

# Open Call for two External Evaluators



For the ERASMUS+ project MARDS *“Reforming doctoral studies in Montenegro and Albania – good practice paradigm”* Project Nr: Grant: 598465-EPP-1-2018-1-ME-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP we are inviting interested candidates to apply as the external evaluators. The project consortium involves multiple higher education institutes, ministries, chambers, and institutions from the two targeted countries Montenegro and Albania as well as EU Member States.

## PROJECT AIMS

MARDS is a three-year project lasting from October 2018 to October 2021 aiming on reforming doctoral studies in the two target countries, Montenegro, and Albania. The MARDS project is designed to:

1. improve and establish sustainable capacities in field of doctoral studies in two participating countries, Montenegro, and Albania.
2. reconstruct doctoral studies in line with Salzburg Principles and establish sustainable and modern Pilot Joint Doctoral Schools between two friendly neighbour partner countries that will serve as an example of “good practice” for the Western Balkan Region.

MARDS's specific objectives are the following:

1. to reconsider the existing national policies/standards for doctoral studies in Montenegro and Albania and their compatibility with good EU practices,
2. to develop and propose a new model of doctoral studies in Montenegro and Albania, harmonised with current and future countries’ needs adapted to the acquired EU experiences over past decades,
3. to propose a sustainable method of financing doctoral studies in Montenegro and Albania on national levels.
4. to establish two Joint Doctoral Schools "Natural sciences and Technology for Sustainable Development" with chair in Montenegro (Podgorica) and “Economy and Tourism for Sustainable Development” with chair in Albania (Shkoder) as the recommended examples of cross-border programmes,
5. to establish a sustainable cooperation with EU partners and established Doctoral School in order to maintain developed standards.

REFORMING DOCTORAL STUDIES IN MONTENEGRO AND ALBANIA – GOOD PRACTICE PARADIGM

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University of Montenegro, Cetinjska 2, Podgorica, Montenegro

[www.mards.ucg.ac.me](http://www.mards.ucg.ac.me) , [mards@ucg.ac.me](mailto:mards@ucg.ac.me)



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## **PURPOSE OF THE EXTERNAL EVALUATION**

The main purpose of the external evaluation will be to support the project consortium to assess the implementation of the project activities from a content-wise perspective over the three years.

It is expected that the evaluator, by being periodically in contact with the Project Co-ordinator and the Project Steering Committee, will contribute to the projects continuous evaluation and assessment by raising issues as to its progress and by providing an external perspective on the project contents.

The main purpose of the external evaluation will be to help participants and stakeholders to widen their perspective on the issues dealt with, to improve the projects results and to learn from the experience of the project.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTERNAL EVALUATION TASK**

The external evaluator will have access to the internal reports from the partnership and will receive the project outputs in a sequence from alpha versions through beta versions to final products. He or she will also be included in e-mail correspondences for monitoring of partnership activity and will have access to the collaboration platform. The external evaluator will be responsible for giving feedback to the partnership after each report has been received and for making recommendations that can be used for corrective actions to ensure best possible results.

Two external Quality Assurance Reports will be delivered by the external quality evaluator at the middle and at the end of the project funding period. One interim external evaluation report will be used as the project's Interim Report for making improvements. Final Quality Assurance Report before end of the project funding period will be used for the project's Final Report. The external evaluator is furthermore expected to be available for virtual meetings with the coordination team and/or the whole consortium.

This involvement of the external evaluator will take place from January 2020 to October 2021.

## **PROFILE OF THE EXTERNAL EVALUATOR**

The potential candidate should have a strong background in project related topics and objectives such as Implementation of Doctoral Studies and management of Higher Education. He / She should demonstrate in his/her application that he/she has sound knowledge and understanding of the project topic and field of activity. Prior involvement into the implementation of EU-funded projects connected to the project's topic as coordinator or partner, past experiences with projects addressing the projects partner countries (Montenegro and Albania) as well as involvement with National Authorities responsible for Higher Education are highly appreciated. Experience conducting external evaluation or as reviewer is an asset. A candidate should also have excellent knowledge of the English language (both verbal and written). Additionally, potential candidate should not come from the project partner organisation.

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## EVALUATION BUDGET

The project MARDS allows for a maximum contract price of 4.500,00 EUR (incl. all related staff, travel, and other costs) for the external evaluation. However, this tender is transparent, fair, and based on principles of equal treatment, which also means candidates can propose different financial offers according to their own estimated costs. All candidates are expected to specify at least the following items in their offer: planned working days for:

- (1) interim external evaluation report,
- (2) final external evaluation report,
- (3) (virtual) meetings with coordination team,
- (4) per month in order to follow the projects progress.

Furthermore, candidates are requested to specify his/her VAT status. The contract will be awarded to the bid offering best value for money (best price-quality ratio).

## TIMELINE

Proposals incl. a concept note (max. 3 pages) and budget should be sent before **Wednesday 15 January 2020** by e-mail to the project coordinator Prof. Dr. Radovan Stojanović, University of Montenegro, Montenegro ([stox@ac.me](mailto:stox@ac.me)) and the project quality manager Assoc. Prof. Dr. Matjaž Debevc, University of Maribor, Maribor, Slovenia ([matjaz.debevc@um.si](mailto:matjaz.debevc@um.si)). For further information you may also contact Prof. Dr. Radovan Stojanović or Assoc. Prof. Dr. Matjaž Debevc.

Further information is available on the MARDS project web site:

<https://www.mards.ucg.ac.me> .