

BUANEWS

Balkan Universities Association E-Bulletin

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Balkan Universities Association

AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY - PLODIV HOSTED A EUROPEAN FORUM OF AGRI-FOOD SYSTEMS



The main priority in the research policy of the Agricultural University of Plovdiv is to ensure the effective use of the academic staff potential for carrying out competitive scientific and applied research responding to the needs of society. The results obtained strengthen the University prestige as a leading institution in the area of agricultural and related sciences in the country and a reliable partner to Bulgarian and foreign scientific organizations. Research at the Agricultural University is focused on the global challenges that we all face – growing population, degradation of ecosystems, depletion of natural resources, climate change, migration, digital transformation. Achieving the goals set in the new Common Agricultural Policy and the 'Farm to fork' European Strategy, which is at the heart of the European Green Deal, are also among the research priorities.

On February 9, 2021 the Agricultural University of Plovdiv in collaboration with ISC organized a virtual seminar entitled 'Research and Innovation in Agri-food systems following the Agenda of the European Research Area 2021-2027 and opportunities for industry-academia collaborations'. It was a part of the official programme of the EC.

The objectives of the seminar were to discuss the research policy of agri-food systems in EU member states and on an international level; to explore synergies between Horizon Europe programme and the EU semester the United Nations Sustainable

Development Goals; to consider Portuguese Council Presidency priorities; to present the collaboration between Wageningen University and Research and the Agricultural University of Plovdiv in Agri-food Sciences, which is to be launched soon as a platform for an extensive European network.

We are particularly pleased that the seminar aroused interest and response around the world. More than 500 participants registered, more than 200 representatives from the UN, FAO, the European Commission, the EU-Africa Initiative, etc. took part in the webinar. The Agricultural University became the virtual meeting point of scientists and politicians from EU member states, the Balkans, China, India, Pakistan, South Africa, Ethiopia. A large number of them are partners of our University and together we have been implementing educational and research projects.

The participants tried to find answers about the links between agri-food systems and bioeconomy, space technologies, and sustainable management of natural resources.

Keynote speakers comprised of eminent researchers, policy-makers and professionals, among them: Fionnuala Murphy – School of Biosystems & Food Engineering University College Dublin; Vanya Simeonova – Wageningen University and Research, the Netherlands; Asim Ademov – Bulgarian Member of the European parliament; John Bell – Director Healthy Planet,

DG Research and Innovation, European Commission; Karina Angelieva – Deputy Minister of Education and Science, Bulgaria; Prof. Hristina Yancheva – Rector and Prof. Vladislav Popov – Vice-rector of Science and Projects, Agricultural University of Plovdiv.

The main focus of the speeches of the Rector Prof. Hristina Yancheva and the Vice-Rector Prof. Vladislav Popov was the participation of the Agricultural University – Plovdiv in the National Research Programmes of the Ministry of Education, European Scientific Networks and cooperation for project development under the initiative ‘European Universities’.

In recent years, the Bulgarian Ministry of Science and education has funded different national programmes and research infrastructures of public importance. The Agricultural University coordinates several of them, related to healthy food for strong bioeconomy, smart crop production, climate change and plant health. The purpose of these programmes is to obtain specific scientific and applied results, which are expected to contribute not only to increase the level of research and implementation in Bulgaria but also to link its results with the benefits provided to society, including businesses, industries, consumers.

Researchers from AU have made a significant contribution to the preparation of the National Strategy of the Bulgarian Government for strengthening the role of the agricultural sector in the bioeconomy and in the Bulgarian roadmap for research infrastructure.

An essential point for Bulgaria and particularly for the Agricultural University, is to make the future steps towards establishing a regional hub, combining science, industry and education. The participants in the forum united around the proposal to create a new platform for exchange of knowledge, good practices and experience and stated their support to the future regional innovation hub in bioeconomics and sustainable agri-food systems in Plovdiv.

The researchers and university lecturers decided to continue international cooperation for the development and implementation of advanced training programs for students, entrepreneurs, and professionals who are able to face the challenges.

As a conclusion, the participants expressed their desire to continue to share knowledge, experience and ideas through joint initiatives that will contribute to more sustainable, healthy, and trusted agri-food systems.



INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF AUTH SCIENTISTS - 100 MEMBERS OF ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY AMONG THE WORLD'S LEADING SCIENTISTS

The strong impact of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki on the global scientific community is highlighted once again, through the renewed ranking of the world's most important scientists "Data for updated science-wide author databases of standardized citation indicators" 2020, published by Stanford University team (<https://journals.plos.org/plosbiology/article?id=10.1371/journal.pbio.3000918>).



This ranking includes AUPh scientists based on the impact of their published work throughout their careers.

The list includes the top 100,000 scientists worldwide from all scientific fields, as well as 2% of the top scientists in their scientific field, who have published at least five articles. The evaluation was based on the impact of their research work and specifically on the reports it has received according to the Scopus database.

**THREE STUDENTS OF THE ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI AWARDED IN THE INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION WRICOS 2020**

The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki achieved three excellent distinctions in the 4th Writing Contest of the Silk-Road Universities (SUN) -WRICOS 2020, as three members of its student community managed to stand out with great

awards in the poetry competition. The competition was organized in the framework of the actions of the Network of Universities of the Silk Road (SUN Network), of which the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki is a member.

<https://studyinggreece.edu.gr/three-awards-for-the-aristotle-university-of-thessaloniki-in-the-international-competition-wricos-2020/>





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 & 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; 14 departments; 3 teaching and research groups. Studies in UNIKO are organized in three study cycles - 26 Bachelor programs (180 credits), 20 Professional Master programs (90 credits), 4 Master of Science programs (120 credits), 7 two-year vocational training study programs and 1 Phd study program. Today 3350 students are being

qualified in Bachelor and Master programs in 30 specialties. There are 158 pedagogues, 77% consists of doctors and professors, 23% are candidates of science. UNIKO also offers lifelong learning modules for teachers in service (Center of Continuous Education) and research/professional opportunities in Experimental Didactic Economics Unit.

UNIKO has cooperation agreements with other national and international HEIs for better educational and scientific research interaction. UNIKO is an active participant of European Erasmus+ programs, 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.

A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WAS SIGNED BETWEEN “FAN S. NOLI” UNIVERSITY (UNIKO) AND UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK OF TIRANA (UNYT) FOR ACADEMIC COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

On March, 2, 2021 at “Fan S. Noli” University was signed a Memorandum of Understanding for academic cooperation in the field of higher education and scientific research between the rector of “Fan S. Noli” University (UNIKO), Prof. Dr. Dhimitri Bello and the rector of University of New York (UNYT), Prof. Dr. Ismail Kocayusufoglu.

The meeting was attended by the highest authorities of both institutions. Rector of UNIKO, Prof. Dr. Dhimitri Bello expressed appreciation for the contribution of both these institutions in Higher Education in Albania and stated that the exchange of experiences between the two universities will benefit institutional and inter-institutional development.

In his speech, the rector of UNYT, Prof. Dr. Ismail Kocayusugoglu expressed his sincere thanks for the warm

reception and introduced the participants with the activity of UNYT, which is the first private university opened in our country.

The deans of “Fan S. Noli” University Faculties made a presentation of the activity and study programs offered by each faculty, emphasizing the continuous improvement of curricula by adapting it with labor market requirements.

In the framework of this agreement, the parties agreed to draft an action plan for cooperation between UNIKO and UNYT through specific activities of common interest to improve academic, scientific and cultural cooperation, as well as for the exchange of academic staff, researchers and students for research and academic work and joint projects between the two institutions.

A DAY DEDICATED TO OUR LANGUAGE"- AN ACTIVITY ORGANIZED BY THE SCIENTIFIC LIBRARY OF UNIKO IN COLLABORATION WITH THE SECONDARY SCHOOL "MËSONJËTORJA E PARË SHQIPE" IN THE FRAMEWORK OF "INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY"

On February 22, 2021, the Scientific Library of “Fan S. Noli” University in cooperation with the secondary school “Mësonjëtorja e Parë Shqipe” organized the activity: “A day dedicated to our language” in the framework of International Mother Language Day.

This activity was attended by pupils of this school. Prof. dr. Ali Jashari - professor and scholar of Albanian language, compiler of several dictionaries and other publications in this field and Msc. Olger Brame - lector of Albanian language at “Fan S. Noli” University discussed with pupils on the knowledge they have on Albania language. They also focused on textbooks of Albanian language and the difficulties that pupils face while studying with these textbooks due

to the way they are compiled, such as: incorrect sentence constructions, spelling mistakes, use of foreign words, etc. for which pupils brought concrete examples from their work in the classroom and at home. On this day, Professor Ali Jashari conveyed the message that our language is not difficult, but it is the responsibility of teachers, pedagogues and textbook compilers to be more careful in compiling textbooks. Pupils also recited some poems dedicated to Albanian language. At the end of this activity, Prof. Dr. Ali Jashari gave to each of the pupils who attended the activity his book “Dictionary of Borrowed expressions in Albanian language” as a symbolic gift for them and afterwards they visited the Scientific Library stand of UNIKO through which they were introduced to some publications on Albanian language.

