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ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI

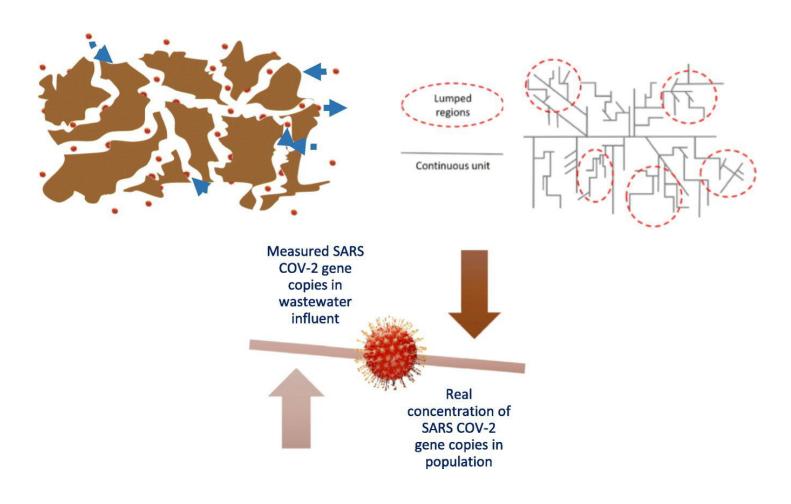
ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL EFFORT OF GREECE TO ASSESS THE SPREAD OF SARS-COV-2 VIRUS IN THE POPULATION BASED ON MUNICIPAL WASTEWATER

Since the beginning of the spread of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in Greece, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki provides scientific support to the Greek Government for critical decisions regarding the pandemic. In this context, in March 2020, under the coordination of the Rector of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Professor Nikolaos G. Papaioannou, the Wastewater Epidemiology Team of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki was formed with scientists of various specialties, to systematically monitor the presence of SARS-CoV-2 virus waste of Thessaloniki. The purpose was to quantify the temporal

evolution of viral load secretion values in the population of Thessaloniki.

The team of AUTh monitors the evolution of measurements in samples taken at the entrance of the Thessaloniki Sewage Treatment Plant. The AUTh team offered immediately available scientific equipment and know-how, procured the necessary biochemical and chemical consumables and allocated the time to a significant number of specialized researchers and scientists for the analysis of urban wastewater in Thessaloniki.

Model for Rationalizing SARS-CoV-2 RNA Copies Concentration



ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI

In the sewerage networks of cities end up man-made waste with body fluids that contain human biological material. This material includes the representative genome of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, which comes from people who are either sick or asymptomatic carriers of the virus. According to the international literature, wastewater does not contain active infectious virions but fragments of the virus which are inactive for the transmission of the disease but are capable of detecting and quantifying the presence of the virus. Wastewater measurements are a timely and valid indication of the extent of the virus spreading in the community and should be used in addition to medical epidemiological surveillance for decision making.

Publications in prestigious international scientific journals

Much of the contribution of the AUTh wastewater epidemiology team to the national effort is reflected in the three most innovative of the team's publications in prestigious international scientific journals:

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2020.142855

https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34542818/

https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/ S0048969721059167

OPENING OF THE ESERO OFFICE IN GREECE, BASED AT THE ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI

In order to highlight the importance of Space in modern society and economy, the ESERO (European Space Education Resource Office) started operating in Greece, based at the Aristotle University. The establishment of the ESERO Office at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki by the European Space Agency (ESA), took place after an international competition. The ESERO Office will be responsible for the organization

and coordination of the education of teachers and students of primary and secondary education in Greece, in STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) and Space sciences.

More information:

https://www.esa.int/Education/Teachers_Corner/ESERO_ Greece_takes_off_to_boost_STEM_education_in_school



KIRKLARELI UNIVERSITY

ADAPTATION MEETING FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN KIRKLARELI

The "Kırklareli Adaptation Meeting" was held at the Rectorate Cultural Center on Friday, October 22, with the broad participation of the international students of Kırklareli University. In his opening speech, Vice-Rector of the Kırklareli University, Prof. Dr. Ünal ÇAĞLAR stated that Turkey is at a key location with regards to migration mobilities due to its geopolitical position and drew attention to the fact that migration may continue in the upcoming period depending on regional developments. He also stressed the importance of developing necessary national and regional strategies in this context.

