Balkan Universities Association
A joint Bulgarian-Chinese Talent Workshop ‘LuBan Workshop’ was launched on October 15 with a solemn ceremony held in the Aula of the Agricultural University. The opening was celebrated simultaneously in Bulgaria and China through a direct online connection. The ceremony was led by the Vice-Rector of the University Assoc. Prof. Dr. Svetla Yancheva.

The guests in Plovdiv and Tianjin watched the life streaming promotional video for the stages of construction of the Workshop, which started in November 2019 with the signing of an Agreement between the Agricultural University – Plovdiv, Tianjin Agricultural University and the School of Economics and Trade, Tianjin.

“The LuBan Workshop forms a new bridge with a new focus on cooperation between Bulgaria and China in lifelong learning and vocational training. It is also a milestone in the history of educational cooperation between our countries. The LuBan Workshop is a clear evidence of education without borders, for more inclusive education. This cooperation is an opportunity for exchange of knowledge and experience for innovative technologies and the future of modern digital agriculture”, said the Rector of AU Prof. Dr. Hristina Yancheva in her welcoming speech.

In a special video address, the Bulgarian Minister of Agriculture, Food and Forestry Prof. Dr. Hristo Bozukov congratulated the participants in the forum and said that this project provides modern technical and vocational training, encourages educational reforms and strengthens cooperation between vocational schools worldwide.

The Deputy Mayor for Finance and Economic Activities of Plovdiv Municipality Mr. Velichko Rodopski welcomed the initiative and wished it to spread from education to other spheres like economics and culture.

The guests were greeted by the Ambassador of the People’s Republic of China in Sofia HE Mr. Dong Xiaojun, who highly evaluated the cooperation between the three educational institutions and the representatives of Chinese business in the face of Tianjin Food Group, Bulgarian Branch, in their joint efforts for modern training, facing the latest challenges on a global scale.

The Chinese partners in LuBan Workshop from Tianjin also congratulated the participants in the forum through the direct online channel and expressed their unreserved support to the project development.

The culmination of the ceremony was the signing of a new agreement between the four partners with the joining of Tianjin Food Group, Bulgarian Branch.

Symbolically, LuBan Workshop was inaugurated with the solemn unveiling of the Workshop logo by the Rector of the Agricultural University and the Ambassador of China to Bulgaria.
The new Center will train talented students from partner educational institutions – the Agricultural Universities in Plovdiv and Tianjin and the Chinese School of Economics and Trade.

The idea is to create joint training courses in two areas – smart agriculture, applying digital technologies, as well as online practices in the field of agricultural production, including online trade with agricultural and other goods. Ambitious students from both countries will take part in the programme.

LuBan Workshop is a joint Bulgarian-Chinese project, which aims at promoting the cooperation among universities and agribusiness between China and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe. The project is part of the 'One Belt, One Road' initiative, encouraging international exchange and discovering and supporting talents. Modern lecturing halls and a laboratory for vocational and practical training have been equipped, curricula with innovative content have been developed and educational literature has been provided.

After the official ceremony, the Coordinator of LuBan Workshop Assoc. Prof. Dr. Svetla Yancheva presented to the guests the lecturing halls and the laboratory, which were renovated and equipped for the purposes of the project.
A particularly important initiative for the creation of the Greek Department of the International Network of Higher Education Institutions “Scholars at Risk Network” (SAR), with the mission of protecting threatened academics and researchers and promoting Academic Freedom, was undertaken by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH).

At an event held on Friday, October 1, 2021, for the official establishment of the Greek Department of SAR, which is under the auspices of the Ministry of Education and Religions, the founding declaration was signed by four Greek universities. The founding members besides AUTH are Ionian University, University of the Aegean and University of Thessaly.

AUTH is the first Greek University-member of the International SAR Network, showing in practice, once again, its social and academic sensitivity. Scholars at Risk is an International Network of approximately 600 Higher Education Institutions and Organizations with the mission of protecting threatened academics and researchers and promoting Academic Freedom. The Greek Section of the SAR International Network (SAR Greece), committed to the protection of fundamental academic values and human rights, aspires to make a substantial contribution to the protection of researchers and academics who are at risk of discrimination, prosecutions, violence or threatening for their lives situations.

