

BUANEWS

Balkan Universities Association E-Bulletin

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Balkan Universities Association



ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI - GREECE

Global distinction for the Classics of AUTH: 16th in the QS University Rankings

The **Classics department** of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH) **is ranked 16th in the world by the 2018 QS World University Rankings**. At the same time, AUTH continues to belong **in the top 51-100 Universities in the world for Archeology**. Most importantly, Aristotle University **is ranked in the top 101-150** positions in the fields of **Civil Engineering and Environmental Sciences** and in the first **151-200 positions in the fields of Architecture, Electrical Engineering, Agriculture and Forestry**.

A significant improvement in AUTH's performance has been observed according to the QS World University Rankings 2018 compared to previous years' performance. In 2018 AUTH appears in 20 scientific fields of rankings and in 7 of them is ranked among the top 200 universities. Specifically, compared to 2017, there has been a rise in 10 scientific fields and wider scientific areas, whereas 13 remained stable and

AUTH RESEARCH POLICY

The University Research Policy has two main objectives: to promote quality and to foster excellence. The policy of excellence, aiming at the University's distinction in the international research arena, is implemented by gathering a critical mass of scientific research projects, and adopting an interdisciplinary approach; it is further supported by setting up research teams and incorporating processes for innovation development in research activity. This policy also focuses on recognizing high individual performance, establishing new

3 slightly declined. **Finally, AUTH holds the first spot among the Greek Universities in 9 scientific fields: Classics, Archeology, Medicine, Law, Agriculture, Forestry, Chemistry, Environmental Sciences, English Language and Literature and Pedagogy.**

According to QS, which in 2018 rated more than 4,500 Universities, the fields of Engineering and Technology Sciences emerged as the top broad area of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (item 222). In comparison to 2017, AUTH increased performance in 10 specific or broader scientific fields. Besides, 7 of these fields are ranked in the world top 200 and 2 of them, as mentioned above, in the top 100 universities worldwide.



For more information:

<https://www.topuniversities.com/qs-world-university-rankings>

research units and fostering an environment that enhances innovative actions.

AUTH in the context of its research policy promotes and implements a series of actions concerning:

Excellence Awards: Excellence Awards are nominated to a wide range of excellent activities led by the contribution to research, the attraction of funds, the recognition of someone's work and his/her contribution to the national and international scientific work, as well as the student



excellence (individual and student groups), the connection with society, and the significant administrative work.

Research Projects: Over the last five years AUTH has implemented more than 3500 Research and Technological Development Projects, mainly covering the scientific areas of the environment, information technology, communications, industrial technologies, transport, biotechnology, biomedical technology and health, agriculture, forestry, fishing, education / language, history, archeology and social / economic sciences

AUTH Research Committee: its main goal is to support and manage research projects. AUTH Research Committee offers a wide variety of services, from information-funding opportunities services, educational seminars, proposals editing support to patent licences and royalty agreements, as well as project monitoring and financial management.

Centre for the Dissemination of Research Results: it has been designed to house the services of the Research Committee and to host activities necessary for the dissemination of research results. Besides office premises, there are also conference and exhibition facilities, used for the promotion and dissemination of products and services originating from research undertaken at the university.

AUTH promotes innovation by financing 71 patents on promising research results at national, European and international level and by supporting the creation of spin-off companies and innovative research applications. In addition, 61 laboratories at AUTH, serving various scientific fields, have already been accredited, certified and offer quality software services to the market.

DEPARTMENT OF EUROPEAN EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES

Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH) holds approximately 1,500 active bilateral agreements with European universities within the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme within which more than 10,000 incoming students, 14,000 outgoing students and 4,500 outgoing staff members realized an Erasmus mobility. It also cooperates with 30 Countries within the Erasmus+ International Programme holding more than 70 inter-institutional agreements. The Department of European Educational Programmes (DEEP) has been actively promoting student and staff mobility throughout Europe since the first steps of the Erasmus Programme in 1987. Its activities are not limited in the European Union borders; its active involvement in the Erasmus Mundus consortia has made possible the exchange with universities from the Balkans, Black Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Asia and Latin America. An increasing number of students from a wide area of countries and academic fields choose for their postgraduate studies the Erasmus Mundus joint masters and doctorates supported by AUTH.

The action via the Erasmus+ framework on Staff Mobility for Training enables teaching, research and administrative staff to spend some weeks of training in an enterprise, organization

or higher education institution in another participating country. Recently, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki has become active in the Erasmus+ International Programme extending educational cooperation beyond Europe handling approximately 400 incoming and outgoing student and staff mobilities.

Further to the above, DEEP has been proposed as an example of good practices and positively evaluated by the National Agency in regard to its Erasmus+ administration like the Department's development of the mobility point allocation system. Additionally, DEEP has been suggested as an example of good practices in relation to the Erasmus+ International procedures (from programme application to programme implementation). Moreover, AUTH is ranked first in Greece regarding students' mobilities and one of the first in Europe for the Staff Teaching mobility. Last but not least, DEEP offers a wide range of services to both students and staff managing the administration procedures of all actions under the Erasmus+ Programme servicing all 41 Schools of AUTH.

More information at: www.eurep.auth.gr



ERASMUS AND LIBRARY STAFF TRAINING WEEKS

The Department of European Educational Programmes of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki is organizing 2 staff training weeks in Thessaloniki.

The 2nd Erasmus Library Staff Training Week which will be held from the 14th till the 18th of May 2018 invites library staff (librarians, information specialists, Library IT staff, etc.) to share ideas, knowledge and expertise. Such exchange may enable collaboration and provide solutions to common problems.

The 8th Erasmus Staff Training Week will be held from the 15th till the 19th of October 2018; its main purposes is to widen

and strengthen the cooperation with our partner institutions, to share our different experiences on internationalization and to facilitate networking and establishment of new partnerships. Participants will be given the opportunity to learn from the experiences and good practices of the partner institutions and focus on relevant discussions such as exchanging ideas about fostering student and staff mobility, presenting their home universities as well as structures and working practices, discussing the current issue of refugee-migrants entering Higher Education, exploring and discussing special topics of interest, etc.



