

TEACHER

Introducing competence - based preschool teacher education curricula
in Bosnia and Herzegovina / 574076-EPP-1-2016-1-BA-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP



NEWSLETTER OF THE INTRODUCTION CONFERENCE

COMPETENCES IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE

18th and 19th May 2017

Travnik, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faculty of Education



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



National Erasmus+ Office
in Bosnia and Herzegovina

PARTICIPANTS

University of Bihać

Bosnia and Herzegovina

University of Tuzla

Bosnia and Herzegovina

University of Mostar

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Herzegovina University

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Independent University Banja Luka

Bosnia and Herzegovina

University of Travnik

Bosnia and Herzegovina

University of Zagreb

Croatia

The Manchester Metropolitan University

Great Britain

Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica

Slovakia

"1 DECEMBRIE 1918" University of Alba Iulia

Romania

Association of Preschool Institutions Employees in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina

National Erasmus+ Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Bosnia and Herzegovina

REPRESENTATIVES FROM B&H

Authorities and Education Policies

Academic Community

Preschool Institutions

Teachers

Parents/Guardians

Students

1. ABOUT THE PROJECT - GENERAL INFORMATION

The title of the project proposal:

Modernisation and innovation of ECEC study programmes through introducing a competence based curriculum in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Type of project:

Joint projects /National project

National priority:

Education and teacher training

Duration:

36 months

Focus:

The goal of this project is to innovate and modernise the Early Childhood Education and Care undergraduate (first cycle) studies in Bosnia and Herzegovina by introducing a competence based curriculum. The project strives to identify competences the labour market requires, which therefore have to be introduced into the curriculum. Apart from this, the project seeks to improve the interactive teaching methodology and the academic staff's transversal (transferable) skills needed to modernize the study programme as a whole. The project target group consists of the partner institutions' academic staff and students. In a broader context, education institutions and the Early Childhood Education and Care System in Bosnia and Herzegovina will equally benefit from the project.

In accordance with the previously stated, the project attempts to harmonise and modernise the heterogeneous ECEC curriculum and improve the teaching methodology.

Goals:

Modernisation of ECEC study programme through introducing a competence based curriculum;
Accreditation of study programmes;
Modernisation of the teaching methodology through teacher (university professor) training;
Improving transversal (transferable) skills of university professors;
Modernising technical and didactic equipment;

Expected results:

1. Innovated and accredited study programmes;
2. Modernised teaching methodology and practice;
3. Academic staff's transversal skills improved;
4. Higher Education Institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina equipped with technical and didactic supplies for implementing the ECEC study programme;
5. Improved interinstitutional cooperation;

Structure:

The project contains eight work packages:
WP1: Developing a curriculum in accordance with the labour market needs (assessing competences the labour market requires);
WP2: Modernisation of the curriculum;
WP3: Modernisation of the teaching methodology;
WP4: Improving transversal skills;
WP5: Accreditation of study programmes;
WP6: Dissemination and exploitation of the project results;
WP7: Quality assurance and monitoring;
WP8: Project management.

2. INFORMATION ON THE INTRODUCTION CONFERENCE

The Introduction Conference is the last work package 1 activity that, apart from the project partners, assembled all stakeholders in the Early Childhood Education and Care sector from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Students from BiH partner higher education institutions, who were also present at the Conference, had an opportunity to express their thoughts on and expectations of the Early Childhood Education and Care study programmes. On behalf of the project partners Consortium, the welcome speech was given by Amra Tuzović, PhD: "It is my pleasure to, on my and behalf of the University of Travnik's rector, prof. dr. Rasim Dacić, as well as the founder of the Faculty of Education and chairman of the University of Travnik's Steering Committee Nihad Selimović, greet all the project partners, that were previously stated, and welcome them to Travnik.

I am delighted to greet the participants in the research conducted in the BiH partner institutions' surroundings with their representatives present at the Introduction Conference today. They are the representatives of education policies at all government levels. Representatives of the Municipality Travnik and its Mayor Amira Hadžiemrić, representatives of the Municipality Novi Travnik and Vitez, Central Bosnia Canton's Ministry of Education representatives, as well as the Chief Inspector Refija Kulašin are also present today. The representatives of academic communities, preschool teachers and associate professionals from preschools in Bosnia and Herzegovina, parents and our dear students who are the reason we are all here today, also participated in this research. On behalf of the project partners, I would like to thank the representatives of the Ministry of Civil Affairs and Deputy Minister Suvad Đafić, as well as the Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance director, prof. dr. Enver Halilović, who have accepted our invitation and supported us with their presence and personal participation which mean a lot to the

Consortium. The project idea that united the area of Early Childhood Education and Care in Bosnia and Herzegovina via partner higher education institutions and the help and coordination of EU partners is the best indicator of the importance in recognising the need which can, in a common vision between interested parties, reach the goal it set.

