

**AGREEMENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JOINT
MASTER STUDY PROGRAM:
“Soil Erosion and Torrential Flood Prevention”**

This Agreement is entered into for the purpose of the implementation of the Capacity Building in Higher Education Project (E+CBHE) Erasmus+K2 entitled “Soil Erosion and Torrential Flood Prevention: The Development of Curricula at the Universities of the Western Balkan States (SETOF), Project Ref. No.: 598403-EPP-1-2018-1-RS-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP, Grant Agreement number: 2018-2579/001-001 (hereinafter referred to as the Project), and in compliance with Article 36 of the Higher Education Law (“Official Gazette of the RoS”, number: 88/2017, 73/2018 – and other law, 67/2019, 6/2020 – state law), all for the needs of the development and implementation of the joint master academic studies study program, which is participated by the following institutions as the participants:

1. **University of Belgrade**, with the seat in Belgrade, Studentski trg 1, represented by the Chancellor, professor Ivanka Popović, PhD
2. **University of Novi Sad**, with the seat in Novi Sad, Dr Zorana Đinđića 1, represented by the Chancellor, professor Dejan Jakšić, PhD
3. **University of Niš**, with the seat in Niš, Univerzitetski trg 2, represented by the Chancellor, professor Dragan Antić, PhD
4. **University of Sarajevo**, with the seat in Sarajevo, Obala Kulina bana 7/II, represented by the Chancellor, professor Rifat Škrijelj, PhD
5. **University of Banja Luka**, with the seat in Banja Luka, Bulevar Vojvode Petra Bojovića 1A, represented by the Chancellor, professor Radoslav Gajanin, PhD

The higher-school institutions, the units within the participants that participate in the implementation of the joint master academic studies study program are as follows:

1. University of Belgrade – **Faculty of Forestry**, with the seat in Belgrade, Kneza Višeslava 1, represented by the Dean, professor Ratko Ristić, PhD
2. University of Novi Sad – **Faculty of Agriculture**, with the seat in Novi Sad, Trg Dositeja Obradovića 8, represented by the Dean, professor Nedeljko Tica, PhD
3. University of Niš – **Faculty of Occupational Safety**, with the seat in Niš, Čarnojevića 10a, represented by the Dean, professor Momir Prašćević, PhD
4. University of Sarajevo – **Faculty of Forestry**, with the seat in Sarajevo, Zagrebačka 20, represented by the Dean, professor Mirza Dautbašić, PhD
5. University of Banja Luka – **Faculty of Forestry**, with the seat in Banja Luka, Bulevar vojvode Stepe Stepanovića 75A, represented by the Dean, professor Vojislav Dukić, PhD

The participants of the Agreement have agreed upon the following:

Article 1

Program Goals

According to this Agreement, the participants' goal is to develop and implement the joint master academic studies study program entitled: "Soil Erosion and Torrential Flood Prevention" (hereinafter referred to as the Program). The Program goals are as follows:

- to train students with integrated knowledge and skills in the professional performance of jobs from within the field of soil protection from erosion and torrential flood prevention based upon the principles of the integral management of a catchment area,
- to acquire the knowledge needed for solving the problem of soil and water degradation and their optimal use based upon sustainable development principles,
- to train students in the practical application of the acquired knowledge of soil protection from degradation and defense from torrential floods through the project elaboration and work performance, as well as the application of the methods based upon information systems,
- to build an academic network for education and research in the field of soil protection from erosion and torrential floods at a regional level,
- to effectively transfer the knowledge acquired by graduate master students for the purpose of increasing engineers' competences in practice.

Article 2

Terms

Apart from those definitions given in the other places in this Agreement, the definitions of the terms used in the Agreement are as follows:

Program Leading Institutions – the Universities that jointly accredit the Program (University of Belgrade, University of Novi Sad and University of Niš);

Partner Institutions – the universities that participate in the implementation of the Program through the engagement of their teachers by providing teachers for holding classes, study-research work and the implementation of professional practice (University of Banja Luka and University of Sarajevo);

Consortium – a form of organization and association consisting of the Program Leading Institutions and the Partner Institutions participating in its implementation;

Academic Board – the joint body consisting of the academic representatives of the member institutions of the Consortium.

