

BUANEWS

Balkan Universities Association E-Bulletin

June 2022 / 28





Balkan Universities Association

AGREEMENTS OF COOPERATION BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF GJIROKASTRA AND GREEK UNIVERSITIES, SIGNED BY THE RECTORS OF THE RESPECTIVE INSTITUTIONS

The University of Gjirokastra has intensified its efforts to find ways to further benefit from the cooperation with analog Greek institutions. After the signing of the Protocol of Cooperation with the University of Ioannina, another important step towards the internationalization of our institution was the signing of the Agreement of Cooperation between “Eqrem Çabej” University and the University of Western Macedonia, in May 2022.

During the meeting, the Rectors of both Universities emphasized the fact that this agreement marks a new stage of cooperation that will be the turning point in our bilateral relations. They focused on issues of common institutional interest and the next steps for the development of joint activities

related to scientific research, exchange of staff and students, creation of summer schools, application and implementation of research projects and those co-financed by the Erasmus+ or IPA program, joint organization of scientific conferences, the cooperation between the Life-long Learning Centers of both institutions, etc.

The meeting, which was organized in the form of an exchange of ideas on the development of both universities and the cooperation between the parties will be followed by concrete steps related to close cooperation between faculties or special departments.



EXCELLENT PARTICIPATION OF “EQREM CABEJ” UNIVERSITY AT PCU GAMES, ANTWERP, BELGIUM

Each year in April, the University of Antwerp, Belgium hosts the PCU Games, an international sporting event for Universities and Colleges worldwide, held under the Fair Play auspices of Panathlon International. Teams of males or females compete in Futsal, Basketball, or Volleyball.

This year more than 500 participants and 43 teams from 23 universities in 16 countries were present at the opening ceremony of the PCU Games 2022, organized at the University of Antwerp on April 27th-29th. The team of the University of Gjirokastra performed with dignity and was ranked second in the Futsal category for males bringing home a merited victory.

However, this is not the first time our team has succeeded in Futsal. Being created a decade ago, it has been part of a number of competitions and has won different prizes. The trainer, Prof. Arjan Pano works hard with the team members, but he is also inclined to make newcomers adopt the spirit of the team.



RECTOR NIMANI TAKES THE PRESIDENCY OF THE RECTOR'S CONFERENCE IN KOSOVO

The Rectors' Conference of Public Universities of the Republic of Kosovo has held its next meeting, and from 29/06/2022 will be chaired by the Rector of “Fehmi Agani” University in Gjakovë, Prof. Assoc. Dr. Artan Nimani. Rectors of public universities in the Republic of Kosovo participated in this Conference and the meeting was opened by Prof. Dr. Alush Musaj Rector of the “Isa Boletini” University in Mitrovica, at the same time chairman of the Conference.

Afterwards, the Rectors unanimously elected Prof. Assoc. Dr. Artan Nimanin, Rector of “Fehmi Agani” University in Gjakova as the president of the Rectors' Conference, while Prof. Dr. Agron Bajraktari, Rector of the University of Applied Sciences in Ferizaj, has been elected deputy head. After the vote, the handover of the chairmanship of the Conference was accepted.

Rector of Prof. Dr. Alush Musaj Rector of the “Isa Boletini” University in Mitrovica, who handed over the presidency to

Prof. Assoc. Dr. Artan Nimanin, Rector of “Fehmi Agani” University in Gjakovë, did say that it was a privilege to work together with everyone in raising the quality and values of the Public Universities of Kosovo, during the mandate that he was Chairman of the Conference.

Prof. Assoc. Dr. Artan Nimanin, Rector of the “Fehmi Agani” University in Gjakovë, now Chairman of the Rectors' Conference, thanked everyone for their participation and at the same time congratulated the Rector Prof. Dr. Alush Musaj for chairing the Conference so far. In today's conference, the end of the academic year and the preparations for the beginning of the new year, the announcement of the competition for new students and other topics of common interest were discussed. They also agreed on the continuation of regular conferences on the challenges and developments of education in Kosovo.



UNIVERSITY “FEHMI AGANI” GJAKOVË ORGANIZED THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE “EURASIAN CONFERENCE ON LANGUAGE AND SOCIAL SCIENCES XIV”

On June 29-30, starting at 11:00, the XIV Eurasian Conference on Language and Social Sciences was held at “Fehmi Agani” University in Gjakovë. This conference is organized by “Fehmi Agani” . University in Gjakova.

Rector, Prof. Assoc. Dr. Artan Nimani, in his speech, emphasized that it is an honor and a privilege to open the works of this important event. He thanked all those who contributed to the realization of this conference, with whom he expressed his belief that the cooperation will continue in the future. “During the conference, I wish success to the researchers from the country, the region and beyond, in the presentation of works

with different themes for Language and Social Sciences”.

At the opening of the conference, the coordinator of the conference Mr. Hasan Karacan from the Scientific University of Cyprus congratulated for the magnificent organization of the conference, emphasizing that “Fehmi Agani” University in Gjakovë has managed to promote Kosovo in 20 (twenty) countries the world.

Academic scientific papers from: Kosovo, Albania, Turkey, Australia, Ukraine, Poland, etc. were presented at the Conference.

The purpose of the conference was to contribute to scientific development by discussing the studies of researchers, as well as providing a wide range of high-quality research presentations to share expertise and knowledge. Also, to support, encourage and provide a platform for young researchers to present their research, to connect with the international community of young researchers and to seek the insight and advice of successful researchers during the conference.

The conference was divided into 10 (ten) working sessions, where many scientific papers was presented, by local and international presenters, from 20 (twenty) countries the world. The languages of the conference are English, Albanian, Turkish, and Polish.

ECLSS is an international academic conference that seeks to provide a forum for presentation and discussion, exposing research to the latest trends, developments and challenges in the field of social sciences.



RECTOR NIMANI PARTICIPATES IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF UNIMED

In Amman, Jordan, on June 22 and 23, the General Assembly of UNIMED, a network of universities in the Mediterranean countries where "Fehmi Agani" University is also a member, is taking place.

This activity comes after two difficult years when the way

of living and working around the world was interrupted by the pandemic and UNIMED was forced to organize only online events, and now with great pleasure for the first time, University "Fehmi Agani" Gjakovë takes personally participate in the return of UNIMED activities represented by the Rector, Prof. Assoc. Dr. Artan Nimani, Vice Chancellor for International Cooperation, Prof. Assoc. Dr. Kimete Canaj and the head of the International Cooperation Office, Denis Spahija.

The UNIMED General Assembly represents an important annual event where rectors, presidents and their representatives meet to exchange views and define policy for UNIMED, setting the agenda for a full year and initiating activities and conferences that form the academic calendar around Mediterranean universities. At the same time, it is an extraordinary opportunity to meet and increase the network of friends of UFAG with representatives of universities, international organizations, etc. The ongoing assembly is a two-day event, with around 150 representatives from member universities and institutional partnerships from 20 different countries, including global organizations such as UNESCO and NATO, etc.

THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE "ISSUES OF LANGUAGE, LITERATURE AND LITERARY TRANSLATION" IS HELD

On 17/06/2022, the International Scientific Conference "Issues of Language, Literature and Literary Translation" was held in the main lobby of the Faculty of Philology at University "Fehmi Agani".

Under the care of the organization by Prof. Assoc. Dr. Labinot Berisha and Prof. Asst. Dr. Mimoza Pllana, the introductory speech was given by the Dean of the Faculty of Philology Pro. Assoc. Dr. Kamber Kamberi who welcomes you to the audience.

The Rector of University "Fehmi Agani", Prof. Assoc. Dr. Artan Nimani, also gave a welcoming speech. In his speech, Rector Nimani, after greeting those present, added that the management of the university will always support the activities that promote science and scientific research and will give priority to the voice of science and linguists in their projects.

