

BUANEWS

Balkan Universities Association E-Bulletin

April 2015 / 1



2nd

**BALKAN
UNIVERSITIES
ASSOCIATION
MEETING HOSTED
BY TRAKYA
UNIVERSITY,
EDIRNE,
TURKEY
8 OCTOBER 2015**



ANNOUNCEMENTS



ACTIVITIES



UPCOMING EVENTS



UNIVERSITY SPOTLIGHTS

- Presentation of Universities
- News From Universities
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PUBLICATIONS ON
BALKAN STUDIES

TROIKA
REPRESENTATIVES
MEETING
IN SOFIA



PRESENTATION OF E-BULLETIN



Balkan Universities Association represents 36 Member Universities and Candidate Members for now with their multiplatform institutionalism in the Balkans. Since it was established in September 11th, it is being tried to spread about both regional and in abroad. With news from new applicants to BUA, commitments are heard about to widen joint owners and activities under the frame of the association. In this context, to publish online e-bulletins quarterly with a news from each university, which has been designed to give members relevant, timely information about themselves and areas that matter the association, will keep the spirit of the association alive.

Through this Project, BUA is proud to unveil e-bulletin BUANEWS. Hopefully you will appreciate not only the design of the e-bulletin, but also find it informative and in particularly you will have the possibility to submit your own news items for publication, which have been designed in an alphabetical order according to your responses to our invitation letter includes technical details requested for publishing e-bulletin.

BUA looks forward to working even more closely together with its members in the Balkans via this e-bulletin.

2nd BALKAN UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION MEETING HOSTED BY TRAKYA UNIVERSITY, EDIRNE, TURKEY 8 OCTOBER 2015

The year 2014 can be viewed as the initiative and formative year of Balkan Universities Association. The Association has come a long way in developing as a comprehensive one in a short span of time. It has von enviable prominence both regional and in abroad. The members are now together with their commitments, support and new goals. This is the evident that second Balkan Universities Association Meeting will be a reflection of what we are now and how we mean to achieve our



objectives. Besides it will endeavour to share with its new members.

The second meeting will be organized along three main axes:

- 1- Having round table meetings with thematic group in fields of ecology
- 2- Discussion on strengthening Exchange programs: Erasmus +, Mevlana, Mobility via protocols,
- 3- Joint activities in the fields; music, archaeology, theatre

THE FIRST MEETING WITH TROIKA REPRESENTATIVES OF BUA

The first meeting with Troika Representatives of Balkan Universities Association was held on 17th February 2015 at Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Central Campus in Sofia.

The Representatives of Troika and the executive committee of the Association; the former president Prof. Dr. Triantafyllos Albanis (The Vice-Rector of Ioannina University), the current president and the president of the executive committee of the Association Prof. Dr. Yener Yörük (The Rector of Trakya University) and the future president Prof. Dr. Ivan Ilchev (The Rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski") participated to the meeting.

They talked about second BUA Meeting will be organized on October 8th, 2015 Thursday in Edirne by Trakya University, which holds presidency and joint activities.



The Technical University of Gabrovo is a leading institution for training of qualified personnel and conducting scientific research, meeting the European standards.



Established in 1964 as an institution of higher education training specialists for the industry in Central Bulgaria, today TU-Gabrovo seeks recognition as a modern European university. Its curricula are consistent with the current market conditions and business requirements for preparation of highly qualified specialists.

The Technical University of Gabrovo strives to be one step ahead of other universities.

Grounds for this reputation are the established traditions in teaching advanced courses in engineering, technology, economics, social work and administration. The high scientific level, the collaboration

with business and the highly qualified teaching staff make TU-Gabrovo a preferred university.

A Quality Management System has been established at the Technical University of Gabrovo. It has been certified according to ISO 9001:2000 and ISO 9001:2008 by DQS GmbH and IQNet. TU-Gabrovo has been accredited by the International Society for Engineering Education (IGIP) and the European Federation of National Engineering Associations (FEANI).

Studying at the Technical University of Gabrovo poses a challenge to young people. The University is rightly proud of its alumni's achievements and successful professional realization in the country and abroad. With their professional competence they contribute to the progress of modern science and practice.



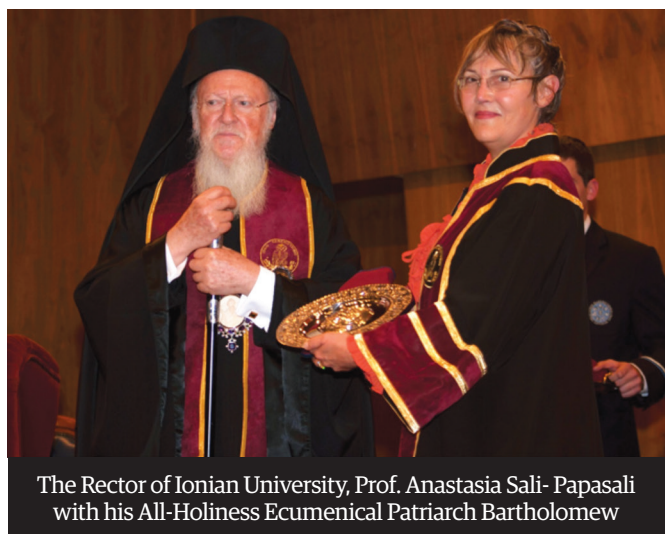
IONIAN UNIVERSITY ORGANIZED THE HONORARY CEREMONY OF HIS ALL-HOLINESS ECUMENICAL PATRIARCH BARTHOLOMEW

On the 12th December 2014 the Ionian University organized the honorary ceremony of His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, a ceremony that awarded the great worldwide religious leader of the Orthodox Church with the Institution's Honorary Doctorate. The Ecumenical Patriarchate is part of the wider Orthodox Church and constitutes one of the four autocephalous churches within the communion of the Orthodox Christianity.