Article 3

Consortium

The Consortium consists of the Universities – the Program Leading Institutions and the Universities – the Partner Institutions.

During the Project implementation, the Consortium participants should use the Project features.

Article 4

Academic Board

The Academic Board shall supervise the implementation of the Program and shall be responsible for the overall quality.

The Academic Board consists of the representatives of all the Consortium participants. The Board consists of a total of 8 (eight) members, two members from each of the Program Leading Institution Universities and one member from the Partner Institutions. A university teacher may be a member of the Academic Board.

The Academic Board members reach an agreement upon all the issues pertaining to the Project implementation, namely: student enrollment (the number of students, the amount of the enrollment fee, the terms and conditions of reenrollment), teaching activities (holding classes, the performance of study-research work and professional practice), the application for and defense of a master thesis, the amount of the scholarship fee, as well as the other issues related to the Program sustainability and quality, all being in compliance with the Program Coordinator's general deeds.

The Academic Board shall meet at least twice a year (once during a semester).

The decisions of the Academic Board shall be promulgated by consensus.

Article 5

Language

The Program shall be implemented in the Serbian Language.

Article 6

Program Coordinator, Application and Enrolment

The Consortium Members have agreed that the Program shall be accredited by the Program Leading Institutions, as the same are designated by the provision of Article 2, and that University of Belgrade shall be the Program Coordinator.

Students apply for the Program based on the joint competition announced by the Program Leading Institutions.

The Program Leading Institutions are obliged to announce the joint competition at their respective Internet addresses. The Partner Institutions shall display the information about the joint competition at their Internet addresses.

The registration and enrolment of all students shall be performed at University of Belgrade. University of Belgrade shall keep a record of the students, prepare and issue a joint diploma in compliance with the Law.

The following persons may enroll in the first year of the Program:

- (1) a person who has finished the basic academic studies, having achieved at least 240 ECTS points, and
- (2) a person who has finished integrated studies, i.e. master academic studies, having achieved at least 300 ECTS points.

The candidates who register for enrolment in the Program should have their basic academic studies, integrated studies, i.e. the master academic studies, finished in the educational-scientific field of technical-technological and natural sciences.

Candidates shall submit appropriate documentation in compliance with the competition.

The documentation shall, *inter alia*, contain: Application Form, Diploma and Diploma Supplement, as well as the Candidate's CV.

The order of candidates for enrolment in the first year of the Program shall be determined based upon the general average grade achieved at the prior level(s) of education.

The closer terms and conditions, standards, criteria and procedure of enrolment shall be stipulated by the competition.

Students shall be enrolled based on the uniform ranking list announced at University of Belgrade.

Article 7 Tuition Fee

The first year of the implementation of this Program is financed from the funds envisaged by the Project and students do not pay the tuition fee in that year.

In the next years of the implementation of the Project, students shall pay the enrolment fee and the tuition fee in compliance with the Program Coordinator's deeds.

Article 8 Program Duration and Structure

The Program lasts for one year and is divided into two semesters.

The Program contains mandatory and optional subjects, the total scope being at least 60 ECTS points.

During the first semester, students shall attend both the mandatory and optional subjects, mastering the pre-exam and exam activities envisaged by the syllabuses of those subjects. The activities envisaged by the Program in the course of the second semester are study-research work, professional practice and the elaboration and defense of the master thesis.

All the Consortium members participate in carrying out teaching activities in compliance with

the accredited Program. The mandatory and optional subjects are structured as joint subjects (*joint course*), in the development of whose syllabuses and the implementation of whose teaching activities teachers from two or more universities, the Program Leading Institutions and the Partner Institutions, take part. Professional practice is organized by the teachers of the Partner Institutions, whereas students will do their study-research work and the elaboration of the master thesis with the mentor they have chosen.

The teaching activities in the first semester of the Program shall be carried out at University of Belgrade, whereas one part of the teaching activities shall also be conducted at University of Novi Sad and at University of Niš, all in compliance with the teaching process performance plan. The obligations envisaged by the Program structure in the second semester shall be fulfilled in a form of consultations, and students are obliged to have consultations with their professors at each Consortium member university.

