

Tempus project RODOS
“Restructuring of doctoral studies in Serbia”.

FIRST YEAR EVALUATION REPORT

General remarks

The first year evaluation form was disseminated on 30 March 2015 to all project partners. By mid-May 14 of the 19 partners had completed the form. This report summarizes the main results of the survey.

Role of each organisation in the RODOS project

The **reasons** why the partner institutions participate in the project are in line with the overall aims of RODOS. Recurring topics in the survey were:

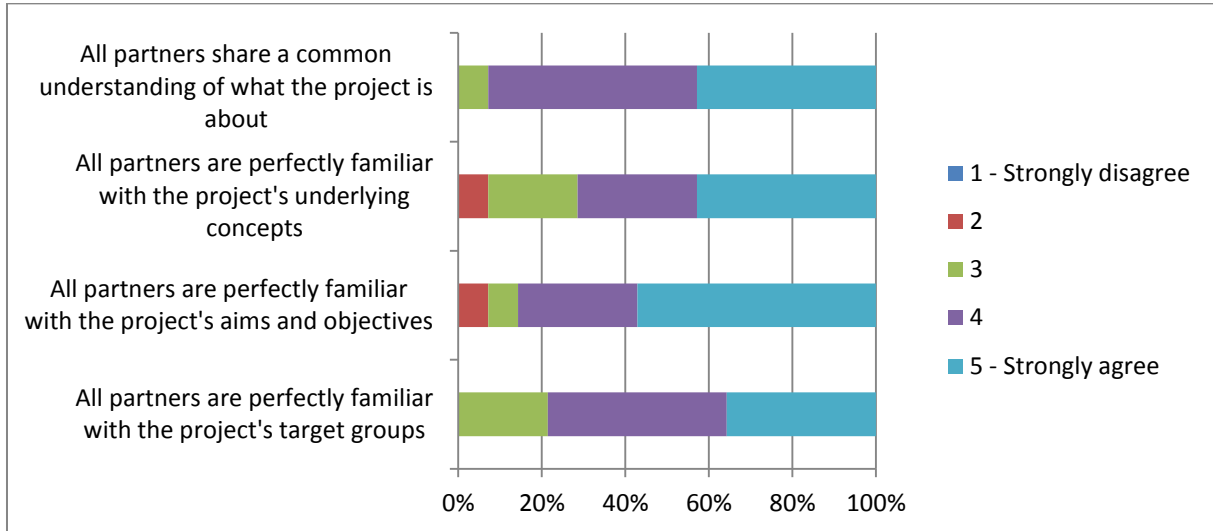
- Harmonization of HE system, esp. doctoral studies
- Development of new structures and standards for doctoral programmes (incl. doctoral schools)
- Modification and improvement of doctoral studies (in accordance with needs of academia, industry and society)
- Quality assurance of doctoral studies
- (For the international partners) internationalization strategies

The **expectations** of the respondents concerned the expected results as well as a number of additional outcomes:

- Standards for doctoral studies
- Funding model for doctoral studies
- Bylaws for doctoral studies and doctoral schools
- Improvement of accreditation and QA standards for doctoral studies
- Research policy for doctoral studies
- Establishment of doctoral schools, joint study programmes and joint degrees
- Establishment of doctoral study programmes
- Improvement of position of PhD students as young researchers
- Road-map for cooperation with industry and civil sector
- Interdisciplinarity in doctoral studies
- Internationalization and networking in doctoral studies
- Sharing best practice
- Assessment of own structures for doctoral studies

Structure of the project

As to the **structure** of the project, one partner expressed some lack of knowledge about the project's underlying concepts and its aims and objectives. In general, partners are familiar with the overall structure of the project.



A majority of the partners think that the **aims and objectives** can be accomplished during the project term, whereas four partners believe not all of them will be achievable.