FACULTY OF ECONOMY OF "FAN S. NOLI" UNIVERSITY IN COLLABORATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SCIENCES OF "ALBANIAN UNIVERSITY" HELD THE NATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE ON "MANAGERIAL IMPLEMENTATIONS IN NEW BUSINESS MODELS"



On February 19, 2021, Faculty of Economy of UNIKO and Department of Economic Sciences of "Albanian University" organized the National Student Conference on "Managerial implementations in new business models". Due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation, this conference was held online.

Professors and students of Faculty of Economy of UNIKO attended the conference and Prof. Ass. Dr. Ledina Alolli - Dean of Faculty of Economy highlighted the great interest of students who attended this conference online, while appreciating the research work of the participating students,

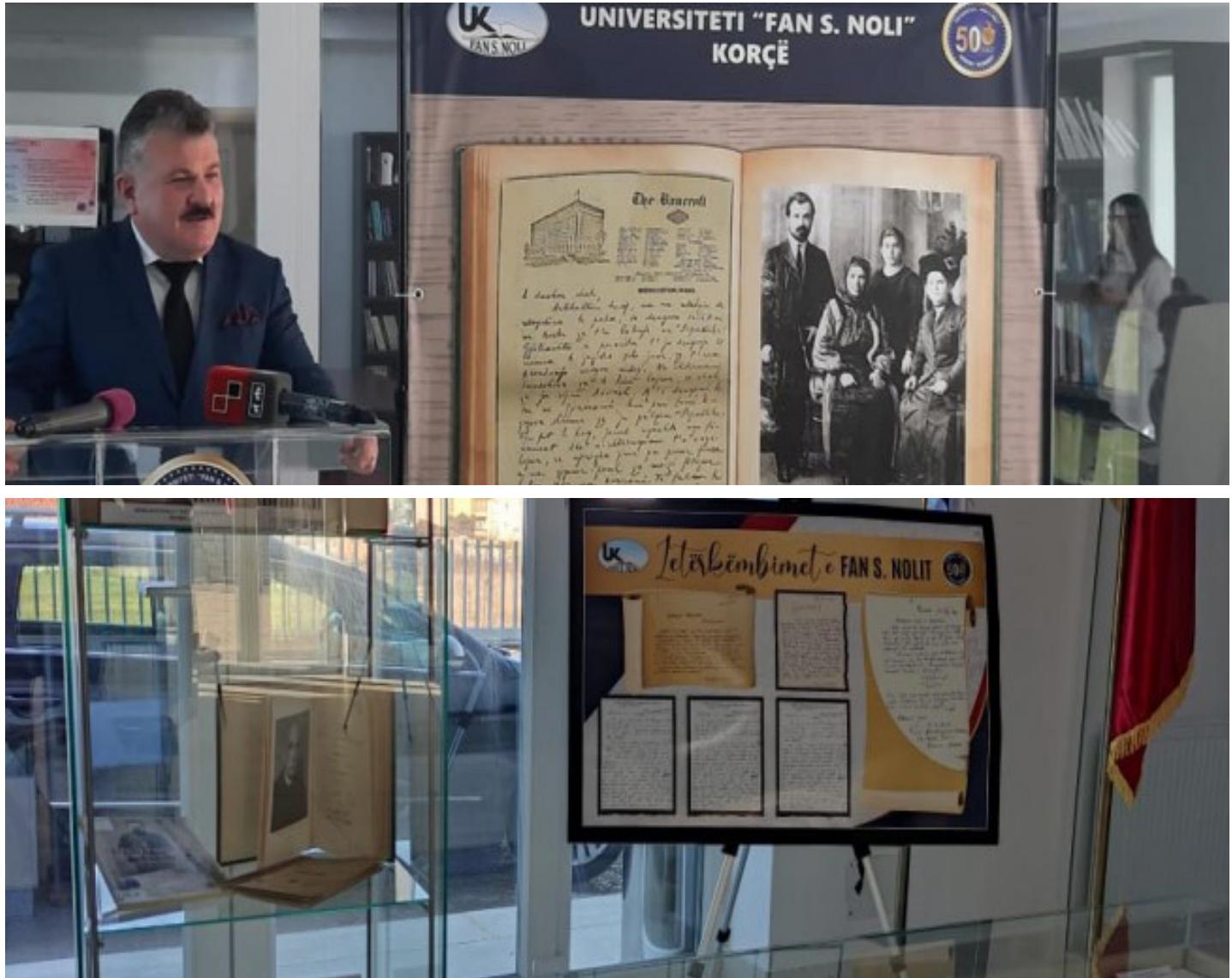
who presented interesting and important topics, such as: "Online marketing - challenges and trends of the future"; "Double taxation on private businesses and agreements for its elimination"; "Business organization structure in Albania"; "Efforts and steps to be taken to avoid bank bankruptcy"; "Bad loans and strategies for their reduction"; "Government regulatory interventions in the reward system" and "Quality gurus". This national student conference aimed to encourage students for research work, combining theoretical with practical knowledge.

CREATION OF "DISCOVER KORÇA" PLATFORM BY THE STUDENTS OF UNIKO – A GENERAL GUIDE FOR THE ORIENTATION OF VISITORS AND TOURISTS IN THE REGION OF KORÇA

Krenar Myrteza, a student of "Business Administration in Marketing" in the Faculty of Economy and the graduate student Florenc Duhanxhi, have taken the initiative to create the platform "Discover Korça", which will be available to visitors and tourists in the region of Korça.

This platform will function as a general orientation guide, including businesses of all the types, such as: hotels, restaurants, pharmacies, taxi services, etc. The platform, which will also include the tourist guide, provides everyone with the opportunity to enjoy the natural beauties of our region, a part of which still remain to be discovered.



“FAN S. NOLI PERSONAL FUND”, ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF “FAN S. NOLI” UNIVERSITY

On January 28, 2021 in the premises of the Rectorate was held the inauguration ceremony of the Fan S. Noli personal fund, in which were presented the activities on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the University “Fan S. Noli”. In his opening speech, the Rector of UNIKO, prof. dr. Dhimitri Bello welcomed the guests and claimed that the University “Fan S. Noli” is successfully entering the age of creative maturity. In the course of the half a century, several generations of wise and motivated people have been highly committed on the development of this institution. Since its establishment, the University “Fan S. Noli” has undergone a great quantitative and qualitative growth and it has made efforts to represent the level of the academic thought and to guarantee a safe path for the young people and the society in general.

The material of Fan S. Noli was donated to the University five years ago, by prof. Nasho Jorgaqi and we are currently in the process of scanning and filing, in order to make it easily available to everyone, by making it part of the Scientific Library of our University”.

This ceremony was attended by leaders and professors of the University, representatives of local government, institutions, religious communities, students and other guests, who praised the great contribution that UNIKO has given over the years in the development of our region.

At the end of the ceremony, it was promoted the calendar of activities that the University “Fan S. Noli” will organize within the 50th anniversary of the University.

IZU RANKS AMONG THE TOP 500 UNIVERSITIES IN THE WORLD THIS YEAR

IZU continues its rise in internationally reputable assessments. IZU is ranked among the top 500 universities in the evaluation made by UI GreenMetric.

The UI GreenMetric evaluates the world's distinguished universities, sustainability of universities, and alongside the effective and efficient use of resources, infrastructure, energy, climate change, recycling, water resources, transportation, education, and research areas were evaluated.

Founded in 2010 and starting its educational life in 2011, IZU ranked 496th in the 2019 World Greenmetric Universities ranking. Continuing its work without slow down, IZU has risen 78 steps up in the same assessment this

year, thus ranking 418 in the list and among the top 200 in Europe.

Like prestigious universities such as Oxford from Europe and California from the United States, ITU and METU from Turkey shared the first two places in the world rankings. Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University ranked 24th among all participating Turkish universities, and 4th among the private universities.

<https://www.izu.edu.tr/haberler/2020/12/08/izu-bu-yil-dan-dunyanin-en-iyi-500-universitesi-arasinda-yer-aldi>



INTERNATIONAL AWARD IN ISLAMIC ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

Since its establishment, Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University continues to be a leading academic institution in the field of Islamic Economics and Finance. This time The European Publishing group that has been keeping the pulse of the global business world in Europe and around the world, selected Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University as the "Best Education Institution in Islamic Economics and Finance" in the world in 2020.

London-based The European publishing group, which is

followed around the world, publishes on issues of energy, banking, finance, maritime, aviation and technology. Rewarding excellence in the global business world, The European has been for the last 10 years evaluating prestigious institutions around the world with the "Global Business" awards.