This was a unique opportunity for scientists from different universities to present the results of the latest scientific research.

The main speakers at this conference were: Academician Farncesko Altimari (Italy); Academician Matteo Mandala (Italy); Prof. Assoc. Dr. Rusana Bejleri (Bulgaria); Rector Prof. Dhimitër Bello (Korça); Dean Prof. Dr. Artan Haxhi (Shkodër); Dean Prof. Ass. Dr. Armela Panajoti (Vlora); Prof. Elez Osmani (Ulcin).

The participating universities in this conference were: "University of Tirana"; University of Shkodra "Luigj Gurakuqi"; University of Korça "Fan S. Noli"; "University of Tetova"; University of Elbasan "Aleksander Xhuvani"; "Institute of spiritual and cultural heritage of Albanians" - Skopje; University of Vlora "Ismail Qemali", "Institute for scientific research and development INI", etc.



UKZ STUDENT ERMAL MALIQI FIRST IN THE "BEACH VOLLEY" COMPETITIONS ORGANIZED BY FSUNK

During the representation in the "Beach Volley" Championship competitions organized by FSUNK (University Sports Federation) - Kosovo, "Kadri Zeka" University was awarded the first place in the men's category. Our student Ermal Maliqi was one of the most distinguished of the championship.

Ermali says that in this competition there were participants from teams from most universities in Kosovo, which were quite strong teams in the competition during the two days that the competition lasted. He says that together with fellow player Art Terstena, he has given his best to achieve success and always when you try, you get what you want. According to him, such a journey was not easy at all, but the burning passion for the sport that he has, as well as the continuous support of his family and society, have given him the strength and will to continue.

From this competition, Ermali and Erioni will represent Kosovo in the European Championship, which will be held in Izmir, Turkey.



THE LAW FACULTY OF UKZ HELD A PRACTICAL EXERCISE FOR STUDENTS "INSPECTION OF THE SCENE OF THE EVENT"



With the aim that the students of the Faculty of Law of the Public University "Kadri Zeka" in Gjilan, the theoretical knowledge acquired during studies in the field of criminalistic techniques, tactics and methodology, to expand them in the practical field, a practical exercise was held by Prof. Asst. Dr. Fejzullah Hasani, Prof. Asst. Dr. Fatmire Krasniqi and Dr. Sc. Besim Arifi with the topic "Inspection of the place of the event".

During the practical exercise carried out in the courtyard

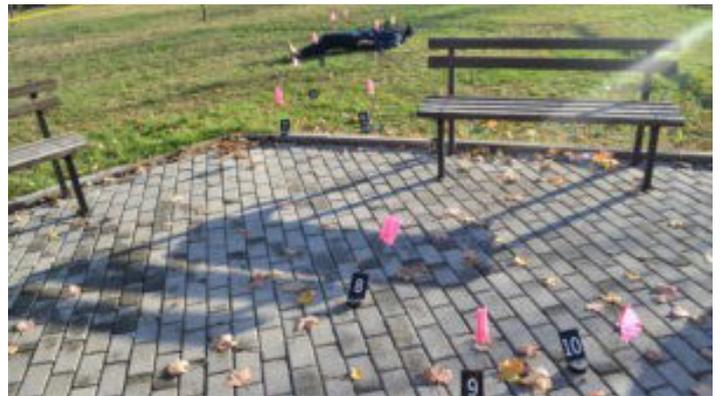
of the University, the students were recently introduced to some of the most efficient tools and methods in the function of research, discovery and clarification of traces with a direct impact on the process of identifying the perpetrator of the criminal offense and the offense specific criminal charges.

Through the conducted exercise, cases were simulated and students saw how investigative actions are carried out in real life in terms of: searching, fixing, documenting, photographing, measuring, sketching the place of the event

as well as examining all traces and material evidence which are found in that country.

The exercise is dedicated especially to the students of the second and third year of bachelor's studies of the Faculty of Law as well as students of the Master-Juridical-Penal Program.

The means of concretization used in the exercise were a doll (in the form of a victim), a shell, a liquid substance in the form of blood, white paper, a camera, a laptop with a projector and other auxiliary means in order to carry out the exercise.



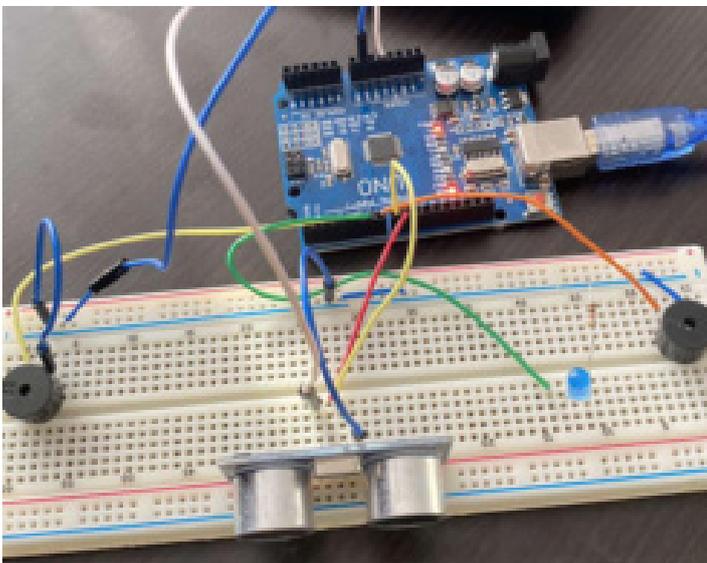
AFC STUDENTS HAVE PRESENTED PRACTICAL WORKS FOR SEW PROJECTS

At the end of the fifth semester at the Faculty of Computer Sciences in Gjilan, final results are presented in the subject SEW Projects and IE Projects, where students apply their knowledge in the fields of Hardware and Software.

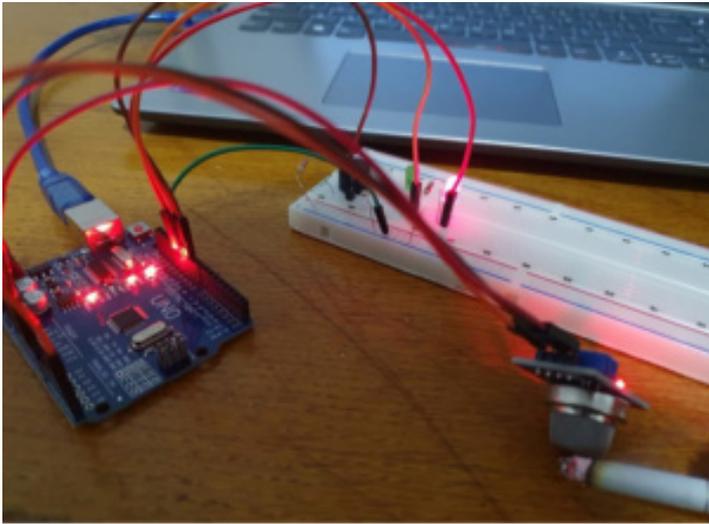
Thus, the students of the AFC at the "Kadri Zeka" Public University in Gjilan, have presented four successful projects where the Arduino uno microcontroller is used in hardware and the C++ programming language is applied. Each project has gone through the phase of reasoning the idea, providing the hardware devices, providing the code in the C++ programming language, connecting, modifying, documenting, testing and finally the theoretical presentation as well as the most interesting part, the practical demonstration. All projects are mentored by Prof. Assoc. Dr. Basri Ahmedi.

