

BUANEWS

Balkan Universities Association E-Bulletin

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INTERNATIONAL VISION UNIVERSITY - THE FIRST UNIVERSITY IN MACEDONIA TO SIGN THE GLOBAL DECLARATION OF PEACE AND CESSATION OF WAR

International VISION University hosted International Peace Youth Group (IPYG) from South Korea, through conference call.



Upon invitation from this prestigious youth global movement that recognized the vision of our University for tolerance, promotion of human rights and freedoms and the commitment to international law, we have been honored to become the first university

in Macedonia that is a partner of this prestigious initiative.

International VISION University students had opportunity to share their thoughts and opinions directly with their fellows in South Korea, and through their network, with fellows

from all around the globe.

The event was opened with greetings from the Rector of International VISION University, Prof. Fadil HOCA, PhD, that expressed his gratefulness to IPYG for inviting International VISION University to be part of the initiative, appointing that our institution will always commit to the promotion of peace culture, openness and cooperation.

On behalf of IPYG, about the initiative and signature of Declaration, Erin LEE addressed in her capacity of international cooperation coordinator of IPYG. Her speech was followed by signatures and addressing of the students.

Signatures will accompany the Declaration and will be deposited to the UN.



INTERNATIONAL VISION UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHED ACADEMIC COLLABORATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF KASTAMONU

The Rector of Kastamonu University from the Republic of Turkey, prof. Seyit AYDIN, PhD and his delegation visited International VISION University in Gostivar - Macedonia.



On the 19th of October, representatives of Kastamonu University that is one of the most prestigious public universities in the Republic of Turkey and International VISION University signed Academic protocol in the Ceremony Hall of International VISION University.

The Rector of the International VISION University, prof. Fadil HOCA, PhD and the Rector of Kastamonu University, prof. Seyit AYDIN, PhD signed the Academic Protocol and Mevlana Exchange Program on behalf of the Universities.

The Republic of Turkey keeps its pioneering position among the countries in which the International VISION University has academically cooperated.

INTERNATIONAL VISION UNIVERSITY AND ZAGREB DAG HAMMARSKJÖLD UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND DIPLOMACY SIGNED PROTOCOL ON ACADEMIC COLLABORATION

The Rector of International VISION University prof. Fadil HOCA, PhD and his delegation visited Zagreb Dag Hammarskjöld University College of International Relations and Diplomacy.

On 19th of October 2016, Rectors of the Zagreb Dag Hammarskjöld University College of International Relations and Diplomacy which is one of the elite academic institution in Croatia and International VISION University signed protocol of academic collaboration.

University administration and lecturers, that have recently undergone an intensive period by organizing international conferences, continue to take this path. International VISION University continually increases the number of the cooperation agreements signed with significant universities from the different countries.



INTERNATIONAL VISION UNIVERSITY STUDENTS AT 10 NOVEMBER COMMEMORATION CEREMONY OF GAZI MUSTAFA KEMAL ATATÜRK



"In the 78th year of his death, the founder and pioneer of the Republic of Turkey, Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk was commemorated by the Student Council of International VİSİON University in the Historical Military School in Bitola, Macedonia.

On the 10th of November the Commemoration Ceremony of Ataturk began with the leaving a wreath in front of the

Atatürk Monument in the Military School Museum in Bitola. The Memorial Ceremony where up to 100 university students took part, started at 9.15 a.m with a moment of silence. After that, the Turkish National Anthem was read by the participants and the commemoration ceremony came to an end by commemorating the views and feelings about the Gazi Mustafa Kemal in the memorial book.

AN IMPORTANT VISIT FROM ALEXANDER XHUVANI ELBASAN UNIVERSITY

The Rector of Alexander Xhuvani Elbasan University, Prof. Dr. Skender Topi, Dr. Artan Spahiu and Erasmus Coordinator Gjolek Mera visited Rector of Trakya University, Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu on January 18th, 2017. Vice Rector of Trakya University, Prof. Dr. Cem Uzun, Coordinator of International Relations Office Assoc. Prof. Murat Türkyılmaz also attended the meeting.

Alexander Xhuvani Elbasan University Rector Prof. Dr. Skender Topi stated that "I felt like I am in my country during my visit to your university and I am very happy to be in a brother country. As Trakya and Elbasan University, we need to develop our relationships and work more collaboratively in many areas. As university administration, we would like to see academicians and students from Trakya University at our university. We will be happy to host your academicians and students at our university and to carry out scientific studies together."