More information on the website:
https://inspireurope.auth.gr/welcomeguide/inspireurope-programme/

The new REBECCA research program aims to improve post-surgical care for breast cancer. The REBECCA project will combine traditional clinical data with data describing patient behavior and in particular physical activity, eating and sleeping habits, and their online activity.

The new real-world data will be made available through the analysis of recordings from sensors of mobile and mobile devices and the development of new indicators to characterize the functional and emotional state of the patient. REBECCA promotes new indicators as a tool for optimizing care as well as a tool in clinical research.

The REBECCA 360º platform is a collection of non-invasive mobile applications that do not stigmatize the patient. It will be offered to breast cancer survivors as a means of support in daily life and to improve their interaction with health professionals. The same platform will support clinical trials through the collection of information on patients’ functional and emotional state.

The REBECCA project started in April 2021 and is expected to be completed by March 2025, with the participation of 12 partners from 7 European countries. The project is coordinated by the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.

REBECCA Consortium consists of clinical and technological universities, industry leaders, public health experts, and patient associations who will work together over the course of 4 years to shape guidelines and practices for post-cancer treatment.

More information about the REBECCA project:
http://rebeccaproject.eu/
AUTH STUDENT TEAM WAS AWARDED IN AN INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION OF THE C40 CITIES NETWORK

On Tuesday, September 28, 2021, the results of the international student competition “Students Reinventing Cities” for Athens were announced. The competition is part of the actions of the C40 Cities network, in which the Municipality of Athens participates. It is a global initiative to share visions for more sustainable and climate-resistant cities and neighborhoods. Specifically, the theme of the competition was the production of ideas for urban regeneration and environmental and social revitalization of the area of Fokionos Negri in Athens.

The interdisciplinary student group “Green Hive” which was formed by 11 undergraduate and postgraduate students of the Departments of Spatial Planning and Development (TMXA), Agriculture, and Architectural Engineering of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, was distinguished in the competition (Special Mention).
THE ZAIM TECHNOPARK HAS OFFICIALLY OPENED ITS DOORS

The first of the Zaim Technopark service buildings, whose foundations were constructed at Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University’s Halkal Main Campus in the last quarter of 2020, is expected to open in December. Many high-tech R&D project applications were examined at Zaim Technopark, where site delivery to companies will begin in November, with a focus on participatory banking, fintech, halal and vegan food biotechnology, energy and energy efficiency, and informatics topics for the military industry. As of the second week of November, office keys will be provided to the entrepreneur companies who control the projects and who has been accepted by the referees.

The new soldier of national technology moves into Zaim Technopark’s first stage building, entrepreneurs with high-value-added product and service R&D initiatives with commercialization potential in the next few years are encouraged to apply.

IZU MAKES A NEW MOVE IN UNIVERSITY-INDUSTRY COLLABORATION

IZU and Gübretaş (an agricultural R&D company) have inked a cooperation agreement. At a ceremony conducted at the İZÜ Halkal Campus, Chairman of the Board Dr. Fahrettin Poyraz, General Manager Brahim Yumakli from Gübretaş, and İZÜ Rector Prof. Dr. Mehmet Bulut signed the agreement. İZÜ Rector Prof. Dr. Mehmet Bulut stated that they would undertake beneficial work that will add to agricultural productivity and a significant step forward has been taken in university-industry cooperation.

IZU Rector Prof. Dr. Mehmet Bulut remarked that universities throughout the world value sustainable development and that with this cooperation, they would conduct numerous studies on the future of agriculture and food, as well as food safety. Prof. Dr. Mehmet Bulut stated that the agreement’s major goal is to achieve sustainable agriculture and said, “For example, we will endeavor to minimize the environmental impact of the unused ‘head’ section of the sunflower. We will carry out the production process of many other products like this in an environmentally friendly and harmless way.”

Prof. Dr. Mehmet Bulut mentioned that they formed a Sustainable Development Center in order to complete their studies at the university, and that he believes they would accomplish excellent results with students and professors.
IZU TEKNOFEST WAS HELD IN 2021.