We are presenting all four projects separately:

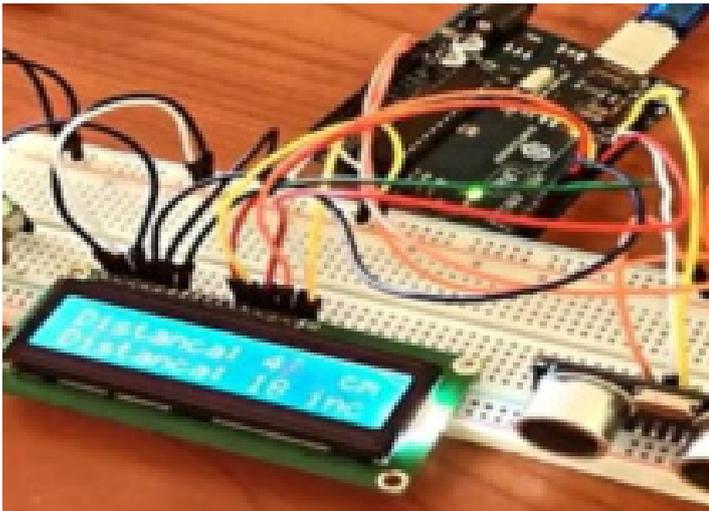
- The construction of a stick for blind people through Ultrasonic Sensor and Buzzer is a project carried out by students Altin Shabani, Bleon Rexhepi and Orëtar Hoxha.



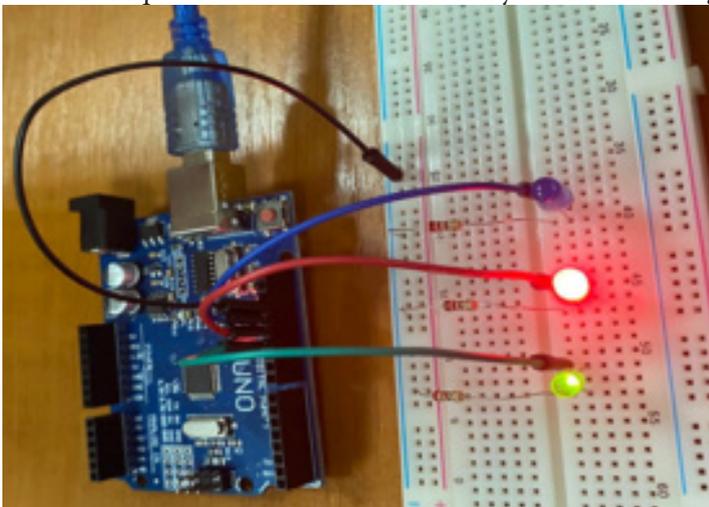
- Connection, Coding and Testing of the MQ-2 Gas Sensor in the microcontroller was carried out by the students Bekim Frangu, Sara Keqmezi and Herolind Ymeri.



- The sensor for body detection and distance measurement was made by students Qëndresa Berisha, Besarta Berisha and Blenda Omeri.



- LED Sequential Control was realized by the students Anglianina Avdyli and Lorita Rahimi.



UKZ HAS REALIZED THE COOPERATION MOBILITY WITH "CELAL BAYAR UNIVERSITY" FROM MANISA, TURKEY

Within the framework of the ICM - International Credit Mobility agreement between the Public University "Kadri Zeka" and the University from Turkey/Manisa "Celal Bayar University" for the provision of education and the possibility of exchange for academic, administrative staff and students, for two consecutive days at UKZ there was Prof. Dr. Hatice Yurtsever, who is also the head of the Department of Economics and Finance at "Celal Bayar University" in Manisa.

Professor Hatice Yurtsever, during her stay at UKZ, visited the spaces, classrooms, administrative offices, where she saw closely the work that takes place at the University. She was very satisfied with the commitment and work being done at UKZ by the staff and students.

The visit was previously planned as a result of the excellent cooperation UKZ has with international partners, and as such there will soon be other staff and student exchanges.



INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE "SCIENTIFIC IDENTITY AND CREATIVITY IN A CHANGED WORLD" UKZ/2022

The Annual International Scientific Conference "Scientific Identity and Creativity in a Changed World", organized by the Public University "Kadri Zeka" in Gjilan, has gathered well-known personalities from science such as academics, university professors from well-known universities such as Riga (Latvia), Barcelona (Spain), Izmir (Turkey), University of Cyprus, etc., but also professors and young researchers from the country, the region and Europe.

Prof. Dr. Xhevdet Thaqi, chairman of the Organizational Council, presented the Scientific Research and Development Community of the Conference, where the panelists were Academician Shinasi Sinani from Albania, Prof. Dr. Yuly Venegas from University of Lleida, Spain, Academician Fejzullah Krasniqi from ASHK of Kosovo.



The opening of the Conference was made by the Rector of the Public University "Kadri Zeka" in Gjilan, Prof. Dr. Bajram Kosumi, who greeted the attendees, welcoming you to the conference. The Rector said that this Conference that has gathered us today is oriented towards the dynamics of information technology, education, scientific research, and the global market. The rector said that education is a process of permanent reformation, where digital technology has globalized society and the labor market, which creates a very high global competition for a job. He added that a large part of graduates risk being left without a job, so according to Rector Kosumi, the University cannot continue with the traditional profile, because the University produces students for the labor market and this conference is helpful in this regard.



The Mayor of the Municipality of Gjilan, Alban Hyseni, in his speech, congratulated the Conference, meanwhile he said that the municipality is interested in developing the economic area, especially the development of the achievement of knowledge. The President said that digitization is also a priority for us, which is the future that we must necessarily focus on. In the organization of this conference, added the president Hyseni, it is very important to identify the barriers, because these challenges are common and we must deal with them together.

Rector of the University of Elbasan, Prof. Dr. Skender Topi, after greeting those present, said that our great Albania has a very big problem, such as brain migration. According to him, in a research done by the Albanian American Foundation, it is evident that there are over 4 thousand Albanian PHD candidates in the whole world and we need a foundation to support them so that we can share their experience that they have in all universities. through our universities, to come and contribute to us. He added that Albanian Universities should create an Erasmus within the Balkans, including Macedonia, Kosovo and Albania, and organize such joint conferences.



Rector of the University of Pristina, Prof. Dr. Naser Sahiti, after congratulating the Conference, emphasized that some of the topics such as the issue of interdisciplinarity, brain drain or even digitization are basic concepts, they are current things for which the conference will give indications of how it will be within the framework of developments ours.

The rector of the University of Gjakova, Dr. Sc. Dr. Artan Nimani, after congratulating the Conference, said that today's organization is a good step for the advancement of Albania and thus together we can move forward.





Congratulations on the work of the Conference, the Executive Director of Universum College, Alejtin Berisha, and the Rector of the University of Applied Sciences in Ferizaj, Mr. Agron Bajraktari.

After the opening of the Conference, the Plenary Session began, which started from the connection of the poles to the online connection, Prof. Dr. Linda Daniela from the University of Riga Latvia with the topic "Smart pedagogy to improve technology".



Academician Shaban Sinani from the Academy of Sciences of Albania presented the presentation "Ethnic, linguistic and religious self-identification as a scientific issue".

Prof. Dr. Tasos Hovardas from the University of Cyprus, presented the paper "Integrated STEAM Education and Distributed Leadership - An Inevitable Symbiosis".





Prof. Dr. Danilo Nikolic from the University of Montenegro, has presented the paper “Internationalization as a strategic approach for strengthening competition in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the countries of the Western Balkans (WBC)”.

Prof. Dr. Joaquim Gimenez Rodriguez from the University of Barcelona, Spain, presented the paper “The need for creative geometry for primary school teachers”.



Academician Gëzim Hoxha, Academy of Sciences of Albania, presented with the topic, “Ulpiana - Justiniana Secunda, a scientific identity with new historical and archaeological data”.

Academician Fejzullah Krasniqi, Academy of Sciences and Arts of Kosovo, presented the paper, “Conditions of human terminal internal comfort”.