<https://www.izu.edu.tr/haberler/2021/01/06/izuye-islam-ekonomisi-finans-i-alaninda-uluslararasi-odul>



IZU STUDENTS GLOBALLY RECOGNIZED IN THE 2ND PLACE



IZU students: Iremnaz Cay, Sinem Sena Ertas, Merve Bosna and Moustafa Bekir have scored great success and stole the limelight with their previously produced Robot Hand project. The young people of IZU made our country proud this time with the success they won in the international competition. Our students won the 2nd place international engineering competition organized by the American Society of Mechanical Engineering (ASME) Student Mechanisms and Robot Design competition.

World's leading universities such as Harvard, Tsinghua, and Yale participated in the competition held for the 43rd time in California, USA. Iremnaz Cay, Sinem Sena Ertas, Merve Bosna and Moustafa Bekir participated with IZU Robotics GO4 team in the final stage of this important competition. The team's work "autonomous amphibious robot to

prevent marine pollution" received recognition of the jury. Hence, they made history as the first and only Turkish team to compete in the final stage of the competition with their project and design.

The final stage of the "ASME Student Mechanisms and Robot Design" competition took place on 18-21 August 2019 in California, USA. The IZU Robotics GO4 team was supervised by Dr. Gökhan Erdemir, the Vice Dean of Faculty

of Engineering and Natural Sciences. IZU Robotics GO4 team attained the second place in the world with their project "Design and Implementation of Autonomous Amphibious Robot for Water Surface Cleaning".

[https://www.izu.edu.tr/
haberler/2019/09/01/asme](https://www.izu.edu.tr/haberler/2019/09/01/asme)



ZAIM TECHNOPARK RISING

Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University completed its activities to technology development zone set for regional R&D activities and entrepreneurship ecosystem and support of university-industry cooperation. Zaim Technopark is being constructed on 55,000 square meters at Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University Halkali Campus.

By providing an environment for the development of entrepreneurial and innovative ideas and projects in thematic areas, IZU Technopark is committed to be the

leading centre in the region, whether with regards to creating new research and development models in energy and health sectors, especially in Halal Economy and Halal Food, and to become a respected brand, internationally, as the science and technology base of our country.

For detailed information and more:

<https://www.izu.edu.tr/en/home-page>



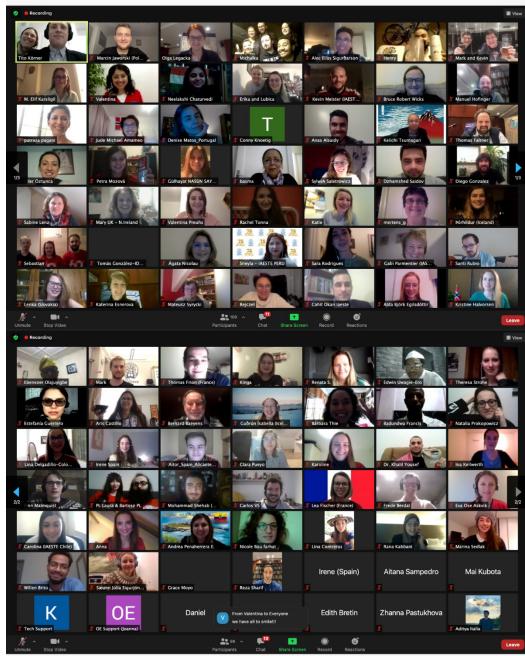
OUR GRADUATES ACHIEVED A FIRST IN THE WORLD

Arken Generator, an enterprise founded by three Istanbul Technical University (ITU) graduate electrical engineers, managed to produce the prototype for the generator that works with 100 percent biodiesel in Turkey.

<https://haberler.itu.edu.tr/en/newsdetail/2021/02/24/our-graduates-achieved-a-first-in-the-world>



74TH IAESTE ANNUAL CONFERENCE WAS HELD ONLINE



The main agenda of the 74th IAESTE Annual Conference this year, as every year, was internship quota exchanges between member countries. In the conference where nearly 3000 quotas were exchanged this year, Turkey became the 6th country with the most exchanges. After the conference, each country office will work hard in order to provide quotas for students who will do internship in different parts of the world in 2021. Students who work actively for IAESTE will have the priority to benefit from these quotas through their university representatives in Turkey as well.

<https://haberler.itu.edu.tr/en/newsdetail/2021/02/16/74th-iaeste-annual-conference-was-held-online>



EELISA EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY IS LAUNCHED

“European Engineering Learning Innovation and Science Alliance” (EELISA), whose partners include our university, is one of the European University initiatives selected for support as a result of the second call. EELISA, formed by nine universities from seven countries, was launched on November 1, 2020.

<https://haberler.itu.edu.tr/en/home/2021/02/14/eelisa-european-university-is-launched>



KIRKLARELİ UNIVERSITY HOSTED II. SUMMIT OF THE “WORLD UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT”

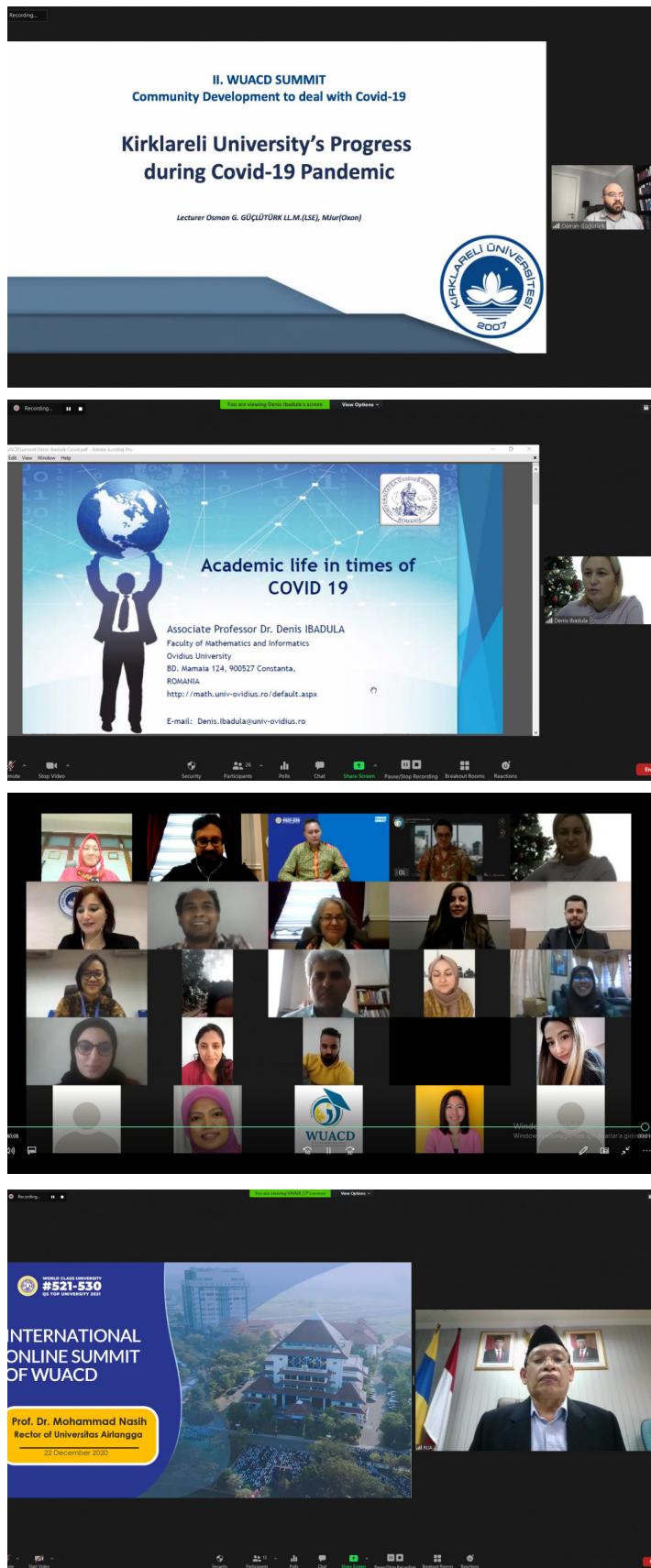
Kırklareli University (Turkey) hosted II. Summit of the “World Universities Association for Community Development” as one of the founding members of WUACD. The meeting was held online on December 22, 2020.

University representatives from seven different countries including Turkey, Indonesia, Malaysia, Bangladesh, Philippines, Romania, and Australia were present at the summit. The program started with introductory videos about Turkey, Kırklareli University and WUACD. After that, Prof. Dr. Neziha Musaoğlu, Vice-Rector of the Kırklareli University, presented the message of Rector of the Kırklareli University, Prof. Dr. Bülent Şengörür. It was stressed that; “Member universities will try to contribute to community development not only at the regional level but also at the global level, through research and projects that they will jointly carry out in accordance with the mission of social responsibility.”

