Fellowship Report

Organisation sending: UNSA
Name of the fellow: Nina Begović, Head of Research Support Office, University of Sarajevo
Organisation Hosting: GSI HELMHOLTZZENTRUM FUR SCHWERIONENFORSCHUNG GMBH (GSI)
Location of the fellowship: Germany
Name of the mentor: Dr. Pradeep Ghosh, Head International Cooperations & Programme Manager

Fellowship Outputs

1. **Strategy Report for the University of Sarajevo**

Developed inputs for a strategic report to support UNSA in shaping internationalisation policies. These inputs are based on lessons learned and best practices observed at GSI, aimed at enhancing UNSA's capacity to support researchers and foster international cooperation.

Observations and conclusions during the visit:

- Meetings with the International Relations Department provided insight into support processes for researchers and international exchange programmes.
- Discussions contributed to identification of opportunities for UNSA involvement in researchers funding schemes and initiatives (such as DAAD).
- The role of PR and communications staff was highlighted in promoting not only GSI opportunities but also wider international possibilities through social media, alumni networks, and platforms such as LinkedIn.
- Importance of maintaining databases to track both incoming visiting scholars and outgoing UNSA researchers was emphasised as possible contribution to shaping activities to further support internationalisation policies.

UNSA will incorporate the findings into its Development Strategy being currently prepared (for 2025-2029 period)

2. **Policy Recommendations for Researcher Support and Capacity Building**

Contribution/recommendations for UNSA policies on researcher support and staff capacity development, particularly within the context of the PA project. These include proposals for training programmes, internships, and strategies for accessing funding opportunities.

Observations and conclusions during the visit:

- Meeting with the Grants Office provided insight into support processes for research and international project development, including EU funding applications;
- The essential role of the Grants Office and the value of an EU liaison officer were highlighted in supporting research proposals, particularly for projects exceeding financial audit thresholds;
- Insight was gained into training and development programmes, including workshops and practical training, to strengthen researcher skills;
- Importance of GSI's initiatives that contribute to the wider community, such as training for SMEs, was also emphasised.

UNSA has improved its education programme for project management staff.

3. Guidelines for Access to Research Infrastructure and IP Policies

Recommendations/initiatives for UNSA on Open Access principles – update policy on access to research infrastructure (RI) and draft the Open Science Policy.

Observations and conclusions during the visit:

- Meetings with research data management team provided valuable insights into GSI OA policies, data management planning and data publishing;
- Potential opportunities for UNSA's capacity building were identified through projects such as OSCARS and consideration of UNSA's membership in the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC);
- Examples of how GSI supports visibility and collaboration were compared to the UNSA ORN project (Open Research Network project at UNSA).
- UNSA has incorporated the findings into its Open Science Policy (currently in the process of public consultations); UNSA has undertaken activities towards its membership in the EOSC.