After these, with the proposal of the Organizational Council of the Conference and with the decision of the Rector of UKZ, Prof. Dr. Bajram Kosumi, the “Marin Barleti” UKZ Annual Conference Award was given to Prof. Dr. Danilo Nikolic from the University of Montenegro. This award is dedicated to academic achievements in higher education, substantial research contributions, new issues, ideas, collaboration and international perspectives. Additional considerations include leadership roles, as well as actual or potential relationships between the research done and the improvement of higher education in general, through connections between researchers and HEIs in different countries with the Public University “Kadri Zeka”.

The UKZ two-day conference “Scientific identity and creativity in a changing world” combines inspiring keynotes, a wide variety of papers on research and practice of different fields - informatics, mathematics, education, law and economics, which develop in the parallel sessions of the Conference in a stimulating and friendly atmosphere.



The conference continued its work tomorrow, May 31, 2022, offering participation with presentations of research results in one of the 5 sessions of the conference held in the University premises: DiGiDay Conference / Current Challenges in Digitization, MathDay Conference / Current

Research in mathematics, EduDay Conference / Current challenges in school education, Economics Conference / Opportunities and challenges for Economic Development in the World Bank, Law Conference / Positive justice and the rule of law.

STUDENTS AND PROFESSORS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MANISA STAY AT UKZ AS PART OF THE MOBILITY

At the “Kadri Zeka” Public University in Gjilan, students and a professor from Manisa University “Celal Bayar University” from Turkey are on a study visit.

Students Naslihan Kuden, Burak Gzel, Tuğba Sasi and Deniz Dirik, associate professor in Manisa, are part of the mobility within the framework of the ICM - International Credit Mobility agreement, between the Public University “Kadri Zeka” and the University from Turkey/Manisa “Celal Bayar University””, for the provision of education and the possibility of exchange for academic, administrative and student staff.

The students and staff of the University of Manisa were welcomed to the meeting by the Vice-Rector for International Cooperation Dukagjin Leka, who welcomed them and at the same time asked them to take advantage of the opportunity given to them, suggesting that they get the best experiences good from UKZ.



During the visit they are making to the UKZ, the students and the professor from Manisa were introduced to the spaces, work and activities of the University, where at the same time they talked with the staff about the experiences, about the possibilities of increasing mutual cooperation, with the aim

of expanding cooperation between the two institutions.

The visit is the result of the excellent cooperation that UKZ has with its partners from Manisa, and as such there will soon be other exchanges of students and staff.



UKZ PART OF THE NATIONWIDE FAIR AND FESTIVAL OF JONA

The Public University "Kadri Zeka" in Gjilan, has participated in the nationwide fair and festival "e JONA", which was organized under the care of the Mayor of the Municipality, Alban Hyseni, and with the support of the Government of Kosovo.

In this fair UKZ has made the presentation of study programs, special scientific successes, collaborations and international projects that this academic institution has had over the years, the presentation of its work and activities, which at the same time are also presented in various information sheets and brochures.

For those interested, information has been provided about opportunities for orientation and career development, employment, practical work, scholarships, training, courses, etc., as well as about the orientation of future students for the academic offer offered by our University.

Dedicated to the newest approaches in teaching, quality improvement, scientific research, conditions for student studies with the newest technologies, "Kadri Zeka" University will continue to be the best quality institution, not only from Kosovo, but also from the countries of the region.



At the nationwide fair and festival "e JONA", the Rector of the Public University "Kadri Zeka" Prof. Dr. Bajram Kosumi, participated in the discussion panel about the potential and possibility of investments in our municipality. In this organization, the Rector said that this fair is a good opportunity to know where the labor market is going. The rector said that Gjilan is the capital of Anamorava and a place surrounded by Presheva, Bujanoci, Medvegja, where Albanians from all over the world gravitate, so businesses should also treat Gjilan as an economic area.

Rector Kosumi said that economic development cannot be good without a university, because it is the core of everything

that develops the economy. He added that the identity of a city is when you tell someone that Gjilan is a university city.

In his discussion, the Rector said that the university creates staff for the labor market, but universities also produce scientists and scholars, and we as UKZ adapt to the labor market.

The Rector has suggested to create a bridge between the University and businesses, to make a contract with the students. He has also ordered the businesses to unite and work and produce from local resources, but also the local and central institutions should offer opportunities to your compatriots to come and invest here in their country Kosovo.



OPENING CEREMONY OF FOOD SUPPLY SECURITY AND DIGITALIZATION JOINT APPLICATION AND RESEARCH CENTER

The opening ceremony of the “Food Supply Security and Digitalization Joint Application and Research Center (GADOM)”, which was established in partnership with Burdur Mehmet Akif Ersoy University and Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University, under the coordination of Kırklareli University, was held on 31st March 2022 in Kırklareli.

Kırklareli Governor Osman BİLGİN, Kırklareli Chief Public Prosecutor Hazım ASLANCI, Rector of Kırklareli University Prof. Dr. Bülent ŞENGÖRÜR, Rector of Burdur Mehmet Akif University Prof. Dr. Adem KORKMAZ, Rector of Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University Prof. Dr. Mümin ŞAHİN, Provincial Gendarmerie Commander Uğur ÖZMEN, Provincial Police Director Seçkin ÇENGELOĞLU, Thrace Development Agency General Secretary Mahmut ŞAHİN, Kırklareli Deputy Mayor Arda KOLCULAR, Food Supply Security and Digitalization Joint Application and

Research Center Director Dr. Bora ASLAN, academicians from three partner universities, public and private sector representatives attended the GADOM opening ceremony.

During the event, academics provided information on food supply security, the purpose of GADOM, its partnership structure, organizational chart, digital infrastructure, traceability system, and R&D studies to be carried out in cooperation with partner universities.

The center, where scientific studies will be carried out in order to ensure continuous access to adequate, healthy, reliable, and nutritious food, aims to develop innovative policies, domestic and national solutions for food supply security, new technologies in agriculture, food and livestock, and efficient food resources and to ensure rural development and competitiveness in international markets.



VISIT OF KINNAIRD COLLEGE FOR WOMEN

Rector of Kinnaird College for Women, one of Pakistan's oldest and well-established universities, Prof. Dr. Rukhsana DAVID, along with Head of Research Unit Dr. Ghazala YAQUB and R&D Unit Manager Meashall USMAN visited Kırklareli University on 26th May 2022.

Within the scope of the visit, a bilateral cooperation agreement was signed, covering topics such as project partnership, scientific publishing, exchange of academics and students. Expressing his satisfaction with the visit, Rector of Kırklareli University Prof. Dr. Bülent ŞENGÖRÜR stated the following:

“Pakistan always has a special place in our hearts. It is also a pleasure for us to start cooperation with a well-established

university like Kinnaird College. We hope to develop our relations in the future and make joint project applications in the research areas of food security, software and social responsibility”

Prof. Dr. Rukhsana DAVID expressed their sincere thanks for the hospitality of Kırklareli University and said that she considered this meeting as the first step of long-term cooperation. Vice-Rector for International Relations Prof. Dr. Ünal ÇAĞLAR and Foreign Relations Coordinator Assoc. Dr. Mehmet Fatih ÇÖMLEKÇİ was also present during the academic meetings and the signature ceremony. After the exchange of gifts, the delegation of Kinnaird College visited the historical Yayla Neighborhood and Atatürk House in Kırklareli.



INNOVATIVE TRAININGS IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND SOFT SKILLS FOR THE STUDENTS OF MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF PLOVDIV, BULGARIA

Innovative trainings on entrepreneurship and soft skills for medical students were held at Medical University of Plovdiv in the first half of 2022. The trainings are part of the main activity “Career guidance of students and mobility of target groups”, within the framework of the OMNIA Project, contract No. BG05M2OP001-2.016-0007, funded by the Operational Programme “Science and Education for Smart Growth”, co-financed by the EU through the European Structural and Investment Funds.