TEACHER project partners have shown just this and made Bosnia and Herzegovina visible in the European Higher Education Area dealing with Early Childhood Education and Care programmes. The presentation states this project lasts for 3 years and that the period ahead of us will be filled with challenges and uncertainty considering the overall state, procedures and legislation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. On behalf of the project Consortium, I will freely state that each partner is prepared for future challenges, overcoming obstacles and learning from the EU partners' experience in good practice. We have shown this through the already implemented team work activities, which will be presented at the Introduction Conference.

We expect the Introduction Conference results to map the state and needs of the Early Childhood Education and Care in BiH and direct the way this project goes in accordance with the goals we have set. By attending the Conference today, you have shown you are ready for changes that are necessary if we want to be a part of the European Higher Education Area and offer our young generations a quality education that will enable them to equally share the labour market and become competitive through competences and skills gained at BiH Higher Education Institutions. I sincerely hope the Introduction Conference will fulfil your expectations and accomplish its goal in accordance with the project tasks. I wish you a comfortable stay in Travnik and a successful Conference."

3. AGENDA

AGENDA of The Introduction Conference Competences in early childhood education and care

Date: DAY ONE, THURSDAY, 18TH MAY 2017

Time	Activity	Implementer	Place
10:00 – 11:00	Registration	Conference participants	The Faculty foyer
10:30 – 11:00	Press release	Project partners and government representatives	Media hall
11:00 – 11:45	Welcome speech	*University of Travnik *Ministry of Civil Affairs BiH *Federal Ministry of Education and Science *Ministry of the Republic of Srpska *The Government of Central Bosnia Canton *Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the Central Bosnia Canton *Erasmus+ Office in BiH	Conference hall
11:45 – 12:00	Refreshment break	Conference participants	VIP and Restaurant
12:00 – 12:30	Presenting the Report on preschool teacher education in BiH, as well as the study programmes comparative analysis results	EU partner: University of Zagreb, Croatia	Conference hall
12:30 – 13:00	Presenting the Report on stakeholder analysis in Early Childhood Education and Care in BiH	EU partner: Manchester Metropolitan University, Great Britain	Conference hall
13:00 – 13:30	Panel discussion based on the EU partners' presented Reports	Report presenters and the audience	Conference hall
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch break	Conference participants	The Faculty Restaurant
14:30 – 15:30	BiH partners' presentation: Experience in conducted research and the overview of the situation in Early	*University of Bihać *University of Tuzla *University of Mostar *Independent University	Conference hall

	Childhood Education and Care within the partner institution environment	Banja Luka *Herzegovina University *University of Travnik	
15:30 – 15:40	Harmonizing the labour market needs and policies for educating and training staff to work in preschools	Association of Preschool Institutions Employees in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Conference hall
15:40 – 16:00	EU partners' experience The significance of the correlation between theory and practice for competences in Early Childhood Education and Care	*"1 Decembrie 1918" - University of Alba Iulia – UAB Romania * Matej Bel University in Banska Bystrica - UMB / Slovakia	Conference hall
16:00 – 17:00	Students' opinions - What do they expect from study programmes	BiH partner institutions' student representatives: *University of Bihać *University of Tuzla *University of Mostar *Independent University Banja Luka *Herzegovina University *University of Travnik	Conference hall
17:00 – 17:15	Refreshment break	Conference participants	The Faculty restaurant
17:15 – 18:00	Team workshop - We are all a part of the Team for a healthy and happy childhood!	Project partners and conference participants - representatives	Faculty halls on the 6th level
	Parents - as partners in Early Childhood Education and Care System in preschools	University of Bihać and Association of Preschool Institutions Employees in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina	Hall No. 1
	Preschool teachers - harmonising study programmes with the needs and occurrences in practice	University of Tuzla and "1 Decembrie 1918" - University of Alba Iulia – UAB Romania – team 2	Hall No. 2
	Students - professional expectations	Independent University Banja Luka and University of Zagreb - team 3	Hall No. 3
	Preschools - a creative approach and innovation in Early Childhood Education and Care	University of Mostar and Matej Bel University in Banska Bystrica - UMB / Slovakia – team 4	Hall No. 4
	Education policies - The approach of all the government levels in BiH towards Early Childhood Education and Care, as well as quality assurance	University of Travnik and Association of Preschool Institutions Employees in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina FBiH - team 5	Hall No. 5
	Higher education institutions - the approach to research methods and result analysis	Manchester Metropolitan University, Great Britain and Herzegovina University - team 6	Conference hall
18:00 – 18:30	Presenting the team workshop results: We are all a part of the Team for a healthy and happy childhood!	Team representatives	Conference hall
18:30	A summary of the first day	University of Travnik	Conference hall