By the adopted Program structure, the mobility of professors and students is achieved, and the cohesion of the Program and academic connections between the Consortium members are strengthened.

Article 9 **Academic Titles**

The students who have successfully completed the Program shall receive a diploma for the completed joint master academic studies study program.

University of Belgrade issues the diploma and a diploma supplement, signed by the persons authorized by the Program Leading Institutions.

The Diploma and the Diploma Supplement are issued in a prescribed form in the Serbian language.

The students who have successfully completed the Program receive the academic title of:

- Master Engineer in Forestry -

whereas the Diploma Supplement shall read as follows: - "Soil Protection from Erosion and Torrential Flood Prevention".

Article 10 **Funding and Responsibility**

The first year of the implementation of the Program shall be financed from the Project funds and in compliance with the Project rules.

The Program is financed from the funds generated from the enrolment of students, the tuition fee and/or other sources, in accordance with the provisions of Article 7 of this Agreement.

The Academic Board shall prepare a proposal for the Program Annual Financial Plan, which is adopted by the competent authorities of the Program Coordinator.

As the Program Coordinator, University of Belgrade shall be responsible for the collection and use of the Program funds.

The distribution of the received funds between the Program Leading Institutions shall be performed according to the number of the students enrolled and participation in the teaching activities, taking into consideration the Program Coordinator's administrative costs. The details of the manner in which the funds will be distributed will be regulated by an agreement signed by the Program Leading Institutions.

Article 11

Program Evaluation

The Academic Board shall conduct control of the Program quality at the annual level.

The Accreditation Commission shall carry out the external evaluation of the Program in the fourth year of the accreditation cycle.

Article 12

Withdrawal from Agreement

This Agreement may be terminated at any time by the consensus of all the Consortium members. By the termination of the Agreement, the Consortium shall cease to exist as well.

In the case of the termination of the Agreement, i.e. that one member is withdrawing from the Consortium, the same is obliged to advise the Academic Board of that in writing at least one month prior to such termination, i.e. withdrawal. In a case like this, the member terminating the Agreement, i.e. withdrawing from the Consortium, must ensure that the enrolled students finish the Program within the time determined in compliance with the Law in a double number of the years of the duration of the study program.

Article 13

Agreement Expansion

The Academic Board has a possibility to expand the Consortium membership. A new institution should accept the terms and conditions and obligations envisaged by this Agreement. The evaluation of the influence of a new member on the quality of the Program shall be carried out by the Academic Board.

Article 14

Dispute Resolution

Should a dispute at one of the Universities – Consortium Members include students, that university shall resolve such a dispute in compliance with the practices and general deeds applicable at that university.

The Consortium Members shall potentially endeavor to resolve disputes between themselves in a peaceful manner, with the participation of the highest representatives of the parties in the dispute, acting in good faith.

Should no appropriate solution be found in a reasonable time in negotiations intended to resolve the dispute in the manner envisaged in the previous paragraph, the Academic Board shall appoint an external mediator by consensus, who will offer a solution to the dispute. The parties in the dispute undertake to enforce the mediator's decision in good faith.

Article 15 Coming into Force

This Agreement shall come into force on the day of the execution of the same by the authorized representatives of all the parties.

This Agreement, as well as the Consortium, lasts until the Program is fulfilled, i.e. until the fulfillment of mutual obligations of the members of the Consortium.

This Agreement is written in the Serbian and English languages.
Each Signatory shall receive two original Agreements in both language versions.

AGREEMENT SIGNATORIES

University of Belgrade

Professor Ivanka Popović, PhD, Chancellor

Date: 17 JUL 2020

University of Novi Sad

Professor Dejan Jakšić, PhD, Chancellor

Date: 22.7.2020 03-6/1909

University of Niš

Professor Dragan Antić, PhD, Chancellor

Date: 24.07.2020

University of Sarajevo

Professor Rifat Škrijelj, PhD, Chancellor

Date: 10.04.20 021-4168/20

University of Banja Luka

Professor Radoslav Gajanić, PhD, Chancellor

Date: 14.07.2020 07.26.29/20

05-485-2426/1-2020