

Impact and sustainability: Additional know-how with research activities to staff in topics on marine and coastal pollution and emission of GHG.

DEV 3.4.2: Know-how transfer to teaching staff related to climate change and marine pollution effects on marine ecosystems; Held on 20th, December, 2021, 10th and 20th January 2022; delivered by the University of Cadiz and University Cote D'Azur

Summary: The main aim of this task is to provide to Montenegrin and Albanian HEIs' teaching staff additional know-how with research activities in topics of climate change and marine

pollution effects on marine ecosystems. Reports on each training will be produced, disseminated and incorporated into the general overview report.

Relevance of the training: Efficient

Quality of the cooperation: Good

Impact and sustainability: Additional know-how with research activities to staff in topics of climate change and marine pollution effects on marine ecosystems.

DEV 3.4.3: Know-how transfer to teaching staff related to international laws on climate change and marine pollution; Held on 11th, March and 20th April 2022; delivered by the University of Cadiz and University Cote D'Azur

Summary: The main aim of this task is to provide to Montenegrin and Albanian HEIs' teaching staff additional know-how in topics of international laws on climate change and marine pollution. Reports on each training will be produced, disseminated and incorporated into the general overview report.

Relevance of the training: Efficient

Quality of the cooperation: Good

Impact and sustainability: Additional know-how to staff in topics of international laws on climate change and marine pollution.

DEV 3.4.4: Know-how transfer to teaching staff related to the environmental management; Held on 11th, July 2022; delivered by the University of Cadiz and University Cote D'Azur

Summary: The main aim of this task is to provide to Montenegrin and Albanian HEIs' teaching staff additional know-how in topics of environmental management. Training will address the various topics such as: international strategies and initiatives related to sustainable development of blue economy sectors, including coastal tourism, offshore oil and gas, yachting and marinas, cruise tourism, fisheries, coastal protection, monitoring and surveillance, blue biotechnology, marine aquatic production, and ocean renewable energies; risks and mitigation actions arising from climate change that affect coastal areas, especially those related to the increase in the frequency and intensity of storms, and the increase and intensification of erosive processes, as well as assessment of the vulnerability of the coastal zone with respect to climate change. Reports on each training will be produced, disseminated and incorporated into the general overview report.

Relevance of the training: Efficient

Quality of the cooperation: Good

Impact and sustainability: Additional know-how to staff in topics of environmental management.

The aim of the trainings is to enhance human and technical capacities related to joint master program in MEP&M at Montenegrin and Albanian HEIs. Capacity building of teaching staff are enhanced in wide aspects of MEP&M areas through tailored trainings, in wider fields of climate change and mitigation, marine pollution prevention, environmental management, international laws and strategies in field of marine environmental protection. Capacity building will also be performed in the fields of and organizational and procedural aspects of

online/blended learning course development, latest developments in innovative teaching and learning methods, as well as best practices of educational video production with the focus on lecture capture. This will be held when the procurement of the equipment and e-books is finished. It is related to the Montenegrin and Albanian HEIs' teaching staff additional knowledge in wide aspects of Maritime Environmental Protection and Management as well as in new teaching methods through tailored trainings.

Trainings will address next fields of expertise:

- Latest topics on marine and coastal pollution and emission of GHG from shipping, port activities, nautical tourism, coastal tourism and off-shore activities;
- Latest topics on climate change and marine pollution effects on marine ecosystems;
- Latest topics on international laws and strategies on climate change and marine pollution
- Latest topics on environmental management;
- New teaching and learning methods using distance learning techniques.

All trainings have been organized and realized with the slight postpone of the original project work plan, especially the last one within DEV 3.4.5 due to not finalized procurement of the equipment. The statistics on the trained persons is given in Table 5.

Table 5. Statistics of trained persons in the reporting period

Trained staff	No.
Teaching staff	192
Non-academic staff	45
Administrative staff	34

Within WP4, surveys for the QA body have been used for analysis and evaluation of quality of trainings and deliverables. All of these are given on: <https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/page.php?id=48>. The surveys were being collected and the data elaborated by the QA work package leader, who has been in frequent communication with the representatives of the project partners, especially with the coordinator, for the purpose of adequate coordination of tasks and activities. Realized trainings have had strong impact on major target groups of the project: teachers and administrative staff. They got acquainted with concepts and necessary activities for the project to be successfully realized, as well as boost their motivation for changes in HEs. Altogether, it established a well-designed support structure and enhanced capabilities and capacities to introduce new joint master program in MEP&M and to continue with project activities and further develop it, also beyond the project time.