The extremely important ceremony took place at the historical building of the Institution, known as 'Ionios Akadimia', which hosts the Ionian University's Rectorate and constitutes a worthy heir of the first Greek University. The Ionian University resides at the beautiful island of Corfu and reflects a unique cultural and academic gate.

As part of the wider context of mutual respect and religious belief, the honorary ceremony, which

was completed with absolute success, was the initiative of the Ionian University's Rector, prof. Anastasia Sali Papasali and constituted the result of her visit at Constantinople. The Rector of the Institution, during the ceremony, stated that the visit reflects a gift from God and expressed her sincere gratitude for the presence of the Ecumenical Patriarch in Greece and his support to the Ionian University.



The Rector of Ionian University, Prof. Anastasia Sali- Papasali with his All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

IUNP ORGANIZES SUMMER SCHOOL OF BOSNIAN LANGUAGE



The International University of Novi Pazar organizes Summer School of Bosnian language which includes an intensive course of Bosnian language and specific lectures from culture, tradition, literature, history and interculturalism. The Summer School is intended for Bosniak students of high school and university students from the Diaspora and students of Slavic studies and related disciplines throughout the world, as well as all the others who want to get to know the Bosnian language and the Balkans culture. As part of the Summer School will be organized daily educational sightseeing tours and daily excursions on the weekends. Students acquire certificates with 5 ECTS credits that can be transferred to universities abroad.

The Summer School will be held from 03 August to 14 August 2015.

The number of hours that the participants will be attending is 40 in two courses, basic and advanced. Accommodation and food are provided for all students. Educational content is as follows:

- Bosnian language (20 hours)
- Bosniak history (5 hours)
- Bosniak culture (5 hours)
- Optional: Religious education or Interculturalism (10 hours)

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EUROPEAN DAY OF INTEGRATED SPORT



EUROPEAN DAY OF INTEGRATED SPORT
SATURDAY 23 MAY 2015



In January the National Sports Academy - Sofia, launched activities within a one year project European Day of Integrated Sport. The Academy is among the 16 partners participating in the project that was initiated by Italian Centro sportivo educativo nazionale. The Project is cofinanced by the Erasmus plus Programme of the European Union through the centralized Action Sport/ non-for-profit sport events. The project envisages simultaneous carrying out of integrated sporting events in 12 cities of Italy on 23 May 2015. As a project partner NSA composed an integrated team of 18 students with and without disabilities in a

balanced ration. Preparations are under way such as information campaign, organizational activities, coordination of the rules for games and competitions etc. Five teachers of the NSA are also part of the team to participate in the European Day of Integrated Sport. Results of this project event are expected to become part of the European week of sport which will have its first edition in September this year.

In March the National Sports Academy hosted an open meeting, whose guest was world chess champion and international grandmaster Anatoly Karpov. Interest towards this event was enormous. Chess is traditionally loved and developed sport in Bulgaria with numerous clubs in secondary schools, universities and youth sports communities. Anatoly Karpov talked about the challenges and records in sports, and the way in which a great athlete accept wins and losses. Not only a great chess player, but also an

excellent conversationalist and a man with a nice sense of humor, Anatoly Karpov created an inspiring atmosphere of dreams to achieving sports tops and self-improvement. Students, teachers and guests were captivated by the outstanding Russian chess player and peppered him with questions that the guest replied with great care and respect. Organizing meetings with sports legends is part of the traditional system of training and motivation of students of the National Sports Academy.





Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov University is the only state university in Southeast Bulgaria. It was founded on 6th October 1963 as a Higher Chemicotechnological institute. Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov University was ratified as such by a resolution of the National Assembly in 1995.

Prof. Dr. Assen Zlatarov University was institutionally accredited by resolution No16 of 17.05. 2007 of the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency for the term of 6 years.

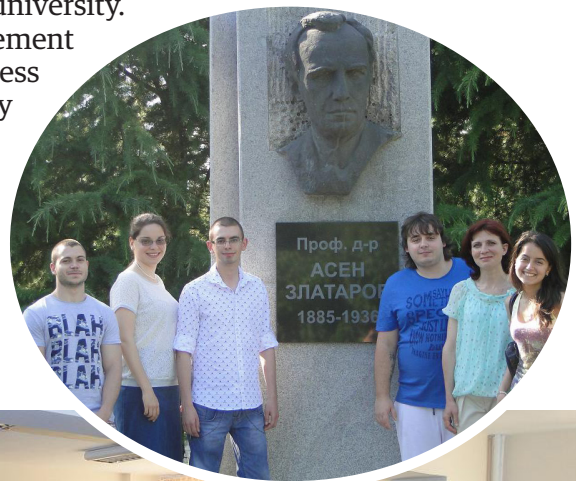
The tuition is carried out in four faculties - Faculty of technical sciences, Faculty of natural sciences, Faculty of social health and medical cares and Faculty of social sciences. It includes three colleges - Technical college, Medical College and College of Tourism. The tuition is carried out in 29 accredited Bachelor and over 60 Master programs. The Department of foreign language studies, the central scientific research library and the Computer centre occupy their honourable place in the structure of the university. Students, studying at the University, acquire the educational and qualification degrees of "professional Bachelor",

"Bachelor" and "Master", as well as the educational and qualification degree of "Doctor".