The program proceeded with the workshop entitled “Community Development to deal with Covid-19”, which was moderated by the International Relations Office Coordinator of Kırklareli University, Assist. Prof. Neriman Hocağlu Bahadir.

Assoc. Prof. Mehmet Fatih Çömlekçi conducted the first presentation and provided insight about social responsibility and community development strategies of the Kırklareli University. After that, Dr. Agus Harianto, a member of the Universitas Airlangga Medicine Faculty, made his presentation about “Floating Hospitals” and their missions in terms of providing health care for island residents. As the third presenter, Lecturer Osman GüçlüTÜRK gave some information regarding distance education practices of the Kırklareli University during the Covid-19 pandemic. Finally, Assoc. Prof. Denis Ibadula, member of Ovidius University (Romania), contributed to the workshop with her presentation entitled “Academic Life in times of Covid-19”. After the presentations, speakers and participants discussed and shared their opinions on various subjects regarding practices of higher education institutions during the extraordinary conditions of the pandemic.

At the end of the workshop, Kırklareli University representatives shared certificates showing trees planted in different parts of Turkey in the name of the participants. Afterward, the annual board meeting of WUACD took place with the participation of the founding members of the Association. Rector of Universitas Airlangga, Prof. Dr. Mohammad Nasih participated in the board meeting. Members discussed the plans and upcoming activities of the WUACD.



DR. KÜBRA FETTAHOĞLU RECEIVED “TURKISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES” AWARD



Faculty member of Kırklareli University History Department, Dr. Kübra Fettahoğlu received “Fuat Sezgin Special Award-2020” as part of Turkish Academy of Sciences (TÜBA) Scientific Authored Book Award Programme

(TESEP) with her work entitled “Rasathane-i Âmire”. President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan gave the award to Dr. Fettahoğlu at a ceremony held at the Presidential Complex.



INTERNATIONAL PATENT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL HEARING STUDIES RESEARCH AND APPLICATION CENTER

The invention of Trakya University International Hearing Studies Research and Application Center named “A New Electrode Frequency Coding Method to Increase Spatial Selectivity and Speech Discrimination in Cochlear Implant” received an international patent from the Australian Patent Institute



With the invention “A New Electrode Frequency Coding Method to Increase Spatial Selectivity and Speech Discrimination in Cochlear Implant” developed by Trakya University International Hearing Studies Research and Application Center Director Prof. Dr. Cem Uzun and Deputy Director Assoc Dr. Erdoğan Bulut, İstanbul University Cerrahpaşa Faculty of Health Sciences Head of Audiology Department Prof. Dr. Ahmet Ataş and Vice President Dr. Öğr Eyyüp Kara’s invention titled “A Novel Method Of Frequency Coding Of An Electrode To Promote Spatial Selectivity and Speech Discrimination in Cochlear Implants” received an “international patent” from the Australian Patent Institute.

Inventors Prof Dr Cem Uzun and Associate Prof Dr Erdogan Bulut paid a visit to Rector Prof Dr Erhan Tabakoğlu to submit the patent document. Providing information about the invention during the visit, Director of the Center Prof. Dr. Cem Uzun stated that with a new mechanism they explained the differentiation of sounds at different frequencies in the inner ear, based on the fact that the efficiency of the existing

auxiliary prostheses in hearing is not at the desired level. Stating that the invention has the potential to change the basic working principle of hearing technologies, Prof. Dr. Cem Uzun made the following statements regarding the invention:

“Before our invention, the frequency separation of the cochlea was explained by von Bekesy’s Radiating Wave Theory”. In the light of the studies, it has been shown that this theorem cannot fully explain the frequency separation of the cochlea and now, the cochlea is a bionic amplifier that receives, analyzes and transmits sound. While the efficiency of auxiliary prostheses and cochlear implant devices in hearing measurement devices is around 70% at most, we will be able to increase this rate with the data obtained as a result of the studies we have done in our invention. Our invention will change the basic working principle of existing technologies and the software algorithm and hardware accordingly.”

HISTORICAL SIGNATURE FROM TRAKYA UNIVERSITY IN THE BALKANS: "KOSOVA TECHNOPARK" COMES TO LIFE

A Protocol Signing Ceremony for “Kosovo Technopark” was held between the Kosovo Ministry of Industry and Trade and Trakya University...

The “Technopark” model, the center of innovation, R&D and technology, is moving towards Kosovo with Trakya University. Thanks to the protocol signed between Trakya University Rector Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoglu and Kosovo Minister of Industry and Trade Vesel Krasniqi, the first steps of Kosovo Technopark are being taken. The new structure, which will implement Trakya Technopark model and be a first for Kosovo, is aimed at contributing to the economic, technological and innovative development of the Balkans, especially Kosovo.

The dialogues between Trakya University and the Kosovo delegations, which have been ongoing since October 2020, have begun to yield results and the two delegations signed a protocol in the capital of Kosova, Pristina. Rector of Trakya Univers Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoglu, Vice Rector and Director of the International Relations Application and Research Center Prof. Dr. Murat Türkyılmaz, General Manager of Trakya Teknopark A. Ş. Assist.Dr. Özgür Özdemir and Private Secretary and Press Advisor Inst. Kivanç Ada joined the meeting as the representatives of Trakya University; The Kosovo delegation was joined by Industry and Trade Minister Vesel Krasniqi, Undersecretary of Ministry Gentiana Islamaj, Cabinet Chief Albert Maxhuni, Director General Kreshnik Thaqi and Ministerial Advisor Mert Ashkferki. Levent Bush, a graduate of Trakya University, Senior Advisor to the Minister of Regional Development for Kosovo and head

of the Prizren Branch of the Democratic Turkish Party of Kosovo, who worked hard to bring the Kosovo Technopark idea to life, also joined the ceremony at the Kosovo Ministry of Industry and Trade building on January 19th, 2021.

Rector of Trakya University Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu: “Like all our services to Kosovo and the Balkans, the Technopark model is also a manifestation of our love for the Balkans.”

Rector Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu stated that they see Kosovo as a friend and sister country and strive for the development of relations between the two countries every day, Trakya University Rector Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu said, “We took our first steps today with Kosova Teknopark and carry our unique knowledge in this field to our heartland. As Trakya University, we have not expected anything in our studies to date, and we will not enter hereupon. Like all our services to Kosovo and the Balkans, the Technopark model is a manifestation of our love of the Balkans.” The Rector stated that they continue to work continuously to support the development of all Balkans, especially Kosovo, to enable them to produce their own values, to produce projects in order to contribute to economic development and to implement them continuously. Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu said, “We are at the service of the Balkans unconditionally in all fields from education to health, culture and science with the power we receive from our country. Today, we are

signing a historical protocol and offering the assets held by Turkey and Trakya University to the service of the Balkans."

Rector Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoglu added "We are proud to add the Technopark model to Turkey's export items." He stated that Trakya Teknopark has a great potential with 81 companies and 270 employees, plays an important role in the production and development of high value-added products needed by Turkish industry, and contributes to domestic and national production mobilization, Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoglu said, "While the products and services produced here are included in our export items, today we export our technopark model to friend and sister country Kosovo. With this step, we believe that friendly relations between the two countries will be strengthened. Trakya Teknopark, which opens its doors to companies in many fields from information to technology, education to R; D; share his experience, knowledge and horizons with Kosovo.

This is a historic step for Kosovo and the Balkans. We aim to make very important contributions to Kosovo's economic and technological development with the technopark model we will carry here. Thanks to our collaboration with the Kosovo Ministry of Industry and Trade, we will offer new employment opportunities to Kosovo youth. By preventing brain drain, we will accelerate Kosovo's development in every sense. The technopark, which will sprout here, will also offer important opportunities for Turkish companies planning to expand abroad. I wish our protocol to be auspicious, and I would like to thank our esteemed graduate, Kosovo Regional Development Minister Senior Advisor and Head of the Prizren Branch of the Democratic Turkish Party of Kosovo, Levent Bush, for his contributions and efforts, together with the delegation of Trakya University and the Kosovo Ministry of Industry and Trade. Our wish is to carry our technopark model to different Balkan countries, especially Macedonia, after Kosovo, with the strength we have received from Turkey's Balkans policy. We will continue our studies on this issue without slowing down."

Kosovo Minister of Industry and Trade Vesel Krasniqi said: "On behalf of Kosovo and the Balkans, we wholeheartedly thank Turkey and Trakya University."

Minister Vesel Krasniqi stated that it is one of the historical days for Kosovo, Kosovo Industry and Trade Minister Vesel Krasniqi expressed great pleasure in creating an employment by directing Kosovo youth to technology, R&D and innovation within the country's borders thanks to the Kosovo Technopark they will implement in Pristina with the support of Trakya University. Minister Vesel Krasniqi thanked Trakya University, which enthusiastically and gladly

carried out all the planning and modeling of this step. We feel this support of the Republic of Turkey, which was the first country to recognize the young Republic of Kosovo years ago, on all issues and strongly today.