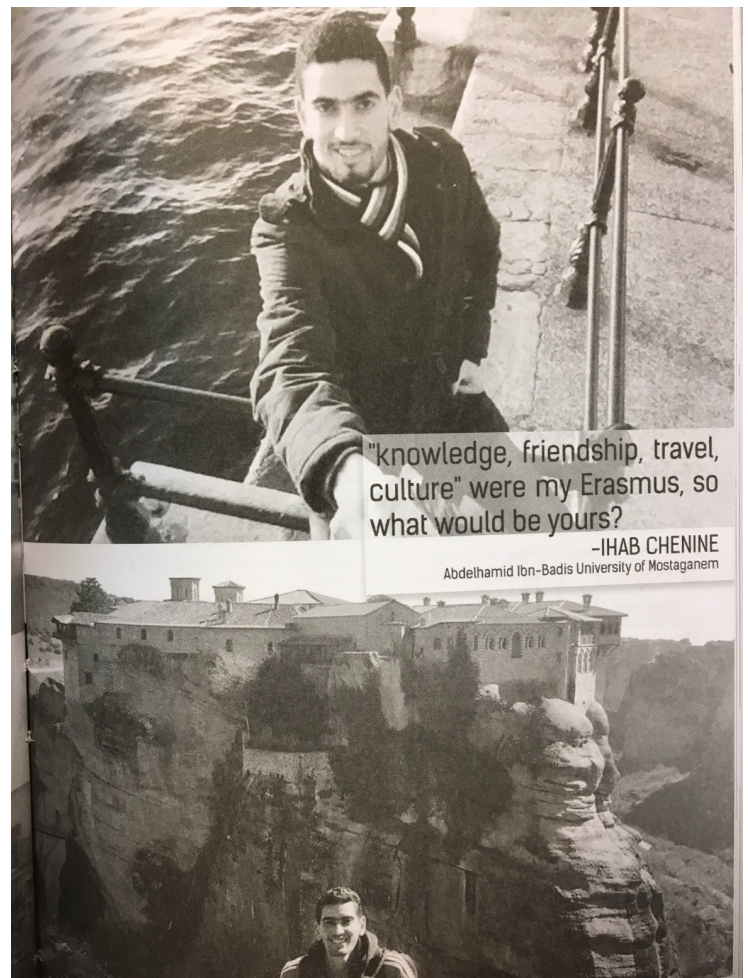
ERASMUS UNIVERSITIES' FAIR

The Department of European Educational Programmes is organizing the event "Universities' Fair" which will take place on Tuesday, 17th of May 2018. During the event, Erasmus+, Erasmus Mundus and International students will have the chance to present their Home Institutions to their fellow Greek students of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki as future outgoing students; they will also serve as ambassadors of their University and their home country and interact with the rest student community of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki.



ERASMUS+ INTERNATIONAL CALENDAR

The Department of European Educational Programmes issued an Erasmus+ International Calendar 2018 which includes testimonials of incoming and outgoing students and staff who realized mobility within the Erasmus+ International Programme.



THE 11TH AUDIOVISUAL ARTS FESTIVAL 2017

The Audio & Visual Arts Department of the Ionian University organised from May 20th to June 11th the 11th Audiovisual Arts Festival 2017, which featured a broad spectrum of artistic, scientific and educational activities, not only in Corfu, where the Ionian University is situated, but in the Greek capital as well.

Besides the various exhibitions and events in Corfu, this year's festival presented a retrospective digital art show on the premises of the prestigious Athens Concert Hall (Megaron), where selected works by members of the department, graduate, postgraduate and Phd students as well as professors, together with works by internationally renowned artists, such as Eija-Liisa Ahtila, Barry Purves and Theodore Ushev were displayed. The Electroacoustic Music Research and Applications Laboratory of the Department of Music Studies complemented the exhibition with electroacoustic music concerts. Alongside the exhibition and the concerts, workshops, a masterclass and lectures programme were

offered under the title "Art and Digital Culture", with the participation of prominent guests and with a focus on the media of video art and animation. The two-day event was a joint production of the Audio-Visual Arts Department and the Athens Concert Hall (Megaron Bridges cycle).

In Corfu, the 11th Audiovisual Arts Festival included the successful organization of the 2nd international scientific conference entitled "Taboo - Transgression - Transcendence in Art & Science", as a continuation of last year's highly popular conference.

Finally, scheduled right after these events, the Corfu Summer School in Hybrid Arts integrated both Greek mythological inspiration connected with the Ionian Islands and the nearly unlimited possibilities of new media. The courses, offered in English, were theoretical and practical, including seminars from guest speakers in several locations connected with the thematic of the summer school.



THE 8TH SUMMER ACADEMY IN CHORAL CONDUCTING FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH CHOIRS

The Music Department of the Ionian University organized the 8th Summer Academy in Choral Conducting for Children and Youth Choirs, directed by Prof. Miranda Caldi. Invited clinician for the 6-day course was the acclaimed conductor and Emeritus Professor of Toronto University, Ms. Doreen Rao, winner of 4 Grammy awards and celebrated internationally for her concerts and inspirational teaching. The Academy took place from July 1st - 7th, 2017 in the beautiful surroundings of Corfu town, in the historical building of the Ionian Academy, gathering many children and youth choirs from all over Greece and presenting an ideal opportunity for school and community choral directors to gain new experiences and insights in choral conducting and choral pedagogy.

The daily itinerary of the academy was divided into 4 sessions: A workshop children's choir with which Ms. Rao applied her methodology, vocal techniques for choirs, choral conducting techniques and question and answer period. In the evenings Ms. Rao worked on a selected choral programme with the participant's choir.

During the seminar, Greek children's and youth choirs gave several beautiful evening concerts for the general public, while the academy concluded with the final concert of the workshop and the participants' choir under the direction of Doreen Rao.



HONORARY DOCTORATE DEGREE TO H.E. THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC MR. PROKOPIOS PAVLOPOULOS

The Department of History of the Ionian University awarded an Honorary Doctorate to the President of the Republic, Mr. Prokopios Pavlopoulos, honoring his brilliant contribution as a scientist and academic teacher. The award ceremony took place on 21 May 2017 in the Ionian University Ceremonies

Hall, in the Ionian Academy.

After his proclamation to an honorary Doctor of the Department of History of the Ionian University, in his acceptance speech the President referred to the historical development of the concept of the rule of law, its emergence

and gradual consolidation as a fundamental institutional guarantee of the organization and functioning of the State in general, and a democratic achievement of the highest order, especially insofar as the prevalence of the constituent elements of the rule of law is the one which has, in essence, initiated the safeguarding of human rights, establishing the basic constitutional clauses of respect for the value of man and the free development of his personality .

The President of the Republic was lauded by Prof. Nikolaos Karapidakis in the customary praising speech, while the reading of the Doctor's Degree was done by the Rector of the Ionian University, Prof. Vasilis Chryssikopoulos. The ceremony was completed with the investment of the President of the Republic with the robe and the insignia of the Ionian University by the Rector of the Ionian University, and the President of the Department of History, Prof. Vaios Vaiopoulos.

**LINKS**

University website: <http://www.ionio.gr/>



University brochure in English:

https://issuu.com/ionianuniversity/docs/final_brochure_2016_web_version



UBI GLOBAL INDEX RANKING RESULTS

UBI Global Index ranking results, which compares entrepreneurship incubators of leading universities, have been released. In the category of university affiliated incubators, İTÜ Seed has been ranked 2nd in Europe and 3rd in the world. İTÜ Seed, one of the most important entrepreneurship programs, has been carrying out activities for the last six years within ARI Technopark. Its achievements have made history.