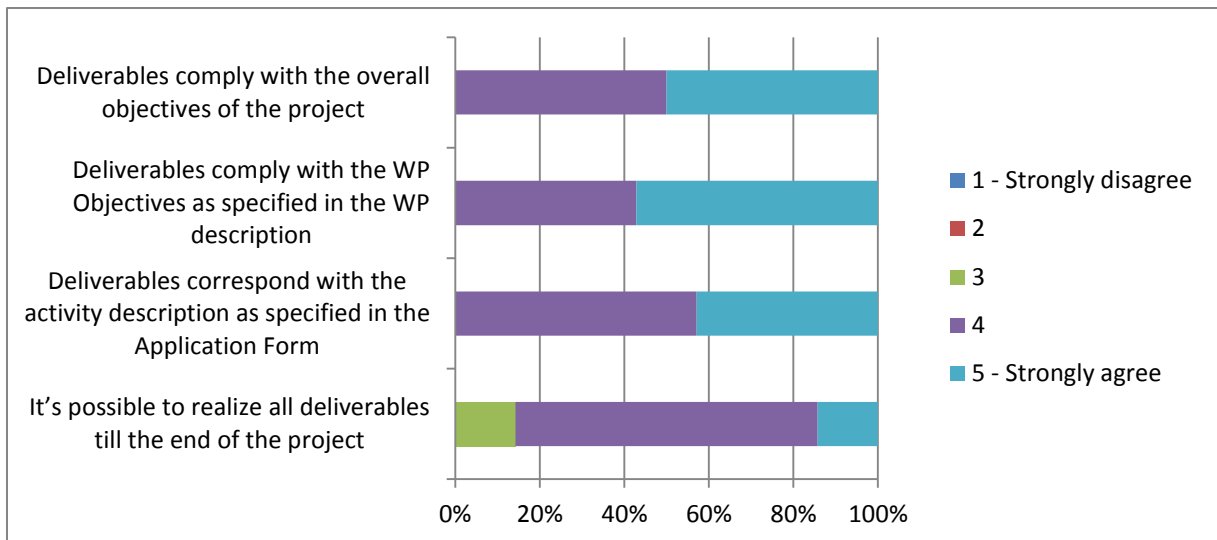
All but one of the partners know exactly what their organization is expected to contribute to the RODOS project. A majority of the respondents also know about most of the other partners' **tasks** in the project.

Twelve of the partners are satisfied with the **work process**. For them, the project has a clear structure and the workflow follows a logical sequence.

Implementation of the project activities/deliverables

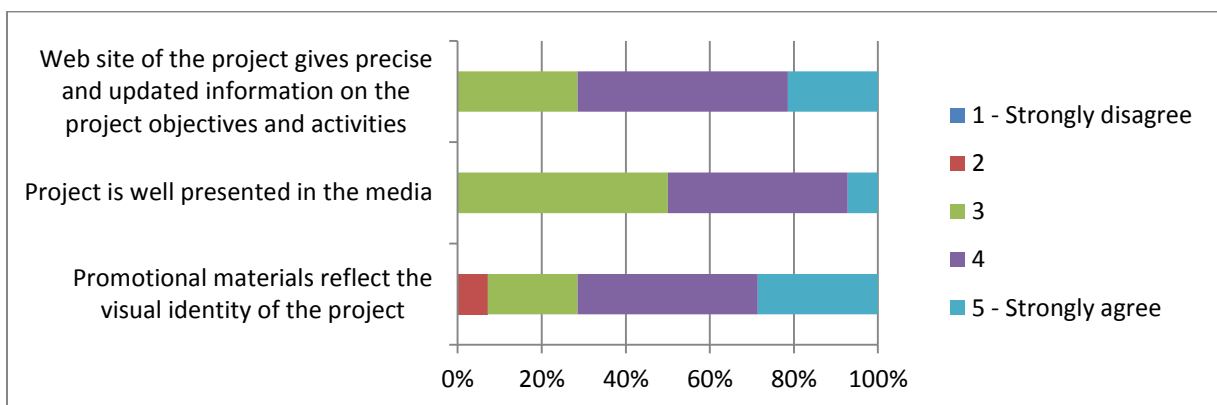
Among the **obstacles** that the partners encountered when implementing project activities were contextual issues (economic crisis, legal framework, low effectiveness due to autonomy of faculties, lack of integrated structures), issues related to the structure of the project (insufficient finances for project partners, lack of common understanding about the structure of doctoral studies), and issues related to the management of the project (unclear budget rules, delay of activities, lack of communication with project partners, lack of clear calendar of activities, unclear delegation of tasks and assignments).