Today, we have added another one to the cooperation between Turkey and Kosovo. On behalf of Kosovo and the Balkans, we would like to sincerely thank Turkey, a friend and sister country that supports our students' education, the treatment of our patients and many other occasions, and Trakya University, one of the most valuable educational institutions in the Balkan geography. It is very valuable for us that Trakya University has been a follower of this step decisively since the first moment the idea of technopark emerged and has taken the work to this stage by fulfilling all its promises. When this idea came up in October 2020, the esteemed Rector of Trakya University, our friend Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoglu and his esteemed colleagues took care of this work. After the negotiations conducted by the upper and lower working groups, we reached the stage of signing this protocol today in a very short time. I would like to thank Turkey and its distinguished university, Trakya University, on behalf of the people of Kosovo, Rector Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoglu and his teammates, who have supported us with great motivation, determination and perseverance and took responsibility for Kosovo's development."



PATENT FROM THE USA SUPPORT FROM KOSGEB (SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION) FOR THE PROJECT DEVELOPED IN TRAKYA UNIVERSITY

EDİRNE, (DHA) - The 'Drier with Solar Radiation Simulation' project, developed by TRAKYA University (TÜ) Vice Rector and Professor of Chemistry Department Prof Dr Murat Türkyılmaz and Artun Aksoy, was registered by the American Patent Institute and became the first academic project to be supported and commercialized by KOSGEB in Thrace region.

Prof. Dr. Murat Türkyılmaz expressed that they were happy about the device they developed together with Artun Aksoy and named "Dryer that imprisons the sun in it" got a patent. Stating that the device is a patented and commercialized product after 5 years, Türkyılmaz said, "We evaluate the journey of our product in two stages ; patent and commercialization process. In the commercialization process, we transferred the product we developed with the R&D and Innovation Support Program from KOSGEB and than the Industrial Application Support Program to VISYS Machine Industry company last year. With this transfer, our product has been commercialized. In Turkey, considering that the commercialization rate of patents and know-how are around 2-3 per cent, we already understand the importance of our work

THE CENTER BASE OF THE PROJECT, TRAKYA TECHNOPARK

Expressing that they carried out the project as Sis Biotechnology firm located in Trakya Technopark, which is the epicenter of technology, R&D and innovation, Murat Türkyılmaz said, "The tests of the food products dried on the device were carried out by accredited laboratories and very positive results were obtained regarding the hygiene of the products. Considering that our country aims to increase its share of 9.5 billion dollars, or approximately 11 percent in the world dried fruit trade to 25 percent in 2023, the importance of R&D studies that can be made for this sector is better understood. Especially the export of dry food must comply with the European Union Compliance Laws and these laws oblige the hygienic storage and export of agricultural products. Our country causes losses every year by returning the products that are contaminated above the limit values. From this point of view, the value of the invention is better understood".

**"THE FIRST ACADEMIC PROJECT COMMERCIALIZED IN THRACE "**

Noting that one of the special purposes of universities is to ensure the commercialization of information by transforming it into products and transferring it to the industry in line with the needs of industrial organizations, Türkyılmaz said, "Especially after the pandemic, there has been a revival in our universities and many products have been put forward in the short term. Our product, which won the second prize in the "3rd Trakya R&D and Technology Project Market Competition" organized by the cooperation of the Trakya Development Agency and the Trakya Universities Association, is a successful example of university-industry cooperation and has all the know-how and patent rights registered by the American Patent Institute. These rights were purchased by VISYS Machine Company. Our product was commercialized and started industrial production. This project, which is the first commercialized product in the Thrace Region, has been a good example project application for researchers in Turkish universities."

THE THREE HOLY HIERARCHS CELEBRATION FEAST DAY OF THE GREEK LETTERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOANNINA

On January 30th, the Orthodox Church celebrates the Three Holy Hierarchs: Basil the Great, Gregory the Theologian and John Chrysostom. The three are venerated as the patron saints of the Greek Letters and Education.

The University of Ioannina celebrates the Feast Day of the Three Hierarchs every year, with a ceremony during which a ceremonial speech is delivered by a faculty member of the academic community, a music performance is held, while at the closing, an honour is bestowed by the Rector and Vice-Rectors upon retiring colleagues.

However, due to the pandemic the Feast Day this year was held online. During a live streaming event, in the presence of the Vice-Rectors, Prof. Minas I. Paschopoulos, and Stavros D. Nikolopoulos, more than 500 people worldwide attended the ceremonial speech delivered by the Rector of the University of Ioannina, Professor Triantafyllos A.D. Almanidis, entitled: «Cappadocia: The region, the history and the civilization of the birthplace of the Hierarchs».

In his speech the Rector underlined the fact that the Three Hierarchs not only made key contributions to theological doctrines but also advanced cultural aspects,

reforming ancient greek philosophy. He underscored the importance of Cappadocia as a small region of exceptional natural wonders which developed financially and culturally, distanced from the major traditional power centers and gave rise to significant personalities, such as the Three Hierarchs.

The ceremony closed with a virtual honour bestowed upon the members of the academic community who retired last year.



THE XI EURASIAN CONFERENCE ON LANGUAGE AND SOCIAL SCIENCES STARTS AT THE UNIVERSITY "FEHMI AGANI" IN GJAKOVA



On the 2nd of the February, 2021, virtually at the University "Fehmi Agani" in Gjakova is held the XI Eurasian Conference on Language and Social Sciences, organized by the University "Fehmi Agani" in Gjakova and YADER. The Conference was attended by academic scientists from 20 countries. Scientific papers consist of fields of topics for: economics, linguistics and language studies, law, educational sciences, psychology and counseling, literary studies, geographical studies, business management and administration, religious studies and sociology.

Link: <https://uni-gjk.org/en/lajme/1734/xi-eurasian-conference-on-language-and-social-sciences-kicks-off-at-fehmi-agani-university-in-gjakova>



"FEHMI AGANI UNIVERSITY MARKS THE INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Fehmi Agani University in Gjakova marks the International Holocaust Remembrance Day, which this year is dedicated to the Austrian-Jewish albanologist Norbert Jokl, organized by the Kosovo Jewish Organization (KJO) and the Institute for the Spiritual and Cultural Heritage of Albanians in Skopje. Rector of the University "Fehmi Agani" in Gjakova, Prof. Ass. Dr. Artan Nimani stressed the important role of Albanians in rescuing Jews, who in their families have sheltered many Jews who had fled from other countries, or lived in Kosovo and Albania.

Link: <https://uni-gjk.org/en/lajme/1728/ufagj-marks-international-holocaust-remembrance-day>



TUTOR STUDENTS AT FEHMI AGANI UNIVERSITY ARE SELECTED

Rector of the University "Fehmi Agani" in Gjakova, Prof. Ass. Dr. Artan Nimani and the Board of the Didactic Center for Teaching Excellence (DCTE), headed by Prof. Ass. Dr. Drita Kadriu met the tutoring students. At this meeting, the tutors were informed about the schedule and the tasks they will perform, and the coordinator of the tutors was selected. The tutoring students at Fehmi Agani University aim to assist

students in their academic difficulties by representing them and displaying their requests and suggestions for improvement and helping them with academic setbacks.

Link: <https://uni-gjk.org/en/lajme/1825/tutor-students-at-fehmi-agani-university-are-selected>

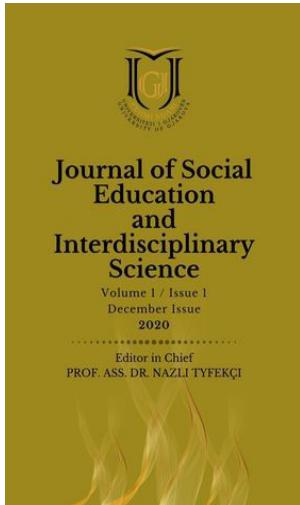
**UFAGJ STUDENTS TOGETHER WITH THE RED CROSS-BRANCH IN GJAKOVA HELPED THE FAMILIES AFFECTED BY THE FLOODS**

Pursuant to the joint agreement, the students of the University "Fehmi Agani" in Gjakova and the Kosovo Red Cross-branch in Gjakova, as a result of the floods donated food, cakes and clothes to families in need, which are located in the building of Gjakova Airport. Rector Nimani congratulated the students who in this difficult time for families, expressed their willingness to contribute.

Link: <https://uni-gjk.org/en/lajme/1647/ufagj-students-together-with-the-red-cross-branch-in-gjakova-helped-the-families-affected-by-the-floods>



THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL JSEIS IS PUBLISHED - JOURNAL OF SOCIAL EDUCATION AND INTERDISCIPLINARY SCIENCE



JSEIS is the official journal of the University "FEHMI AGANI" in Gjakova, the main purpose of which is to publish research in the sciences of social education and interdisciplinary. The journal is on the OJS (Open Journal Systems) platform, with open access to the management and publication of scientific journals. JSEIS is published twice a year (in July and December) and welcomes quality papers that reflect a wide range of perspectives, topics, contexts, methods that reflect interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary work.