More than 320 highly qualified lecturers, 127 of them habilitated, teach at the university. Organization and management of the educational process at the university comply with the European requirements and criteria for qualitative educational and research process. A university evaluation and education quality

maintenance system has been worked out. The University has been rated among the first in Bulgaria according to the quality of the research on Hirsch system for scientific contribution.

The University has signed 108 contracts of educational, scientific and cultural cooperation with similar organisations in Bulgaria and abroad. The university has established active scientific relations with institutes and universities in England, France, Germany, Russia, Turkey, Spain, Italy, Hungary, Serbia, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia and etc. They give opportunities for scientific specializations and study practice of the academic staff and students, for exchange of lecturers, academic and scientific literature.



Presentation of the university



The University of Sarajevo is the leading university in Bosnia and Herzegovina and one of the leading universities in the region. This is traditionally the most popular and the most prestigious higher education institution in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since its founding, the University of Sarajevo is oriented towards international cooperation, building bridges between cultures, and establishing partnerships with universities from all over the world. The University of Sarajevo is open to anyone who wishes to contribute, with relevant intellectual qualities, to participate in development of education and research, respecting the principles of the University autonomy and academic freedom of individual expression and affirmation of skills and qualities. The orientation of the University of Sarajevo is the integration into the world academic processes and continuous efforts towards the improvement of our international reputation. Through its teaching and research, the University of Sarajevo is responsible to educate competent, capable, creative and internationally recognizable professionals in all areas of interest to Bosnia and Herzegovina, in order to be able to provide quality professional services in modern society in the economic, political and cultural context of Europe and the world. This public institution offers study and research opportunities at 22 Faculties, 3 Academies, 5 Centres, 5 Institutes, National and University Library, Gazi Husrevbey Library, National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Student Parliament, with over 100 study programmes, over 200 departments and around 34,000 enrolled students.

Tempus Project “Equal Opportunities for Students with Special Needs in Higher Education” (EQOPP) Closing Conference

The “Equal Opportunities for Students with Special Needs in Higher Education” (EQOPP) Tempus project closing conference is scheduled to take place in the University of Sarajevo’s Ceremonial Hall on 19 March 2015, starting at 9:00.

In cooperation with its partners, the University of Sarajevo brings to an end the three-year project “Equal Opportunities for Students with Special Needs in Higher Education” (EQOPP), financed by the EU through the Tempus program. Project partners, both from Bosnia and Herzegovina and the European Union, are the following institutions “Dzemail Bijedic” University of Mostar, University of East Sarajevo, University of Zenica, University of Tuzla, University of Bihać, University of Banja Luka, University of Mostar, World University Service of BiH, the “Progres” Association of Students with Special Needs and Volunteers, Federal Ministry of Education and Science, Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Srpska, Catholic University of Leuven (Belgium), Economics and Business University of Vienna (Austria) and the University of Alicante (Spain). The project’s main objective is supporting the BH universities in improving the quality and modernizing higher education by creating institutional capacity and developing policies and practices that will provide to all students the equal access to higher education in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The specific objectives consist of:

1. Providing an analysis of the current situation of students with special needs in BiH,
2. Providing the equal access to higher education in BiH for all students,
3. Developing inclusive policies, procedures and institutional models which be pertinent to all BiH universities,
4. Promoting the equal access and opportunities for all students in BiH,
5. Encouraging and establishing a network of mechanisms between students with and without disabilities, and between non-governmental organizations and universities in

BiH.

One of the project’s key outcomes is establishing an office for providing support to students with special needs at all eight public universities in BiH. Since they have been created, established and functioning today, those offices will be presented at the final conference. We firmly believe that results

of this project will be of particular interest for students who need special support, their teachers and all others cooperating with them. The working languages are the official BH ones and English. The simultaneous interpretation will be provided.



THE COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO AND THE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF TURKIC CULTURE (TÜRKSOY) ANNOUNCED ON MONDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2015

University of Sarajevo Rector, Prof. Dr. Muharem Avdispahic, HonDSc met with representatives of the International Organization of Turkic Culture (Türksoy), Keçiören Municipality in Ankara and the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey in B-H. The meeting was also attended by the Prof. Mr. Amela Hadzimejlic-Keco, Academy of Fine Arts Dean and Vice-Dean Prof. Mr. Srdja Hrisafovic.

By presenting the University of Sarajevo's history and activities in the coming period, Rector Avdispahic pointed out that the University of Sarajevo is a comprehensive university covering Humanities, social, medical, natural, mathematical, biotechnical, technical sciences and Arts. Emphasizing the multifaceted



relationship between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Turkey, Rector Avdispahic said that the University of Sarajevo had signed Agreements on academic cooperation with thirteen universities in the Republic of Turkey.

During the meeting, the possibilities of achieving academic collaboration between the University of Sarajevo and Türksoy were discussed-

through joint projects in the fields of education, science and culture in order to promote Turkic languages and cultures. Türksoy's Secretary General, Mr. Düsen Kaseinov expressed his hope that in the future, signing of an agreement on cooperation between the University of Sarajevo and Türksoy will be realized.

International Organization of Turkic Culture (Türksoy) is an international cultural organization of countries and regions where Turkic peoples live and speak Turkic languages. This organization was established in Almaty, Kazakhstan's largest city, on 12 July 1993, and currently has 14 member states. Its mission is to present the member states' cultural resources and to strengthen the cultural cooperation.