In his speech, our Rector Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu thanked Alexander Xhuvani Rector of Elbasan University, Dr. Skender Topi and his accompanying delegation for their visit and said, "As Trakya University, Alexander Xhuvani Elbasan University is always welcome. Whether it is the Mevlana Exchange Program or the projects we are going to undertake in the future, we intend to develop bilateral relations."

The development of joint projects between the two universities was negotiated during the meeting. At the end of the meeting, cooperation agreements were signed between two universities in order to develop Erasmus and joint projects.

At the end of the meeting, Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu, Vice Rector Prof. Dr. Cem Uzun and Coordinator of International Relations Office, Assoc. Prof. Murat Türkyılmaz accompanied the guest university delegation for their visit to the Complex of Sultan Bayezid II Health Museum.



A VISIT FROM BULGARIA'S MINISTER OF CULTURE VEZHDI RASHIDOV, RECTOR OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ARTS PROF. NIKOLAY DRACHEV AND ACCOMPANYING DELEGATION TO THE RECTOR OF TRAKYA UNIVERSITY

Bulgarian Minister of Culture Vezhdi Rashidov, Bulgarian Edirne Consul General Vasil Valchev, Bulgarian Edirne Consul Radoslava Kafedzhiyska, a delegation composed of artists and academicians visited Rector of Trakya University Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu in his office on December 27th, 2016.

A delegation consisting of Bulgarian Ministry of Culture Coordinator of Public Relations and Communication Radka Petrova, Rector of National Academy of Arts Nikolay Drachev, Expery in Art and History Department Christo Kirilov, Expert of Bulgarian National Museum Ilyana Markova, exchanged ideas related to the cooperation with our university.

Bulgarian Culture Minister Vezhdi Rashidov stated that he is personally interested in the art world of Turkey, there are strong bonds between Turkey and Bulgaria in the field of art, and expressed that the Sofia Art Academy and Trakya University wish to develop their existing relations. Minister Vezhdi Rashidov said "We would like to strengthen our relations in the field of art with Trakya University. Especially, we should focus on artistic activities between Turkish and Bulgarian youth. We must plan joint performances in areas such as theater. In this context, we attach importance not only to academic studies, but also to the artistic studies". Minister of Culture Vezhdi Rashidov also invited Rector. Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu to the

events which will be performed in Bulgaria.

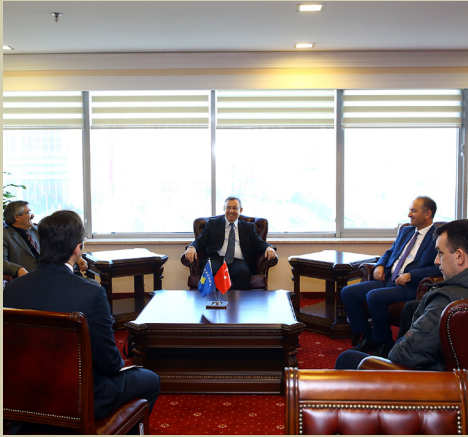
Rector Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu thanked the Bulgarian Culture Minister Vezhdi Rashidov and his accompanying delegation for their visit and stated that "Neighborhood relations are very important. As two neighboring countries, we should support each other and we should cooperate in all fields. We have a lot in common points with Bulgaria. Our young people should come together in these common points. Our university is very well equipped with every field. We would like to cooperate in the field of health with Bulgaria. The 3rd Meeting of Balkan Universities Association will be held in Sofia very soon. We will meet important representatives of Bulgarian scientific and artistic world there. Vice Rector Prof. Dr. Cem Uzun stated that he was the General Secretary of Balkan Otolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery Association and had various contacts in Bulgaria recently. He also stated that they plan to make joint trainings with their colleagues and as university administration they are open to cooperation with them.



VISIT FROM THE UNIVERSITIES IN KOSOVO TO THE RECTOR OF TRAKYA UNIVERSITY

The Rector of Prizren University, Prof. Dr. Rame Vataj, Academician of Faculty of Education Soner Yıldırım, Academician of Prishtina University Assist. Prof. Bekim Gashi visited the Rector of Trakya University, Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu on December 6th, 2016. Trakya University Vice-Rector Prof. Dr. Cem Uzun, Deputy Dean of Faculty of Education, Prof. Dr. Rıdvan Canım, Coordinator of International Relations, Assoc. Prof. Murat Türkyılmaz and Acting Director of Social Sciences Institute, Assist. Prof. Levent Doğan also attended the meeting.