During the event, Kırklareli Provincial Immigration Administration officials provided information on the legal status of foreign nationals, residence permit processes, and their access to the labor market. At the end of the program, the International Relations Office Coordinator of the Kırklareli University, Assoc. Prof. Mehmet Fatih ÇÖMLEKÇİ gave information about the university's internationalization policy; the number and diversity of international students in Kırklareli; and cultural, social, and student club activities for international students. The program ended after the question-answer session.









KIRKLARELI UNIVERSITY

IDEATHON STATISCS CAMP 2021 HELD IN KIRKLARELI

The "Statistics Ideathon Camp", a project carried out by Kırklareli University and supported within the scope of Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey "Science and Society Innovative Education Applications Program" Support (TÜBİTAK-4005), held at Kırklareli between 1-9 October 2021. The project aimed to give courses on quantitative social methods to science researchers with educational innovative methodology. In this context, the intention was to provide necessary statistical data analysis skills for participants and ultimately raise the quality of the upcoming academic publications.

In his speech, Vice-Rector of Kırklareli University, Prof. Dr. Ünal ÇAĞLAR stressed that this project was one of the 22 projects supported by TÜBİTAK as of the application year. He stated that these innovative methodological approaches would also be beneficial for the academic improvement of the participants. On the last day of the statistics camp, the project committee organized a trip to the İğneada Longoz Forests.









FAN S. NOLI" UNIVERSITY

JUBILEE CEREMONY ON THE OCCASION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF "FAN S. NOLI" UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHMENT

On December 10th, 2021 it was held at "Fan S. Noli" University a jubilee ceremony on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of its establishement. The ceremony of this day began with a meeting that the rector of the University, prof. dr. Dhimitri Bello held with heads of institutions and rectors invited from Albania, Kosovo, Northern Macedonia, etc., in the Rectorate premises. He thanked everyone for being present on this important day and invited them to join the official ceremony.

On the speeches and presantations in this ceremony it was emphasized the role and contribution of the University in these 50 years of work and dedication of its staff and students.

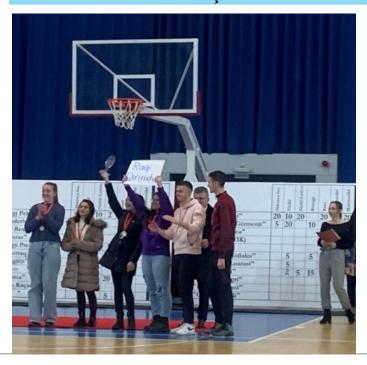
The publication on "Fan S. Noli" University history "50 years "Fan S. Noli" University (Honor of the Nation)" was also promoted.

The ceremony continued with the presentation of a documentary that brought to attention the founding of this University 50 years ago, awarded and honored during this time with Order "Naim Frashëri" and with "Honor of the Nation" decoration, as well as special key moments of its activity. On their greetings and wishes for future

success, various participants emphasized the achievements and quantitative and qualitative changes of the University. Another important moment of this ceremony was the appreciation expressed for important personalities and friends of the University, who have given their support and contribution to the development of this University. At the end of the ceremony greetings and messages from rectors of Albanian and foreign partner universities, as well as from well-known personalities who were not present on the ceremony were read.



"FAN S. NOLI" UNIVERSITY ORGANIZES THE THIRD EDITION OF "RROKE SHKENËN" OLYMPIAD WITH HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS OF KORÇA REGION



During December 6-10, 2021 "Fan S. Noli" University organized the third edition of the "Rroke Shkenën" Olympiad with the participation of students from 22 high schools of Korça region.

"Rroke Shkenën" is an Olympiad organized by the "Laboratory of Knowledge", which consists of excellent students of the Faculty of Natural and Human Sciences. Participating students in this olympiad test their knowledge in the field of social sciences, biology-chemistry, physics, informatics and mathematics, for five days in a row.

The "Rroke Shkenën" Olympiad aims to increase the interest of high school students in natural and human sciences studies, becoming this way a bridge of cooperation and support for high school students who will study at "Fan S. Noli" University in the future.

This year the participation of high school students was high and the olympiad was more innovative as it included for the first time the discipline of language and literature as well. About 450 students participated in the Olympiad

FAN S. NOLI" UNIVERSITY

who competed in 7 disciplines: Chemistry, Biology, Social Sciences, Language and Literature, Mathematics, Informatics and Physics. The winners were announced at the closing

ceremony. The first prize for this year was won by "Raqi Qirinxhi" high school, located in Korça.





IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DUAL CURRICULUM PROJECT (LEARNING & PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE) IN AGROBUSINESS MANAGEMENT, WHICH IS APPLIED FOR THE FIRST TIME AT "FAN S. NOLI" UNIVERSITY ACCORDING TO THE EUROPEAN MODEL

On November 23, 2021, in the premises of the Faculty of Agriculture was held a round table on the topic "Implementation of DUAL curriculum (teaching & professional practice) in Agribusiness Management", which is applied for the first time according to the European model. This is an initiative of the Agribusiness Department, focusing on curricula internationalization, aligning it with the best EU models.

The combination of theory with teaching practice, which is currently implemented with the first year students of Agribusiness study program at "Fan S. Noli" University, has proved to be a successful model in the best universities.

The aim is for this project to become a model for other study programs as well.

Topics of discussion on this round table included:

- the extent in which the study programs of the University in the field of agribusiness responded to the labor market demands and needs;
- the importance of professional practice in higher education;
 - the employment challenges that young people face;
- ways of cooperation between the private/ public sector and the University for conducting teaching-professional practices;
- the role of public institutions of local and central level in encouraging cooperation between the university and businesses;
- is the DUAL model a promising model for improving the practical aspects of students knowledge, etc.





FAN S. NOLI" UNIVERSITY

"FAN S. NOLI" UNIVERSITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF TIRANA ORGANIZED THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC CONFERENCE "LANGUAGE POLICIES ON MINORITIES IN THE BALKANS: ACHIEVEMENTS AND PERSPECTIVES"

"Fan S. Noli" University in cooperation with the University of Tirana organized the International Scientific Conference "Language Policies on Minorities in the Balkans: Achievements and Perspectives", which was held on November, 12th, 2021 at "Fan S. Noli" University.

The conference was organized by the Department of Language and Literature of "Fan S. Noli" University in collaboration with the Department of History and Philology of University of Tirana.

In the plenary session, in his opening speech, the rector of "Fan S. Noli" University emphasized the importance of this conferece as it brought together the best specialists of this study field who will be able to conclude the conference with concrete conclusions for other projects in the future related to linguistic policies on minorities in the Balkans.

The plenary session was proceeded with the speech of prof. Fernando Ramallo (online from Spain) on the topic: "The relevance of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages for the protection of minority languages in the Balkans" and with the speech of prof. Kostas Dinas (online from Greece) on the topic "The Linguistic diversity in the Balkans: a blessing or a problem?"

After the plenary session, the conference continued in three parallel sessions:

I- Language policy for national minorities and language planning;

II-Languages in contact;

III- Language varieties, language in use and problems of education.





TEKIRDAĞ NAMIK KEMAL UNIVERSITY

TNKU ŞARKÖY VOCATIONAL SCHOOL STUDENTS WON THE GOLD MEDAL



The students of Şarköy Vocational School (MYO) Cooking Department, representing Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University, won the gold medal at the "Chocolate Cup 2021" chocolate competition, which was organized for the third time by the Eurasian Gastronomy and Cooks Federation.

Students namely, Ates Kurd, Muhammet DURU and Zeynep Demir who joined the competition with the leadership of Inst. Furkan Burak Ünal won the Gold Medal

in the Black Box Team category. Inst. Aygün Kalın, Inst. Furkan Burak Ünal and Inst. Sinem Akman also supported the students and participated in the competition which was held on December 4, 2021.

Adem Yılmaz, Deputy President of the Eurasian Gastronomy and Cooks Federation, presented the plaque to Inst. Sinem Akman representing Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University.





TEKIRDAĞ NAMIK KEMAL UNIVERSITY

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' NIGHT AT TNKU

"The International Students' Night" was organized by Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University International Relations Research and Application Center (NAKDIM) on 28th of December 2021.

The event started with the Turkish National Anthem and a moment of silence, and the introductory video of the university was shown. Afterwards, the greeting speeches started. In her speech, Tekirdağ Deputy Çiğdem KONCAGÜL stated that "We are currently in one of the centers of science and knowledge, Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University. Our university has approximately 1,600 international students, and you, our beloved youth, are educated for the future of both our country and Tekirdağ. While shaping your future with the education you have received here, remember that you are now children of the Republic of Turkey. With the power and confidence behind you, you will look at the world differently and with confidence in your future life. I hope that you will act as Turkey's volunteer cultural ambassador when you complete your training and spread your knowledge to all parts of the world. I hope that our event will be beneficial for our university and Tekirdağ."