Date: DAY TWO, FRIDAY, 19TH MAY 2017

Time	Activity	Implementer	Place
09:30 - 10:00	Registration	Project partners	The Faculty foyer
10:00 – 11:00	Drawing conclusions from the Report on preschool teacher education in BiH and the study programmes comparative analysis results, as well as guidelines for further implementation of the project	Project partners Facilitator: University of Zagreb	The lecture hall on the 6th level
11:00 – 12:00	Drawing conclusions from the Report on stakeholder analysis in Early Childhood Education and Care in BiH, as well as guidelines for further implementation of the project	Project partners Facilitator: Manchester Metropolitan University	The lecture hall on the 6th level
12:00 – 12:30	Refreshment break	Conference participants	The Faculty restaurant
12:30 - 14:30	Project activities directed towards developing competence based curricula - presented by the EU partners responsible for their coordination	* Manchester Metropolitan University, Great Britain* University of Zagreb, Croatia *“1 Decembrie 1918” - University of Alba Iulia – UAB Romania * Matej Bel University in Banska Bystrica - UMB / Slovakia	The lecture hall on the 6th level
14:30 – 15:00	A summary of the second day, photos, and closing remarks	Conference participants	Conference hall
15:00	Lunch and departure	Conference participants	The Faculty restaurant

4. PROJECT PARTNERS



Manchester Metropolitan University



Matej Bel University in Banská Bystrica



Independent University Banja Luka



Herzegovina University



University of Bihać



University of Zagreb





University of Travnik

5. CONFERENCE GUESTS



Enver Halilovic, Head of the Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance and Nihad Selimovic, Chairman of the Steering Committee of the University of Travnik



Suvad Džafić, Ministry of Civil Affairs



Alija Lapi, SOS Kindergarten Principal



Preschool Teachers, JU Djeca Sarajevo



Representatives of Municipality Travnik



Students Representatives



Associate Professionals in Preschool Institution

6 DAY ONE

18TH MAY 2017

Welcome speech

With numerous guests and project partners attending it, the Introduction Conference officially started with the guests' and participants' in the implemented research among stakeholders in the area of Early Childhood Education and Care in Bosnia and Herzegovina welcome speeches.

The TEACHER project was presented in the welcome speech. The project coordinator **Sc. Eng. Selma Šeta** presented the general project information and emphasised that this conference has a twofold task -presenting the research results and making conclusions to be used as instructions and guidelines with the goal to modernise the curriculum.

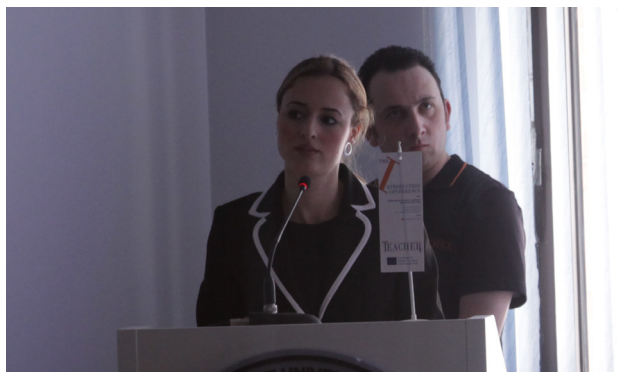
The University of Travnik's Steering Committee chairman - **MD MSc Nihad Selimović** expressed immense gratitude and welcomed all the partners to the Introduction Conference; one of the TEACHER project activities. In his speech, he reviewed the important information about the project and emphasised that each project participant will, in three years, be proud of it. On behalf of the Faculty of Education's expert team **Amra Tuzović, Ph.D.** welcomed the guests. In her speech, the president of Društvo zaposlenika predškolskih ustanova FBiH **Ljiljana Kovač** emphasised the importance of Early Childhood Education and Care and an increase of child participation in education, as well as expressed her gratitude to the partners, directors, parents and preschool teachers for participating in the survey.