The entrepreneurship course was developed on the specifics of health business relations and 270 students from MU-Plovdiv participated in it. Within 10 study modules, the medical students were comprehensively introduced to various economic specialties in order to gain knowledge about the important thematic areas of the functioning of a company such as: management, human resources management, law, marketing, accounting, as well as skills for free establishment, operation and management of business units.

279 Bulgarian and foreign students from all faculties of MU-Plovdiv participated in the soft skills training. They studied 10 subjects: Public Speaking, Communication Skills, Leadership, Effective Learning Methods, Motivation, Teamwork, Conflict Resolution, Time Management, Stress Management and DISC Profiling.

The OMNIA project (from Latin “everything”) is implemented by Medical University of Plovdiv in partnership with Medical University of Sofia, Medical University of Pleven, Thrace University - Stara Zagora, National Sports Academy “Vasil Levski”, Plovdiv University “Paisii Hilendarski”, University of Food Technology – Plovdiv, National Center for Infectious and Parasitic Diseases and the Institute of Molecular Biology at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences. Associated partners of the project are: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece), Ecclesiastical Academy of Athens (Greece), Democritus University of Thrace Medical School (Greece), Site de Creil – GHPSO (France), Università Campus Bio-Medico di Roma (Italy), University of West Attica (Greece).

The main goal of the project is to contribute to achieving a dynamic match between the demand and supply of specialists with higher education through the modernization of educational processes in universities. For this purpose, 9 new study programs will be developed, digitized and put into practice, through which a competency model, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinarity will be ensured in the education of the students.



ISTANBUL FACULTY OF MEDICINE HAS ACHIEVED A FIRST IN THE FIELD OF 'ROBOTIC SURGERY'

The Associate Professor Dr. from the Department of General Surgery of the Department of Surgical Medical Sciences of the Istanbul Faculty of Medicine, Dr. Nihat Aksakal and Dr. Lecturer Yalın İçsan managed to remove a rare lump on the right adrenal gland of a 77-year-old patient close to her main veins with robotic surgery.

"The Last Point Where Surgery Arrives"

Associate Prof. Dr. Nihat Aksakal and Dr. Lecturer Yalın İçsan detected a lump suspected of having a tumor on the adrenal gland of Emine Altiner. The doctors decided to do surgery and the robotic surgical intervention performed on Altiner, described as "posterior retroperitoneal robotic tumor excision", took about 1.5 hours. During the operation, a slightly larger lump than the egg was removed from Altiner's body. Robotic surgery, described as 'the last point where surgery arrives', was reported to have been performed for the first time in such a critical region of the body.

Associate Professor Dr. Nihat Aksakal told an AA (Anatolian Agency) reporter: "We decided to take the lump with a surgery because of the possibility of a tumor with a diameter of about 4.5 centimeters, close to the main veins of the body and back as of the area where it is located, behind the abdomen. Besides, we did not know if it was benign or malignant, perhaps metastasize if it was not intervened in time. We have come to the conclusion that this operation can be completed indoors with the Da Vinci robot in our Faculty."

The First In Robotic Surgery

Dr. Aksakal stated that they called this surgery "The first one in the world" and added: "Adrenal gland tumors have been performed by robots from the back for many years. But these (the back of the abdomen outside the adrenal gland) lumps are both rare and somewhat difficult to reach. We previously performed these surgeries endoscopically. When we looked at the literature, we saw that these lumps, which we call 'extra-adrenal retroperitoneal' masses, were the first in robotic surgery (from the back)."

For more information, please visit;
<https://www.istanbul.edu.tr/en/>



PROF. DR. SAADET KARAKULAK AND HER TEAM TOOK PART IN THE PROJECT FOR DETERMINATION OF SEA SNAIL STOCKS IN THE WESTERN BLACK SEA REGION

Prof. Dr. Saadet Karakulak and her team from İstanbul University Faculty of Water Sciences participated in the studies within the scope of the Project for Determination of Sea Snail (*Rapana Venosa*) Stocks in the Western Black Sea Region.

Within the framework of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) General Fisheries Commission for the Mediterranean (GFCM), the first large-scale study to investigate the population of the sea snail began in 2020. The scientific work continued at the same time in the waters of Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, Turkey, and Ukraine.

Prof. Dr. Saadet Karakulak from İU Faculty of Water Sciences and her team were responsible for the research of this Project in the Western Black Sea region. Scientific marine studies were made to understand the temporal (annual and seasonal) and spatial changes of the sea snail, and twice a year in the spring and autumn period, marine expeditions were conducted. Between June 22 – July 24, 2022, the fourth expedition of this Project was done. Besides, within the scope of the Project, trawl shots were done and samples were taken at a total of 83 stations between İğneada and Sinop.

About the Sea Snail- *Rapana Venosa*

The sea snail- *rapana venosa* is an invasive species that first entered the Black Sea in the 1950s through the ballast waters of a ship. This species has multiplied rapidly in the Black Sea, becoming a threat to other molluscs. But over time, the sea snail has become an increasingly important source of income for local fishermen and aquaculture processing factories. Hunting started in the 1980s.

Today the sea snail is exported globally and represents millions of dollars of income for the Black Sea riparian countries. Small-scale fishermen, who make up more than 85 percent of the Black Sea's fishing fleet, hunt sea snails in particular. It is very important to determine the stock status with scientific research in order to make fishery sustainable.

For more information, please visit;

<https://www.istanbul.edu.tr/en/>



**DR. LECTURER BENAL GÜL TALKED ABOUT
'THE ARTIFICIAL REEF PROJECT'**

Dr. Lecturer Benal Gül, the faculty member of the İstanbul University Faculty of Water Sciences, whose area of expertise is artificial reefs, talked about their Project.

Dr. Gül said "We are among the few countries in the world that have the National Artificial Reef Master Plan, that is, where artificial reefs can be made on the shores of the country" and added: "As of 2011, the first project funded by the Ministry of Agriculture was implemented in Edremit Bay within the framework of the National Artificial Reef Master Plan."

Artificial Reef Areas Around the Princes' Islands

Dr. Gül said that the artificial reef studies on the shores of İstanbul began in 2019. Dr. Gül said that the opinions of many institutions, organizations and people were taken during the preliminary preparation period in this region, which is located in residential areas, where underwater structures, pipelines and electrical cables are dense.

The project was carried out by İstanbul Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry, Fisheries and Fisheries Department. For the work to be done, three artificial reef areas have been identified in a protected area around the İstanbul Princes' Islands, which are

completely closed to industrial fishing. Dr. Gül listed these areas as follows: "Kınalıada, Heybeliada and Büyükada shores. In addition, a point was determined on the shores of Sarayburnu in front of Ahırkapı."

Biodiversity in Artificial Reefs Is Increasing Every Day

According to Dr. Gül, in the monitoring studies in Kınalıada and Heybeliada, 11 fish species and 20 non-fish marine creatures are nesting on artificial reefs. Among them are swallow and decoy fish, sea peonies, a wide variety of sea stars, sea eggplants, squids, stingrays, lobsters. Dr. Gül underlined that they carry out monthly water sampling and new nests are detected every time. "Therefore, we can say that the biodiversity in artificial reefs is increasing every day."

Dr. Lecturer Benal Gül added: "We are also carrying out a TÜBİTAK project titled 'The Effect of Mucilage on Artificial Reef Succession and Fisheries Efficiency' regarding the studies carried out in the region."

For more information, please visit;
<https://www.istanbul.edu.tr/en/>



“SUSTAINABILITY AND STRUCTURAL DESIGN DAY 6 - WORKSHOP ON PREFABRICATION AND SUSTAINABILITY WITH TRADITIONAL MATERIALS” AT TNKU



“Sustainability and Structural Design Day 6 - Workshop on Prefabrication and Sustainability with Traditional Materials” which is about the sustainability of industrial structures, energy efficiency, and prefabrication was held at Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University Rectorate Conference Hall and the Foyer Area under the “Only 1 Day” concept.