4. Evaluation of the outputs

In this section, the discussion for the outputs delivered in the reporting period is given (Tables 6-11). It starts with the findings of the timeline per each WP.

Table 6. WP1 deliverables

WP 1 State of the art on Maritime Environmental Protection and Management		Projected deadline	Delivered
DEV 1.1	Overview of MSc programs in field of MEP&M at EU HEIs	15.05.2021	Sept 2021
DEV 1.2	GAP analysis	15.08.2021	Jan 2022
DEV 1.3	Reporting on actions and model for introduction of new joint interdisciplinary MSc program in MEP&M in English language	15.12.2021	Mar 2022

The details are given on: <https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/pagegr.php?id=Outcomes>

Deviations in reported deliverables: All three reports (DEV 1.1-1.3) were delivered with the significant delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and detailed implementation of the analysis performed within the reports, especially within GAP analysis. The consequence of the implied the delay in the finalization of DEV 1.3 and completed WP.

Table 7. WP2 deliverables

WP 2 Development and implementation of master degree program		Projected deadline	Delivered
DEV 2.1	Development of master program curricula	15.06.2022	Jul 2022
DEV 2.2	Development of teaching materials and methodology	15.11.2022	Behind
DEV 2.3	Development of e-lectures	15.04.2023	n/a
DEV 2.4	Accreditation of master program	15.03.2023	In progress
DEV 2.5	Start-up and self-evaluation of master program	14.01.2024	n/a

The details are given on: <https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/pagegr.php?id=Outcomes>

Deviations in reported deliverables: A slight delay in the realization of DEV 2.1 is reported. The master program curricula includes: seven obligatory courses, two elective courses counting in total 90 ECTS; professional practice /research with 12 ECTS, and master thesis defense with 18 ECTS. The delay is presented because the whole activity relies on completed DEV 1.3.

Development of teaching materials and methodology within DEV 2.2 is running late and risks that other deliverables to be finished on time (after the installation of distance learning equipment). Before that, P1 staff organized the meeting with the Agency for Control and Quality Assurance of Higher Education in Podgorica, Montenegro to have a more insight in the procedure for the accreditation.

Within DEV 2.4, the plan is to provide national accreditations of the program in Montenegro and Albania and later to sign multilateral agreement between three PC HEIs on joint master program. In addition to this, this activity started much earlier than anticipated by the project application. PC HEIs agreed to form Accreditation Coordination Team ACT which had a task of preparing and presenting legislation on accreditation of joint master programs in English in

Montenegro and Albania. The official procedure of the accreditation of the master program started from September 2022 in Montenegro where the initial process will be led. By the time of the observer reporting period, a Decision on developed new national qualification joint master program in MEP&M was not approved by the line institution (Sectoral commission for the development of qualifications). Since the expected procedure for the later on steps of accreditation, there is an apprehensive for not being done by March 2023 and not fulfill the specified in the application: “Having in mind that accreditation is a time-consuming process, as well as additional approval from Montenegrin Government in case of joint programs with universities outside Montenegro, the Montenegrin and Albanian HEIs will submit all the documents at least 10 months prior to the beginning of academic year.”

Table 8. WP3 deliverables

WP 3 Capacity Building through staff training and equipment purchase		Projected deadline	Delivered
DEV 3.1	Procurement of equipment and e-books	15.03.2022	Behind
DEV 3.2	Technical staff training for the new equipment	15.09.2022	Behind
DEV 3.3	Redesign of English web sites of Montenegrin and Albanian HEIs	15.01.2024	In progress
DEV 3.4	Know-how transfer to teaching staff related to the MEPM	15.09.2022	In progress
DEV 3.4.1	Know-how transfer to teaching staff related to marine and coastal pollution and emission of GHG	15.08.2021	Sep 2021
DEV 3.4.2	Know-how transfer to teaching staff related to climate change and marine pollution effects on marine ecosystems	15.12.2021	Jan 2022
DEV 3.4.3	Know-how transfer to teaching staff related to international laws on climate change and marine pollution	15.03.2022	Apr 2022
DEV 3.4.4	Know-how transfer to teaching staff related to the environmental management	15.06.2022	Jul 2022
DEV 3.4.5	Know-how transfer related to organizational and procedural aspects of online/blended learning courses development as well as innovative teaching and learning methods using e-learning techniques	15.09.2022	Behind

The details are given on: <https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/pagegr.php?id=Outcomes>

Deviations in reported deliverables: As evident, from the WP3 table, the joint tender has been launched in October 2022, while the whole procurement is foreseen to be finalized in March 2023. There is an apprehensive that the P1 will finish it on time and that will declare the 70% of the costs in the first pre-financing. Due to risk of not meeting deadline for equipment delivery and its installation according to the GA, project coordinator has sent a request to project officer for extension for 3 months period. Project officer has granted extension until April 14th, 2023.

