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# Digital Internship Model for Higher Professional Studies

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## MINUTES

### Event: National workshop- presentation of DIMPS to the world of work

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

Time: 11:00 CET

Venue: Western Academy of Applied Sciences

Trg Sv. Save 34, Uzice, Serbia

Minutes prepared by: (Tatjana Marinkovic, WSAAS)

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## 1. Executive summary of the workshop

DIMPS intellectual outputs were presented at Serbian national workshops that gathered academic and world of work representatives, bringing together teachers and officials from PHE Institutions and companies, for a brainstorming session, with the aim of getting opinions, comments and improvement proposals for the presented materials. Upon the fruitful discussion, the opinions and recommendation from the world of work representatives are collected for the consideration for further improvement of the intellectual outputs.



## 2 List of participants

1. Marko Nesevic – Turisticka organizacija Uzice
2. Nenad Nikolic – Putevi Uzice
3. Predrag Obradovic – Titova vila Zlatibor
4. Lazar Marinkovic – Titova vila Zlatibor
5. Zeljko Karganovic – Dijagnosticki centar Lune
6. Mirjana Cvijovic – Impol Seval
7. Ana Djokic – Udruzenje distroficara Zlatiborskog okruga
8. Plamen Zahariev – University of Ruse
9. Georgi Georgiev – University of Ruse
10. Ljubica Dikovic - WSAAS
11. Tatjana Marinkovic – WSAAS
12. Bozo Ilic - VTSNS
13. Miroslava Jordovic Pavlovic - WSAAS
14. Slobodanka Stankov - WSAAS
15. Muric Milorad – WSAAS
16. Mladjan Vicentic – WSAAS – Department Valjevo
17. Milica Lojancic -student
18. Natasa Cvijovic -student

### Guests:

1. Radomir Stojanovic
2. Vesna Markovic
3. Vesna Marjanovic
4. Kosana Vicentijevic
5. Ilja Stanisevic
6. Milovan Milivojevic
7. Dragana Knezevic
8. Slobodan Petrovic
9. Marina Vulovic
10. Aleksandar Milovanovic
11. Milisav Suljagic

## 3. Minutes of the workshop

### 3.1 Welcome/Opening remarks

Workshop started at 11h CET with the presentation of DIMPS project and intellectual outputs. Tatjana Marinkovic gave an overview of DIMPS project context, goals and objectives, with the short description of accomplished results and intellectual outputs, with the emphasis on the methodology for the digital internship in the professional higher education.



### 3.2 Presentation of the DIMPS platform

Tatjana Marinkovic presented the DIMPS platform to the representatives from the world of work. The emphasis of the presentation was placed to the DIMPS platform benefits to the companies that offer internship places for the students from professional higher education. The potential use of the DIMPS platform for the remote work process regardless of the education process was also discussed.



### 3.3 Presentation of pilot results

Miroslava Jordovic Pavlovic presented the results obtained from the piloting of DIMPS methodology and DIMPS platform that engaged WSAAS students (3 students) from the study program Information technology to conduct the internship in software company Heliant. All students accomplished their internships with high level of satisfaction. The main positive highlight from this part of piloting was that all students were assigned with specific tasks for the internship comparing with the learning by observation that occurred in 40% of in person internships, as evaluated by the data from last year. Overall conclusion from this part virtual internship via DIMPS platform for ICT students is efficient and preferable solution, even out the emergency conditions.



Slobodnaka Stankov presented the results obtained from the piloting of DIMPS methodology and DIMPS platform that engaged WSAAS students (13 students) from the master study program Business and Managements, module Management in tourism, to conduct the internship in Tourist organization of Western Serbia, travel agencies Zlatar Travel and Travel point and hotel Alibi Zlatibor Inn. Prof. Stankov presented the advantages and disadvantages of the virtual internship in the tourism sector. It was concluded that virtual internship fulfils the study program-defined requirements for the internship accomplishment, yet the full potential of the work in the tourism sector require contact with customers.



### 3.4 Feedback from world of work

Representatives from the companies Putevi Uzice (road construction company) Nenad Nikolic and Titova vila Zlatibor (hotel) Predrag Obradovic took an active part in the discussion, with the inclusion of other workshop participants. All present world of work representatives give the positive opinion about the DIMPS methodology and platform. Mr. Obradovic stressed out the possibilities for student to present themselves to the companies during internship, thus increasing the chances to obtain the employment in the same company.



### 3.4 Feedback from students

Students present at the workshop expressed the high level of satisfaction regarding their experience during DIMPS internship. While ICT student claimed that platform was easy to use and self-explanatory, students from Tourism department occasionally needed help to upload the completed tasks to their user spaces. Yet, the internship scheme for tourism students was somewhat more complicated, with three companies involved, and required more hours of synchronized mentoring.

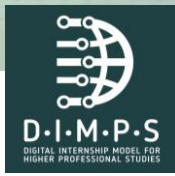
Importantly, the student with special need expressed the highest level of satisfaction with virtual internship, potentiating the inclusive component of the virtual internship. As a new capacity for institutions, DIMPS platform thus increases the inclusiveness of higher professional education.



### 3.5 Conclusions

DIMPS intellectual outputs were presented at Serbian national workshops that gathered academic and world of work representatives, bringing together teachers and officials from PHE institutions and companies and students. As DIMPS platform is a collaborative tool to connect professional higher education with the companies, in order to provide student with the world of work -oriented knowledge, it was important to hear the opinions and suggestions from all three parties involved.

Importantly, DIMPS methodology and platform was recognized as useful new educational opportunity that facilitate the entry of student in the world of work. Although the traditional internships are superior for the gain of the soft skills, professional learning outcomes are easily achieved via DIMPS platform.



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