İTÜ POLREC HAS STARTED ITS 2ND EXPEDITION TO ANTARCTICA

İTÜ POLREC, the first Turkish Scientific Polar Research Center, made its first expedition to Antarctica in 2016. The second expedition started on March, 7th, 2018 from Istanbul under the auspices of the Presidency of the Turkish Republic, the responsibility of the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology and leadership of İTÜ POLREC. İTÜ POLREC team together with other scientists from different Turkish universities aim to do research that will help the international scientific community better understand the Antarctic ecosystem and the effects of climate change, and to scout sites for a possible permanent Turkish base on the continent. The team together will stay for six weeks. Within the next five years, Turkey wants to become the 30th consultative member of the Antarctic Treaty - the international body that oversees Antarctic governance.



BRAIN DAMAGES TO BE DETECTED IN THE AMBULANCE WITH "KASK"

With the "KASK" system, developed by Istanbul Technical University (İTÜ) Academic Member Prof. İbrahim Akduman and his team, brain damages caused by impact and embolism will now be diagnosed in the ambulance.

Prof. Akduman introduced the new system, supported jointly by İTÜ and the Istanbul Development Agency (ISTKA), and said that the purpose of the production of this system was to prevent and reduce brain damages and fatality caused by impact and embolism in the ambulance.



ISTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY RANKS 77TH AMONGST 619 UNIVERSITIES BY GREENMETRIC

Istanbul Technical University (İTÜ) has been ranked 77th out of 619 universities by GreenMetric, a platform which creates global awareness to sustainability and environmental consciousness. GreenMetric evaluates areas of exclusive universities such as, infrastructure, energy, climate change, recycling, water resources, transportation and education. İTÜ is the first Turkish University to enter into the top 100 rank, a great pride for the country.



ISTANBUL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY

With over 240 years of prominent history, a contemporary education environment and distinguished academic staff, Istanbul Technical University (İTÜ) is renowned in Turkey with its engineering and architecture education.

İTÜ was established in 1773, during the time of the Ottoman Sultan Mustafa III. under its original name "Muhendishane-i Bahr-i Humayun". Since then, İTÜ has undertaken the leadership in the Ottoman Empire reformation movements and had invaluable influence on the reconstruction, modernization and administration of our nation during the Republican Period of Turkey. Engineers and architects graduated from İTÜ had devoted tremendous effort on building the infrastructure in the cities and villages of Turkey via bridges, factories, buildings, power plants, telecommunication networks. Today, İTÜ has its signature under numerous first and unique projects of Turkey. First cube satellite, first electrical minibus, first hydrogen propelled boat, first unmanned automobile, first national computer, first

television broadcast are realized by İTÜ and first university radio is established by İTÜ.

İTÜ is a worldwide known benchmark for engineering and architecture education with its esteemed historical background, modern education and prominent academic body. In Turkey, only İTÜ graduates have the eligibility to take the "Fundamentals of Engineering" and "Professional of Engineering" exams which have global recognition. İTÜ is not only distinguished by its technical education but also consolidated its academic existence by its undergraduate and postgraduate education in art and economics.

İTÜ is a state university that defines the professions of engineering and architecture in Turkey by providing a modern education environment while possessing its conventional structure. İTÜ educates pioneers in engineering and architecture not only well-known at national but also at international scale with their strong international ties.

Links

To obtain more information;
<http://www.itu.edu.tr/en>



For further information on international undergraduate admission;
<http://www.sis.itu.edu.tr/eng/foreign/>



For further information on graduate school admission;
<http://fbe.itu.edu.tr/Pages.aspx?app=1&pID=20&lang=en-gb>



INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO

IUS is a young institution, established in 2004. Since then, IUS has been committed to investment in future generations, human potential, research and education, which enables the creation of an international environment. IUS promotes cross border cooperation and diversity, quality education and excellence in research, which is essential for future progress of science and the benefit of humanity.

The International University of Sarajevo has five faculties and 5 research centers.

- Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences,
- Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences,
- Faculty of Business and Administration,
- Faculty of Law, and
- Faculty of Education.

Over the years 18 undergraduate and 35 graduate study programs have been opened. We currently have students from 56 countries in these programs.

IUS professors have PhD's from world-class universities, including UC, Berkeley, Purdue, Univ. of Michigan, Univ. of Pennsylvania, Washington State University, Univ. of Syracuse, Univ. of Minnesota, Nebraska, Santa Clara, Texas A and M, Univ. of Houston, Northeastern, Stony Brook, Connecticut, Florida, Northern Illinois, Oxford, Warwick, Birmingham, Univ. of Paris, Technical Univ. of Denmark, Delft Univ. of Technology, Middle East Technical Univ., Boğaziçi Univ., Istanbul Univ., Univ. of Trieste, Univ. of Lille, Islamic Univ. of Malaysia, and Univ. of Sarajevo.

English is the language of teaching and communication.

That makes IUS a meeting place for eminent experts to share thoughts, ideas and research findings.



International University of Sarajevo Online Application System

<https://apply.ius.edu.ba/>



BALKAN STUDIES CENTER

Balkan Studies Center is one of the five research centers in IUS. For a more than century Balkan region is of huge interest for international science and politics. Our vision is to promote new approaches in studying Balkans' multidimensional history, culture and heritage by emphasizing the values of regional engagement, interdependence and cooperation. We aim to make significant contributions across different disciplines by using transdisciplinary approach and insider's perspectives. That's why Balkan Studies emerged as a common ground for cooperation between universities and research centers in field of humanities, social and political sciences and culture. The aim is to provoke and attract interest

in cooperation among Balkan states through emphasizing Balkans as a unique region and example of multicultural model not only to Europe but whole world. Major goal is to present Balkans through works and explanations of domestic scholars. Mission of Balkan Studies Center therefore is to motivate and support an academic community, policy-makers and the public in the promotion of scholarly research and policy-analysis related to the Balkans history, political economy, culture, literature, arts and architecture, foreign policy and security that will inevitably lead towards tolerance, understanding and the regional cooperation.



SIX IUS STUDY PROGRAMS OBTAINED UNCONDITIONAL INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION

Austrian government Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria (AQ Austria), a full member of European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), accredited six study programs of first and second study cycles offered at the International University of Sarajevo (IUS).

The accreditation IUS received by AQ Austria demonstrates the University's commitment to offer quality education to its students, and that the University fulfilled its strategic goals regarding the accreditation of study programs as planned.

By this prestigious accreditation, six study programs obtained international recognition and impartial quality evaluation. This confirms that research conducted and curricula implemented by these study programs are fully in line with the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG), which are used for quality assurance in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).

At the session held by the Agency's managing board on November 14, 2017 in Vienna, the international accreditation was given to following study programs:

- Electrical and Electronics Engineering, I Study Cycle
- Electrical and Electronics Engineering, II Study Cycle
- Genetics and Bioengineering, I Study Cycle
- Genetics and Bioengineering, II Study Cycle
- International Relations, I Study Cycle
- International Relations, II Study Cycle

The IUS management stated that this accreditation is just one among many international accomplishments of the University, and emphasized its commitment to the Bologna vision, whereby quality assurance of the higher education institution is made in line with European Standards and Guidelines.

INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO (IUS) RANKED THE BEST PRIVATE UNIVERSITY IN BIH IN 2018

We are proud to announce that the International University of Sarajevo (IUS) has been ranked as the second-best among all universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina according to the latest Webometrics report from January 2018.

This report is also a confirmation that the International University of Sarajevo is the best private university in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The International University of Sarajevo has improved its overall ranking in Bosnia and Herzegovina compared to the Webometrics report from August 2017: it advanced from third-best to second-best. 62 universities from Bosnia and Herzegovina participated in this selection, which makes the success of this young university even greater.

The overall World Rank of the IUS is 3362. More information about the ranking can be found on the following website:

<http://www.webometrics.info/en/Europe/Bosnia%20and%20Herzegovina%20>



IUS ENGLISH LANGUAGE SCHOOL IS ACCREDITED BY EAQUALS

By IUS-PR on 12 Feb 2018 IUS English Language School (ELS) has recently been accredited by EAQUALS (Evaluation and Accreditation of Quality Language Services), an internationally recognized accreditation body based in Europe. IUS English Language School has become the 1st internationally accredited university English language foundation program in the Balkans by EAQUALS.

English Language School of International University of Sarajevo was inspected by EAQUALS in November 2017 and met the high standards required for EAQUALS accreditation in its first inspection. The teaching, the course programs, as well as the course organization, the learning resources, testing and evaluation were all judged to be of high quality. It was found that the institution takes great care to protect the welfare of its clients and staff, and all publicity materials produced by the institution are accurate and truthful. The Inspectors identified points of excellence in the following categories: Management and Administration, Assessment and Certification, Learning Environment, Client Services, Staff Profile and Development, Staff Employment Terms.

What is EAQUALS?

Founded in 1991, EAQUALS (Evaluation and Accreditation of Quality Language Services) is the leading professional association that fosters 'Excellence through Accreditation of Quality in Language Services' throughout the world. To support these aims, EAQUALS has established and published a demanding set of accreditation criteria. The EAQUALS accreditation scheme provides guarantees of high quality for language learners studying in EAQUALS accredited centers. EAQUALS Accredited Members are language teaching centers which have met the rigorous demands of the EAQUALS inspection scheme.

EAQUALS advises the Council of Europe on language policy issues and is a member of the professional Network Forum at the European Centre for Modern Languages (ECML). The EAQUALS membership scheme brings together language teaching centers from over 30 countries and leading national and international organizations which actively support language education. EAQUALS also have specific cooperation agreements with a number of highly-respected international bodies which share their aims.

Accredited Members of EAQUALS offer a consistently high standard of language education that meet the world's language learning needs. EAQUALS grants accreditation by inspecting areas such as; Management and Administration, Teaching and Learning, Course Design and Supporting Systems, Assessment and Certification, Academic Resources, Learning Environment, Client Services, Quality Assurance, Staff Profile and Development, Staff Employment Terms, Internal Communications, External Communications.

For more information about EAQUALS, please visit :
<https://www.eaquals.org/>



IUS RECEIVED GRANT FROM COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF BIH FOR HORIZON 2020 PROJECT "GENDER EQUALITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN BIH"

International University of Sarajevo received another grant as part of project Horizon 2020 from Council of Ministers of BiH for 2017-2018.

Namely, Horizon 2020 "Gender Equality in Higher Education" plan which is being implemented at the International University of Sarajevo (IUS) is first of its kind in this region. Project coordinator Dr. Jasminka Hasić Telalović

decided to present this plan at other, public universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina by applying to the Council of Ministers grant.

The grant will allow IUS to position itself as leader in implementation of gender equality policies in higher education area, through workshops and lectures.

TURKISH PRESIDENTIAL SPOKESPERSON DR. IBRAHIM KALIN LECTURED AT IUS

On Thursday, January 25, 2018, Turkish presidential spokesperson Dr. Ibrahim Kalın was visiting Sarajevo. During his visit to Sarajevo, Kalın gave a lecture to the International University of Sarajevo (IUS) students on the topic of "Islam and the West, and the future".

Before the lecture, the IUS Rector welcomed the distinguished guest and presented him to the audience.

Dr. Kalın spoke about the history of Islamic - Western relations which is important for understanding today's relations. Among the other things, he said:

"At least since 8th century Muslims were part of European culture and society in Andalusia, where they stayed until year 1492, i.e. the expulsion of Muslims and Jews. That is when Europe lost the chance to be truly multicultural continent."

Dr. Kalın emphasized the importance of Sarajevo for the relations between the East and the West:

"It makes a lot of sense to make comparison between Sarajevo and Andalusia for many reasons. For 500 years Muslims have been present in this region. Also, there is a present experience of urban Islam."

He also added: "We can learn from one another in Europe today, live together as once in Andalusia when Muslims, Jews and Christians built a global culture and civilization, but at the same time retained their cultural identity." He said that Sarajevo can provide us with an example: "The life of Andalusia can be felt here and it can spread to the rest of the world," said Dr. Kalın.

After the lecture, the IUS Rector handed the guest a present and thanked him on his visit.

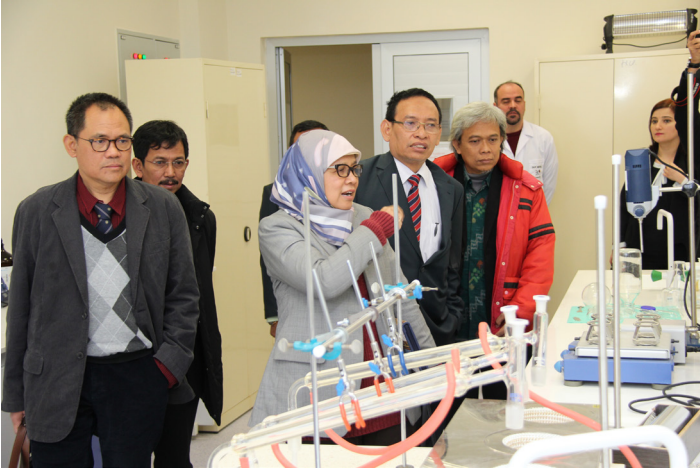
KIRKLARELİ UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHED ACADEMIC COOPERATION WITH THE UNIVERSITAS AIRLANGGA

The Rector of Universitas Airlangga from Indonesia, Prof. Dr. Mohammad Nasih and his delegation visited Kırklareli University on the 22nd of March. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between two Universities, in order to establish a basis for academic cooperation, academic mobility, scientific knowledge exchange and other joint activities.