In his speech, Prof. Dr. Mumin Şahin, Rector of our University emphasized that "Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University is a university that focuses on both education and research. One of the most significant indicators of this

is the number of international students from 57 countries, including Italy, Somalia, Jordan, China, the Adriatic, and the Balkans, which are totally about 1,600. Students also feel like they are studying at a global university due to the Erasmus bilateral agreements with 122 institutions of higher education from 25 countries and the Mevlana exchange programs. Also, our faculty members benefit from Erasmus and Mevlana exchange programs. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Çiğdem KONCAGÜL, our esteemed MPs, for showing her appreciation for our event during her busy schedule, and for helping us prepare the International Students' Night, as well as all other valuable participants."

Head of International Relations Research and Application Center Asst. Prof. H. Selçuk Eti remarked that "We are very honored to host 1,600 international students from 57 different countries at our university" and he thanked all the participants.

After the speeches, the program continued with a concert by the Tekirdağ Youth Center Student Choir, a musical concert by the Turkish Music State Conservatory of Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University, a poem performance by a Kyrgyz student, and a performance by Paşa Folk Dance Group. The program ended with a group photo shoot. Following the program, international students were offered treats at the Rectorate Foyer area.



TEKIRDAĞ NAMIK KEMAL UNIVERSITY

SMALL INCISION (CLOSED METHOD) HEART SURGERIES ARE PERFORMED SUCCESSFULLY AT TEKIRDAĞ NAMIK KEMAL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL AND THIS APPLICATION IS THE ONLY ONE IN THE REGION

The number of heart surgeries performed recently in minimally invasive or closed methods is increasing. Few clinics in Turkey perform such surgeries. In our region, this method has been successfully applied for some time only in the cardiovascular surgery clinic of Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University Hospital.

The Head of Department of Cardiovascular Surgery in Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University Hospital Prof. Dr. Özcan GÜR and Assoc. Dr. Selami GÜRKAN stated that Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University provides services to the entire region in the field of cardiovascular diseases since 2011 and added "Today, many diseases related to cardiovascular diseases are being treated by using successful methods. Closed-method heart surgeries include heart valve surgeries, cardiac bypass surgeries, aortic aneurysms, or cardiac perforations. Developing techniques and medical devices enhance the success of surgeries and allow operations to be performed with smaller incisions. Along with developing techniques, we also perform the heart surgeries in our clinic successfully with 7-8 cm incisions under the armpits, under the right or left breast. The advantages of closed methodology are since there is no rib cage incision accordingly, there are no infection risks, lung problems and wound location healing problems. These patients experience less bleeding problems and have less postoperative blood needs. With closed-heart surgeries, the length of hospitalization for these patients is also reduced, allowing them to return to their normal lives in a shorter time period. We see that it is also important for our young patients from a cosmetic point of view that the surgical scars remain in invisible areas thanks to the small incisions made under the breast."

Prof. Dr. Özcan GÜR, and Assoc. Dr. Selami GÜRKAN also elucidated about the post-operative process after the surgery. Dr. Selami Gürkan asserted that: "This method can be used in many patients who need to have cardiac surgery. After approximately 4-5 days of hospitalization, and 2 weeks of home rest, patients can return to their daily lives with ease. The speedy return of patients to their social life also gives them psychological relief. In this group of patients, we rarely see the psychological effects of surgery such as post-operative depression. Patients do not have to be extremely attentive while turning in bed or lying down and getting up compared to the patients with bone incisions.







ISTANBUL SABAHATTIN ZAIM UNIVERSITY

IZU IS AMONG THE WORLD'S BEST SUSTAINABLE UNIVERSITIES IN 2021

UI GreenMetric a world-renowned and respected assessment institution, has announced The Best Sustainable Universities ranking. The ranking examines the world's top universities, evaluates sustainability and efficient use of resources, infrastructure, energy, climate change, recycling, water resources, transportation, education, and research areas of universities.

IZU was founded in 2010 and began its educational life in 2011, once again we see IZU among the univeresities list

ranked this year, as it has prviously made it on the list in the past two years. IZU, which ranked in the 418th place last year, climbed four places this year to the 414th place. The ranking includes 126 universities in Europe, which puts IZU in the 126th place among these universities.

