

Event Report

Erasmus + Project No 618089-EPP-1-2020-1-BA-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP Innovating quality assessment tools for pharmacy studies in Bosnia and Herzegovina/IQPharm

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Event Title:	1.3. IQPharm Introductory Symposium
Event Date:	08-10 July 2021
Event Venue:	Hotel Hills, Ilidža, Sarajevo and online (Zoom platform)
Type of event: (National, international, press conference, promotional event etc.)	International open event
Short description:	<p>The Introductory Symposium of the IQPharm project was entitled "Advancing Pharmacy Through Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina"/"Farmacija budućnosti u Bosni i Hercegovini".</p> <p>It was organized in hybrid mode due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and also postponed from the originally planned M4 to M6 of the Project for the same reason.</p> <p>The event was widely publicized and exceeded the originally planned attendance (online and in-person).</p> <p>It was highly rated event by the participants.</p>
Organiser(s):	UNSA and TG 1.3
Agenda:	https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ETZ5yRNgX0eRhK0_BuEmjy5XO8lAdBck/edit
Total number of participants:	231 (in person) and 361 (online)
Links to further information:	https://drive.google.com/drive/u/2/folders/11-F2FDkZ2989rfDeHHp0h9QHe90IGVym

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EVENT ORGANISATION DETAILS

The hotel services were publically procured at Faculty of Pharmacy, UNSA, taking in the account strict anti-pandemic measures in force at the time. It was co-financed by Faculty of Pharmacy due to the changed conditions from when the Project Proposal was submitted to the situation at the moment of procurement.

The visual identity of the Symposium and the flyers were agreed upon internally coordinated by members of TG 1.3, UNSA team and also with pharmaceutical chambers of both Bosnian-Herzegovinian entities to ensure their cooperation and their professional scoring of the event. This also encouraged pharmacists to attend the event.

The IQPharm Introductory Symposium was widely publicized and reached a wider audience, especially through the Internet, TV guest appearances and „My Pharma Space“ platform that generously offered to be media sponsor and very closely reported on the event.

Participation was free, and every participant who attended the event in person could attend the opening ceremony, welcome cocktail, lectures, organized workshops, coffee breaks and lunches, and a gala evening.

Professional Webinar Zoom platform was hired (hotel service) with 2 cameras. In-person and online participants had the opportunity to listen the lectures in Bosnian or English, as the professional services of the interpreters were engaged. The online participants could ask questions and make comments and interact in that manner with the on-site audience.

Students of UNSA were engaged as volunteers for technical support (handing out the registration and promotional material, attendance lists, support for the attendees) as well as by actively participating in sessions and other activities of the Symposium.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED DURING THE EVENT PREPARATION PHASE

The Symposium was originally planned in May 07-09 2021 (M4). However, due to the deteriorating epidemiological situation due to the third wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in Spring 2021, the event was postponed to July 2021 (M6).

At the very beginning of the project, an Organizing Committee was formed with representatives of all BiH partner universities:

- Doc. dr Mirza Dedić - UNSA
- Doc. dr Irena Kasagić- Vujanović - UNBL
- Doc. dr Esmeralda Dautović - UNTZ
- Ivona Tomić, mr. Ph. - SUM

Since the initial line-up of the TG 1.3, the team has been expanded with colleagues from UNSA: prof. Dr. Tamer Bego, doc. dr Alisa elezović, doc. dr Elma Omeragić, doc. dr Almir Badnjević, prof. Dr. Fahir Bečić, who worked on organization of the symposium.

At the meetings of the Organizing Committee, it was decided that the Symposium be organized in a hybrid mode (in-person and online), due to the specific epidemiological situation.

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During the third wave of pandemic the public procurement of the hotel services (subcontracting) was organized by UNSA Faculty of Pharmacy, who decided to cofinance the event, since it required much more funds than previously estimated. Originally the event was not envisioned as such, but due to the epidemiological measures, the organization of the open event needed more space per person (7 m²), which was possible only in the largest hotel in Sarajevo. Due to the traveling restrictions and fears of in-person gatherings, the online platform was chosen (Zoom) in order to accommodate as many people as possible for widespread dissemination and IQPharm project presentation. This also helped to have the speakers at the event who were not able to come to Sarajevo.