The Rector of Kırklareli University, Prof. Dr. Bülent Şengörür expressed his pleasure regarding the visit from

an Indonesian University and underlined the importance of long lasting academic collaboration. The Vice-Rector of Kırklareli University, Prof. Dr. Nezih Müsaoglu and the Vice-Rector of Universitas Airlangga, Prof. Dr. Djoko Santoso were also present during the meeting.

After signing of the MoU, a presentation about Kırklareli University was made. At the end of the program, the delegation of Universitas Airlangga came together with the Indonesian students who are studying in Kırklareli University.



INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE IN KIRKLARELİ UNIVERSITY

Kırklareli University is going to host "3rd International Organic Electronic Material Technology Conference (OEMT2018)" which will be held at İğneada Resort Hotel, Kırklareli during 20-22 September 2018.

The OEMT2018 conference is devoted to the state-of-the-art of organic electronics and different aspects of Organic Electronic Materials, Chemistry, Physics, Environmental

Science, Medical Science, Applied and Engineering Science, Computer Simulation of Organic Structures, Biomedical Applications and Advanced Characterization Techniques of Nanostructured Materials.

More detailed information regarding the conference can be found in the conference website: <http://oemt2018.klu.edu.tr/>



THE VISIT OF ATYRAU UNIVERSITY

Kazakhstan Atyrau University International Office Director Karlıgaş Aşırhanova paid an academic visit to the Rector of Kırklareli University, Prof. Dr. Bülent Şengörür on 14th February 2018. During the meeting, the parties agreed upon

extending scientific and academic relations between the two Universities. Our Rector Prof. Dr. Bülent Şengörür stated that such academic cooperations will contribute to good relations between Turkey and Kazakhstan.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS "CULTURE NIGHT" EVENT

International Relations Office and International Students Club jointly organized the "Culture Night" event on 15th March 2018. Throughout the event, our international students from Turkmenistan, Indonesia, Afghanistan, Ozbekistan and Moldova introduced their countries and cultures via presentations. After these presentations, international

students performed their traditional folk dances and exhibited their traditional outfits. Vice Rector of Kırklareli University, Prof. Dr. Nezih Müsaoglu and International Relations Office Coordinator Dr. Neriman Hocaoglu expressed the importance of such events in terms of enhancing cultural exchange between international students and Turkish students.



THE SUCCESS OF OUR UNIVERSITY

2016 Entrepreneur and Innovator University Index declared the results on December 29, 2017. Universities in Turkey are divided into 23 categories related to topics such as scientific and technological research competency, intellectual property pool, cooperation and interaction, entrepreneurship and innovativeness culture, economic contribution and commercialization size. 157 universities with more than 50 faculty members included in index order this year. On the

list of the 50 most enterprising and innovative universities, our university has achieved a great success by ranking 48th. We are grateful to all of our academic and administrative staff who have efforts in the success of our university being one of the two universities that entered the list among the state universities established after 2006, thank you all for this pride.



NKU TECHNOPARK HAS BEEN SELECTED THE 3RD EARLY PHASE TECHNOPARK IN THE 5. TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT ZONES SUMMIT THAT IS HELD BY DIRECTORATE GENERAL FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

In order to receive the prize for being the 3rd Early Phase Technopark Technology Development Area our Rector Prof Dr. Osman Şimşek and General Director of Technopark Inc. Bülent Eker participated in the 5. Technology Development Zones Summit that is held in Bilkent Hotel and Conference Center attended with the Minister of Science, Industry and Technology, Faruk Özlü.

Minister Özlü remarked that "High Technology" is Turkey's motto and made the following evaluations;

" Level of development determine the countries' competitive power. For this reason, we are building our industrialization policy in an integrated manner with technology and innovation. We are developing our own original technologies and domestic technical capacity which is literally 'high technology mobilization'. High technology mobilization is a very important part of Turkey's 2023 goals. I invite all the business world, universities and entrepreneurs to participate in this campaign make a contribution to this action. I believe our Technology Development Areas will play a very important mission to this high-tech mobilization. "

After the prize-giving ceremony, Minister Özlü has visited the Technology Development Areas booths.



NATIONAL SEED VALLEY PROJECT TO BE IMPLEMENTED

"National Seed Valley" project will be implemented with the Agricultural Biotechnology Center established in a village settlement for the first time in Turkey by Agricultural Faculty of Namik Kemal University.

Agricultural Biotechnology Center will be established in Naip Village 15-20 km far away from the city center, close by Kumbağ which is the microclimate region of Thrace. It is a trail-blazing application to establish a center in a village settlement.

Moreover, by this project with 6-7 million TL budget, also "National Seed Valley" project will be implemented.

Through the implementation of this project, it is aimed to develop basic strategies by creating awareness in the seed sector. The project will contribute to the region and the whole country including our university, researchers, entrepreneurs, industrialists, and associations.



“MADAM BUTTERFLY” AT TRAKYA UNIVERSITY

Within the scope of cultural cooperation between the Republic of Bulgaria and the Republic of Turkey; Madam Butterfly opera by Italian composer Giacomo Puccini of Bulgaria Stara Zagora State Opera was organized by Edirne Governorship and Bulgarian Consulate-General in Edirne and staged at the Balkan Congress Center on April 25, 2018 with the contributions of our University, Edirne Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Mimar Sinan Rotary Club.

Ognyan Dragonov, the Director of Stara Zagora State Opera, stated in his speech: “We are pleased to be together with valuable participants in such a great organization to be held by Stara Zagora State Opera with home ownership of Trakya University. At the base of friendships are togetherness and ties. As the cooperation is shared and as it grows, the roots of friendships will go deeper. As Stara Zagora State Opera, we are breaking new ground in Edirne. We are happy and delighted to be here. We are grateful to those contributing to the realization of the event.”

Vassil Valchev, the Consul General of the Republic of Bulgaria in Edirne said “I would like to express my pride

and happiness for being here individually and as the Consul General of my country. The performing of Madam Butterfly opera which breaks new ground in its own field in Edirne and Thrace is being staged within the cooperation of Turkey and Bulgaria during the Bulgarian term-presidency of European Union Council. As you appreciate, it is not easy to arrange an opera organization out of opera atmosphere and it requires great deal of preparation. There is no doubt that traditional music genres come first. We witness here that the Rectorate of Trakya University and the State Conservatory have built a good music and stage tradition. It is ordinary and not for the first time that Trakya University hosts such an organization in Edirne, which represents a successful unification and integration with its historically and culturally central location in Thrace region and which contemporarily shelters various cultures. Trakya University is of crucial importance in terms of arranging cultural facilities, creating cultural relations and constructing a bridge of tolerance among bordering countries Turkey, Greece, Bulgaria. We will work to make such activities traditional. To realize this; there is a demand and also necessary opportunities in Edirne.”