Vice-rectors Prof. Dr. Bülent EKER, and Prof. Dr. Yılmaz ÇAKICI, representatives from institutions and organizations, NGOs, industrialists and business people, managers of companies, academic and administrative staff, and students attended the workshop which was held in memory of Namık EREN, a construction engineer.

In his opening speech, Vice Rector Prof. Dr. Bülent EKER stated that “The material we use ranges from the daily items we use to the clothes we wear. The material changes shape. In ancient times, stone and sticks were materials, but today, the concept of the material has changed in various aspects. There is even a shift towards nano-materials”.

Prof. Dr. Funda ERYILMAZ AÇIKGÖZ, the Director of the Vocational School of Technical Sciences stated that the workshop was organized by the Department of Construction in the Vocational School of Technical Sciences and she introduced the Vocational School of

Technical Sciences to the participants. She also explained the advantages of the internship program called 3+1 which consists of theoretical courses in three semesters and practical training in the industry for one semester.

Following the opening speeches, sessions with industry and academics on the sustainability of industrial structures were carried out face to face. In the presentations, the architectural design and sustainability of the industrial structures of various industries such as pharmaceuticals, aluminum, new generation industrial sites, textile and building element manufacturers were examined and assessed on the urban scale.

Simultaneously with the workshop, the student projects from the Architecture and Construction Department in the field of sustainability and structural design were exhibited at the TNKU Exhibition Center. In the ‘Student Presentations’ session, representatives of the working groups also had the opportunity to introduce to the participants the materials they produced in group studies and present their added value in terms of sustainability.

The workshop and exhibition continued throughout the day. Over 700 participants attended the event and it was broadcast live on NKU TV YouTube channel.





TNKU III. INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM FROM PAST TO PRESENT RELIGIOUS AND CULTURAL LIFE IN TEKİRDAĞ

III. International Symposium from Past to Present Religious and Cultural Life in Tekirdağ was held by TNKU Faculty of Theology. The opening session of the online symposium started with the opening speeches of Aziz YILDIRIM, the Governor of Tekirdağ; Prof. Dr. Mümin ŞAHİN, the Rector of the University; and Prof. Dr. Hasan KESKİN, the Dean of the Faculty of Theology. The opening session presented by Dr. Ramazan AKKIR was broadcast live on our university's YouTube channel, NKU TV.

Prof. Dr. Mümin ŞAHİN, the Rector of TNKU stated, "First of all, I convey the greetings of Prof. Dr. Mustafa ŞENTOP, Speaker of Turkish National Assembly to all participants and audience. He was not able to attend the symposium as he is abroad; however, he wished success in the symposium. Dear participants, we will get to know the religious and cultural aspects of Tekirdağ from the past to the present thanks to you, esteemed academicians and researchers, and we will introduce it to the whole country. I would like to thank the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, Prof. Dr. Mustafa ŞENTOP and Governor Aziz YILDIRIM in your presence for their financial and moral support in this symposium which

reflects different dimensions of social, cultural, and religious life, and which is attended by prominent academicians, and researchers from all around Turkey. I would also like to thank our Dean of the Faculty of Theology and members of TNKU Faculty of Theology who made contributions as well as distinguished speakers once again. I hope the symposium will be beneficial for all."

Prof. Dr. Hasan KESKİN, Dean of the Faculty of Theology remarked that "We are happy to organize the third of such a large-scale symposium, the first of which was organized in 2019 and the second in 2021. The objective of this symposium is to raise a deep historical awareness and allow for a vast scientific research area by revealing the contributors to the formation of religious and cultural life in Tekirdağ. It also aims to help understand the various manifestations in different fields of religious and cultural life as well as pass them on to the future.

After the opening session, there were six sessions of the symposium, beginning in the afternoon with notification sessions and lasting two days. The notification sessions were broadcast live on the YouTube channel of the TNKU Faculty of Theology.



VISIT OF TRAKYA UNIVERSITY RECTOR PROF. DR. ERHAN TABAKOĞLU AND HIS DELEGATION TO KIRCAALI

Trakya University delegation led by Rector Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakolu visited Krcaali, Bulgaria. The delegation, consisting of Vice-Rector Prof. Dr. Murat Türkyılmaz and Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences Prof. Dr. Sedat Üstündağ, first visited Kırcaali Municipality where they met with Mayor Hasan Azis. Later, the delegation met with Bulgarian doctors at Kırcaali Dr. Atanas Dafovski Hospital. During the meeting, Prof. Dr. Sedat Üstündağ, the Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences at Trakya University, emphasized the importance of preventing, diagnosing, and treating hypertension. He shared the latest developments in the field.

Before the meeting that brought together Trakya University and Bulgarian physicians, the Trakya University delegation led by Rector Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu met with Kırcaali Mayor Hasan Azis in his office. Mayor Azis welcomed Trakya University to Kırcaali. He emphasized

the significance of the meeting for the region's public health and preventive healthcare services.

Prof. Dr. Sedat Üstündağ shared the latest hypertension developments with Bulgarian doctors. After a visit to Kırcaali Municipality, the Trakya University delegation, accompanied by Mayor Hasan Azis, met with Chief Physician Prof. Dr. Todor Cherkezov, Bulgarian doctors, and healthcare workers at Dr. Atanas Dafovski Hospital. During his speech, Rector Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu thanked Mayor Hasan Azis and Chief Physician Prof. Dr. Todor Cherkezov for the opportunity to have such a meeting. He talked about Trakya University's activities and close relationships with Bulgaria in education, environment, and health issues. He mentioned that Trakya University is ready to share its facilities, including its 1100-bed hospital, state-of-the-art infrastructure, and expert staff, with neighboring Bulgaria. Prof. Dr. Sedat Üstündağ, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, expressed his pleasure in meeting Bulgarian doctors and addressing them. He thanked Mayor Hasan Azis and Chief Physician Prof. Dr. Todor Cherkezov for this opportunity. He defined hypertension and shared current data, calling it the world's most silent and horrific killer. He emphasized that every year, 200 million people worldwide suffer from stroke, heart attack, and other diseases due to late diagnosis and treatment of hypertension. In addition, 10.4 million people die prematurely each year due to hypertension-related problems. Prof. Dr. Sedat Üstündağ compared the number of deaths caused by hypertension with World War I and the COVID-19 pandemic. He underlined that hypertension kills 28,500 people. Silently every day and 10.4 million people every year.



AID FROM BALKAN COUNTRIES FOR EARTHQUAKE-HIT TURKEY

We would like to express our gratitude for the condolences and messages of sympathy conveyed by BUA members following the earthquakes that occurred on February 6, 2023, which are considered the two largest earthquakes in the history of the Republic of Turkey, affecting 10 provinces with magnitudes of 7.7 in Kahramanmaraş Pazarcık and 7.6 in Elbistan, resulting in over 40,000 fatalities and extensive damage. Experts in earthquakes emphasize that their intensity, frequency, and extent are unusual natural events.

In addition to the damage caused by earthquakes, Turkey faces challenges related to climate, transportation, and energy. However, with the support of government ministries, municipalities, civil society organizations, and international aid agencies, search and rescue operations were initiated in the earthquake zone. In addition to material and spiritual assistance, the Balkan countries contributed significant logistics and shelter support. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Montenegro, Kosovo, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, North Macedonia, and Greece have provided support to our country with their aid campaigns and search and rescue teams. Many activities and aid efforts are ongoing to address the earthquake damage. Basic materials such as food, water, medicine, and clothing are provided for earthquake victims. Tent cities have been established to solve the housing problem. In addition, work is ongoing to demolish damaged buildings and rebuild them.