This year’s TEKNOFEST, Aviation, Space, and Technology Festival was again a huge success. The festival, which was held in Istanbul Atatürk Airport, featured some inspiring projects and events. Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University took its place in TEKNOFEST 2021 with its stand. During the festival, visitors were informed about the university’s activities, technological infrastructure, projects and especially Zaim Technopark, which is planned to start operating this year.

IZU students competed in the TEKNOFEST 2021 contests, as they had in previous years. At the festival this year, two different IZU student teams competed. The works of our students were evaluated by the jury with great admiration.

Our MobiKit team, which included Etem Çınar, Yasin Kızılkaya, Tolga Değirmenci, Hüseyin Ermiş, Ahmet Furkan İnal and Semih Rüzgar, students from our Electrical and Electronics Engineering Department competed with a project in the topic of “Education Technologies.”

Engin Cindoruk and Dr Faruk Ekinci from our Software Engineering Department competed in the “Tourism Technologies” category as OMEN-LAB team.
A NEW METHOD DEVELOPED FOR THE TREATMENT OF COPD USED FOR THE FIRST TIME IN THE WORLD IN TEKİRDAĞ NAMİK KEMAL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

The Chief Physician and Chest and Sleep Diseases Specialist in Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University (NKU) Application and Research Hospital Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nejat Altıntaş enunciated that a new method developed for the treatment of COPD patients has started to be implemented in TNKU Hospital for the first time in the world.

Stating that there are two types of COPD, Assoc. Dr. Nejat ALTINTAŞ stated that “There are two types of COPD. One of them is the type we call emphysema, the type that makes balloons. A place in the lung swells and does not allow other areas to work. This group of patients is a small group. But there is also a type that we call bronchitis, which goes with phlegm for at least three months of the year and goes with cough. “The number of these patients is much higher”.

Noting that the biggest problem experienced by this type of COPD patients is the feeling of suffocation, Assoc. Dr. Nejat ALTINTAŞ explained that “Patients feel as if they are drowning in the sea, in a way. This time, they begin to feel short of breath. This is because there are cells in our windpipe that produce sputum. These cells are greatly increased in COPD patients. Therefore, they constantly produce sputum”.

Elucidating the new treatment method, which was applied for the first time in the world only in Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University Hospital, after the application to a COPD patient, Assoc. Dr. Nejat ALTINTAŞ said “We enter the patient's lungs by passing the thin tube with a balloon through the bronchoscope. Think of the inside of the whole lung like a tree. By coming to each branch of the tree, we kind of stun the cells that produce sputum in the trachea by means of this device, which we call a balloon inside those branches. Therefore, we prevent the production of sputum,” he said.

Moreover, he pointed out that the technology used was developed by Turkish scientists and referring the device he said, “I hope that we will have the opportunity to introduce this device to the whole world. Because there is no such technology in the world yet. We have started to apply it to our patients and get very good results”.

Chief Physician Assoc. Dr. Nejat ALTINTAŞ also added that “When we became successful in the treatment, more patients have started to come. Our intention is to introduce this technology and treatment method to patients around the world, especially in terms of health tourism. Because COPD ranks 5th in the world in terms of death order. According to the estimation of the World Health Organization (WHO), it will rise to the 3rd rank in 5 years and he finished his words by saying “While there are so many COPD patients, we think this device could be beneficial for patients all over the world.”
The first monitoring meeting of the project of Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University “Cross-border Alliance for Climate-Smart and Green Agriculture in the Black Sea Basin” - AGREEN (Cross-border Alliance for Climate-Smart and Green Agriculture in the Black Sea Basin) carried out with European Union funds was held with the participation of Romanian Central Administration Authority officials and all project partners.

AGREEN Project Coordinator Prof. Dr. Tolga ERDEM and AGREEN and Practice Community Coordinator Inst. Dr. Duygu Doğan attended the monitoring meeting held online due to the pandemic. At the meeting, a review was made on the steps to reach the goals of AGREEN project that completed its first 15 months.

During the follow-up session led by Project Responsible Alina DECU from Romanian Joint Technical Secretariat, Financial Coordinator Magdalena MOROSAN and Communications Coordinator Jessica PAPUSA, the activities and financial processes of the project during the 15-month period were evaluated. Interim report procedures, financial audit steps and report evaluation processes were discussed. Moreover, information about the obligations of each partner was reminded, and questions about interim report preparation and presentation activities were answered.