The Rectors of Prizren University and Trakya University signed the bilateral agreement and talked about the mobility in Mevlana Exchange Program. It was also decided to make a protocol with Prizren and Prishtina Universities within the scope of Erasmus+ program. It was also decided to organize "Kosovo Week" for one week. Rector Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu emphasized that Kosovo and universities in Kosovo are important and all Kosovars are our relatives by expressing that Prizren University is in a special place for us.



A FAREWELL DINNER FOR THE STUDENTS OF MEVLANA EXCHANGE PROGRAMME



A farewell dinner was given by the Rector of Trakya University, Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu on January 16th, 2017 for the students, who came to Trakya University for one semester within the scope of Mevlana Exchange Programme. Vice Rector of Trakya University Prof. Dr. Cem Uzun and Coordinator of Mevlana Exchange Programme, Assoc. Prof. Murat Türkyılmaz and the students attended the dinner.

Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu stated in his speech that the gates of our university are also open to the students in future and he wished all the students good luck in their educational life.

NEWS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF GJAKOVA "FEHMI AGANI"

The University of Gjakova "Fehmi Agani" (UGJFA) is a descendant of the High Pedagogical School that prepared the teachers during the second half of the sixties (1968) and the branch of University of Prishtina (2004).

The University of Gjakova "Fehmi Agani" (UGJFA) is a descendant of the High Pedagogical School that prepared the teachers during the second half of the sixties (1968) and the branch of University of Prishtina (2004). As Public University of Gjakova "Fehmi Agani" is founded by the Government of Kosovo on date March 6, 2013, whereas as university has began operating since October 1, 2013. It is composed by three academic units and seven study programs, such as: Faculty of Education with two study programs - Preschool and Primary Education; Faculty of Medicine with two study programs - Nursing and Midwifery and Faculty of Philology with three study programs - Albanian Language, Albanian Literature and English Language and Literature. Recently has 2775 students.

Regarding cooperation, the UGjFA have some bilateral agreements with regional and international Higher Education Institutions and it is partner in Erasmus+ projects. Apart regional, the ongoing international bilateral agreement is with University of Torino, where after the first official visit the agreement for mobility of staff and students (internships) is toward finalization. Concerning projects, the UGjFA is:

- Partner in EUFORIA, Project No. 561695-EPP-1-2015-1-UK-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP. This project aims of this project is to establish and develop links between universities and enterprises in order to enhance teaching and learning, upgrade the curricula in line with the needs of enterprises and improve the financial sustainability of HEIs in Kosovo. More information you will find in: http://euforia-kosovo.com/?page_id=791

- Partner in SOCRE project, Developing Social Rehabilitation through Education. The aim of this



project is to enhance education in social rehabilitation and management through lifelong learning (LLL), in line with the Bologna process and in collaboration with education, rehabilitation practice and ministries. Social rehabilitation aims at improvement of social capability and the possibility to cope with everyday life. Societal changes and situations of elderly, chronically ill and disabled people in Kosovo and Russia require continuous training of rehabilitation staff.

- Member of the CEEPUS, network titled "Engineering as Communication Language in Europe" (CIII-PL-0701-05-1617), the aim of which is to create communication and cooperation between engineers, dealing with various engineering branches. In this project we do have 30 stipendium for students and academic staff.

With regard to news, from the UGjFA



we are happy to inform that

- Our University did get re-accreditation of existing study programs in the Faculty of Education and Medicine for three academic coming years, until 2019. While, for the new study programs we are in a process of applying for accreditation and we will write you more another time.

- In the premises of the Faculty of Medicine in UGJFA, dated May 12, 2016 in honor of the International Day of Nursing, it was organized seminar by the students of Nursing and Midwifery, with the motto "Nurses: a force for change. Improving the resilience of the health system". Present at this event were representatives of the Regional Hospital "Isa Grezda" in Gjakova, representatives of management of the UGjFA, Dean for Faculty of Medicine, teachers and students.

- In December 2016 we did have the first diploma defense in Nursing Department, Faculty of Medicine by student Arbnore Asgoni with thesis "Nursing care for children with leukemia".