Responding to a disaster with unity and solidarity is one of humanity's most valuable characteristics. This quality was also evident in Turkey's earthquakes on February 6, 2023. Turkey's historical and cultural ties with the Balkan countries make the solidarity and mutual assistance they showed after the earthquake even more meaningful. Balkan countries' solidarity contributed to Turkey's earthquake victims' aid and damage repair. In this challenging period, the Balkan countries' support was significant not only as material aid but also as moral and spiritual support. Balkan peoples have supported each other, fought together, and overcome difficulties throughout history. Today, the Balkan countries have once again demonstrated this strong spirit of unity, standing with the Turkish people. We believe that this solidarity will further strengthen relations between Turkey and the Balkan countries.

In conclusion, the solidarity demonstrated by the Balkan countries is an admirable example of humanity. As Turkish people, we are grateful for this aid and thank the Balkans. We hope that this example of solidarity will serve as a model for the whole world. It will remind us of the importance of fighting together in disasters.

HUNDREDS OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS SCHOLARS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD MET AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MACEDONIA



The University of Macedonia was at the center of the global international community for four days, on the occasion of the organization along with the European International Studies Association (EISA) of a leading scientific event which attracted international interest and the participation of 380 International Relations scientists from 192 educational institutions, from all over the world.

This is the 9th edition of the “European Workshops in International Studies” (EWIS), one of the two largest annual events of EISA, which was hosted for the first time in our country from 6 to 9 July 2022 by the Department of International Studies and European Studies, in the premises of the University of Macedonia.

<https://eisa-net.org/ewis-2022/>

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ERASMUS PROGRAMS COORDINATORS “ERASMUS CONGRESS AND EXHIBITION - ERACON 2022”



About 200 University officials and career professionals from all over Europe participated in the 18th annual International Conference of Erasmus Program Coordinators, “Erasmus Congress and Exhibition - ERACON 2022”, which took place in Thessaloniki, in collaboration with the University of Macedonia.

The Conference and the accompanying exhibition, which ended on Friday 1 July 2022, was organized by the European Association of Erasmus Coordinators (European Association of Erasmus Coordinators and was addressed to staff and trainees, researchers and professionals with an interest in the Erasmus programs, both from academia or the business world.

The main topics of the Conference concerned the new cycle of ERASMUS+ Programs 2021-2027, the quality assurance of ERASMUS actions, staff mobility for teaching, training and funding policy issues.

The events of the Conference began on Monday with a visit and tour of the University of Macedonia by approximately 40 coordinators from various Universities abroad as part of the Erasmus+ Program and the staff training week. Participants were welcomed by the Vice-Chancellor of Administrative Affairs, Academic Affairs and Student Affairs of the University of Macedonia, Professor Dimitrios Kyrkilis, and a guided tour of the guests was undertaken by officials of the Department of International and Public Relations of the University of Macedonia.

<https://eracon.info/index.php?id=838>

VFU “CHERNORIZETS HRABAR” WITH A 21-YEAR UNINTERRUPTED CYCLE OF CERTIFICATION OF THE QUALITY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

The quality management system of Varna Free University “Chernorizets Hrabar” was recertified for the seventh time in a row by the International Certification Organization BUREAU VERITAS Certification in accordance with the international standard ISO 9001:2015 and received a certificate with accreditation from UKAS (Great Britain) for a period of 3 years - until 2025.

The quality management system of VFU “Chernorizets Hrabar” proves the sustainable development of the organization. There is no other higher education institution in Bulgaria that has a 21-year uninterrupted cycle of certification.

The certification organization of the ISO 9001:2015 quality management system of Varna Free University is BUREAU VERITAS – a company with 200 years of history, tradition, continuity and stability.

“VFU “Chernorizets Hrabar” is one of the few Bulgarian universities with traditions in the certification of its management system,” said Stanimir Smilkov - manager of BUREAU VERITAS - Bulgaria. According to him, the introduction of the quality management system provides transparency, reliability, opportunities for flexible management of processes in the organization, commitment of resources, risk minimization. “Students’ satisfaction is a particular focus for the management system - this includes the quality of education and the opportunities for subsequent professional realization,” comments Stanimir Smilkov. He added that the audit teams inspecting Varna Free University are impressed by the commitment and motivation of the university’s team.

For further information visit

<https://bit.ly/3QWiI9R>



Bureau Veritas Certification

VARNA FREE UNIVERSITY TCHERNORIZETS HRABAR

84, “Yanko Slavchev” Str., Chaika Resort Complex, 9007, Varna, Bulgaria

Bureau Veritas Certification Holding SAS – UK Branch certifies that the Management System of the above organisation has been audited and found to be in accordance with the requirements of the management system standards detailed below

ISO 9001:2015

Scope of certification

**Provides and organizes accredited higher education.
Conducts post-graduate qualification and specialization, re-training and lifelong learning. Carries out research work and expert consultations. Elaborates and participates in international and national scientific and applied projects and initiatives.
Provides for co-operation between universities and academic mobility
Of teaching staff, students and administrative staff, including in accordance with the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).**

Original cycle start date:	19-03-2010
Expiry Date of Previous Cycle:	28-02-2022
Certification / Recertification Audit date:	15-02-2022
Certification/Recertification Cycle Start Date:	01-03-2022
Subject to the continued satisfactory operation of the organization's Management System, this certificate expires on:	28-02-2025
Certificate No.:	BG002302
Version:	1
Issue Date:	25-02-2022

Rayna Latorous

Signed on behalf of BVCH SAS UK Branch

Certification Body Address: 5th Floor, 66 Prescott Street, London, E1 8HG, United Kingdom

Local Office: 81A, Bulgaria Blvd., 1404 Sofia, Bulgaria

Further clarifications regarding the scope and validity of this certificate, and the applicability of the management system requirements, please call: +359 (2) 983 60 00



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THE STUDENTS OF VFU “CHERNORIZETS HRABAR” UNIVERSITY GIVE AN EXCELLENT MARK OF 5.62 ON THE QUALITY OF THE LEARNING PROCESS AT THE UNIVERSITY

The students of the Varna Free University “Chernorizets Hrabar” give an excellent mark of 5.62 to the quality of the educational process at the university. The results summarise the opinion of 4,478 students in 517 disciplines taught at the university. The survey is part of the regular student satisfaction inquiry that takes place at the end of the academic year. The results show sustainability - this year they are similar to last year's, but with 15% more inquiries conducted. The analysis was discussed at a meeting of the Academic Council of VFU “Chernorizets Hrabar”.

With the highest student rating are the courses in the professional area of Administration and Management - 5.82, followed by Economics with 5.77 and Security and Safety with 5.76. Right after them are the courses of Legal Sciences - 5.67. The major in Psychology also received an excellent mark. The Smolyan branch of the university received 5.69. The courses at Architecture and Urban Studies and Construction of Buildings and Structures are respectively with 5.58 and 5.71. Traditionally, students rate the lectures at the Department of Foreign Language Teaching and Postgraduate Qualification very highly – this year the mark is 5.84.