A VISIT BY THE AMBASSADOR OF THE REPUBLIC OF TURKEY IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

H.E. Cihad Erginay, Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey in Bosnia and Herzegovina visited the University of Sarajevo on Monday, 16 February 2015. UNSA Rector, Prof. Dr. Muharem Avdispahic, HonDSc received the esteemed guest.

Rector Prof. Dr. Avdispahic welcomed the distinguished guest, presented the history and development of the University of Sarajevo, emphasizing the comprehensiveness of the University, which covers the area of humanities, social, medical, natural, mathematics and biotechnical and technical sciences and Arts.

During the meeting, the importance of inter-university cooperation was underlined and possibilities of improvement and intensification of the academic cooperation between the University of Sarajevo and universities in Turkey discussed, especially when it comes to the exchange of students and faculty as



well as cooperation in the areas of research.

When speaking about UNSA's international cooperation, Rector Avdispahic stated that the University of Sarajevo has signed agreements on academic cooperation with thirteen universities in the Republic of Turkey. He also emphasized the multifaceted relationship between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republic of Turkey, and gave positive examples of successful cooperation between the University of Sarajevo's member institutions and higher education institutions in Turkey.

Ambassador Erginay expressed his readiness to improve the so far successful cooperation between the University of Sarajevo and the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey.

SOFIA UNIVERSITY PROJECT WINS FIRST PRIZE IN 11th IT PROJECT OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

A Sofia University IT team won the prestigious award in the category "Public Sector" of the 11th IT Project of the Year Competition with a project for improving the academic performance of the teaching staff at the departments with educational orientation at Sofia University "St. Kliment Ochridski". Professor Dr Rumiana Peytcheva-Forsyth is head of the project and director of the Integral University Center for E-learning.



The competition was organized by The Computerworld newspaper in collaboration with DSK Bank. The prize was established toward projects aimed at training and developing highly skilled specialists who possess IT knowledge essential to the practical implementation of up-to-date information solutions in the field of administration.

The training of the teaching staff from the educationally oriented specialties was realized with the financial support of the Development of Human Resources Operational Program, Project No. BG051PO001 - 4. 3. 04/0011: Increasing the capacity of the academic staff at the educational specialties of Sofia University in the design,

maintenance, and facilitation of high quality e-distance learning.

156 e-courses, established in compliance with European and world standards of e-distance learning, were created as part of the project. Three of the courses were successfully certified after a 6-month monitoring process by experts from the Learning Agency Network LANETO. The courses have an Epprobate certificate of quality (Epprobate is the yardstick for the international quality label for e-learning courseware).

With a 686 000 lev strong budget, 96% of which used within two years, 97 lecturers from the Faculty of Education, the Faculty of General Primary and Early Primary Education and education specialists from the Faculties of Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Slavonic studies, and Classical and modern languages received valuable training experience enabling them to transform their traditional educational courses into electronic ones. More than half of the above mentioned trainees will be receiving an E-learning Instructional Design and Online Lecturing Certificate, as a follow-up of extensive 240-hour training sessions focusing on basic types of software, designing and developing interactive e-learning courses and an e-learning classroom practicum.

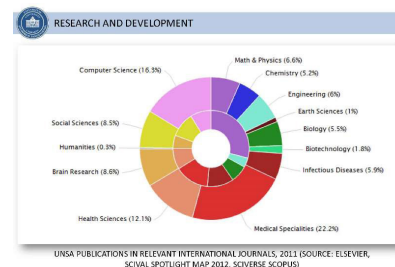
Another distinguishing feature of the project is the creation of accessible e-learning platforms for students with special educational needs.

187 articles, authored and coauthored by the UNSA researchers, either alone or in collaboration with partner institutions, were indexed within SCOPUS database during 2014.

Analyzed data for the researching field indicate that the largest number of indexed papers are in the field of biomedical and technical sciences: medicine (66 articles or 35.3%), engineering (44 article or 23.5%), computer science (29 articles or 15.5%), agricultural and biological sciences (20 articles, or 10.7%, and mathematics with 16 articles (8.6%) and biochemistry, genetics and molecular biology with 15 articles or 8%.

When compared to the Web of Science database, the leading number of indexed papers within the Scopus database is from Humanities and social sciences (26 papers of 187), or a totally 13.87%, which represents a significant presence than in the WoS, where the percentage is 3%.

UNSA IN THE SCOPUS DATABASE



UNESCO'S DIRECTOR-GENERAL DELIVERS ANNUAL NELSON MANDELA MEMORIAL LECTURE

Ms. Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO, delivered the Annual Nelson Mandela Memorial Lecture, Nelson Mandela's Legacy, at the aula magna of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". The event was organized jointly by the Embassy of the Republic of South Africa to this country and the National Commission for UNESCO – Bulgaria, with the cooperation of the oldest high academic institution in the country.

Irina Bokova remarked that there was hardly any better place than the University of Sofia, the oldest and most prestigious academic institution in Bulgaria, epitomizing the Bulgarian centuries-long cultural, educational and spiritual tradition, to honor the man and the fighter for equality and freedom, Nelson Mandela. It was he who said: "Education is the most powerful weapon that you can make use of to change the world." According to Irina Bokova, we have to persevere in our struggle for education to all people, irrespective of their color of skin, sex, religious allegiance, and other differences.

Irina Bokova also focused on the problems and the changes posed continually by the ever more globalizing world. Borders are getting blurred, the human mind is constantly giving birth to new inventions, innovations, and new technologies.