In the 2019 World Greenmetric Universities IZU was ranked 496th out of 500. Continuing its work without pause, IZU climbed 78 places in the same evaluation last year, ranking 418th on the list and among the top 200 in Europe.

THE CYPRUS ISSUE WAS DISCUSSED AT A MEETING ATTENDED BYTURKISH AND GREEK NEGOTIATORS.

In collaboration with Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University and Eastern Mediterranean University, an online conference titled "Speaking the Cyprus Issue Together" was held. Speakers included Ergün Olgun, Special Representative of the President of TRNC President, Ersin Tatar in charge of communications on the Cyprus conflict, and Andreas Mavroyannis negotiator for the Greek Cypriot side.

The current situation and the future of the Cyprus were discussed at a conference moderated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Erhan Çener, Head of the IZU Department of Political Science and International Relations. The goal of the conference was to educate the audience on the subject and help them better understand the perspectives of various parties. The two-day event was streamed live on the IZU YouTube channel.



THE FINDINGS OF A STUDY ON "GENDER PERCEPTION IN TURKEY" HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED.



The findings of the "Perception of Gender in Turkey" study, conducted by IZU in collaboration with the Istanbul Family Foundation, have been published.

A meeting was held at the university's Halkalı Campus to announce the findings of a study conducted by Prof. Dr. Ergün Yıldırım of the IZU Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences Department of Sociology and Assoc. Prof.

Dr. Recep Yıldız of the Bandırma Onyedi Eylül University of Health Faculty, Social Service Department. Prof. Dr. Ergün Yıldırım stated during the meeting that the "Perception of Gender in Turkey" report is one of the first studies in this field in Turkey.

Stated that they conducted the study to demonstrate how Turkish society views gender debates "We are attempting to carry out this research by examining large social segments such as the perspectives of our youth, the attitudes of political parties, political identities, and the perceptions of people involved in religious life. In the survey, 49.7 percent of those polled were women, while 50.3 percent were men. We conducted this research in July and June of last year. As a starting point, we used 26 provinces from Turkey. It was carried out with a sample size of 2,200 people. It was an important study that taught us about the social structure of the society, "he said.

TRAKYA UNIVERSITY

JOINT SCIENTIFIC MEETING FROM TRAKYA UNIVERSITY AND TETOVA UNIVERSITY IN NORTH MACEDONIA

Trakya University continues to carry its scientific meetings and medical experiences abroad. In cooperation with Trakya University and Tetovo University of Northern Macedonia, a scientific symposium on "Current Approaches to Lung Cancer" was organized. A meeting was also held between the two university delegations before the symposium.

The Symposium on Current Approaches to Lung Cancer which was organized in collaboration with Trakya University Faculty of Medicine and Tetovo University Faculty of Medicine with the initiatives of the Union of Macedonian Students studying in Turkey was held in North Macedonia hosted by Tetova University.

President of the Union of Macedonian Students studying in Turkey Hişam Emin and six member students also accompanied the delegation of Trakya University including Vice Rector Prof. Dr. Murat Türkyılmaz, Prof. Dr. Gündeniz Altıay from Faculty of Medicine Department of Chest Diseases, Prof. Dr. Zafer Koçak from Radiation Oncology Department and Executive Assistant and Press Advisor Inst. Kıvanç Ada.



On the opening of the symposium in which Vice President of North Macedonian Parliament Hysni İsmaili, Minister of Health Bekim Sali, Deputy Minister of Education Lulzim Aliu, Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Forestry Abdylshyqyr Abedini, Tetova University Rector Reshat Qaili, President of the Senate Kushtrim Ahmeti, Dean of Faculty of Medicine Sahmedin Sali participated, Symposium General Coordinator-Trakya University Student Int. Dr. Levent Ismaili gave a speech. Stating that the symposium they brought to life was an important event that would attract the attention of researchers working in this field, he said, "The papers to be presented here will be an important resource for both our participants and researchers working in this field. According to statistical data, this will be an opportunity for doctors in Tetovo in terms of the incidence of the disease

and especially the mortality rate." said.

Starting his speech by thanking everyone who labored to the symposium for their contributions to science and human health, Tetovo University Vice Rector Prof. Dr. Hazir Pollozhani stated that they would continue to develop cooperation with all universities in the region. He also said, "Medicine and other primary sciences play a key role in the protection and development of people. For this reason, we will strengthen trainings and collaborations aimed at protecting, training and improving public health. Despite the conditions of the pandemic we are in, we will continue to carry out our scientific activities.".