It was emphasized that despite the limitations created by the pandemic conditions, the AGREEN Project continued successfully and serious steps were taken to reach the expected outputs, and the coordination between the partners was also operated strongly.

Within the scope of the Black Sea Basin Cross-Border Cooperation Program 2014-2020 2nd Call for Proposals, AGREEN Project supported by European Union funds, is carried out in cooperation with universities, non-governmental organizations and public institutions from Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, Greece, Georgia and Armenia.

The first 15-month implementations of the AGREEN Project started with the establishment of a network of experts for the placement of climate-smart and green agriculture activities in the basin countries, and a joint brand strategy document was prepared by the international expert community. In addition, the mapping of the logistics centers that will carry out the wholesale and retail sales of climate-smart agricultural products in six countries was completed and shared with the public on the web portal.
Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University 2021-2022 Academic Year has started with ‘The First Lesson’ given by the Speaker of Turkish Grand National Assembly (TBMM) Prof. Dr. Mustafa ŞENTOP.

In his greeting speech, our university Rector Prof. Dr. Mümün ŞAHİN stated that, “Another academic year has started at our university, which is growing by increasing its success day by day. He expressed that “We are here today for the first lecture and opening ceremony of the 2021-2022 academic year. In this academic year, our university has started its classes with both face-to-face and distance education in accordance with the pandemic conditions. In this sense, we provide our students with hybrid and technological education opportunity.”

Rector Prof. Dr. Mümün ŞAHİN concluded his speech by saying, “On behalf of Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University, I wish you all a successful, happy, peaceful and productive academic year, and wish the new academic year to be beneficial to our students and all our members.”

Afterwards, the conference started with ‘The First Lesson’ given by the Speaker of the Parliament Prof. Dr. Mustafa ŞENTOP. Speaking of the education life in Turkey and the increasing international position of our universities, Prof. Dr. Mustafa ŞENTOP touched upon the progress our universities have made in recent years, both in terms of physical establishment and academic success. Dr. He said “We see that our state has largely done its part for the development of our universities. The other part is due to the efforts of our teachers and students.”

He added that “The opinion that information comes from the west, from a certain geography is wrong. We should remember that we are also the sons of ancestors who have a culture and civilization that produces knowledge and contributes to the world of science. Today, we should have an understanding of a university that does not consume knowledge, but contributes to the world of science and knowledge. We have the ability to do this”.

At the end of his conference, the Speaker of the Parliament Prof. Dr. Mustafa ŞENTOP said “The idea of Turkey is always greater than Turkey’s borders. We see this much more clearly in our visits and contacts abroad. The way Turkey is perceived around the world is very different from how we see from the inside. The whole world has accepted Turkey’s power and prestige in its region and in the world, and their approach to Turkey reveals this point of view. I think that this understanding will create a basis that will strengthen us regarding the claims and moves of our young people, to whom we will entrust the future.”
AGRICULTURAL WASTES WILL BE RECYCLED IN MERİÇ

The EU Project of “Save the Nature to Protect Your Future” carried out by Trakya University for the prevention of environmental pollution and the protection of Meriş has come to an end. Within the scope of the Project implemented by the partnerships of Meriş Chamber of Agriculture and the KRB Haskovo of Bulgaria, a recycling facility in Meriş district of Edirne has been activated.

A highly important development has been realized for the prevention of environmental pollution through the “Save Nature To Protect Your Future” Project led by Prof. Dr. Murat TÜRKYILMAZ, the scientific coordinator of the project and also the Vice Rector of Trakya University. Within the scope of this project, a plastic waste recycling facility was established in Meriş district where agricultural facilities have been carried out intensely and where there has been an environmental pollution caused by the pesticide-packages used.

With this facility opened, the aim is to recycle and reuse the plastic wastes used for agriculture, primarily the pesticide wastes to protect the environment. The facility will also enable the recycling of fertilizers, drug wastes, plastics and chemicals, all of which arm the environment and our health. The wastes processed at the facility will be turned into the products that farmers need first and then will be presented to the producers. The aim is the reduction of water and environmental pollution especially through the collection and recycling of fertilizer and pesticide packages from the areas where an intense amount of agricultural facilities are carried out.