The Travnik Municipality Mayor **Admir Hadžiemrić** addressed the guests, expressed a warm welcome and congratulated the partners on implementing this project, as well as wished them good luck and a lot of success in their future endeavours.

On behalf of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports, the Chief Cantonal Inspector **Refija Kulašin** addressed the audience by expressing immense gratitude and honour to be attending such an important project for the education system.

The Ministry of Civil Affairs' Deputy Minister **Suvad Đafić** stressed that Bosnia and Herzegovina as a country that is not even a candidate for entering the EU, can take part in such projects and that the University of Travnik's success in contending for it has shown that Bosnia and Herzegovina has great potential needed to be directed properly.

In the end, the Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance HEA director **Enver Halilović** addressed the guests by expressing his satisfaction to be present at such a conference. He stated that the University of Travnik can be seen as an example of progress and that this is a significant step towards internationalisation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He emphasised that these projects introduce modernisation of study programmes and congratulated the University of Travnik on such a significant success. After the welcome speech, the project partners took part in the following activities.



Sc. Eng. Selma Šeta



MD MSc Nihad Selimović



Amra Tuzović, Ph.D.



Ljiljana Kovač



Admir Hadžiemrić



Refija Kulašin



Suvad Džafić



Enver Halilović

Project partners' presentations

Professor Opić from the **University of Zagreb, Croatia** presented the BiH project partners Higher Education Institutions' Early Childhood Education and Care study programmes analysis. The analysis showed equivalence and differences between study programmes which will, at the same time, serve to define the area for harmonisation and modernisation of heterogeneous preschool curricula and improvement of the teaching methodology.



Karolina Kardas from the Manchester Metropolitan University, Great Britain, presented the Report on stakeholder analysis in Early Childhood Education and Care in BiH partner institutions' surroundings. Representatives of education policies on all government levels in BiH, representatives of preschools, preschool teachers, parents and the academic community participated in the research.

Presentations were also given by the representatives of BiH Higher Education Institutions and the director of Association of Preschool Institutions Employees in Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a non-academic partner.





Presentations given by the students of BiH partner institutions were especially interesting. Through the eyes of a student, they expressed their expectations of the Early Childhood Education and Care study programmes.



Students of the University of Bihac



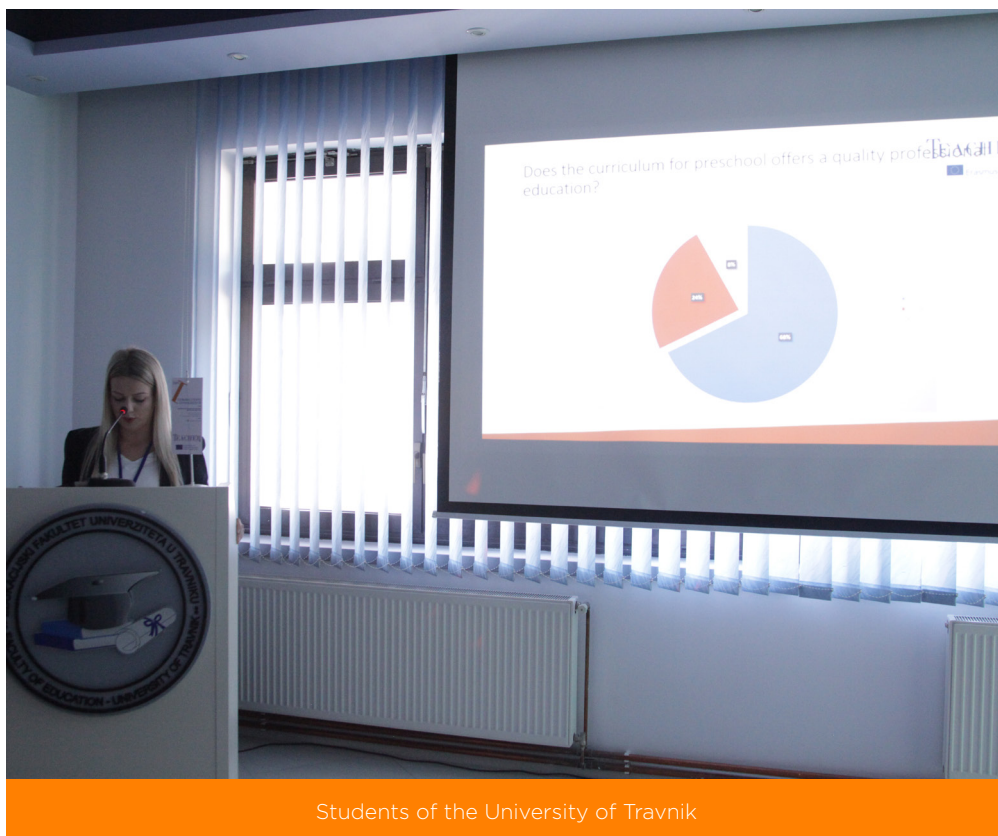
Students of the University of Mostar



Students of the Independent University Banja Luka



Students of the Herzegovina University



The first day was completed with a workshop prepared by the EU partners. Through interactive work, they have enabled an exchange of opinions, attitudes and experience regarding the preparatory activities for the Introduction Conference.