The process of globalization aspires to cultural cooperation, imposes common values, decreases and ultimately annihilates the differences between peoples from different countries; it puts into place instead a wider and more constructive dialogue between religions, ethnic groups, and different cultures. According to Bokova, globalization is of such importance and pervasiveness due to its other aspect, too. From amongst the negative consequences of globalization the inequality of the sexes, the social inequality, the lack of tolerance and the acts of extremism should be singled out for their gravity.

At the end of her lecture Irina Bokova re-echoed Nelson Mandela's legacy "Now it is YOUR turn" and added that the best way to pay tribute to his memory is to follow him. We all should in our own way make it part of ourselves what Nelson Mandela left to us as the mission of his life legacy. Indeed, this means each and everyone of us!" Mrs Bokova concluded that Mandela was truly convinced that every human being in their individual way can contribute to the making of a better world.

SOUTH-WEST UNIVERSITY "NEOFIT RISLKI"

South-West University "Neofit Rilski" is a higher education institution of modern Bulgaria. It is state-owned university, established and functioning by virtue of property and an annual state subsidy secured by the government. The University operates in compliance with all the state regulations. The



South-West University "Neofit Rilski" in Blagoevgrad has been granted the highest 9.26 grade out of the Currently, the University has 9 faculties encompassing social sciences, humanities, natural sciences, technics and technologies and offering more than 68 Bachelor Degree Programs, 88 Master Degree Programs and

more than 57 Doctoral Degree Programs. The University provides also continuing education opportunities and is the largest provider of non-credit professional upgrade training all over South-Western Bulgaria. The University offers excellent opportunities for practical training and the academic staff willingly provides

consultations in all academic subjects.

The University has modern training, scientific and sports facilities and offers a wide range of possibilities for artistic performances.

The Career Centre offers probation work and ensures contacts with future employers.

The students can take part in international exchange programs and the academic results achieved in foreign universities are recognized and included in their academic record.

The University is conveniently located only 90 kilometers from the capital city of Bulgaria and 80 kilometers from Greece.

With its 80, 000 inhabitants Blagoevgrad is a unique place to live and study.

THE AGREEMENT FOR ESTABLISHING OF THE CENTRE FOR PEACE AND INTERCULTURAL MANAGEMENT WAS SIGNED IN SUT

State University of Tetova, Northern Illinois University and “Aldo Moro” University at Bari, Italy, signed an agreement for establishing of the Centre for Peace and Intercultural Management.



The agreement was signed by the rectors of the three universities. SUT Rector, Prof. Dr. Vullnet Ameti, after signing the agreement declared:

“It is a special pleasure for me to announce very important news to students, professors and the public, that the State University of Tetova today signed a cooperation agreement with the University of Bari and Northern Illinois University, for establishing a Center for Peace and Intercultural Management. The establishment of this center will enhance peace, conflict management and intercultural understanding worldwide. The Center

for Peace and Intercultural Management will also provide neutral academic platform, on which will be based the promotion of the diversity of discussions, with the aim of achieving peace through education model. Through this center, governments, students



and key stakeholders will have access to resources to effectively manage conflicts and misunderstandings, to ensure global peace and economic prosperity” said Rector of SUT, Prof. Dr. Vullnet Ameti.

The Rector of Northern Illinois University, Prof. Dr. Lisa C. Freeman said that this center will be a model for all communities. “It is a privilege for Northern Illinois University to join with partners and very important institutions of this country, such as the State University of Tetova and the University of Bari” said Prof. Dr. Lisa C. Freeman, Rector of Northern Illinois University.

Prof. Dr. Michelle Indelicato of Aldo Moro University at Bari, Italy, said that the establishment of this center expresses the desire for intercultural and world peace. “I can say that this is a very important collaboration between three universities, since it shows that we desire to achieve world and intercultural peace, as well as materialize peace by means of sophisticated research studies and training of next generations, this is a truly important moment for us, to give the opportunity of peace through education”, said Prof. Dr. Michelle Indelicato.

IN SUT BEGAN THE 6th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TITLED “COMPUTATIONAL INTELLIGENCE, COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS AND NETWORKS”

At the State University of Tetova was held the 6th International Conference, titled “Computer intelligence, communication systems and networks”. This conference was declared opened by the Rector of SUT, Prof. Dr. Vullnet Ameti, who said that now SUT, an important part of its educational and scientific activity develops successfully through technological advantages.



“Topic that will be addressed in this conference is quite actual, which through information and communication technology provides education and training for millions of scientists and students worldwide.

Computational intelligence, communication systems and numerous networks of information technology enable many universities to offer online training courses, as well as publish their programs of study. Our university also develops successfully an important part of its educational and scientific activity through technological advantages and as a result of these standards and facilitated communication, we have among us prominent scholars in the field of informatics, who with their participation have honored

this scientific conference and our institution”, said the Rector of SUT, Prof. Dr. Vullnet Ameti.

Director-General of this Scientific Conference, David Al Dabass said: “First, I want to thank the host of this conference, the State University of Tetova and its Rector, Prof. Dr. Vullnet Ameti for the great support. This conference, titled “Computational intelligence, communications systems and networks” gathered scholars from different countries of the world, such as Britain, France, USA, Germany, Italy, Hungary, Greece and many other countries”, added David Al Dabass, director-general of scientific conference.

While the Dean of the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Prof. Dr. Fauzi Skenderi expressed gratitude to the IEEE, for the support of papers coming from conferences.