Link: <https://uni-gjk.org/en/lajme/1504/the-first-issue-of-the-scientific-journal-jseis-is-published-journal-of-social-education-and-interdisciplinary-science>



Scientific journal link:

<https://jseis.uni-gjk.org/index.php/jseis/index>



THE OMBUDSPERSON OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GJAKOVA "FEHMI AGANI" IS ELECTED

The Steering Council of the University of Gjakova on the 9th of December 2020 voted in favor of the request of the Senate and with 7 votes in favor and no against approved the Regulation on the University Ombudsman and for a four-year term elected the first Ombudsman of UGJFA, Prof. Dr. Bajram Nuraj, in order to protect the rights, interests and freedoms of members of the university community such as students, educational staff, other participants in the higher education process and to improve the quality of the educational process and the work of the University.

Link: <https://uni-gjk.org/en/lajme/1464/university-of-gjakova-fehmi-agani-has-elected-the-ombudsperson>



AWARENESS CAMPAIGN WAS HELD AGAINST COVID - 19

Students of the University of Gjakova 'Fehmi Agani' organized an awareness campaign against Covid-19. This campaign was organized in cooperation with the Vice Rector, Prof.Assoc.Dr. Haxhi Kamberi and the Rector, Prof.Ass.Dr. Artan Nimani. The campaign lasted three days and within these days all participating students from the University of Gjakova 'Fehmi Agani' distributed leaflets, masks, disinfectants, temperature measurement and placement of warning stickers in places frequented by citizens.



THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AUF PROJECT CONTINUES

The implementation of the AUF project "Protection and prevention of the spread of COVID-19" continues, organized by the University of Gjakova in cooperation with Medica Kosova. (with a special focus on the women of Safe Homes in Gjakova and Peja). "This project led by the University of Gjakova" Fehmi Agani "and funded by the University Agency of Francophonie - AUF, in cooperation with Medica Kosova has realized Meetings with the women of the Safe House in

Gjakova and their children Women have expressed their difficulties in dealing with long isolation and discussed different ways of dealing with the Covid pandemic 19.

Link: <https://uni-gjk.org/en/lajme/1330/the-implementation-of-the-auf-project-is-continuing>

**UNIVERSITY OF GJAKOVA PART OF THE WORKSHOP WITHIN RESEARCHCULT**

On the 6th and 7th of October, staff members of the University of Gjakova are participating in the workshop "University Guidelines for Research Support Services and Strategic Research Plans", which is being held online as part of the project "Improving the research culture in education high of Kosovo". This workshop was organized by Sapienza University in Rome and IBCM as the project coordinator, with the support of the University of Zagreb and the University of National and World Economics from Bulgaria. The activity of this workshop is the support of Kosovo universities to develop regulations for the establishment and functioning of university research offices.

Link: <https://uni-gjk.org/en/lajme/1341/university-of-gjakova-part-of-the-workshop-within-researchcult>

**ResearchCULT**

Enhancing Research Culture in Kosovo HE

3RD FILM FESTIVAL "REFLECTION OF DISABILITY IN ART (RODI)"



For the third consecutive year the University of Macedonia organized from 3 to 10 December 2020 the 3rd Festival titled "The reflection of Disability in Art - Reflection of Disability in Art" with the acronym RoDi. The Festival was held under the auspices of the President of the Greek Republic MRS Katerina Sakellaropoulou and was under the auspices of the Thessaloniki Film Festival. The purpose of the Festival is to support and promote the social inclusion of people with disabilities through their participation in cultural events in any role they wish, as actors, directors, volunteers or simply as spectators.

The cultural program of the Festival, which is posted on the website of the Festival, <https://rodi.uom.gr/program/>, included screenings of films by Greek and foreign producers, musical performances, art exhibitions and many more.



YOUNG DIPLOMATS @ THE BRITISH EMBASSY

An original training program entitled "Young Diplomats @ the British Embassy" was developed from the Department of International and European Studies of the University of Macedonia, in collaboration with the British Embassy in Greece. Fifteen students of the Department took on the role of young diplomats and advised the Ambassador of the UK in Greece on the priorities of the United Kingdom Foreign Policy after the BREXIT in Greece, Europe. Specifically, fourth-year students of the Department, attending the course of Modern Diplomacy, Economics and Business, submitted proposals for four different priorities of British Foreign Policy on the topics of: a) Greece-UK relations. post-Brexit, b) climate change policies, c) soft power opportunities and d) Western Balkans issues.

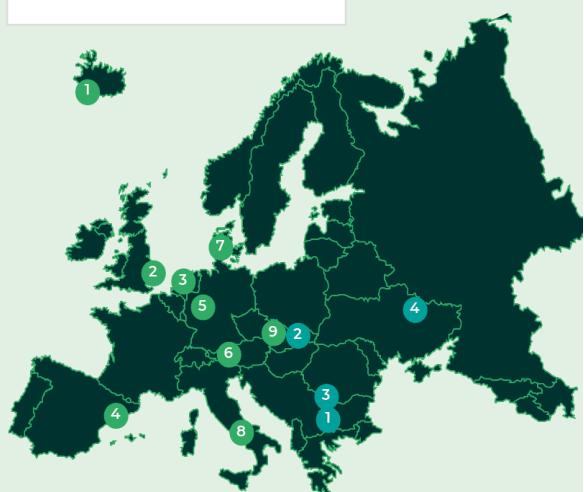
The program was developed by Assistant Professor and supervisor Mrs. Rebecca Paidi, in collaboration with the First Secretary of the Embassy Mr. Richard North and Dr. Alexandrou Nafpliotis, Head of Political Affairs of the Embassy with responsibility in Northern Greece and Western Balkans.

<https://www.uom.gr/9372-foithes-kai-foithries-toy-panepisthmiou-makedonias-symboleyoyn-th-bretanida-presbh-sthn-ellada-kate-smith-gia-tis-proteriothtes-ths-bratanikhs-eksoterikhs-politikhs-meta-to-brexit>



UNIVERSITY OF TETOVA PART OF THE PRESTIGIOUS AURORA EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES NETWORK

AURORA ALLIANCE MEMBERS:



ASSOCIATE PARTNERS:

- 1 SOUTHWEST UNIVERSITY "NEOFIT RILSKY"
- 2 PAVOL JOZEF ŠAFÁRIK UNIVERSITY
- 3 UNIVERSITY OF TETOVA
- 4 KARAZIN UNIVERSITY

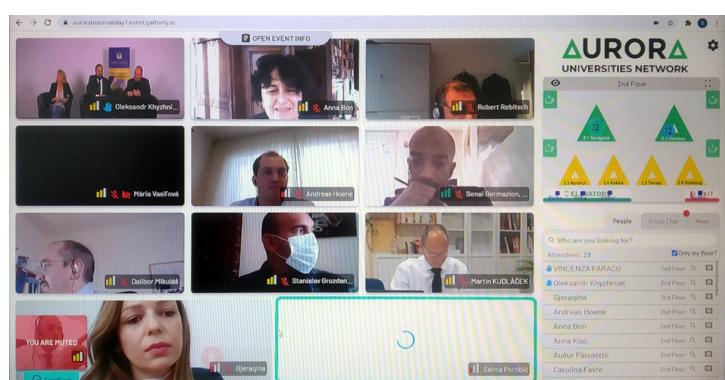
On November 4, 2020 was held the inaugural meeting of the university alliance, called AURORA. The University of Tetova is an associate partner in this prestigious network universities within the Erasmus + program.

The meeting focused on the unveiling of the Capacity Development and Support Program, which aims to reduce disparities between leading countries in the field of research and enhance the positive role of universities in society.

During this virtual meeting, led by Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam in the Netherlands and Palacky University Olomouc in the Czech Republic, the Vice-Rector for International Relations, Asst. Prof. Dr. Shefik Shehu, and the Head of the Project Management Office, Mr. Sc. Gjeraqina Leka, presented the networking of the University of Tetova and the social positioning in the Republic of North Macedonia and in the region.

During the joint discussion, were discussed the possibilities of forming special academic teams within each university for the realization of the goals and activities of the project. In this

context, Vice- Rector Shehu suggested focusing on expanding cooperation between members of the AURORA network in other areas, including the sub-programs of the Erasmus + platform, a suggestion which was welcomed by other participants as a proper approach toward the strengthening networking and building scientific research capacities in a mutual way.



PUBLICATIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TETOVA - PART OF THE LITERATURE OF THE PRESTIGIOUS CENTERS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Libraries centers, prestigious institutions from our country and international arena are already equipped with scientific publications of the University of Tetova. The publications, respectively the scientific journals of the faculties of the University of Tetova, have been sent to some of the main institutions in our country and region, but also and to the prestigious international centers in the European Union and the United States of America.