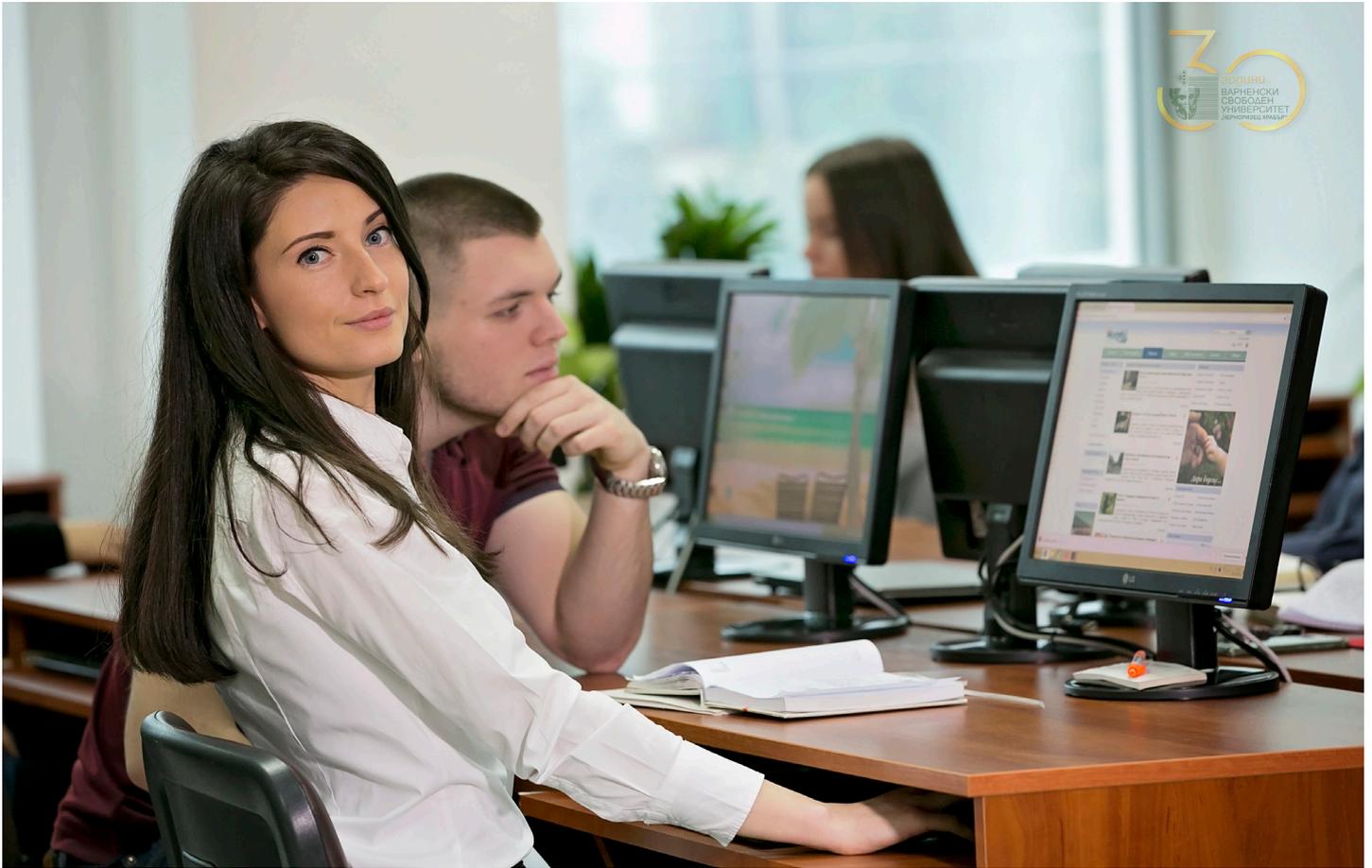
The possibility of successful professional realization attracted 76 percent of the students. The relevance of the studied courses is the leading factor in choosing a major for nearly 60% of students. More than half of them were attracted by the offered distance or part-time mode of study. For every second of the students, the leading factor was the excellent reputation of the major in which they study, and every third was impressed by the good university campus.

98.2 percent of all surveyed stated that they would recommend the major in which they are studying to their acquaintances and friends. Their number increased by 3.2% this year, compared to the previous one. 86% of the graduating bachelors expressed a desire to continue their studies in the next educational and qualification degree at Varna Free University, and their share for the last year increased by 7%.

For further information visit

<https://bit.ly/3QHOOpl>



MORE WORKING PEOPLE AND BULGARIANS WHO LIVE ABROAD CHOOSE DISTANCE LEARNING AT VFU “CHERNORITZ HRABER”

The interest towards the distance learning programmes at Varna Free University “Chernorizets Hrabar” is increasing. Prospective students can choose out of five programmes in the educational qualification degree “Bachelor”, which are taught in distance learning. These are Informatics and Computer Science, Business Administration and Management, Public Administration and Management, International Economic Relations and Finance and Accounting.

VFU “Chernorizets Hrabar” is the only university in Bulgaria with an accredited distance learning bachelor’s degree programmes in Informatics and Computer Sciences, and the professional field received its fourth consecutive programme accreditation from the National Agency for Assessment and Accreditation. Students traditionally find their professional realization while they still study at the university.

There are seven distance learning master’s degree programmes - Digital Marketing and Web Design, Software Engineering and Management and Data Science - both taught in English. Management and International

Marketing, Administration Infrastructure, Financial and Banking Management and Marketing and International Finance are highly sought after.

Over 300 students are studying in a distance learning courses at Varna Free University. Their average age is 32 - these are working young people who want to manage their time on their own, have chosen to work and further develop their education at the same time. More and more students live abroad. Students come from more countries now – Germany, Cyprus, Great Britain, Austria, Belgium, Greece, Turkey, the Netherlands, Norway and even Chile and the USA.

Distance learning has 12 years of experience and traditions at Varna Free University. Students benefit from high-quality educational resources that are accessible from anywhere in the world at any time. A programme has been created for individual consultations with teachers in real time. The personal attitude is leading in the work with the students in the distance learning.

For further information visit

<https://bit.ly/3bN63qA>

VFU “CHERNORIZETS HRABAR” OFFERS STUDENTS A COMPETITIVE OPPORTUNITY FOR 2 DIPLOMAS FROM 2 PRESTIGIOUS EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES

Varna Free University “Chernorizets Hrabar” has re-signed a contract with BI Norwegian Business School to conduct the joint bachelor’s programme in International Business, which gives students the opportunity to simultaneously receive two prestigious diplomas in two majors from both universities. The Norwegian Business School is among the leading universities in Europe and the only one in the northernmost country on the old continent to hold three international accreditations, called the Triple Crown. Globally, less than 1% of business schools have such accreditation.

The programme is a suitable solution for prospective students who hesitate between Bulgaria and abroad for their higher education. VFU “Chernorizets Hrabar” offers its students the opportunity to acquire two European diplomas, which are a competitive advantage and a guarantee for their successful career development in Bulgaria and abroad.

The partnership with BI Norwegian Business School has a 5-year history. Students from the first class of the International Business major have already received their diplomas from the Norwegian Business School and Varna Free University. The joint programme is preferred by young people from Bulgaria, USA, Great Britain, Ukraine, Turkey, etc. During the first three years, they are educated at VFU “Chernorizets Hrabar” entirely in English. The

curriculum includes courses in the field of international trade, finance, international markets, financial reporting, banking, international marketing, etc. The lectures are led by distinguished lecturers of the university, as well as by Bulgarian and foreign practising experts, who have proven themselves in the field of entrepreneurship and investments. Part of the training is in an environment developed for starting own business and managing investment projects. Students participate in the Erasmus+ mobility programme, placements, internships, various academic exchange programmes, courses and master classes.

During the 4th year, students who have demonstrated excellent results have the opportunity to continue their studies in Oslo. In both universities, they receive personal treatment, excellent theoretical and practical knowledge, which successfully prepares them for the requirements of modern international business companies. The young people communicate with their peers from all over the world, and the educational and cultural exchange is a guarantee for the creation of new friendships and future business partnerships.

For further information about the joint programme of VFU “Chernorizets Hrabar” and BI Norwegian Business School, as well as how to apply for it, please visit nbs.vfu.bg.

For further information visit

<https://bit.ly/3vY4YmA>





Balkan Universities Association

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Editor: Exp. Nurgül SARSILMAZ

Design: Yıldıray ERCAN