

PROS AND CONS OF INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION: A CASE OF SERBIA AND THE UNITED STATES

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Abstract:

This presentation discusses the pros and cons of international collaboration between the higher education institutions in Serbia and in the United States. A factual case will be presented where collaboration is underway between the two higher education institutions. Conclusions and recommendations for a successful international collaboration will complete the presentation.

The purpose of this presentation is to discuss pros and cons of international collaboration between the higher education institutions in Serbia and in the United States. A factual case will be presented where collaboration is underway between two higher education institutions in Serbia and in the United States. The collaboration includes the following:

1. Faculty exchange
2. Study abroad/student exchange
3. Faculty research collaboration
4. Distance education/e-learning
5. Transfer of college credit between the two institutions

The presentation will begin with a comparison of Serbian education vs. American education. The will follow with a brief discussion about the challenges of private vs. public institutions in the United States in terms of flexibility, ease, and seamlessness of collaboration with the universities in Serbia. The presentation will then shift into the actual planned collaboration activities. The collaboration activities are: Accomplishing faculty exchange pilot program: Plans are underway to begin a pilot program for faculty exchange between the two institutions. In May 2012 a faculty from the United States will volunteer to teach an intensive course in the area of networking and security in Serbia. Initiating study abroad/student exchange: Plans are underway to begin exploration about study abroad program/student exchange. Starting faculty research collaboration: Plans to begin faculty research collaboration are underway in order to enrich knowledge in the field of Information Technology. Collaborating via distance education/e-learning: Plans are underway to begin tapping into the many benefits of distance education/e-learning. To this end, we will offer seminars and workshops for both students and faculty collaboratively. Invite students to participate as guest students into distance education courses to learn, to contribute, and to share knowledge. Exploring course transfer: Plans are underway to explore transfer of college credit between the two institutions.

The pros and cons of all the above activities will be presented. Recommendations will be given as to how best plan for a successful international collaboration. The overall goal is to foster relationships among students and faculty in Serbia and the United States and to promote mutual understanding, respect and collaboration between the two institutions.

Keywords: international collaboration, higher education institutions, Serbia, United States.

Remarks: Full paper is in a research stage and will be published after the discussion at the MakeLearn 2012 conference presentation.