Stating that he was pleased and honored to attend the symposium where current treatment methods of lung cancer would be discussed, North Macedonian Health Minister Bekim Sali congratulated Trakya University and Tetovo University for organizing the symposium that would further strengthen the cooperation between two countries.

Minister of Health Bekim Sali, who stated that he was honored and glad to be a part of the symposium dedicated to the contemporary treatment of lung cancer, was also present at this event. He also congratulated the organizers, Tetovo University and Trakya University, for holding the symposium, which was an additional step towards further progress and deepening the cooperation between doctors in the field of thoracic surgery.



Participating in the symposium via a video message, Trakya University Rector Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu stated that they had strong collaborations with Tetovo University and said, "With former rector Prof. Dr. Vullnet Ameti the strong ties we have established will continue with the new administration, in which he is also the vice-rector. I would like to visit Tetovo University again as soon as possible, where I attended the fourth meeting of the Balkan Universities

TRAKYA UNIVERSITY

Association in 2018". He also added "Likewise, we would be happy to host medical and nursing students, specialists from Tetovo University at our University as well as the esteemed management of Tetovo University".



Rector Tabakoğlu, who stated that Trakya University had established strong ties with North Macedonia, added that they wanted to establish the first techno park there in the country modelling Trakya University Techno park.

After Vice Rector Prof. Dr. Murat Türkyılmaz's presentation about the opportunities provided by Trakya University, the papers were presented. Prof. Dr. Omer Cemali, Dr. Ilir Ismaili, Dr. Ilir Vela and Dr. Levent Ismaili also contributed to the symposium together with Trakya University Faculty of Medicine Department of Chest Diseases Lecturer Prof. Dr. Gündeniz Altıay and Radiation Oncology Faculty Member Prof. Dr. Zafer Koçak.



The papers presented at the symposium, which continued during the day with the great interest of academics and students, will also be featured in the journal Acta Medica Balkanica, published by Tetovo University.

Trakya University and Tetovo University Delegations Were Gathered...

The two university delegations, who came together before the Symposium on Current Approaches to Lung Cancer, where new information on chest diseases, especially lung cancer, were shared, reached a consensus on deepening and developing cooperation.

Expressing that dozens of doctor and nursing students from Tetovo University receive education at Trakya University every year, Trakya University Vice Rector Prof. Dr. Murat Türkyılmaz said, "We want to develop our cooperation with North Macedonia in every field. We train dozens of students every year. Again, we become the door of healing for thousands of patients. We want to strengthen the cooperation between the two countries with our Technopark project, which we want to implement in the near future." he said.



Thanking Trakya University for its efforts and contributions to the development of higher education in North Macedonia, especially their own university, Rector Prof. Dr. Reshat Qaili expressed that they want to strengthen their cooperation.



RECTOR PROF. DR. ERHAN TABAKOĞLU ATTENDED TO THE RECEPTION OF KOSOVO REPUBLIC IN ISTANBUL

The Rector Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu attended as a special guest to the reception jointly organized by the Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo in Ankara and the Consulate General in Istanbul by the Kosovan diaspora due to the visit paid by the President of the Republic of Kosovo Vjosa Osmani Sadriu and the accompanying delegation to Turkey.

Vjosa Osmani Sadriu, the president of the Republic of Kosovo, who visited Turkey to develop bilateral cooperation and discuss a variety of topics gave a speech about the Kosovo citizens in Turkey, the cooperations on economic, social, cultural and educational fields between the two countries at the reception.

At the reception, Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu met with the President of the Republic of Kosovo, Vjosa Osmani Sadriu, and shared information about Trakya University's Balkansoriented studies, future vision, the Kosovo students, Kosovo Technopark project. Besides, the Rector Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu also held important talks here and exchanged ideas about bilateral cooperation.











TRAKYA UNIVERSITY

TUA IV. INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF HEALTH SCIENCES WAS HELD

Within the scope of the events of 2021 organized by the Thrace Universities Association with the theme of Multidisciplinary View of the COVID-19 Pandemic", IV. The International Congress of Health Sciences was held. A large number of national and international researchers and academicians working in the field of medicine and health sciences attended the online congress hosted by Kırklareli University.