Prof. Dr. Murat TÜRKYILMAZ, the coordinator of the
project and the Vice Rector of Trakya University, stated in his opening speech of the facility that, agricultural areas and water supplies surrounding them are under the threat of toxic pesticide wastes adding that they want to prevent this pollution. Prof. Dr. Murat TÜRKYILMAZ also added that it will be possible to recycle and reuse the waste with the project they have activated.

Prof. Dr. Murat TÜRKYILMAZ: “Agricultural pesticides have been polluting the environment”

Prof. Dr. Murat TÜRKYILMAZ addressed that thousands of plastic packaging waste used for agricultural spraying in Turkey is left to nature as with no precautions. He added that “This area, I mean especially Meriç and İpsala districts, are agricultural lands. Within this area, around 90-100 acres of rice production, together with wheat, sunflower, peanut and many other agricultural productions have been made. Packages of pesticides and fertilizers used, most of the time, are left on the soil. While this situation causes a great environmental pollution, on the other side it threatens human life. The toxic materials from the packages either reach directly to the groundwater of the soil or mix itself through the flow into the rivers by creating various dangers both for human beings and animals. This region is located just next to the Meriç River, therefore the toxic waste is easily mixed into the river and the sea. Other great environmental problem of our time is microplastics. Animals consume these microplastics and then they pass to human beings from them. This is a great harm for human-health. We will be in the position of to have cleaned up this plastic waste in the first place”

“Our goal is to leave a more livable environment for the future generations.”

Prof. Dr. Murat TÜRKYILMAZ stated that, through this project, they have established a recycling facility to Meriç district with the aim of preventing environmental pollution and leaving a more liveable planet for the future generations. He said “Our project is actually a tripartite project. We have reached the final stage of it that we started three years ago together with Meriç Chamber of Agriculture, Meriç District of Governorate and KRIN Hakovo, which is one of the business organizations in Bulgaria. With a great effort, we established a recycling facility. Our main goal is to leave a healthier and more liveable environment for the future generations. Other than that, we provided trainings for our farmers together with Bulgarian farmers in the scope of this project. We introduced our farmers with their counterparts in Bulgaria and created connections and bridges between them. We also established a soil analysis laboratory in Bulgaria and carried out soil analyzes in eighty different locations. We also prepared a report about this and in this way we have been in the position of completing our project.”

Cafer KAYMAÇI, the governor of Meriç district, thanked those who contributed to the preparation and execution of the project and became a well-wisher for the farmers and the producers of the region.

The opening ceremony of the facility was realized by the participation of Meriç District Governor Cafer KAYNAÇI, Vice Rector Prof. Dr. Murat TÜRKYILMAZ, Mayor of Meriç Erol DÜBEK, President of Meriç Chamber of Agriculture Hüseyin TÜRKAŞ, some faculty members of Trakya University who have contributed to the project and local farmers.
Trakya University ranked 288th among world universities and 16th among universities in Turkey in the GreenMetric 2021 World University Rankings, in which sustainability efforts at university campuses are evaluated worldwide. UI GreenMetric World Universities Ranking 2021 results, in which universities are evaluated on issues such as sustainability, education, infrastructure, environment and energy, and climate change, have been announced. Trakya University, which applied for the first time this year to GreenMetric, which aims to raise global awareness on environmental awareness by drawing attention to issues related to sustainability, where the campuses of prestigious universities from around the world are evaluated, has achieved an important success.

In the index, which includes 956 universities from various countries of the world in 2021, 71 universities from Turkey took place. Trakya University was ranked 288th among 956 respected universities worldwide and 16th among universities in Turkey in the international ranking, where sustainability studies and green space rates are evaluated. UI GreenMetric World University Rankings, which has been evaluating the world’s outstanding universities in 39 indicators and 6 main titles including infrastructure, recycling, energy and climate change, water resources, transportation and education since 2010, ranks higher education institutions in the international arena by scoring them for each evaluation area. Trakya University by receiving 1200 points in the Infrastructure and Existing Settlement category, 950 points in the Energy and Climate Change category, 1425 points in the Waste Management category, 500 points in the Water Conservation category, 1375 points in the Transportation category and 1325 points in the Education and Research category, took its place in the ranking with points mentioned. In addition, studies on the fight against the pandemic and the measures taken due to the impact of the COVID-19 epidemic were also included in the scoring.