Conference Coordinator, MSc Festim Halili, briefed the researchers on the history of the city of Tetovo, at the same time revealing the agenda of the conference. Otherwise, it is worth mentioning that this conference is organized for the first time at a Balkan university, which in this case is the State University of Tetova, because many years ago it has been organized in India, Great Britain, Indonesia, Thailand and Spain.



EDIRNE EDITOR WORKSHOP AND BALKAN PUBLICATION ETHICS PANEL

Edirne Editor Workshop and Balkan Publication Ethics Panel took place on 13th February 2015 at Trakya University Library and Documentation Center Seminar Hall.

The Rector Prof. Dr. Yener Yörük, Dean of Faculty of Medicine Prof. Dr. Recep Yağız, Editors of Balkan Medical Journal and academicians participated to the opening ceremony of congress.

The opening speech was made by our Rector Prof. Dr. Yener Yörük and he saluted all participants of the congress and mentioned his pleasure about hosting such an activity

at Trakya University. The Rector emphasized that they are proud of Balkan Medical Journal as it is the only journal which is internationally indexed. Then our Rector thanked to all those who contributed to Balkan Medical Journal.

Then the Panel continued with presentations of Prof. Dr. Ana Marušić, Associate Prof. Stefanos Triaridis, and Dr. Ksenija Baždarić.



“III. BALKAN SPORT GAMES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES”

“III. Balkan Sport Games for Children with Disabilities” will be held between May 11th -13rd 2015 at Trakya University in Edirne with 280 students from 11 different Balkan countries. It is aimed to contribute to the integration of children with disabilities into society. Build a cultural bridge between children in Edirne and other countries and to introduce disabled children closely to the society.



THIRD INTERNATIONAL BALKAN CONGRESS OF SPORTS SCIENCES

Third International Balkan Congress of Sports Sciences with the theme of “Sports is respect and peace” will be held between the dates May 3rd - 6th 2015 in Trakya University in Edirne.

Trakya University will host academicians who work at the fields: physical education and sport, sport health, sport management, recreation, Kırkpınar and traditional authentic sports.



“INTERNATIONAL MEDICAL STUDENTS' CONGRESS” WILL BE HELD IN TRAKYA UNIVERSITY

“International Medical Students' Congress” will be held between May 1st - 3rd, 2015 by The Scientific Research Community established by Trakya University Medical Faculty's students.

The congress about Pediatrics and Pediatric Surgery will be the first in an international arena and the ninth nationally with valuable contributions of academicians from different fields and countries.



STRUCTURED UNIVERSITY MOBILITY BETWEEN THE BALKANS AND EUROPE FOR THE ADRIATIC-IONIAN MACRO-REGION

In accordance with the objectives of its internationalization strategy, the University of Tuzla is a participant in the mobility program Structured University Mobility between the Balkans and Europe for the Adriatic-Ionian Macro-Region -SUNBEAM. SUNBEAM is an Erasmus Mundus Action 2 - Strand 1 project with the aim to interlink European and Western Balkans universities; it fits into the European policies on higher education by sharing the main objectives of such policies, like promotion of European higher education, improvement and enhancement of the career prospects of students, promotion of the intercultural understanding through cooperation with third-countries and sustainable development of third-countries in the field of higher education.



SUNBEAM
STRUCTURED UNIVERSITY MOBILITY BETWEEN THE BALKANS
AND EUROPE FOR THE ADRIATIC-IONIAN MACRO-REGION.

adopted by the European Commission in June 2014 and endorsed by the European Council in October 2014.

In addition to the University of Tuzla, the SUNBEAM partnership includes the following universities: "Dzemal Bijedic" University of Mostar, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Agricultural University of Tirana, Albania; "Aleksander Xhuvani" University of Elbasan, Albania; University of Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina; University of Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina; Riinvest College, Kosovo; University Mediterranean Podgorica, Montenegro; University of Montenegro, Montenegro; University of Arts in Belgrade, Serbia; University of Novi Sad, Serbia from the Western Balkans and Università

Politecnica delle Marche, Ancona, Italy; Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna, Italy; Università degli Studi di Urbino Carlo Bo, Italy; Università Ca' Foscari Venezia, Italy; University of Split, Croatia; University of Zadar, Croatia; University of Ioannina, Greece; University of Ljubljana, Slovenia; University of Primorska, Slovenia from the EU.

The long-term target of the project is to establish a platform for sharing educational paths in order to implement joint programmes for the awarding of joint titles among the universities in the countries of the area.

For more information please visit: <http://www.sunbeam.univpm.it/EN/apply-now>

The project offers fully funded scholarships:

- For students, researchers, academic and administrative staff from the Western Balkans to visit one of the EU partner universities.
- For students, researchers, academic and administrative staff from the EU partner universities to visit one of the partner universities in the Western Balkans.

From the geopolitical point of view SUNBEAM is functional to the supra-national strategic objectives of the region. The project has been developed in respect of the important, strategic events occurring in the Adriatic-Ionian area, mainly the creation of the Adriatic-Ionian Macro-region, whose strategy was formally

UNIVERSI COLLEGE

Universi College, in Pristina, Kosovo, continues engaging renowned Professors of sport sciences, into their Unique Master Program "Health, Sports and Recreation".

In a module on "Advanced scientific aspects of training in sport", Professor Caner Acikada (Professor at Indiana University in the United States of America) spoke about the trends and issues of training durability and research methodology.

