HIE in a Time of Social and Economic Change

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Brief history

- Founded 1994
- 13 colleges
- 20,000 students (BA, MA and PHD)
- An Albanian University (mix community)
- Integrated University
- A very good network of partnerships all over the world (more than 200)
- Member of EUA, Magna Charta Universitatum, EURAS, BUA, etc.
- International projects: Tempus, Erasmus, CEEPUS, Mevlana, Join EU-SEE Penta, etc.
- After the OFA, the UT ‘fed’ the state administration (25%)
Challenges

- In the Republic of Macedonia (about 2 Mio. Inhabitants) about 22 universities (7 state ones and 15 private ones)
- The quality is decreasing and lacking evidence of adequate performance
- Hard to keep the fundamental values like: autonomy and academic freedom
- Lack of financial resources (49% state budge, about 70% of this amount for wages; 51% self-budge from students participation); only 2% for science and the state GDP for sciences is about 0.4%
Year by year the number of the students is decreasing

- Low rate of natality
- Emigration
- Lack of jobs, etc.
Why the Association like BUA is important for the Balkan Region and what could be done?

- Improve the communication between the universities itself and initiate strong partnerships
- Improve the inter-ethnic communication (through think-tanks, common conferences, sport and cultural activities, summer schools, projects, etc)
- Create a good network with public and private sector in order to improve the academic life
- Pushing the regional governments to be more aware in educational issues (for ex. through a resolution) and acting as a mediator in case of conflicts, tensions, disputes or misunderstandings
- Taking the role of creating bridges of cooperation with the European and the prestigious universities worldwide
Thank You for Your attention!

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