Respondents reported a strong consensus on the **deliverables** of the project, with only a minor hesitation regarding the realization of all deliverables by the end of the project:



Dissemination

Dissemination of the project is generally appreciated by the project partners. The presentation of the project in the media could be taken care of a bit more.

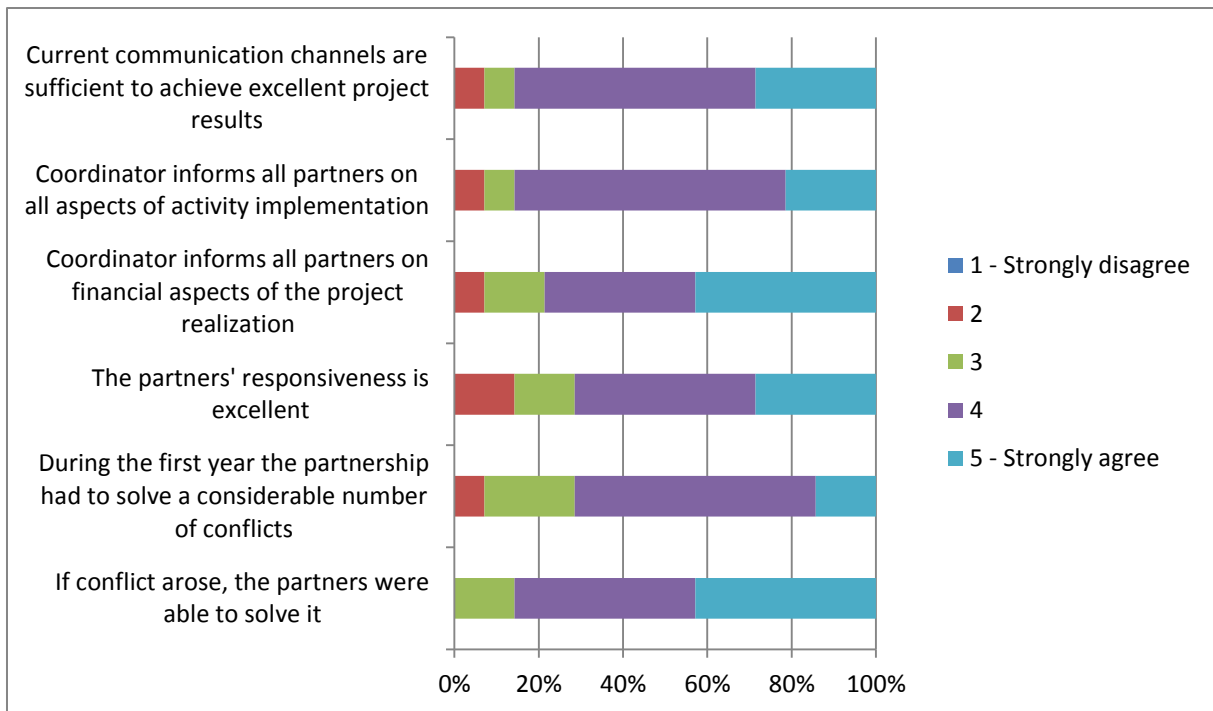


Management of the project

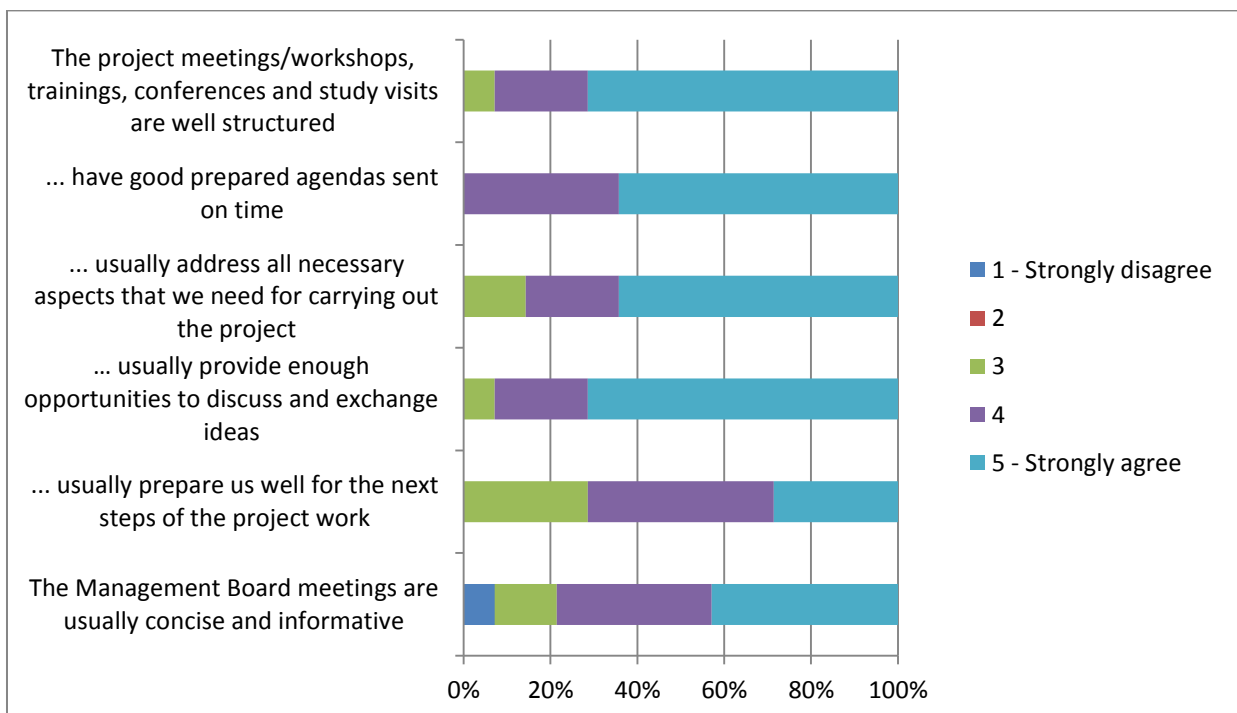
According to 11 of the 14 respondents, the **management structure** is fully clear: each partner knows who is responsible for the technical and financial parts of the project and who is in charge of the various work packages.

Most partners report that they are fully informed of all **financial and contractual aspects** of the project. Some partners need some clarifications on financial/budgetary issues, e.g. with regard to payments planned to be transferred to project partners, and documents required to be sent to the coordinator and deadlines for sending them.

There is some minor criticism on issues related to **communication and conflict management**. Both the coordinator and the different partners will have to stay alert to take up their duties during the next years of the project. All partners seem to be confident that conflicts can be solved should they arrive.