The Vice-Minister of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria, Rumen Dimitrov stated: "I express my honor and pleasure that the opera Madam Butterfly will be performed in the grand hall of Trakya University by the Stara Zagora State Opera on behalf of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria. Cultural activities between the two countries have very important purposes. In this way, we find the opportunity to know each other more closely because culture is an important bridge of mutual understanding and friendship. Of course, the steps we are taking are not in vain. Cultural cooperation between Bulgaria and Turkey is diverse and active and culture men of two states play a significant role for deepening and improving the mutual understanding and cultural network between our peoples. Also art men have an important mission; it is to evaluate and approve incoming people. On behalf of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Bulgaria, I would like to extend my special thanks to the institutions and individuals who have played an important role in the realization of this great and meaningful organization.

Edirne Governor Günay Özdemir said in his speech: "We, as the cultures that have lived together through their history, have a lot in common and that reflect the culture of living together in a best way; are again realizing a common historical event today. As the governor and administrators of the region, we exert huge efforts to develop good relations between the Republic of Turkey and the Republic of Bulgaria in social, cultural and economic affairs. We see the same effort from all the administrators in Bulgaria, especially from Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov. After I met Bulgarian Prime Minister Borisov, he invited us to Bulgarian Prime Ministry Office. When I arrived there, he did not ask me what I would like to drink; instead, he offered me a Turkish coffee. He also said that he liked Turkish coffee very much and that he offered it to everyone. From now on, I, as the Governor of Edirne, would like to welcome him in Edirne and to have Turkish coffee here with him, and we are also ready to visit him in Sofia again for Turkish coffee. I would like to thank everyone involving in the realization of this art activity, especially the Bulgarian Ministry of Culture."

Giacomo Puccini's 3-act Madam Butterfly opera, which was performed by Stara Zagora State Opera and was adapted for opera from the short story of American writer Luther Long with the same title, attracted intense interest of the participants and received their standing ovation for a long time.

The Madam Butterfly opera, in which the Italian composer Giacomo Puccini's emotions were revealed significantly, tells the love of a Japanese young girl and an American military officer within the realities of the nineteenth century.



CONGRESS OF INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION PLATFORM AND TRANSART EXHIBITION

The fifth congress held by International University Museums Association Platform, working so as to institutionalize university museums in international platforms, started in the Complex of Sultan Bayezid II Health Museum on 3rd May, Thursday, hosted by Trakya University. Before the opening speeches, Prof. Dr. Fethiye Erbay presented the Rector Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu with an oil painting depicting the court kitchen in the 15. Century and being the very first piece of the inventory of Imaret and Court Kitchen Museum, to be established within the Complex of Sultan Bayezid II Health Museum.

After the opening speeches, a ceremony was carried out to announce the museums elected as worthy of an award by the participants of the congress hosted by Anadolu University in

2017. The first award of the "The Best Presentation" category was granted on behalf of his institution to Osman Siviloğlu, the Museum Manager of Suleyman Demirel Democracy and Development Museum under the presidency of Demirel Foundation. The second award, on the other hand, was granted to Master Architect Ümran Köksüz on behalf of Kadir Has University Rezan Has Museum. Awarded by International University Museums Association Platform twice before, Trakya University Complex of Sultan Bayezid II Health Museum was again deemed worthy of an award and elected as "The Best University Museum" this year. The award was presented to the Rector Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu and the Lecturer Hakan Akıncı, the manager of Complex of Sultan Bayezid II Health Museum by Prof. Dr. Fethiye Erbay.



The exhibition of "Transart 2018" was opened in the Faculty of Fine Arts on 4th May, within the Fifth Congress of International University Museums Association Platform, held in the Complex of Sultan Bayezid II Health Museum between 3- 5 May 2018, hosted by Trakya University. Prof. Dr. Fethiye Erbay said, " Transart 2018 is a special exhibition created for this congress by scholars from diverse faculties. I would like to thank you all participating in the Project."

In his speech, Vice Rector Prof. Dr. Mümin Şahin stated, "Transart 2018 is an exhibition reflecting different points of view and consisting of great works. I would like to thank especially the scholars creating such a beautiful exhibition and all others who contributed. We are glad to host you and organize outstanding events at Trakya University."





After the opening speeches, ribbon-cutting ceremony took place. Afterwards, Prof. Dr. Fethiye Erbay, the Head of Congress Organization Board presented thank you plaques to Prof. Dr. Mümin Şahin, the Vice Rector of Trakya University, hosting the events, the Lecturer Hakan Akıncı, the assistant secretary general and the manager of Complex of Sultan

Bayezid II Health Museum, Müslüm Özcan, the curator of İlhan Koman Sculpture and Painting Museum, and Asst. Prof. Ersan Sarıkahya from the Faculty of Fine Arts. After the opening ceremony, sessions started and 13 international, totally 57 papers were presented.



THE BALKAN UNIVERSITIES ASSOCIATION IN TETOVO

The opening ceremony of the 4th Meeting of the Balkan Universities Association was hosted by Tetova University on March 30th, 2018. Macedonian Parliament Speaker Talat Xhaferi, the Minister of Education and Science of Macedonia Assoc. Dr. Arber Ademi, the Rector of Tetova University Prof. Dr. Vulnett Ameti and the Rector of Trakya University Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu made the opening speeches.

A total of 36 universities from Turkey, Bulgaria, Albania, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Romania, Kosovo, Serbia and approximately 100 representatives consisting of the authorities from the Ministry of Science, Industry and Technology of Turkish Republic attended the opening ceremony.



In inauguration; Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu on behalf of our university, which is the Permanent Secretariat of the Balkan Universities Association and a member of Permanent Board of Management, stated that the Balkan Universities Association expands every day; it has continued to accomplish to arrange splendid organizations and has provided cooperation in unity among the universities. Rector Tabakoğlu emphasized that we care about the Balkan Universities Association and that we would like to improve it. He also talked about the quality and accreditation studies that should be carried out in universities. He ended his speech by thanking everyone for this gorgeous organization.

The first of the 4th Meeting of the Balkan Universities Association took part in the form of an international conference. The conference, in which many academics from different universities participated with different topics, almost turned into an information festival. The academics of Trakya University, the Permanent Secretariat of the Balkan Universities Association and a member of Permanent Board of Management, contributed to the conference with their presentations. In addition; our Vice Rector Prof. Dr. Cem Uzun, the Director of Foreign Relations Application and Research Center, acted as moderator in the presentations. Each paper presented at the conference took place in the Conference Proceedings Book published by Tetova University.

On March 31, 2018, the second day of the meeting, the Rectors meeting was held and the status of recently applied members was evaluated. It was decided by the unanimous vote that 8 nominees become members of BUA., thus the number of members of the Balkan Universities Association increased to 69. At the 4th BUA meeting, the 2019-2020 term-presidency was also designated. After the Thessaloniki University of Aristotle's 2018 presidency, It was unanimously decided that 2019 BUA presidency be given to University of Bucharest. In the meeting; Prof. Dr. Enver Duran was unanimously appointed as the Honorary President of the Balkan Universities Association by the delegation consisting of the representatives of the universities that are members of Balkan Universities Association. It was decided that Prof. Dr. Enver Duran will be given the Balkan Universities Association Honorary Presidential Plenary at the Balkan Universities Association Meeting to be held next year at Thessaloniki University.

