

Short Term Scientific Mission (STSM) Reflections

'Celebrating collaboration' - COST Action 15221 – We ReLaTe

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Host institution and country: University of Montenegro, Montenegro.

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STSM Title: Examining the Gap between Science Research and Teaching among Teachers Activities at Faculty for Sport and Physical Education at University of Montenegro

The goal of my STSM which I realized during my scientific mission included several *research sub-goals*:

- 1) Identifying the differences in relation with writing, research, learning and teaching activities according to teacher's experience and professional progression from an early career researcher (pre-doctoral, 1-7 years post-doctorate and/or 1-7 years higher education experience), consolidator (7-12 years higher education experience and/or 7-12 years post-doctorate) and expert (more than 12 years education experience);
- 2) Identifying the differences between teachers who did achieve and teachers who didn't achieve success, effectiveness, and productivity across the four areas of research, writing, teaching, and learning (e.g. significant scientific references in international journals);
- 3) Examine the teacher's self-esteem in their researching results in the quality of their lectures.
- 4) Identifying the single most important factor that has contributed to teacher's success as a researcher, writer, teacher and learner, then the most difficult challenges during career experience, and advice for early career colleague based on previous experience;
- 5) Explore what institution can and/or should execute to support strength and/or productivity in each of the four fields of writing, research, scholarship, and instruction.

The most significant thing that I learned from my STSM is that everything else will come by itself, sooner or later, if researchers will be consistently dedicated to the job. Also, one should always bear in mind that builds a quality relationship with other colleagues which is one of the most important factors in the whole academic process. Therefore, pieces of advice for early career researchers about academic writing recommended by experienced colleagues are related to learning the methodology of writing, selection of quality mentors and advisors, learning from the best colleagues or experts from their environment and networking with other scientists from related disciplines and time management skills.

I very much enjoyed and thankful for great an opportunity that I had an opportunity to realize this scientific mission. It was a nice opportunity for establishing cooperation between colleagues from two institutions, consideration of possibilities for future exchanges of teachers and staff between departments in the context of mobility for teaching/training, and joint scientific researches.

My advice to colleagues considering an STSM is that they must concentrate to work solely on strengthening a clear desire for success and value and hard work that will be invested in order to achieve set goals defined in STSM.

And finally, being a part of this COST 15221 action provides me better imagination and visualization what I need to be close to a high level in writing, researching, teaching, and learning. Now, I am promoting this program to many colleagues at my institution just in the same way how my host involved me in many COST actions.