



Zagreb, 25 January 2013

Subject: Expression of interest for partnership on projects for higher education reform and development

Dear Sir/Madam,

The Institute for the Development of Education (IDE) would hereby like to express its interest to support higher education reform and development in Europe and beyond within the framework of the TEMPUS programme, Lifelong Learning Programme and other EU funds.

IDE is a Croatian non-governmental and non-profit organization established in 1999, whose mission is to contribute to the development of higher education policy, provide expert support to institutions, connect domestic and international experts and enable individuals in Croatia and the region of Southeast Europe to achieve their educational goals. We would hereby like to invite potential applicants to TEMPUS, LLP or other EU programmes to consider IDE as a project partner in their project proposals.¹ IDE can provide expertise in a number of policy areas in higher education, as well as in management and coordination roles, and can also assist countries in developing project proposals based on our previous experience of implementing EU-funded projects in Croatia.

IDE's policy focus-areas, expertise and previous EU-funded projects are listed below. For all further information about cooperation possibilities, please contact us by email at iro@iro.hr.

Policy focus-areas

- **Equity and access to higher education:** IDE has expertise on the range of factors that influence access to higher education and success in higher education. IDE has issued 5 publications related to equitable access to higher education (including the EUROSTUDENT report for Croatia), was a member of the Bologna Follow-Up Group's Working Group for the Social Dimension of Higher Education (2010-2012) and is currently a partner on a Europe-level project for developing peer-learning in the area of the social dimension of higher education (2012-2015).
- **Higher education funding:** IDE has expertise on European trends in both higher education funding and student financial support in Europe. IDE is currently leading an international consortium (23 institutions) under the TEMPUS project ACCESS (2009-2013) to define recommendations for the reform of the higher education funding system in Croatia, based on European best practices. IDE published two studies commissioned by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of higher education funding policies in Croatia and in 9 selected EU countries.
- **Academic mobility:** IDE has expertise on global trends in academic mobility, on European policies for developing academic mobility and on the factors that influence participation in mobility programmes. IDE has administered 7 international academic mobility programmes and has 14 years of experience in advising students and academic staff of mobility opportunities. IDE led a national project to develop an action plan for Croatia's entry into the ERASMUS programme. IDE is also a member of the Croatian National Working Group for Removing Obstacles to Educational Mobility (2010-2013).

¹ Croatia is currently considered as an EU partner country in TEMPUS and the Lifelong Learning Programmes.



- **Quality assurance in higher education:** IDE participates as an associate member of the Accreditation Council of the Agency for Science and Higher Education (Croatia), which since 2011 is implementing the process of reaccreditation of all study programmes in the Republic of Croatia.
- **Qualifications framework:** IDE is a partner on a European-level LEONARDO project aimed to prepare policy recommendations for introducing recognition of prior learning at universities in Poland and Croatia (2011-2013). IDE also participated in the National Committee for the Development of Croatian Qualifications Framework (2010-2012).
- **Student services:** IDE has 14 years of experience as an educational advising centre for international mobility and financial aid opportunities in Croatia, Europe and the USA. IDE has also led a project to create a feasibility study and action plan for launching career advising services at Croatian universities (2006-2007), which resulted in the launch of such services at three Croatian universities between 2008 and 2010.

Expertise and competences

IDE contributes to the enhancement of higher education system in Croatia, as well as, to the work and services of relevant institutions in higher education, by providing them with necessary expertise and technical support in the form of consulting services which cover the following areas:

- **Project management and coordination:** since 2005 IDE has implemented 116 projects, including 5 EU projects related to higher education reform. IDE therefore has expertise in project cycle management, and in ensuring both high quality and high impact of projects.
- **Strategic planning and policy development:** IDE has a strong background in steering and coordinating teams of international and national experts to identify key policy issues and develop policy models and recommendations (including leading SWOT or PEST analyses and developing policy matrixes as working tools for defining policy recommendations).
- **Policy analysis and research:** IDE has issued 12 publications and 8 articles related to various aspects of higher education policy in Croatia, including studies commissioned by Croatian state institutions for the purposes of evidence-based policy-making, and thematic country reviews for international projects. IDE was also the team leader of the EUROSTUDENT survey carried out in Croatia in 2010/2011.
- **Development of online tools and resources:** IDE has expertise in making user-friendly tools out of complex databases. IDE has developed two national web portals containing databases of financial aid programmes (www.stipendije.info) and study programmes (www.studyincroatia.hr). IDE has developed a total of seven different web sites, with accompanying social networking web sites.



Overview of experience on EU-funded projects

IDE as national coordinator

Project title	Towards Transparent and Equitable Access to HE in Croatia (ACCESS)
Year	2010-2012
Funding	European Commission, TEMPUS
Project coordinators	Technische Universität Dresden; Institute for the Development of Education

Project title	Enhancing the Mobility of the Croatian Academic Community (MOBIL)
Year	2007-2008
Funding	European Commission, TEMPUS
Project coordinators	Technische Universität Dresden; Institute for the Development of Education

Project title	Platform for Career Advice Centres in Croatia (CAREER)
Year	2005-2006
Funding	European Commission, TEMPUS
Project coordinators	Technische Universität Dresden; Institute for the Development of Education

Project title	Virtual Academic Information Service: Scholarships.info (VIRTUS)
Year	2004-2005
Funding	European Commission, TEMPUS
Project coordinators	Technische Universität Dresden; Institute for the Development of Education

IDE as partner

Project title	Peer learning initiative for the social dimension of higher education (PL4SD)
Year	2012-2015
Funding	European Commission, Lifelong learning programme (ERASMUS Multilateral projects)
Project coordinator	Institute for Advanced Studies (Austria)

Project title	University Recognition of Prior Learning Centres - Bridging Higher Education with Vocational Education and Training (URPL)
Year	2011-2013
Funding	European Commission, Lifelong learning programme (Leonardo da Vinci)
Project coordinator	Jagiellonian University (Poland)

Project title	Education for Equal Opportunities at Croatian Universities (EduQuality)
Year	2010-2013
Funding	European Commission, TEMPUS
Project coordinator	University of Zagreb (Croatia)

Project title	Establishing of Career Advice Services at Croatian Universities (ECAS)
Year	2007-2009
Funding	European Commission, TEMPUS
Project coordinator	University of Dubrovnik (Croatia)