

**Management Training and Economics Education Project for Central
and Eastern Europe
Project No. 180-0029**

**Monitoring and Evaluation Contract
Contract No. DHR-0029-C-00-5059-00**

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT - FEBRUARY 1996

28 March 1996

Submitted to:

Office of Human Resources (ENI/HR/TE)
Bureau for Europe and the New Independent States
U.S. Agency for International Development
Washington, D.C. 20523

Submitted by:

Datex, Inc.
2101 Wilson Blvd., Suite 100
Arlington, VA 22201

MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT - FEBRUARY 1996

A. INTRODUCTION

The Management Training and Economics Education Project (MTEEP) is based on using institution-to-institution linkages to undertake short term, high impact training while simultaneously upgrading Central European institutions for long term economics education. The Project was initially approved in 1990, and is expected to continue through 30 June 1999. The purpose of this monitoring & evaluation contract is to provide technical assistance for formative monitoring and summative expert evaluation of MTEEP. Currently there are twelve active grants to U.S. universities working with partner institutions in nine Central and Eastern European countries which are covered by these services. The contract was signed in July 1995. This is the seventh monthly report of activities.

B. OVERALL ACTIVITY STATUS

Plans for the spring project directors' workshop were initiated. The workshop will be held in Budapest, Hungary from April 15-17, 1996. Both grantees in Hungary (Indiana University and SUNY) along with the USAID mission are providing support to this effort.

Initial inquiries were made to Project Directors and USAID Project Officers on potential dates for spring site visits. Projects which are expected to be visited include: Albania - University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Bulgaria - University of Delaware, Hungary - Indiana University and SUNY, Latvia - SUNY-Buffalo, Lithuania - Texas A&M International University, and Slovakia - University of Pittsburgh.

USAID field offices were sent country sections from the formative report for their comment before the overall report was finalized. This included the proposed indicators for impact and sustainability for most projects.

The Proceedings from the fall Project Directors' Meeting in Washington were sent to all grantees and USAID field offices. Two newsbriefs were distributed. The January 1996 monthly reports were submitted.

We responded to a request from the Project Officer to provide one paragraph summaries of all MTEEP projects.

C. GRANTEE UPDATES

Central Connecticut State University - Poland

We made contact with the new project director, Liz Wasiutynski, and discussed the upcoming site visit to Gdansk. She was particularly pleased to have us come in that she will be applying for another extension and would like feedback prior to drafting her proposal. It seems that the current plan is to train workshop trainers in Gdansk and then immediately inject them into the program by teaching alone

at Gdansk. Liz believes that another step is needed: team teaching in Gdansk with the experienced trainer, prior to taking over the program alone. For this reason she is asking for the extension.

Indiana University - Hungary

We have spent a good deal of time working with Indiana staff as they have agreed, with SUNY, to assist us in hosting the work session in Budapest in April. They have volunteered BUES as the site for meetings. Bruce Jaffee has agreed to be a "co-host" with Ron Oppen from SUNY-OIP for the conference.

SUNY/OIP - Hungary

The SUNY staff is also assisting us with the preparations for the Budapest work session. They are coordinating the hotel reservations through USAID/Budapest, and will provide an office assistant to help Lori Vogelgesang, workshop coordinator, with materials preparation upon her arrival.

SUNY/Buffalo - Latvia

We continued to gather information regarding participation numbers from Sam Bruce. The communication between the Datex and the project is improving almost daily in terms of response time and positive feedback on both sides.

Texas A&M International University - Lithuania

We spoke with Phil Lane about attending the work session in Budapest, and stressed our hope that he, or someone from the US side of the project, attend. We also sent him, at his request, information on constructing a quarterly report as he was looking for some guidance. We sent him our draft guidelines and some sample project reports for reference.

University of Delaware - Bulgaria

We have received their quarterly report covering the period from October-December 1995.

University of Maryland - Poland

We received a copy of the agenda for the MBA conference that was co-hosted by the Maryland project in Lodz last month. Lee Preston, the Maryland project director, reported that it turned out to be a very helpful and interesting gathering of all of the projects (USAID and others) engaged in creating MBA-types of training programs. We have not yet received copies of quarterly reports from UMD.

University of Minnesota - Poland

We have not yet received their quarterly report for the October-December 1995 time period.

University of Nebraska/Lincoln - Albania

Comments on the draft report have been exchanged between Cam Pippitt (USAID/Albania), John Batelle and Mary Ann Zimmerman. The mission had reviewed an earlier version of the report, not the version which went to USAID, and so most of the mission's concerns had already been addressed by the time we saw his memo. We are addressing to the remainder of their concerns.

We have heard from Dennis McConnell that the MBA program has received numerous applications for admission (in excess of 100).

University of Pittsburgh - Slovakia and Czech Republic

Czech Republic: CMC informed us of its new USAID contact person, Sarah Brock, to replace Susie Etchevery who left to become a financial analyst with an American firm doing business in Central Europe. Ms. Brock was CMC's development officer and we are unclear whether she also continuing in that capacity.

Slovakia: We learned from the US assistant for the Slovakia project that they are having significant communication difficulties in that the university in Bratislava does not have e-mail capability, nor can that staff afford to send faxes. Dionne Cahillane, another US assistant told us that the only way she can get a response to a request for information is to send a fax, wait and then call to get information. This is slowing down their ability to transfer information back and forth.

Note: While we continue to receive quarterly reports from CERGE, we have received only the monthly letters from CMC, and nothing from the Slovakia project. We have made contact with UPitt staff to correct this situation.

Washington State University - Romania

Kermit Moh (USAID/Romania) raised several points regarding the proposed indicators requiring further clarification/discussion. Ms. Zimmerman is responding.

Other Contacts

Dr. Koltai issued an invitation to Tom Dine, USAID, to attend the Budapest conference as a speaker, but he indicated that he would be attending a mission directors meeting in Bratislava at the same time. Mr. Dine appointed Barbara Turner to assist the evaluation team in securing country clearance for all conference participants going to Hungary.

Dr. Sundt and Ms. Fajfer engaged in a dialogue with USAID-Poland mission project officer Anna Jozefowicz regarding larger questions about measuring impact. This dialogue, via e-mail, continues in an atmosphere of mutual education and respect.

D. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED/ACTIONS TAKEN

Through a series of discussions between the Project Officer and Project Manager, the date and location of the project directors' workshop was finalized. Because of budget limitations, the participation of USAID staff at this workshop may be limited.

E. CONCLUSIONS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Activities continue generally on schedule.

F. PLANS FOR MARCH, 1996

- Invitations sent and planning continued for project directors' meeting
- Site visit schedule finalized, travel authorization received, country clearances requested
- Newsbrief distributed
- Initiate detail planning for site visits
- Monthly progress/financial reports to USAID
- Project Director communications