Vice Rector, Prof. Dr. Murat Türkyılmaz, who was the coordinator of the studies in the green index application process, and Environmental Engineer Tuba Doğru visited Rector Erhan Tabakoğlu for the presentation of the GreenMetric Certificate.

Trakya University Rector Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu stated that they are proud of the achievements they have achieved as a result of their work on sustainability and the environment and added “Our university has achieved an important result between Turkish and world universities in a platform it participated for the first time. Our university, which has taken important steps towards becoming a green and environmentalist university with its social responsibility activities as well as a sustainable campus life, has succeeded in making its name known in the international arena with its work. Higher education institutions have great responsibilities in dealing with global problems such as population growth, global warming, excessive consumption of natural resources, famine and natural disasters. At this point, Trakya University has shown us that it will resolutely progress towards becoming a university that fulfills the universal criteria of sustainability. As Trakya University, we will continue our efforts to create energy, waste and transportation policies, and green campuses with exemplary practices aimed at improving environmental awareness, and our efforts to disseminate the ‘Zero Waste’ project in all our campuses. I would like to thank our colleagues who contributed to the development and success of our university.”
Eurasian Journal of Family Medicine published by Trakya University, Faculty of Medicine, Department of Family Medicine has expanded the number of directories it is indexed in. With the cooperation of Trakya University Faculty of Medicine, Department of Family Medicine and Eurasian Family Medicine Association (ESFAM), Eurasian Journal of Family Medicine, published on a regular basis since 2012, has started to be indexed in “DOAJ”.

A quarterly peer-reviewed journal in English, Eurasian Journal of Family Medicine will be indexed in “DOAJ”, which includes over 16,500 peer-reviewed open access journals covering all fields of science, technology, medicine, social sciences, arts and humanities.

The journal, which includes research articles, reviews and case presentations in the field of family medicine and general medicine, has been accepted for indexing in “DOAJ”, an important database for open access journals, after "Index Copernicus International", “TUBITAK ULAKBIM Tr-Index”, “Turkey Citation Index”, “J-Gate”, “Turkish Medline”, “InfoBase”, “Google Scholar” and “Scopus”.

Prof. Dr. Hamdi Nezih Dağdeviren, the head of Family Medicine Department at the Faculty of Medicine, Trakya University, owns and is the editor-in-chief of the journal while Prof. Dr. Serdar Öztora, from Trakya University, is the managing editor. Faculty member Prof. Dr. Ayşe Çaylan contributes to the journal as the language editor, Prof. Dr. Necdet Süt contributes as the statistics editor and Assist. Prof. Önder Sezer as the copy editor. Many more renowned academicians in this field including the ones from World Organization of Family Doctors and regional directors also work as editors and referees in the journal.
“FAN S. NOLI” UNIVERSITY

Type of the Institution: Public Higher Education Institution

Institution’s focus: Education and Languages, Economy, Natural and Human Sciences, Agriculture

Faculties: Faculty of Economy, Faculty of Education and Philology, Faculty of Natural and Human Sciences, Faculty of Agriculture

Location: Korçë, Albania

Website: www.unkorce.edu.al

About the Institution:

“Fan S. Noli” University (UNIKO) was founded in 1971. UNIKO’s mission is to create, transmit, develop and preserve knowledge through teaching, research and other educational services it provides. UNIKO has been recently institutionally accredited from British Quality Assurance Agency & the Agency of Quality Assurance of HEIs in Albania for a period of 5 years, which ranks it among the three best public HEIs in Albania.

Currently UNIKO has 4 faculties: Faculty of Economy, Agriculture, Education and Philology, Human and Natural Sciences.

Studies in UNIKO are organized in three study cycles: 26 Bachelor programs (180 credits), 22 Professional Master programs (90 credits), 4 Master of Science programs (120 credits), 8 two-year Associate programs and 1 Postgraduate study program.

Today 4000 students are being qualified in Bachelor and Master programs. There are 158 pedagogues, 77% consists of doctors and professors, 23% are candidates of science.