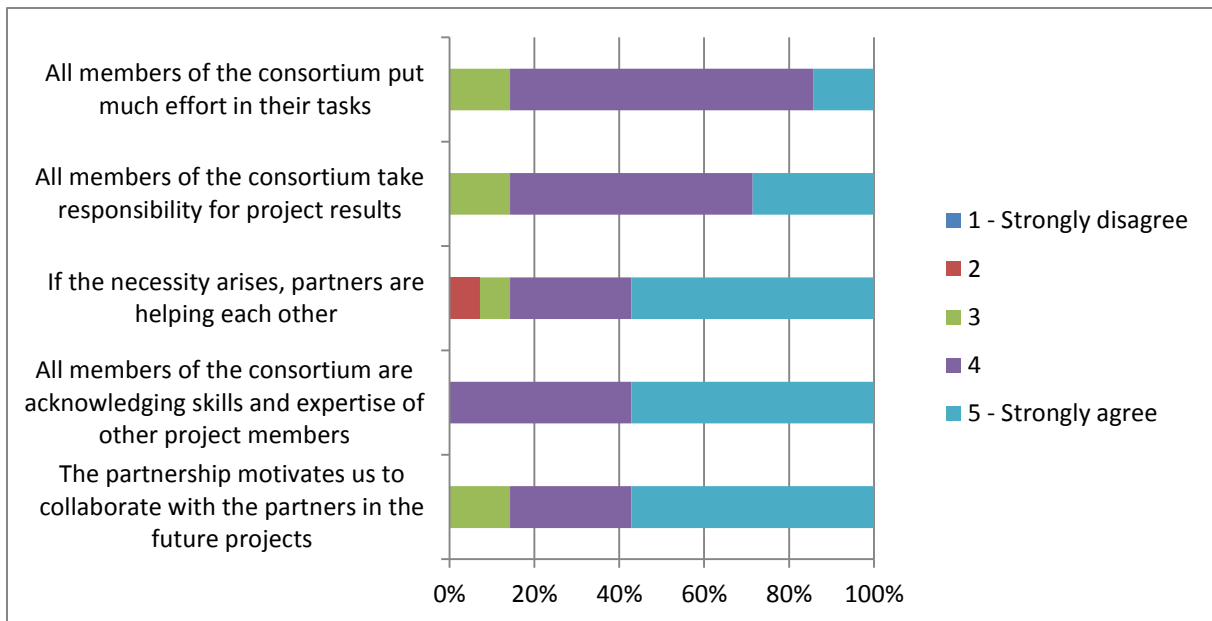


The satisfaction rate regarding the **activities** within the project is very high. Some attention has to be given to the role of each particular activity within the entire project.



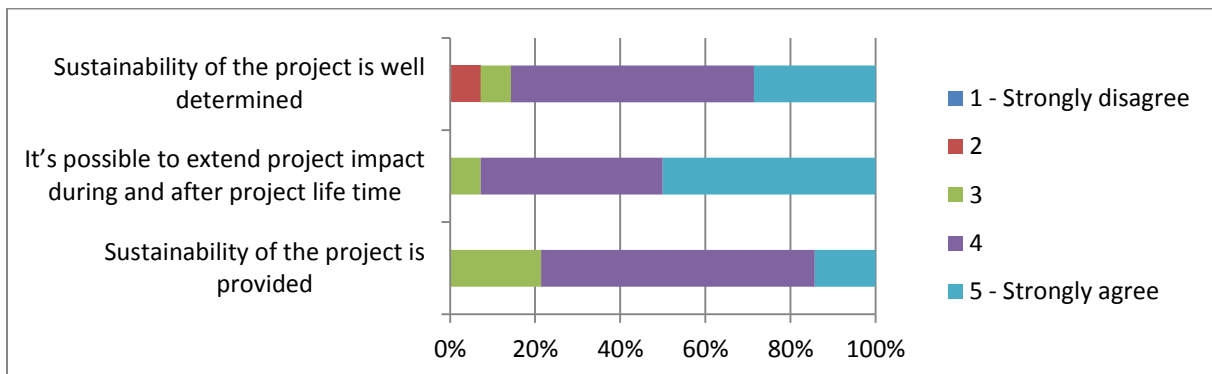
Partnership

Very few partners complain on their cooperation with the other partners. Especially skills and expertise of the other project members are highly valued.



Sustainability

All partners believe that the sustainability of the project is guaranteed, as long as it is taken care of sufficiently during the upcoming years.



Conclusion

Overall, the evaluation by the Serbian partners was very positive, whereas some external partners were less informed on the aims and tasks of the project. This is a logical consequence of the more intense contacts between the Serbian partners (also due to geographic reasons), and of the fact that site visits to particular external partners still have to take place. Our own experience is that the personal contacts during these visits largely help to make the overall project aims, practicalities, duties and responsibilities clear to a broader group of persons within the (external) partner institutions.