Workshop 1 - Higher Education Institutions - The Approach to Research Methods and Result Analysis



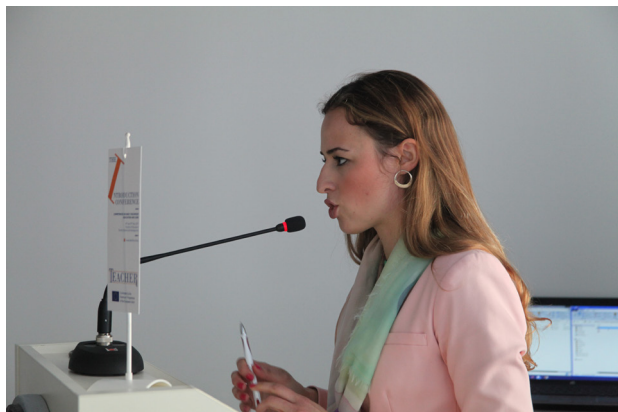


Workshop 2 - Students - Professional Expectations



7. DAY TWO 19TH MAY 2017

The second day of the Introduction Conference began by drawing conclusions which will direct the further implementation of the project. Representatives from the University of Zagreb, Manchester Metropolitan University and Matej Bel University from Slovakia gave their presentations.





Work meetings with the partners' representatives were held during breaks.



8. SUMMARY

The Conference had an extremely pleasant and comfortable climate. The successful realisation of the Introduction Conference and the TEACHER project partners' satisfaction was shown through an evaluation report in which the participants gave the highest marks. The Conference resulted in recommendations for BiH Higher Education Institutions and mapped the way for further project realisation.

The partners harmonised the activities to follow and agreed upon work continuity and mutual cooperation. The next partner meeting is in Manchester, during a study visit to the Manchester Metropolitan University in Manchester which will accommodate the project partners and be their host.

9. WEB PORTALS THAT KEPT TRACK OF THE CONFERENCE

- <https://www.visocka.ba/press-edukacijski-fakultet-univerziteta-u-travniku>
- <http://travnik-grad.info/sutra-u-travniku-pocinje-medunarodna-konferencija-opredskolskom-obrazovanju/>
- <http://www.travnik.ba/bih-zemlja-s-najnizim-postotkom-djece-u-predskolskomobrazovanju/>
- <http://www.federalna.ba/bhs/vijest/203306/federacija-danas-18052017>
- <http://www.travnicki.info/na-edukacijskom-fakultetu-u-travniku-odrzana-konferencijau-sklopu-projekta-teacher-fotovideo>
- <http://plavavoda.com/2017/05/18/medunarodna-konferencija-o-predskolskomobrazovanju-obuhvat-djece-predskolskim-obrazovanjem-u-bih-od-5-do-8-posto/>
- <http://travnik-grad.info/u-travniku-pocela-medunarodna-konferencija-o-predskolskomobrazovanju/>
- <https://www.vecernji.ba/vijesti/bih-zemlja-s-najnizim-postotkom-djece-upredskolskom-obrazovanju-1170674>
- <https://www.akta.ba/bs/Vijest/najave/konferencija-kompetencije-u-predskolskomodgoju-i-obrazovanju-/77468>
- <http://www.direktno.ba/konferencija-u-travniku-predskolski-odgoj-je-jako-vazan/>
- <https://www.bug.ba/u-travniku-odrzana-medunarodna-konferencija-o-predskolskomobrazovanju.html>
- <http://www.dnevnik.ba teme/bih-zemlja-s-najnizim-postotkom-djece-u-predskolskomobrazovanju>
- <http://www.oslobodjenje.ba/vijesti/bih/bih-zemlja-s-najnizim-postotkomdjece-u-predskolskom-obrazovanju/202097>

Before departing, the partners took photographs.



Group photo, Representatives of the University of Travnik.



10. WORKING MATERIALS





www.teacher.unt.ba

TEACHER