IV. The International Congress of Health Sciences hosted by Kırklareli University was held with the contributions of the member universities of the Thrace Universities Association This year, a large number of academicians from Trakya University and other universities belonging to the union, as well as national and international universities, made scientific contributions to the congress organized on the theme of "Multidisciplinary View of the COVID-19 Pandemic" with their scientific papers.

Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences of Kırklareli University and Chairman of the Congress Organizing Committee Prof. Dr. Serpil Aközcan made the opening speech of the congress and stated that 178 papers will be presented at different sessions of the congress, which will continue for two days. Prof. Dr. Serpil Aközcan also stated that 26 invited speakers from 8 branches of science will take part in the congress organized by a multidisciplinary point of view, and expressed his gratitude to all the university rectors and everyone who supported the congress within the Trakya Universities Association.

Rector of Bandırma Onyedi Eylül University, Prof. Dr. Süleyman Özdemir stated that the Thrace Universities Association is the most active university association in Turkey and said that he believes that the congress organized by the member universities of the union will shed light on important issues related to COVID-19.

Vice-Rector of Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Prof. Dr. Süha Özden stated that many things have changed fundamentally with the COVID-19 pandemic and pointed out that such congresses are very meaningful and valuable in terms of learning new information.

Vice-Rector of Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University, Prof. Dr. Bülent Eker emphasized that the world is shaping up on health, food and defense after the pandemic and said that all countries are making plans taking into account these priorities.

On the other hand, Vice-Rector of Kirklareli University, Prof. Dr. Meryem Mudur Demir indicated that the information

pharmacy, nursing, midwifery, medicine, physiology and rehabilitation will be shared at IV. International Congress of Health Sciences, and reminded that the congress is important in terms of its contribution to qualified and original academic production.

Rector of Trakya University Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu,

about nutrition, health management, child development,

Rector of Trakya University Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu, referring to the success of Turkey on fighting against COVID-19, stated that, "We have once again shown the whole world how strong and successful we are in the field of health. As a country, we have put forward all kinds of measures and support in the days when countries were struggling to cope with the epidemic and were unable to cope with many issues. We believe that the congress organized by our union and which will address to the different aspects of the COVID-19 epidemic will make a major contribution to the scientific world in this process where all measures are taken urgently and all studies are carried out meticulously. We also feel honoured that the scientific activities that we have implemented as the Trakya Universities Association have reached to an international characteristics with the participation of researchers and academicians from abroad. Our association is gradually turning into an international brand."

After the opening speeches, IV. The International Congress of Health Sciences continued with presentations on the theme of "Multidisciplinary Look at the COVID-19 Pandemic". Trakya University lecturers, Prof. Dr. Serap Ünsar, Prof. Dr. Aydan Ercan, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suzan Ökten, Lecturer Dr. Hasan Cem Aykutlu, Lecturer Dr. Gülşah Gedik, Lecturer Dr. Member Serap Yilmaz and Lecturer Dr. Gamze Göger attended the congress and made scientific contributions for the congress, which brings competent researchers and academicians in the field of Medicine and Health Sciences together,

Trakya University lecturers gave the following presentations at the congress: Prof. Dr. Serap Ünsar "Reflections of the COVID-19 Epidemic Process on Nursing Education", Prof. Dr. Aydan Ercan "The Factors Affecting Obesity Treatment", Assoc. Prof. Dr. Suzan Ökten "Disinfection Practices in the COVID-19 Process", Lecturer Dr. Cem Aykutlu "Child and Adolescent Mental Health during the Pandemic Period", Lecturer Dr. Gülşah Gedik "Vaccine and Drug Development Studies in the COVID-19 Pandemic", Lecturer Dr. Serap Yilmaz "The Impact of the COVID-19 Process on the Pharmaceutical Industry" and Lecturer Dr. Gamze Göger made presentations entitled "COVID-19 and Herbal Products".





TRAKYA UNIVERSITY

TRAKYA UNIVERSITY DELEGATION MEETS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTERS OF KOSOVO

The Rector of Trakya University, Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu and Vice Rector Prof. Dr. Murat Türkyılmaz held a meeting with Deputy Prime Minister of Kosovo, Emilija Redzepi; Minister of Industry, Entrepreneurship and Trade, Rozeta Hajdari and Minister of Regional Development, Fikrim Damka on cooperation and projects, especially about education, health and Technopark.

Cooperation between Trakya University and the Republic of Kosovo continues to deepen. Trakya University, which provides education to the highest number of Kosovan students in Turkey, came together with Kosovo authorities with the aim of enriching its existing cooperation within the fields of health, technology and R&D.