International Relations Office and Office for Scientific Research and Innovations of the UT announce that: The Presidency of Germany, the German Bundestag, the Chancellor of Germany, Presidency of the United States, Presidency of France, Presidency of Italy, Prime Minister of Spain, Chancellor of Austria, Kingdom of England, Prime Minister of England, German National Library-Germany, Library of Congresses – Humanities and Social Division – Washington, National Assembly of France – Strasbourg, French Prime Ministry – Paris, French Presidency – Paris, National Central Library of Rome – Italy, Presidency of Spain – Madrid, National Library of Spain – Madrid, Philippe Leopold Louis Marie – Brussels, Belgian Prime Ministry – Brussels, Belgian Presidency – Brussels, Presidency of the Swiss Confederation – Bern, President of the Swiss National Council – Bern, Swiss National Library – Bern, President of the National Council of Vienna – Austria, Austrian National Library – Vienna, Polish Presidency – Warsaw, Polish Prime Ministry – Warsaw, Presidency of the Sejm – Warsaw, National Library of Poland – Warsaw, Presidency of India – New Delhi, Prime Ministry of India

– New Delhi, National Library of India “Belvedere” – Calcutta, Parliament of India – New Delhi, Presidency of Ireland – Dublin, Prime Ministry of Ireland – Dublin, National Library of Ireland – Dublin, The British Library – London, Hague Tribunal – Netherlands, European Court on Human Rights – Strasbourg, Northern Illinois University – DeKalb, Chicago, Kingdom of Denmark – Copenhagen, Danish Parliament – Copenhagen, The Royal Danish Library – Copenhagen, Prime Ministry of Finland – Helsinki, Presidency of Finland – Helsinki, Parliament of Finland – Helsinki, National Library of Finland – Helsinki,

Prime Ministry of Norway – Oslo, Presidency of Norway – Oslo, National Library of Norway – Oslo, The Prime Ministry of Sweden – Stockholm, Parliament of Sweden – Stockholm, National Library of Sweden – Stockholm, Kingdom of the Netherlands – The Hague, Dutch Prime Ministry – The Hague, Parliament of the Netherlands – The Hague, International Court of Justice – The Hague, Library of the Court, International Court of Justice – The Hague, National Library of the Netherlands – The Hague, Presidency of Turkey – Ankara, Parliament of Turkey – Ankara, National Library of Turkey – Ankara, Magna Charta Universitatum – Bologna, European Parliament – Strasbourg, European Defense Agency – Brussels, European Commission – Brussels, Pope Francis – Vatican, The Vatican Library -Bibliotheca Apostolica Vaticana, United Nations – Geneva, NATO – Brussels, (EUA) European University Association-Brussels, OSCE – Vienna, BUA (Balkan Universities Association) – Trakya, The Parliament of Albania, Government of Albania – Council of Ministers, Presidency of the Republic of Albania, National Library of Albania, The Academy of Albanological Studies, University of Tirana, Assembly of Kosovo, Government of the Republic of Kosovo, Presidency of the Republic of Kosovo, National Library of Kosovo, Albanological Institute – Pristina, University of Pristina, Presidency of the Republic of North Macedonia, Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, Academy of Sciences and Arts in RNM, Saints Cyril and Methodius University, South East European University-Tetovo, Mother Teresa University Skopje, Institute for



Spiritual and Cultural Heritage of Albanians- are some of the institutions which will already have in their libraries the selected publications of the University of Tetova.

Rector of UT, Prof. Dr. Vullnet Ameti, emphasizes that the institution he leads, has sent to the above-mentioned institutions a selection of publications from a wide field of research, respectively four selected journals, which represent the commitment and dedication of the University of Tetova in the field of research, education and human values.

"All four publications represent gratitude for the values that we should appreciate and elevate, such as: dignity, love, respect, courage, tolerance, equality, solidarity and wisdom. A selection of articles on the figure of Saint (Mother) Teresa, about her life, work, and humanism, in a best way represents the greatness of this figure, that has given so much to the world and represents a perfect embodiment of these values. Another our publication exalts the life and work of the founder of the University of Tetova, the figure of the First Historical Rector of the University of Tetova, Prof. Dr. Fadil Sulejmani. In addition, a selection of

articles on the personality of Adem Demaçi and the protests of 1968, refer stories of resistance and bravery, in an effort to ensure a dignified life for all those who were deprived of life and liberty" – said the Rector, Prof. Dr. Vullnet Ameti in his communication with heads of institutions.

In recent years, the University of Tetova has published a series of scientific publications of thirteen faculties, which elaborate the research of hundreds of researchers – participants in seminars, symposiums, scientific conferences, roundtables, debates and other activities with educational character.

AT THE UT WAS HELD THE IV INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE CONGRESS OF MATERIALS AND POLYMERS

University of Tetova hosted the IV International Science Congress of Materials and Polymers. This congress was held in cooperation with Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University of Turkey, Turkish Chemists Society, Tunisian Chemists Society, Society of Chemists and Technologists of Macedonia, University of Tirana, Polytechnic University of Tirana, University of Prishtina, Management and Science University of Malaysia and Sarajevo.

At the solemn opening of the congress proceedings, the Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Prof. Dr. Alit Ibraimi, stated that such congresses are always welcome, as they serve the educational-scientific cause. "Considering the circumstances of Covid -19, the IV International Science Congress of Materials and Polymers was organized online. I wish this congress to be fruitful for all participants, both for you who are following us directly through the screens, and for you who are participants within this audience. Our society has problems of various natures. All of these can begin to be solved by bringing together scientists and sharing their knowledge and experiences. I wish all participants to be as active as possible and I have no doubt that they will remain satisfied with the lectures of the selected professionals" – said the Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Prof. Dr. Alit Ibraimi.

The co-organizer of this congress and at the same time Vice-dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Asst. Prof. Dr. Arianit Reka, emphasized that from such congresses we have great benefits, as we can learn from the international experience of scientists invited from different countries of the world.

"This is the fourth time we have organized this congress, but it is the first time that we have organized such a congress online. Scientists from different countries are gathered, we have participants from Japan, Germany, Spain, Macedonia, Iran and so on, who are high-level scientists, with great research and achievements. In addition, we have visitors,



online participants who are from Turkey, Macedonia, Bosnia, Serbia, and Kosovo, Albania. We have also second and third cycle students, who present their results" - said the Vice-dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Prof. Dr. Arianit Reka.

Well-known scientists and visiting professors presented their work online, highlighting the following topics: Strategic design of drug core structure – anti-fibrosis compounds

arisen from restructuring of the bleomycin metal core, by Masami Otsuka, Carboranes in medicinal chemistry by Evamarie Hey-Hawkins, Design and application of biosensors based on graphene-related materials by Arben Merkoçi, Design of contemporary green processes for water and wastewater treatment by Kiril Tome Lisichkov, Thermally induced shape memory polymers, by Metin H. Acar, and Fiber based electronic devices and sensors by Roohollah Bagherzadeh.

Due to limitations as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, this congress was conducted online and focused on the field of materials and polymers, revealing in detail the various processes and issues related to them.

UT ORGANIZED THE XIV INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR OF ALBANOLOGY

At the University of Tetova took place the proceedings of the XIV edition of the International Seminar of Albanology. "Challenges of (non) implementation of the Law on languages in North Macedonia and mistakes in the use of standard Albanian" was the main topic of the Seminar, while scholars of Albanian language and literature from the country and the region discussed about this topic. The seminar conducted its proceedings through the online platform, because our University, since the spread of the global pandemic COVID-19, has strictly adhered to the recommendations of the authorities, to comply with all health protocols to protect against the Corona virus. On behalf of the University of Tetova and the Rector, Prof. Dr. Vullnet Ameti, the participants in this conference were addressed by the Vice-Rector for International Relations, Asst. Prof. Dr. Shefik Shehu. He initially congratulated the directorate of the Seminar for organizing this scientific event in these circumstances, when

the whole world is facing the largest wave of Covid-19 of infections. "At the beginning, I would like to congratulate the directorate of the Seminar of Albanology for its work and dedication that even in these unusual circumstances for events of this level, managed through this alternative-online form, to organize the XIV edition of the Seminar of this year. As I thank the participants, the scientific staff, who, despite the above-mentioned situation, with their devotion contribute to outline the tradition and keep alive the research spirit of the previous editions" - said the Vice-Rector for International Relations, Asst. Prof. Dr. Shefik Shehu.