More information about the University of Gjakova "Fehmi Agani" you can find in a web page

www.uni-gjk.org

NEWS



1. Walking and sightseeing in the city of Ioannina.

Thematic guiding in the city and the area. The Committee of Culture of the University of Ioannina has launched a successful series of activities that include walking and thematic sightseeing in the city of Ioannina and its broader area. Day trips and walks are organized by the members of the Committee in collaboration with local authorities. These activities include visits to archaeological sites, to the island of the Lake Pamvotis, historical tours and guiding in the old city of Ioannina. Each time a Professor takes the initiative to make a presentation and an open discussion with the participants is followed right after. The participation is cost free and it is open not only to students and members of the academic community but also to the people of the city.

This is a very good opportunity where knowledge, pleasure and socialization merge. In addition, within the framework of the activities, the University enhances the bonds between the Institution and society.

2. On 13h of May 2016, the University of Ioannina conferred upon The Right Reverend Ierotheos D.D, Bishop of Nafpaktos and Ag.

Vlasiou, an Honorary Professor Degree, for his innovative contribution to Religion, Church and Science, and for his pioneering piece of work "the Handbook of Psychotherapy and Religious Diversity".

The Honorary Professor Degree is awarded by our University to individuals who have made profound and enduring contributions to their respective disciplines, who have presented outstanding achievements worthy of national or international recognition and who have a special affinity with the works and values of our University. The Rector of the University of Ioannina, Prof. George Kapsalis presided over the ceremonies alongside of the Vice-Rector Professor Andreas Fotopoulos, who presented the life and work of the Honoree, the Dean and the Head of the Departments of Medicine. The Ceremony was attended by a number of members of the academic community, students and people of the city of Ioannina. Following the reading of the citations, The Right Reverend Ierotheos was presented with the honorary degree and the academic dress of our University. His Lord delivered an acceptance speech and lecture. The University of Ioannina is proud to have conferred upon him this honorary

degree and it is more than pleased to welcome His Lord into the academic community.

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3rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE BALKAN UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION 24-25 March 2017 Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski

Professor Anastas Gerdjikov, Rector of Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski, Professor Ivan Ilchev, President of the Executive Committee of the Balkan Universities Association and the Conference Organizing Committee are pleased to invite you to participate in the Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski has the pleasure to host and organize the 3rd Annual Meeting of the Balkan Universities Association in the period 24-25 March 2017. The Conference continues the tradition of the successful cooperation of the Balkan universities that are members of the Association.

Complementary to the conference programme Sofia University will organize also a cultural programme, including a walking tour in the capital city of Bulgaria and a tour within the historical building of the university.

Accommodation expenses for two nights (March 23rd and 24th), meals and coffee breaks for up to two representatives of a university-member of the Association will be covered by the organisers. The rest of the expenses regarding the participation (travel, visa fees, medical insurance, etc.) shall be covered by the participants themselves.

Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski will provide also assistance in the visa application procedures if needed.

REGISTRATION

All interested participants could register through the following link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdMyhEm49yZ2Havab_Iu-oK5nRnn6F1bGIHQ6NvfNnwQ-nArA/viewform.

The deadline for registration is March 6th 2017 (after the deadline the online platform will be closed for registration).

DRAFT PROGRAMME

March 24th 2017

12.00 - 13.00	Registration and welcome reception
13.00 - 13.30	Opening
13.30 - 15.00	General Assembly Meeting
15.00 - 15.30	Coffee break
15.30 - 17.00	Opportunities for funding from EU financial schemes of joint initiatives in the framework of BUA. Discussion.
17.00 - 18.00	Walking tour in Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski
18.30 -	Dinner

March 25th 2017

09.00 - 10.30	Funding opportunities from programmes outside EU. Turkish financial academic schemes.
10.30 - 11.00	Coffee break
11.00 - 12.00	Future academic activities of BUA. Discussion.
12.00 - 13.00	Lunch
13.00	Walking tour in Sofia

All participants are welcome to contribute with presentations and panel moderation to the conference programme. The General Assembly Meeting will include also proposals for changes in the Charter of BUA. If you would like to participate with a presentation in the conference or if you have proposals regarding the Charter of the Association, please contact Ms. Slavka Karakusheva at skarakusheva@admin.uni-sofia.bg by March 6th 2017.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Sofia!

Cordially,
Prof. Anastas Gerdjikov
Rector
Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski

Prof. Anastas Gerdjikov
President of the Executive Committee of
the Balkan Universities Association

BUANEWS



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