Professor Acikada spoke about the durability components, speed and flexibility performance in some high-level sport, through study and discussion of current methodology and new interdisciplinary approach on research methods.

Professor Acikada was focused on the impact of physiological factors

on maximal oxygen consumption, its measurement and interpretation of the different components of training through relevant scientific research and laboratory work.

On other hand, Professor Vedran Hadzic; Professor at the Faculty of Physical Education in Ljubljana, Slovenia, and the Team Physician to Slovenian Volleyball National team, in his module "Health and science in sports", spoke about most common injuries of athletes.

In addition, Professor Hadzic spoke about the close connection that sports and medicine have, and the use of prohibited stimulus, by athletes, to enhance their performance, especially in high level competitions, such as the World Championships, Olympic Games etc.



**"Universi"
College continues
successful
International
collaboration**

2015 UNIVERSITY DAY CELEBRATION IN ZADAR

On Wednesday, March 25th, the 619th Zadar's academic year and the 13th anniversary of the reformed University of Zadar was commemorated by a ceremonial meeting attended by the representatives of higher education institutions from Croatia and abroad, representatives of the University of Zadar, mayors and heads of towns and municipalities in Zadar County, courts representatives, workers in local administration and economy, representatives of institutions from the area of science, education and culture, as well as representatives from the police and military, public and religious life.



The commemoration of University Day started at 9 o'clock in Saint Demetrius Church with a service held by Zadar's Monsignor Želimir Puljić, PhD, and continued at 11 o'clock in the University's Great Hall.

The Mayor of Zadar, Božidar Kalmeta, said that Zadar's University offered intellectual strength and knowledge without whom it would be impossible to imagine the life of this town, and that it had something other universities lacked - the tradition.

The Head of Zadar County, Stipe Zrilić, pointed out that University Day was an occasion where the best excel, and that he especially wished to congratulate the students, and expressed the hope that they continue to learn and work in their

country.

The president of Croatian Rectors' Conference and the Rector of the University of Rijeka, Professor Pero Lučin, PhD, congratulated on University Day stating that the University of Zadar was the centre of knowledge and crucial for the community.

Many of those who were unable to attend the ceremony sent their greetings, including Kolinda Grabar Kitarović, President of the Republic of Croatia, who greeted the University's members, wishing them to continue to contribute to the development and progress of Croatian academic community.

Ante Uglešić, Full Professor, Dr. h.c., Rector of the University of Zadar,

pointed out that in similar occasions it was a custom to mention the most notable achievements during the previous year. A consistent development policy is the most important feature of the University of Zadar that cherished the identity of development in spite of deep economic crisis. The University had organised multiple scientific conferences; numerous scientific monographs, university textbooks and digests had been published, as well as eleven scientific magazines. International recognition and identity of the University had been growing, and papers published in magazines that were indexed in world leading reference databases, and acknowledgement that individual scientist had received abroad attested to that.

Rector concluded his speech with the following words:

"Today, dear colleagues, guests, friends and students, we stay true to our foundational sources - truthfulness, the value that defines the scientific practice; cooperation - internal, local, national, international, because it makes us strong; responsibility - because it makes us steady. We stand and build on the most important foundation - academic freedom."

During the ceremonial meeting, yearly Rector's awards were given to deserving individuals and institutions for special contribution to the cooperation with the University of Zadar. The award was presented to Full Professor Valentin Pryanichnikov for cooperation with the University of Zadar and the construction of a robot for underwater work; Full Professor Borna First Bjeliš for the contribution to the work of the Department of Geography from its beginnings; and to the Mayor of Benkovac, Branko Kutija, for the help in establishing the agricultural estate Baštica.

The award for outstanding sports achievements was given to men's and women's basketball teams of the Students Basketball Club of the University of Zadar.

The yearly Rector's award for the most successful students was given to: Katarina Batur, Martina Brzica, Marin Dujmović, Irena Jurković and Marko Stijić.

The yearly Rector's award for the most successful employees was given to: Stipe Živaljić, MA, Assistant Professor Tomislav Frleta, Full Professor Pavle Mikić, and Full Professor Nikica Uglešić.

The University's a cappella group AKA Crescendo, Mezzosoprano Ivanica Vunić, and the pianist Blanka Aždajić Medić performed in the musical part of the programme.

FULL PROFESSOR ANTE UGLEŠIĆ, RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ZADAR, AWARDED WITH A GOLD MEDAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA



Full Professor Ante Uglešić Rector, was awarded the Decoration of Honour for Services to the Republic of Austria. The Decoration was awarded by Heinz Fischer, PhD, President of the Republic of Austria, and it was presented to the Rector by Austrian Ambassador, Her Excellency Andrea Ikić-Böhm.

The Austrian Ambassador stated that the Decoration was awarded for justified reasons because the Rector had shown the interest for cooperation with Austria several years ago, which resulted in the opening of the Austrian Library „Alois Mock“.

Not hiding his excitement, Rector Ante Uglešić pointed out that he had experienced this act not only as a great acknowledgement for himself, but also as a great honour for his university, his town and his

country. The award represented an additional incentive to personally continue to stand for stronger and deeper relations with the Republic of Austria, especially in the area of his work and interest - science, higher education and culture.



MEVLANA EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Mevlana Exchange Programme is a programme which aims the exchange of students and academic staff between the Turkish higher education institutions and higher education institutions of other countries. With the regulation published in August 23, 2011 (num: 28034), students and academic staff exchange between Turkish higher education institutions and higher education institutions of other countries has been possible. Different from other exchange programmes, Mevlana Exchange Programme includes all higher education institutions in the world regardless of their region.