At the 4th meeting of the Balkan Universities Association, Mevlana Exchange Programme Protocol was signed among our university and the Rector of Tetova University of Macedonia Prof. Dr. Vullnet Ameti, the Rector of Tuzla University Prof. Dr. Nermina Hadžigrahić, the Rector of Shkodra Luigj Gurakuqi University Prof. Dr. Adem Bekteshi and the Rector of Prizren Ukshin Hoti University Prof. Dr. Ramë Vataj. In addition, Bilateral Cooperation Protocol was signed between our university and Prof. Dr. Mircea Dumitru, the Rector of the University of Bucharest. These protocols, which will be in effect until 2023, will accelerate the schedule concerning the exchange of students and faculty members between our university and the Balkan University.



A handover ceremony was held on March 31, 2018 at the 4th meeting of the Balkan Universities Association. Tetova University transferred its presidency to the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki through a ceremony. The Rector of

Aristotle University, Prof. Dr. Pericles A. Mitkas stated: "We are very pleased to undertake the term-presidency of the Balkan Universities Association and we believe that we will move the Balkan Universities Association forward."



UNIVERSITY OF ELBASAN "ALEKSANDËR XHUVANI", ALBANIA



There are 39 study programs for Bachelor Studies, 44 study programs for Master Studies and 2 study programs for Doctoral Studies.

The academic programs of the University of Elbasan are characterized by effective teaching methods that integrate student-centered learning and foster learner autonomy. This is realized through the continuous professional development of excellence in the classroom by the teaching staff, the use of contemporary technology in the classroom, the involvement of students in the classroom and other learning environments.

University of Elbasan (UNIEL) is a successor institution of the "Elbasan Normal School" a teacher training institution that was founded on December 1, 1909. Established as an institution of higher education in 1971, UE is a public higher education institution located in Elbasan and is officially accredited by the Public Accreditation Agency for Higher Education, Decision of the Accreditation Board Nr. 08., date 07.04.2017. The University of Elbasan has a commitment to providing the highest quality education to our students so that they can become successful professionals in their chosen fields and develop positive influences in their communities.

UNIEL numbers 13110 students, 220 full-time academic staff, from which 75 hold the title Professor. The academic staff are committed to provide a high quality educational experience through teaching and research opportunities. UNIEL provides three study cycles: Bachelor (three years) and Master (1-2 years) and doctoral studies. The study programs are designed in accordance with the "Bologna Declaration".

The University of Elbasan currently has five faculties:

- Faculty of Economy,
- Faculty of Human Sciences,
- Faculty of Education Sciences,
- Faculty of Natural Sciences,
- Faculty of Medical Technical Sciences.



Due to the importance of sharing academic experience and creating a high qualitative educational environment for staff and students, the University of Elbasan has established, developed and managed different exchange and international agreements with universities, all over Europe and also United States. Only for the academic year 2016-2017 there were signed 43 Bilateral Agreements with Universities of: Italy- USA- Spain-Germany-Turkey-Bulgaria-Rumania-Poland-Fyrom-Sweden-Finland -Czech Republic-Greece, etc. From this agreements students are part of motilities. (more than 50 students for the academic year 2016-2017). And also professors for teaching mobility (more than 20 professors for the academic year 2016-2017).

Training through practice, is integrated into all academic programs. UNIEL emphasizes on the balance between the acquisition of theory and its practical implementation in the real world of education, business and industry. The University

of Elbasan has a developed partnership that address regional and national problems and needs. Thus, members of our staff are encouraged to be involved in the community services, and, students are encouraged to be active citizens in their respective communities, as well.

University of Elbasan provides a wide platform for research and innovation in global issues. In every faculty are integrated the Centers of Research: Albanological and Balcanological Research Centre; Research and Development Centre for Environment; Research and Development Centre in Education; Research and Development Centre in Economy; Telemedicine Centre.

UNIEL is the university of tradition, science, training and preparing teachers.

From the elections of April 2016, the Head of the Institution, the Rector, is, Prof. Skender Topi.



UNIVERSITY OF GJAKOVA "FEHMI AGANI" (UGJFA)

The University of Gjakova "Fehmi Agani" (UGJFA) is a descendant of the High School that prepared the teachers during the second half of the sixties (1968) under the University of Prishtina umbrella. The government of Kosovo established the Public University of Gjakova which began operating since 1 October 2013 with three Faculties: Faculty of Education, Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Philology.

UGJFA with its existing accredited academic units together with planned new programs have the consent of qualitative staff in relevant fields. Studying programs are drafted based on Bologna system and foresees the transfer of credits, and are closely related to the labour market requests in place, region and even wider. The academic units of university are expected to transfer the knowledge and skills to their students through the practice which will prepare them for the needs of the labour market. This is also done through the comparison and equivalency with similar or same studying

programs of other High Education Institutions (HEIs). Programs of UGJFA have a positive impact in the economic aspect as well.

In the last accreditation process UGJFA did get institutional accreditation till 2020 and accreditation for the program: Albanian Language and Literature.

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CEREMONY OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE HIGHER PEDAGOGICAL SCHOOL AND THE 5TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GJAKOVA "FEHMI AGANI"

On January 31-st, celebrations for the 50-th anniversary of the establishment of the Higher Pedagogical School and the 5-th anniversary of the establishment of the University of Gjakova "Fehmi Agani" was held in the hall of the Culture Palace "Asim Vokshi". Attending the ceremony was the Minister of Education, Shyqiri Bytyqi, Minister of Infrastructure, Pal Lekaj, rectors and representatives of public universities, teachers and students and family members of graduates.

In the opening speech, Rector Prof. Dr. Shaban Buza, after welcoming the participants, reminded that "in the November of Flag and Independence", 50 years ago was founded the High Pedagogical School of Gjakova, which on its journey culminated with the establishment of the University of Gjakova 5 years ago in March of Legends and Sacrifices "and that" on the last day of January of "Skanderbeg's Year", one day before the 10th anniversary of Independence of Kosovo, these anniversaries remind us of all those men and women, boys and girls who for centuries labored and sacrificed so much to reach this day."



In the school year 1967/68, the school did start with its three programs: Albanian Language and Literature, Mathematics and History-Geography had a total of 794 students, out of which 247 regular students and 547 students with correspondence from all the parts of the former Yugoslavia where Albanians lived, including those from Macedonia, Montenegro and the Presevo Valley. In 1968 the Biology-Chemistry Branch was opened.

Based on the long tradition of higher education and geographic position, where Gjakova is considered as the administrative center of Malësia e Gjakovës, the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo in March 2013 decided on the establishment of the University of Gjakova "Fehmi Agani". University of Gjakova "Fehmi Agani" is a higher education institution devoted to the creation, promotion and transfer of knowledge and to serve the society, to cooperate with the community and the economy for the provision of attractive and quality study programs in relevant fields for preparation of professionals and students for the local and European labor market.