Regarding the topic of the Seminar, the Vice-Rector for International Relations, Asst. Prof. Dr. Shefik Shehu, said that it is extremely current, but also quite complex. "We all know that in our country the Law on the Use of Languages has been adopted, that has to do with the citizens of our country, who speak a language other than Macedonian, which constitutes at least 20% of the population. The issue of language use is part of the Ohrid Agreement. With the adoption of this Law, it is assumed that most of the language implementation will be completed. However, what constitutes interest and the reason for this meeting is the analysis of barriers to the implementation of the Law on the Use of Languages in the Republic of North Macedonia and how much standard Albanian is respected in our educational, scientific, cultural, administrative institutions and so on. The competent authorities, respectively the experts on this issue emphasize that the Law on the Use of Languages has a certain horizontal extension as well as a vertical dimension. Includes local government bodies as well as large parts of central government. Pursuant to this Law, the Albanian language and its alphabet will be spoken, respectively will be written in all central government bodies of the RNM, in central institutions, in public enterprises, in agencies, directorates, in organizations, in entities, in commissions, etc," - emphasized Asst. Prof. Dr. Shefik Shehu.

Director of the Seminar of Albanology, Prof. Dr. Salajdin Salihu, said that this year, due to the protocols against the epidemic, we are forced to reduce the accompanying activities of the Seminar and to work and act in emergency conditions, which are unfavorable for mental activity. He further added that due to the "new normal" they have been forced to focus the Seminar on one session and in one topic, in order to preserve continuity, tradition and remain hopeful that in the coming years they will return to the original concept of the seminar, with all sessions: literature, linguistics, history, ethnoculture and media.



Regarding the topic of the Seminar, Director Prof. Dr. Salajdin Salihu said that this year it is related to the language policy in North Macedonia, but also in other Albanian areas. "The past proves that the logic of cultural, national and linguistic domination has encouraged social antagonisms over the years. Albanian is the language of a nomadic population in North Macedonia, so it cannot be treated as a second-class language nor underestimated by political compromises. Because no one has the right for compromises that contradict the historical right. Following the new Law on languages in the Republic of North Macedonia, has been created space for a wider institutional use of Albanian language, but it often happens that the will of the leaders of public institutions to stand above the legal obligations. There are often improvisations that produce comic effects. Institutions, to fulfill a legal obligation, often use "(shqipishtën) Albanian" instead of Albanian. They translate texts with Google engines, that ironizes Umberto

Eco. The Albanian language belongs to everyone and we should all work for it. Language stays with us even when everyone abandons us, says one poet. The Albanian language is beautiful and has great expressive abilities. It has expressive ability due to dialects, that are self-fulfilling and not self-excluding. They are like rivers that enrich the linguistic ocean. It is rich because of its ability to absorb words from other languages, which has adapted to it over the centuries. Other languages borrowed words from the Albanian language, even at the dawn of civilization " - said Prof. Dr. Salajdin Salihu.

This year, the International Seminar of Albanology conducted its proceedings in only one session, which was chaired by the Dean of the Faculty of Philology of the University of Tetova, Prof. Dr. Berton Sulejmani, and the Head of the study program of Albanian Language and Literature, Prof. Dr. Emine Shabani.



VFU "CHERNORIZETS HRABAR" WAS HONOURED WITH THREE PRESTIGIOUS AWARDS

Varna Free University "Chernorizets Hrabar" was honoured with three prestigious Varna Awards:

- Research team headed by Assoc. Prof. Krasimir Nedyalkov, PhD - President of VFU "Chernorizets Hrabar" and Vladimir Bronfenbrener for the project "Black Sea Security Academy".
- Prof. Yonko Kunchev, D.Sc. - Dean of the Faculty of Law at VFU "Chernorizets Hrabar" - for the development of the study module in Criminalistics and the only complex master's degree programme in Forensic Science at Varna Free University, as well as for the book "General Theory of Forensic Science".
- Research team headed by Assoc. Prof. Galina Momcheva, PhD - Head of the Department of Informatics at VFU "Chernorizets Hrabar" and Assoc. Prof. Stoyan Pavlov, PhD from the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology at Medical University - Varna - for a project of VFU "Chernorizets Hrabar" and Medical University "Prof. Dr Paraskev Stoyanov" for the creation and development of a research interuniversity ecosystem for analysis of biomedical images - BioMed Varna.

Varna Award is given to citizens by citizens! That is why I believe in the objective assessment of the nominees - people with contribution to the development of spirituality, with high professional achievements in their fields, with active

citizenship. Unfortunately, education, science and culture are areas with the highest risk of severe consequences due to the pandemic. Therefore, I want to assure you that the Municipality of Varna will continue to be your faithful partner," said the Mayor Ivan Portnih.

Read more: <https://bit.ly/38u44m5>



VFU GRADUATE IS A TOP INFLUENCER IN THE WORLD OF TECHNOLOGIES

“
Elitsa Krumova
WOMEN
IN
TECH
THE AWARDS MAGAZINE

Снимка: НР

Elitsa Krumova - a graduate in Informatics and Computer Science at Varna Free University “Chernorizets Hrabar”, is the first Bulgarian to enter the prestigious ranking of influencers in the technological field of the authoritative magazine The Awards Magazine. She is also in the Top 50 Women Influencers in 2020 in the world of technology, and is currently among the top 10 in the Top 100 Thought Leaders & Influencers Division - IoT Premier League.

Elitsa is a professional who manages to combine the most modern areas - marketing, advertising and IT industry. She has worked for some of the world's largest corporations, including IBM and Google.

One of the most influential women in the world of technology graduated from VFU “Chernorizets Hrabar” last year. Of particular interest was the defense of her thesis on technologies in the field of collective intelligence and the Internet of Things. She chose distance learning. Varna Free University is the only university in Bulgaria with a bachelor's degree in Informatics and Computer Science accredited in distance learning. Elitsa speaks about her studies at the university:

“Varna Free University helped me to theoretically comprehend the tasks and problems I had to solve in my

work. The training gave me the opportunity to go even deeper into the essence of technological processes and to understand the trends for their future development. The possibility for distance learning is another significant advantage that VFU “Chernorizets Hrabar” has over other universities. “

Read more: <https://bit.ly/2OMrrjN>



**STUDENTS PRESENTED A CONCEPTUAL MODEL FOR
SOCIALIZATION ON THE TERRITORY OF "VARNA NECROPOLIS I"**

Assoc. Prof. Zhechka Ilieva, PhD and students in the master's degree programme in Preservation of Cultural Heritage at the Faculty of Architecture at VFU "Chernorizets Hrabar" presented a conceptual model for socialization on the territory of "Varna Necropolis I", where the oldest processed gold in the world was discovered.

"The Varna necropolis is unique! Everyone knows about it, but now everyone can see the place where the oldest processed

gold in the world was discovered. The merit of the students of Varna Free University is that they showed that this meadow can become a world tourist attraction," said Yani Yanev - Vice President of Varna Free University and Chairperson of the Association "Varna Necropolis I".

Read more: <https://bit.ly/30wm8Ib>



THE FIRST CLASS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS SPECIALTY AT VFU “CHERNORIZETS HRABAR” CONTINUES THEIR TRAINING IN OSLO

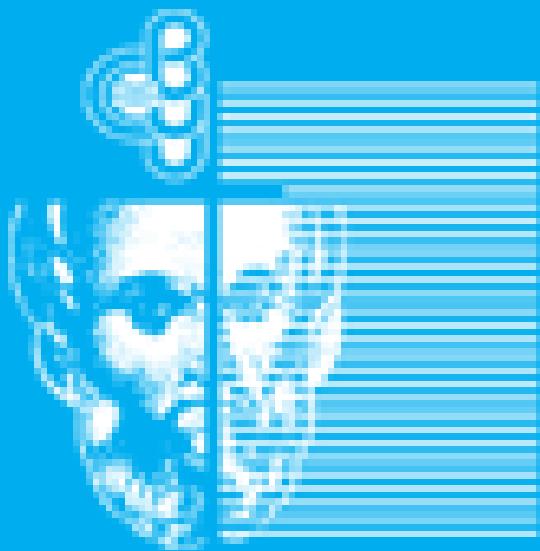
Michael Braskov is a student in the first class of the interuniversity bachelor's degree programme in International Business at Varna Free University “Chernorizets Hrabar” and BI Norwegian Business School.

The students in the specialty International Business who study at VFU “Chernorizets Hrabar” have excellent results and come from Bulgaria, the USA, Great Britain, Ukraine, Turkey, etc. During the first three years in Varna, the future experts study entirely in English the disciplines in the field of international trade, finance, banking transactions in international markets delivered by prominent professors of VFU “Chernorizets Hrabar”, as well as by Bulgarian and foreign practicing experts in the field of entrepreneurship and investment. Part of the training is in an environment developed for starting your own business and managing investment projects.

BI is the only business school in Norway with three prestigious international accreditations called “Triple Crown”. VFU “Chernorizets Hrabar” received another high accreditation rating from the National Agency for Evaluation and Accreditation at the Council of Ministers - 9.21 (on a ten-point scale), which made it the best one among private universities in Bulgaria.

Obtaining two European diplomas is a strong competitive advantage for VFU students - a guarantee of good employment opportunities in Bulgaria and abroad.

Read more: <https://bit.ly/3l59CZv>



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FREE
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