

HERIC LOVCEN Project

Report on training course at University of Montenegro, Biotechnical Faculty, 20th - 23rd January, 2015

The four-day visit to Podgorica was divided into the following tasks:

Tuesday, 20th January:

Arrival in Podgorica, discussion with Dr Igor Pajovic about plans for the two-day training course, technical arrangements about facilities, and final preparation of PowerPoint presentation for Day 1 of the training course.

Wednesday, 21st - Thursday, 22nd January:

Training course on Good quality research (day 1) and Scientific writing (day 2) from approximately 09.00 to 17.00. Activities included final preparation of PowerPoint presentation for Day 2 and uploading course documents into a Dropbox folder at the end of each day.

Friday, 23rd January:

Analysis of participant course assessment questionnaires and preparation of activity report.

The 2-day training course was part of a larger training course, to be given to LOVCEN project participants in three parts during the three years of the project. The first part of the course given on 21st and 22nd January focused on Good quality research and Scientific writing. The course consisted of PowerPoint presentations, exercises for participants to do working in groups of 2-3 as well as discussion sessions.

In total, 10 participants attended the course, with eight people present on both days. Participants represented five of the LOVCEN project institutions in Montenegro: Biotechnical Faculty (6), University of Montenegro Computer Information Centre (1), Institute of Public Health (1), Hydrometeorological Institute of Montenegro (1), and Natural History Museum of Montenegro (1).

Course assessment questionnaires were completed by eight participants at the end of Day 2 (Excel spreadsheet attached). The course was well-received by every participant, who found it interesting and helpful. Of 13 statements to be assessed in the feedback questionnaire, seven received perfect scores of 5.00, four others had mean scores at least 4.75, and the lowest mean score was 4.63 for two statements:

4. The course contained new information, and
13. The course was well-organised.

Over 90% of scores were 5/5, and the lowest score was 3/5 (on one occasion).

It was good to find that each of the eight participants gave 5/5 for their understanding of spoken English.

Where a preference was given, three participants found the second day (Scientific writing) more helpful than Day 1 (Good research).

Arrangements for the course worked well, with good facilities for the presentations, and a flip-chart available for participant exercises. I got the impression it had been well-organised.

Dr Steve Quarrie, Faculty of Biology, Belgrade University.
Friday, 23rd January, 2015