UGJFA's 5th anniversary will soon be the foundation of the modern university campus, which will create learning conditions through modern halls and libraries, laboratory research, physical education through the hall, student boarding comfort. "

Then, the participants in the ceremony in a word welcomed the Minister of Education, Shyqiri Bytyqi, who appreciated the work of the University of Gjakova and I wish that "this institution should continue with such levels of staffing." According to the agenda, Rector Buza shared gratitude to the founding institutions of the Municipal Assembly of Gjakova for the establishment of the HLC and the Assembly of the Republic of Kosovo for the establishment of UGJFA.

It was selected January for celebration because this is the month of birth of the respected Professor Fehmi Agani, whose name the University of Gjakova has the honor to have.



OPENING MEETING HERAS PROJECT

HERAS - Higher Education, Research and Applied Science (Kosovo) project entitled "Socioeconomic, lifestyle and genetic factors related to the age-related loss of muscle mass and function (sarcopenia) in men and women aged 60 years and above in Kosovo" is a project within the "Research Cooperation and Networking between Austria, Kosovo and the Western Balkan Region", founded by the Austrian Development Cooperation. This project addresses to the Field of Medicine, as one of the priority fields of the National Research Programme of Kosovo.

Project partners include University of Vienna, Research Platform Active Ageing (Assoc.-Prof. DI Dr. Barbara Wessner as project manager), University of Gjakova Fehmi Agani, Faculty of Medicine (Ass. Uni. Arben Boshnjaku MSc as team leader), and the University of Tetovo (Prof. Dr. Metin Dalip as team leader). A number of other local and international experts will be included during the process.

This project started with the kick-off meeting at UGJFA (02.02.2018) in Gjakova with a meeting between project partners (Prof. Dr. Barbara Wessner and Ass. Arben Boshnjaku

MSc) and Prof. Dr. Shaban Buza, Rector of UGJFA.

Some of the main aims and objectives of this project are:

- To promote international scientific cooperation and networking in ageing research between the University of Vienna (Austria), the University of Gjakova Fehmi Agani (Kosovo), and the University of Tetova (FYROM);
- To adapt and validate proper measurement methods for the determination of sarcopenia (age-related muscle loss and function) in Kosovo;
- To provide first data on the prevalence of sarcopenia and some of its underlying determinants for Kosovar older adults;
- To investigate the genetic impact on the prevalence of sarcopenia;
- To disseminate the outcomes of the study at International Conferences (ECSS) and in a ranked scientific journal, thereby enabling young researchers to continue with their scientific work after the end of the project.



WORKSHOP OF THE SOCRE (ERASMUS +) PROJECT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF GJAKOVA

The three-day working meeting of SOCRE (Social Rehabilitation Through Education) project within the ERASMUS + program was held at Gjakova University "Fehmi Agani" in October 25-27. According to the agenda, the first day was the discussion on curriculum development and social rehabilitation programs at levels 5, 6 and 7. The second day did continue with the discussion on the draft of the Teacher Manual, prepared by the responsible institutions involved in this project; and in the third day visit to health institutions did take part.

Participants in this meeting are participating representatives of Kosovo institutions participating in the project, such as the

University of Gjakova "Fehmi Agani", "Heimerer" College and Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. While under the guidance of tutors Toini Harra PhD from Metropolia University of Applied Sciences in Finland and Maria Rosado, PhD from Escola Superior de Saude Do Alcoitão in Portugal.

The SOCRE (Social Rehabilitation Through Education) project under the ERASMUS + program is supported by the European Commission and aims to improve education in social rehabilitation through lifelong learning, in accordance with the Bologna process. As well as enhancing cooperation between higher education institutions, practice institutions (clinics and rehabilitation centers) and relevant ministries.



CO-OPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN UGJFA AND GIZ IS SIGNED

Date 01.01.2017 in the premises of the University of Gjakova "Fehmi Agani", Rector Prof. Dr. Shaban Buza has signed a cooperation agreement with Mr. James Macbeth Forbes, director of GIZ in Kosovo. The co-workers of both parties also participated in the meeting.

The purpose of this agreement is to coordinate co-operation in co-organizing and implementing capacity building actions for further development of the Office for Academic Development at UGJFA. Including, building new structures for information management and career counseling to address the needs of future students and graduates aspiring to have a career in and



out of Kosovo; drafting general guidelines and instruments to demonstrate the career development process in Kosovo and Germany; holding joint information sessions on career in the academic units of the Universities of Gjakova; engagement in possible regional and international cooperation; Identifying potential partner institutions in Germany to establish the basics of cooperation in student and teacher mobility. At the

meeting, Rector Buza discussed about the institution, faculty and curricula at UGJFA and expressed readiness to support this cooperation. Also, Macbeth Forbes presented GIZ organization, its activities in Kosovo, and German-Kosovar cooperation. Both sides highly praised the achievement of this agreement and pledged to take care of its implementation.

VISIT OF EXTERNAL EVALUATOR OF EUFORIA PROJECT

The External Evaluator of the project is Dr Bassem Kaissi, Vice President, Middle East University of Business and Technology did visit University of Gjakova "FEHMI AGANI" the 11-th of January. Dr Bassem Kaissi does have extensive experience of Tempus and Erasmus+ projects. He was satisfied with the commitment of UGJFA participants and their activities. In the meeting with Rector Prof. Dr. Shaban Buza did take part also other participants of project activities as: Dardan Koçinaj, Arben Boshnjaku, Elsa Vula, Laura Naka, Antigona Ukëxhaj and Denis Spahija.



UGJFA TAKES SECOND PLACE!

With the initiative and organization of the Kosovo Universities Sports Federation on the occasion of the November holidays on November 27-28, 2017 was held tournaments in futsal and volleyball. Our university

participated in the women's volleyball competition and took second place. UGJFA team captain Ardita Luma declared that she is proud to represent UGJFA and bring trophies.



THE 10-TH ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE OF KOSOVO

On February 14, 2018 at the "1st October" Hall in Prishtina, the Kosovo Universities Sports Federation organized mini-football tournament on the occasion of the 10-th anniversary of Kosovo Independence.

UGJFA's representative on this tournament were: Fran Pjetraj, Albin Simoni, Astrit Markaj, Artan Prenkaj, Rinor Sylaj, Krenar Gashi, Taulant Vataj and Niti Ahmetaj.





Balkan Universities Association

BUANEWS



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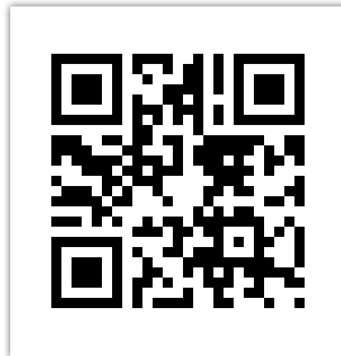
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