However, the initial specification of the equipment has been changed due to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis and changes in the market. The approval of EACEA has been waited and the signing of the trilateral agreement for the joint procurement that will be done by P1. Another issue was the delay period from signing agreement and opening of the public procurement due collective vacation at the University of Montenegro during summer period and due to the cyber-attack on Montenegrin Governmental servers and shutting down e-procurement portal which lasted from August 2022 until October 2022. All this prolonged the launching of the joint tender. Since DEV 3.2 relies on DEV 3.1, the activity has been postponed. Meantime, four

trainings within DEV 3.4 were organized with a slight delay by one month per each. The last one is left after the installation of the equipment.

Table 9. WP4 deliverables

WP 4 Quality Control and Monitoring		Projected deadline	Delivered
QPLN 4.1	Establishment of Quality Assurance (QA) body	15.02.2021	Feb 2021
QPLN 4.2	Development and implementation of Internal Quality Control and Monitoring Plan	14.01.2024	In progress
QPLN 4.3	External Quality Control and Evaluation	14.01.2024	In progress
QPLN 4.4	Impact Analysis	14.01.2024	n/a

The details are given on: <https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/pagegr.php?id=Outcomes>

Comments on reported deliverables: The deliverable QPLN 4.1 was delivered on time, while both QPLN 4.2 and QPLN 4.3 are set to be in progress with periodic reporting as foreseen. The Quality Assurance (QA) body was established at the kick-off meeting, held online. The last one is left for the end part of the project lifetime.

Internal Quality Control and Monitoring Plan is defined and encompasses guidelines for QA to be implemented throughout the project, including development of standardized templates for project deliverables, evaluation forms, internal reporting templates and reporting dynamics, external evaluation schedule and minimum selection criteria for external evaluators, and it will take up the results of the strategy implementation evaluation, etc. It will also ensure that communication and dissemination activities are implemented following high-quality standards, as well as to provide valuable input for project exploitation.

Table 10. WP5 deliverables

WP 5 Dissemination and Exploitation of Project Results		Projected deadline	Delivered
DISS&EXPL 5.1	Development and implementation of dissemination and exploitation plans	14.01.2024	In progress
DISS&EXPL 5.2	Website of the project and social media accounts	14.01.2024	In progress
DISS&EXPL 5.3	Dissemination products and materials	14.01.2024	In progress
DISS&EXPL 5.4	Dissemination and exploitation events	14.01.2024	In progress
DISS&EXPL 5.5	Development of exploitation roadmap	14.01.2024	In progress
DISS&EXPL 5.6	Exploring possibilities for continuation of the cooperation with the EU partners	14.01.2024	In progress

The details are given on: <https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/pagegr.php?id=Outcomes>

Comments on reported deliverables: The deliverables DISS&EXPL 5.1-5.6 are constantly in progress with periodic reporting as foreseen. More details on the dissemination and exploitation will be provided in the next section. Dissemination and Exploitation will be shaped through respective plans that will be carefully prepared, and all project partners will be involved in their implementation. Dissemination of the project results is based on the principles of full transparency and involvement of all relevant stakeholders during the project lifetime and sharing of appropriate information and visibility activities. Exploitation activities will ensure that the results of the project will have lasting effects, after its completion.

Project web-site is developed and put into the service to provide visibility of the project, containing, first and foremost, all necessary data on the project, as well as announcements, articles and other information related to the project implementation. A part of the promotional material is prepared at the beginning of the project. Project visual identity will provide basis for the development of printed and electronic project promotional material. Promotional and communication events are organized throughout the project lifetime, in order to bring attention of the project, its outcomes and exploitation possibilities to different target groups. Events such as open days for students and wider public were organised at each Montenegrin and Albanian HEI.