EVENT IMPLEMENTATION –COMMENTS

During the Introductory Symposium, academic partners (from each higher education institution) presented and discussed the professional and pedagogical competencies of their academic staff, the quality of pharmacy studies at public universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, including experiential education and employability of pharmacy graduates.

The program countries contributed with their lectures and workshops to present their professional and pedagogical competencies of the academic staff, they presented their quality of pharmacy studies. Experience in curriculum development and modernization, as well as experience in the field of experiential education, and employability of pharmacy graduates were especially presented.

This was an opportunity to discuss the current situation and the opportunities that the implementation of the IQPharm project will bring. Through various workshops, participants from the pharmaceutical workforce were actively involved in discussions and were shown what tools will be developed during the Project.

The Introductory Symposium was an open event for the pharmaceutical community from various sectors and students from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina. Opinions and ideas were exchanged. Special emphasis should be placed on the lectures of Professor István G. Télessy entitled: "Experiences of innovation in pharmacy study curriculum remodeling" who with his interesting lectures presented the experiences from Hungary, which is not part of the consortium of the IQPharm project.

The IQPharm Introductory Symposium was widely publicized and reached a wider audience. The means included:

- institutional web-sites of consortium members;
- reach-out through the emails directly to pharmacists and pharmaceutical companies and institutions;
- Project Coordinator was guest on local TV-networks (TVSA (TV station of Canton Sarajevo), N1, TV station of Tuzla Canton, Show „Impuls znanja“ (Impuls of knowledge) that was distributed to 16 local TV stations), Journal „Student“ interview;
- press conference before the Opening Ceremony.

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„My Pharma Space“ platform of pharmaceutical community (about 10000 members from Balkan region) got interested in the Project and offered to be the media sponsor. They announced each day and all specific Agenda items in advance of happening. They opened special channel for IQPharm on the My Pharma Space Platform. They became the associate partner of the IQPharm Project.

The Symposium is the first major open event of the Project and most importantly, through lectures and workshops, everything that will be done in the next three years was presented.

As set in the Project Proposal, the Introductory Symposium achieved everything that was planned: wide publicizing to all the relevant stakeholders (HEIs, pharmaceutical industry, pharmacists in practice (apothecary), ministries of health and education, agencies; in raised awareness of the global recommendations and requirements related to the needed skills development in pharmacy graduates through the guest speakers (professors Claire Anderson, Martin Henman, Istvan Telessy) and Partners' speakers, especially through the organized workshops (OSCE, KREF, EE-platform, World Cafe) that were very well received.

In the Project Proposal it was estimated that about 500 persons will attend, and the attendance was: 231 participants in-person and 361 participants online (592 total).

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EVENT EVALUATION BY PARTICIPANTS *in percentage*

Out of all the attending participants, 154 of them answered the Evaluation form, and the answers (%) were:

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
What is your opinion of the general organization and facilities exploited during the event?	71.43	14.29	9.74	3.90	0.65
To which extent did the event cover the announced title?	61.04	24.68	9.09	5.19	0.00
What is your opinion of the presenters/facilitators?	68.83	16.23	9.74	4.55	0.65
Level of quality of presentations given by speakers?	63.64	18.83	12.99	4.55	0.00
To what extent did the event cover your professional needs?	55.84	22.73	14.94	3.25	3.25
What is your opinion of the material that was distributed before or during the event? (if there was any)	60.39	15.58	14.29	7.14	2.60
How do you evaluate the agenda of the event?	69.48	12.99	12.34	5.19	0.00
How do you evaluate the technical resources used?	59.74	16.88	14.29	7.79	1.30
To which extent did the event live up to your expectations?	63.64	16.23	12.99	6.49	0.65
How satisfied are you from the level of participation to the event proceedings?	61.69	20.13	12.34	4.55	1.30
Was the sessions interactive?	62.34	14.94	16.23	4.55	1.95
Was the sessions length suitable for the subject?	64.94	13.64	14.29	5.84	1.30
Was it an effective use of your time?	67.53	11.69	12.99	5.84	1.95