UNIKO has in its composition the Career Alumni Center, Scientific Library, Interdisciplinary Center of Scientific Research, Center of Continuous Education (CCE) which offers lifelong learning modules for teachers in service. UNIKO also offers research/professional opportunities in Experimental Didactic Economics Unit (EDE).

Since 1996, “Fan S. Noli” University publishes the periodical “Scientific Bulletin” with research papers of professors and collaborators of the university which presents its scientific and pedagogical activity. The “Scientific Bulletin” is published twice a year in natural sciences series and social sciences series.

UNIKO has cooperation agreements with other national and international HEIs for better educational and scientific research interaction. UNIKO also has cooperation agreements with various institutions and businesses in Korça region for students’ internships and to help students get closer to the labor market.

UNIKO is an active participant of European Erasmus+ program, CBHE, and Erasmus+ Mobility Projects. Students of UNIKO have had mobility experiences under EU Erasmus+ programs. More than 40 pedagogues have improved their qualifications with mobilities in foreign universities.
The “Academic Day 2021” ceremony was held on October 6th, 2021 in the premises of the Rectorate of “Fan S. Noli” University. Over 1000 students graduated in this day and hundreds of students with good academic records marked their names in the honorary book of the university. The ceremony was attended by students, pedagogues, parents, university’s collaborators and local government representatives. During the ceremony Certificates of Appreciation were awarded to students with high academic records. Tina Donefski, a student of Faculty of Economics, was awarded with the Gold Medal for excellent academic records in the study program - Master of Science in “Finance”.

In his speech, the rector, prof. dr. Dhimitri Bello congratulated the graduate students expressing that this is the coronation day of all their sacrifices and hard-work in the long and difficult journey towards knowledge and gave them the best wishes towards the next step of pursuing their profession. Prof. dr. Bello also congratulated the academic staff that with the professionalism shown over the years has built and has strengthened the authority of this institution which has achieved the highest evaluation in institutional accreditation and expressed his thanks to the representatives of the institutions that were present at the ceremony, assuring them that the cooperation between the institutions that they represent and UNIKO will be further strengthened and intensified.
THE GIRLS’ VOLLEYBALL TEAM OF “FAN S. NOLI” UNIVERSITY WINS THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP 2020-2021

The Girls’ Volleyball Team of “Fan S. Noli” University wins the National University Sports Championship 2020-2021 in women's volleyball discipline organized in Durrës on October 2021. In this championship, students showed serious preparation and high performance representing with dignity the jersey of “Fan S. Noli” University and bringing to the University the Championship Cup, the “Fair Play” diploma, as well as the “Best Player of the Championship” award which was awarded to Laurela Mehmeti, a student in the Department of Education. Appreciation Certificates were given to the team members by the rector of UNIKO, prof. dr. Dhimitri Bello on October 25th, 2021, who together with other leaders of the University and the Faculty of Education and Philology invited in a meeting the Girls’ Volleyball Team considering this victory of great importance since that can also lead to the future organization and participation of UNIKO sports teams in such activities. The Rector congratulated the students for this well-deserved victory and assured them that UNIKO sports teams will continue to have the attention and support of the institution.

“FAN S. NOLI” UNIVERSITY, KORÇA AND THE UNIVERSITY OF IOANNINA, GREECE SHARE COOPERATION OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

Representatives of University of Ioannina visited the “Fan S. Noli” University On Septmeber 11th, 2021. During the visit in the facilities of “Fan S. Noli” University, the representative staff of both universities discussed about the importance of cooperating with the Center for Balkan Studies, which will further expand the academic relations between Balkan universities. Also, they offer cooperation opportunities between the two universities, regarding the study programs in the field of agriculture, natural sciences, social sciences, etc., so that the universities have the possibility to share and exchange their experiences.

“Fan S. Noli” University considered this meeting as a very important step towards cooperation for the continuous training, mobilities for the staff and students, organization of summer schools, etc.

Afterwards, the delegation of the University of Ioannina visited the premises of the Center for Continuing Education, the Center of Innovation and the Scientific Library of the University.
The 16th International Scientific Conference “Education and Culture in the Contemporary Society,” was held on November 5th, 2021, in “Fan S. Noli” University. The conference was organized in 30 sessions during which were presented 210 papers, written by 310 authors and co-authors from 23 countries.