Table 11. WP6 deliverables

WP 6 Project Management		Projected deadline	Delivered
MNGT 6.1	Establishment of Project management structures	14.03.2021	Feb 2021
MNGT 6.2	Project meetings	14.01.2024	In progress
MNGT 6.3	Day-to-day management of the project	14.01.2024	In progress
MNGT 6.4	Periodic and final reports to EACEA	14.01.2024	In progress
MNGT 6.5	External financial control	14.01.2024	n/a

The details are given on: <https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/pagegr.php?id=Outcomes>

Comments on reported deliverables: The deliverable MNGT 6.1 was realized on time. The next three outputs are currently in progress. Project Management Board (PMB) was proposed right after the beginning of the project. A Project Handbook was prepared by the P1 and adopted by the PMB at the beginning of the project. A lot of project meetings gave been organized in-vivo or in the online mode. A web platform was created (Team zone and Google Drive), accessible only to the partners, for submission and exchange of documentation, where each partner reviewed and uploaded documents in its own section (with folders for templates, reports, documentation related to staff costs, travel and costs of stay, purchase of equipment, subcontracting, etc). Following the rules set in the GA, P1 submitted an interim reports to EACEA during the project implementation.

5. Dissemination and exploitation

The project consortium adopted the first version of dissemination and exploitation plan. Dissemination part defines the way, time and place of dissemination of project results for each activity as well as the exploitation part is focused in reaching the sustainability and transferability of project results during and after the project lifetime. Furthermore, the exploitation plan and roadmap, will be delivered by the end of the project, based on the results of the project and following the findings of the Impact Analysis.

Based on the project description, the project website is well-structured and has been developed and put into the service. The web-site contains all necessary data on the project, contains information's related to the project activities and promotional events. It will be maintained at least three years after the project completion, and serve as a valuable resource for everyone dealing with MEP&M in Montenegro and Albania. In addition, there are three social media accounts on: Facebook, LinkedIn and Tweeter. These social media accounts are used mainly for dissemination purposes based on the data's and information's available on the project web-site.

Additional information can be found at:

<https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/pagegr.php?id=Outcomes>

There is a tab on the project website that is dedicated to Dissemination:

<https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/page.php?id=15>

<https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/page.php?id=16>

<https://www.mepm.ucg.ac.me/page.php?id=17>

In terms of dissemination, consortium is benefiting also from the publication of project results on official web-sites of project partners. The project visual identity was shaped through creating the logo and templates at the beginning of the project. Based on project visual identity, are prepared and produced all the work documents (reports, minutes, etc.), and promotional materials (roll up, poster, flyer, etc.) of the project.

The effectiveness of the dissemination and exploitation events carried out so far depends on:

- the number of views and visits on the web-site and social media (available at each web page of the project website and social networks);
- the number of people present in the events.

6. Conclusion and recommendations

For the observing period, the MEP&M project almost fully met the objectives, according to the foreseen high quality standards, and as planned. Project activities mostly were implemented according to the foreseen project objectives and outcomes given in the work plan. In the evaluation period, certain specific objectives had to be adjusted to the extraordinary circumstance (Force majeure) due to the COVID-19 pandemic that made it impossible to organize live meetings and live events for the project activities, as well as it fully suspended the in live project mobility. Accordingly, some activities were slightly delayed, but these did not influence the overall outcomes, and quality of the project until now. Project team overcome the limitations, by using all available virtual tools such as Zoom virtual meetings, virtual trainings and virtual studies (virtual mobility). MEP&M project team showed great cooperation, especially important in case of the Force majeure, due to extraordinary circumstances beyond the control of the parties (COVID-19 pandemic). They demonstrated full ability to successfully realize all project activities even in such circumstances.

However, there are several potential risks that occurred in the reported project period and here are the recommendations how to manage them:

- There is a lack of the involvement of non-academic partners in the quality and dissemination purposes of the project.
- The further promotion of the joint master program when accredited shall be illuminated within the context of the existing education provision.
- There is an apprehensive that the joint master program will not be accredited and start-up in the second half of the third year of the project implementation. The project management shall prepare the alternative solution for that possible occasion. The roles of associated partners are briefly indicated, lacking elaboration and precision in the reporting stage.
- The intensive relationships with other stakeholders (with the assistance of non-academic partners) will contribute to the sustainability of the joint master program through its continued relevance for society and the labor market.
- More in-vivo events and initiatives from the side of P1 in respect to the time management.