Who can benefit from Mevlana Exchange Programme?

The students registered in formal education programmes at higher education institutions in Turkey (on condition that the higher education institutions signed a bilateral Mevlana

Exchange Protocol) may benefit from Mevlana Exchange Programme.

Additionally, all academic staff who works in a national or foreign higher education institution, on condition that the higher education institutions signed a bilateral Mevlana Exchange Protocol, may benefit from Mevlana Exchange Programme.

Application Requirements of Mevlana Exchange Programme

In order to be a Mevlana Exchange Programme student

- The students must be studying at associate degree, bachelor degree, master degree or PhD degree of higher education programmes
- Grade point average (GPA) of associate degree and undergraduate students must be at least 2,5 on a four point scale.
- Grade point average (GPA) of graduate students (MA, PhD) must be at least 3.00

on a four point scale.

- 50% language score + 50% GPA

The students studying in their first year at associate or bachelor degree and the students of preparation classes and scientific preparation programmes of graduate degrees can not participate in this programme at their first semester.

For more information; <http://www.yok.gov.tr/web/mevlana>



THE ERASMUS+ PROGRAMME

The Erasmus+ Programme is a European student exchange program offering university students a possibility of studying in another European country for a period of at least 3 months and at maximum 12 months.

Erasmus+ is the EU Programme in the fields of education, training, youth



and sport for the period 2014-2020. Education, training, youth and sport can make a major contribution to help tackle socio-economic changes, the key challenges that Europe will be facing until the end of the decade and

to support the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy for growth, jobs, social equity and inclusion.

The Erasmus+ Programme is designed to support Programme Countries' efforts to efficiently use the potential of Europe's human talent and social capital, while confirming the principle of lifelong learning by linking support to formal, non-formal and informal learning throughout the education, training and youth fields. The Programme also enhances the opportunities for cooperation and mobility with Partner Countries, notably in the fields of higher education and youth.

The investment in knowledge, skills and competences will benefit individuals, institutions, organisations and society as a whole by contributing to growth and ensuring prosperity and social inclusion in Europe and beyond.

The Erasmus+ Programme shall contribute to the achievement of:

- the objectives of the Europe 2020 Strategy, including the headline education target;
- the objectives of the strategic framework for European cooperation in education and training (ET 2020), including the corresponding benchmarks;
- the sustainable development of Partner Countries in the field of higher education;
- the overall objectives of the renewed framework for European cooperation in the youth field (2010-2018);
- the objective of developing the European dimension in sport, in particular grassroots sport, in line with the EU work plan for sport;
- the promotion of European values in accordance with Article 2 of the Treaty on the European Union.

For more information; http://ec.europa.eu/education/index_en.htm

- BALKAN MEDICAL JOURNAL

The Balkan Medical Journal is a peer-reviewed open-access international journal that publishes interesting clinical and experimental research conducted in all fields of medicine, interesting case reports and clinical images, invited reviews, editorials, letters, comments and letters to the Editor including reports on publication and research ethics. The journal is the official scientific publication of the Trakya University Faculty of Medicine, Edirne, Turkey and is printed four times a year, in January, April, July and October. The language of the journal is English.

The journal is based on independent and unbiased double-blinded peer-reviewed principles. Only unpublished papers that are not under review for publication elsewhere can be submitted. The authors are responsible for the scientific content of the material to be published. The Balkan Medical Journal reserves the right to request any research materials on which the paper is based.

Web: <http://balkanmedicaljournal.org/eng/Anasayfa>



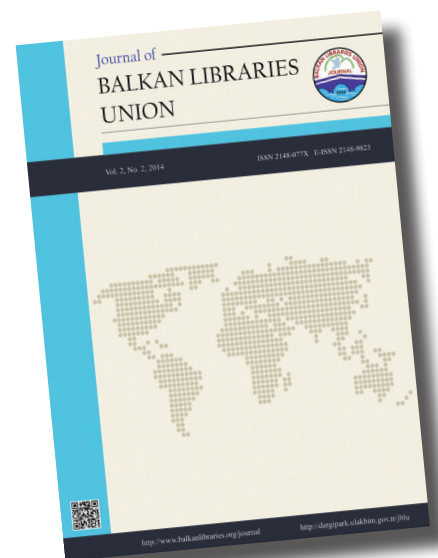
- BALKAN LIBRARIES UNION JOURNAL



Journal of Balkan Libraries Union (BLUJ) is a double-blind peer-reviewed academic journal covering theories, concepts, models, frameworks, and philosophies in library science, e-publishing, documentation, and information science. BLUJ publishes research articles, review/survey articles, short communications, book reviews, and notes to the editor. BLUJ's scope is broadly library

science, encompassing all of the academic and professional disciplines which deal with recorded information. These include, but are not limited to information science, library science, and related disciplines, knowledge management, knowledge organization, information seeking, information retrieval, archiving, human information behaviour, and digital literacy. BLUJ is currently abstracted and indexed in ProQuest - LISA (Library and Information Science Abstracts), Ulrich's, DOAJ (Directory of Open Access Journals), Google Scholar, E-Lis (E-Prints in Library and Information Science), CiteSeerX, and J-Gate Portal. It is also under review by other major indexes. The journal whose language is English is published two times in a year. The fourth volume of the journal will be published in May 2015.

A free online edition of this journal is available at <http://www.balkanlibraries.org/journal>, <http://dergipark.ulakbim.gov.tr/jblu>



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