In the plenary session participated some of the representatives of the academic and administrative staff of “Fan S. Noli” University, Academy of Sciences of Albania, Ministry of Education and Sports; Ministry of Culture, “Aleksandër Moisiu” University, Durrës and other participants from other institutions, who attended this conference via online platforms, such as: AAB College of Kosovo, the University of South-East Europe, Tetovo, Northern Macedonia; the Institute of Science and Technology, Kosovo; “Isa Boletini” University of Mitrovica.

The main focus of the conference was Education and Culture in the Contemporary Society and during the sessions of the conference, several social aspects and fields, were also presented and discussed among the participants, such as: Education and Sport; Education and leadership; Student self-assessment; competency-based curriculum; distance teaching et c.

Another important session, was dedicated to the 150th anniversary of Gjergj Fishta, as one of the most influential Albanian writers of the 20th century.

The conference was finalized with the signing of the cooperation agreement between the Academy of Sciences and the Albanian Institute of Sociology. The XVI International Scientific Conference “Education and Culture in Contemporary Society” continued the next day with other online presentations of the participants in the conference.
The fight against fraud in all its forms is a key priority worldwide. For this reason, the global Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE), with members in more than 190 countries around the world, believe that a key element of this effort is to provide knowledge to professionals in every field, enabling its use in every field of interest. For this reason, since 2002, ACFE has been strengthening higher education institutions by promoting the creation of academic courses aimed at research and the fight against fraud. The ACFE Anti-Fraud Education Partnership was created, in the framework of which educational material is provided and specialized lecturers - Certified Anti-Fraud Auditors are nominated in universities around the world to provide anti-fraud knowledge and education. Distinguished universities from all over the world participate in this initiative aiming as quoted by the ACFE “The Partnership was established to address the unprecedented need for fraud examination education at the university level. In pursuit of this objective, the ACFE is committed to providing timely, world-class educational tools and resources to universities and colleges around the world.”

In this context, following the official nomination of Professor Dimitrios Skiadas, (Department of International and European Studies from the University of Macedonia), as a certified Auditor against Fraud by ACFE, based on his academic capacity, and in collaboration with the Department of International and European Studies, an application was submitted for inclusion of the University of Macedonia in the ACFE Anti-Fraud Education Partnership.

After evaluating the academic activity of the University of Macedonia and the Department of International and European Studies, with special emphasis and reference to the disciplines related to the fight against fraud, the University of Macedonia through the Department of International and European Studies, became a member of the ACFE Anti-Fraud Education Partnership.

In this context, starting the academic year 2021-2022, the course “Protection of EU Financial Interests - Anti-Fraud” will be taught by Professor Skiadas, as an Undergraduate course at the Department of International and European Studies of the University of Macedonia with the use of material provided by ACFE aiming to deepen the knowledge and acquisition of skills by students in anti-fraud issues. Due to the scientific specialization of the Department, the emphasis will be on anti-fraud issues concerning the EU and the international environment in general.

This is the first relevant undergraduate course in Greece supported by ACFE, and this creates a benchmark for a larger, more extensive and in-depth educational collaboration between the University of Macedonia with this organization.

Guest speaker was Ms. Ioanna Lahana, Public Relations Officer of the EULEX Kosovo mission of the EU.

The organizational committee of FOSSCOMM 2021 calls on Free/Open Source Software communities and anyone else interested to submit a presentation/workshop application at https://pretalk.2021.fosscomm.gr/fosscomm-2021/cfp before 4 November 2021. The official language is Greek, but applications in English will also be accepted. This year’s FOSSCOMM 2021 will be hosted online by the University of Macedonia between 13 and 14 November 2021.

Fosscomm is an annual conference organized by Greek Free/Open Source Software communities. Taking place in a different city every year, it welcomes open technology communities, companies, and programmers. Fosscomm hosts more than 800 participants annually. Starting from 2008, there have been 13 Fosscomm conferences in Athens, Larissa, Thessaloniki, Patras, Serres, Athens, Lamia, Piraeus, Athens, Heraklion, Lamia, and Kastoria respectively.
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