Rector Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu and Vice Rector and Director of International Relations Office Prof. Dr. Murat Türkyılmaz held talks with Deputy Prime Minister of Kosovo, Emilija Redzepi; Minister of Industry, Entrepreneurship and Trade, Rozeta Hajdari and Minister of Regional Development, Fikrim Damka in İstanbul.

The strong ties and cooperation between Trakya University and Kosovo in the field of education and health were emphasized in the meeting. Rector Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu said, "We have trained more than 1,000 Kosovo

students so far, and we have been the door of healing for many of our patients through our hospital. With our new projects, we aim to deepen our existing cooperation and to implement our projects in order to strengthen the ancient ties between the two countries. We want to bring the Trakya University Technopark model to the Balkans and lead the economic and technological development of the Balkans. We take our steps with strength and determination. It was a great pleasure for us to meet Deputy Prime Minister Emilija Redzepi and our esteemed ministers Rozeta Hajdari and Fikrim Damka. We were also proud that our excitement for our projects was shared. Very soon, with our new good news, we will lay the foundations of new bridges to the Balkans with our country and our university".

Expressing that they were very proud to meet the Trakya University delegation, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo Emilija Redzepi stated that they were grateful for the support provided by Trakya University to Kosovo since independence and that they were excited about the implementation of the Technopark model in Kosovo. Thanking Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu and Vice Rector Prof. Dr. Murat Türkyılmaz for their sincere efforts and warm approach, Redzepi emphasized that they would be happy to host the Trakya University delegation in Kosovo and discuss the details of the projects as soon as possible.



UBT AMONG THE BEST IMPACT UNIVERSITIES!



The prestigious global magazine, Times Higher Education, has published the global ranking of universities based on their impact on sustainable development, Impact Rankings 2021.

UBT is ranked in this prestigious list in the best half of the ranking alongside the most reputable institutions in the world, while it is the most ranked institution from the Western Balkans region. With this position, UBT places Kosovo for the first time in this ranking, thus showing the excellent fruits of UBT's 20 years of work.

UBT is rated by Impact Rankings 2021 for high results in the implementation of sustainable policies related to industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9), contribution to peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16), health and physical well-being (SDG 3), the multidimensional partnership for sustainable development (SDG 17) as well as poverty eradication (SDG 1).

Moreover, UBT also tops the global Positive Impact Rating list. UBT was praised for its social impact and achievement of sustainability following the publication of the results from the Positive Impact Rating - PIR at the Global Forum of Principles for Responsible Management Education - UN PRME.

UBT is also ranked among the top 100 best universities in the world for Real Impact - WURI 2021.

The list of "World's Universities with Real Impact (WURI)", which is led by prestigious universities such as Stanford and Harvard, for the first time for incomparable achievements, ranks a provider of higher education from Kosovo.

By means of these rankings it is proven that UBT is holding high the flag of Kosovo in the international arena where in recent years has reaped great success in strong competitions against universities with hundreds of years of history.

UBT AS AN ENTERPRENEURAL INNOVATION-BASED ECOSYSTEM UNIVERSITY



2021 was the year in which UBT marked its 20th anniversary of founding. Among the many guests from various institutions and local and international collaborators, the Rector of UBT, Prof. Dr. Edmond Hajrizi, has presented 20 innovations, adding here 10 other innovations that round 30 such, during the 20 years of UBT existence.

On this occasion, Rector Hajrizi said that during these years an extraordinary work has been done, with a commitment of everyone to reach the point where UBT is today, helping Kosovo in its very important processes. "To reach the point of 20 innovations, it was necessary to work on 150 new development projects this year. These projects are in function of education and science, including green houses, equipment, various laboratories, different factories, innovative technologies, development projects, feasibility studies, accreditations and re-accreditations, i.e. a very large number of projects with which this year we have worked hard, and I am very happy that we managed to present them at the anniversary ceremony", said Rector Hajrizi.

UBT Innovations that have an impact on society and include a large ecosystem of knowledge are:

5G Technology	Augmented and Virtual Reality	National Cyber Security and Resilience
Artificial Intelligence	UBT Sport	UBT Innovation and Technology Hubs

		1
UBT - University 4.0	E-Sport & Art Hub	UBT Knowledge Hub, Tailored Manufacturing and Services
Robotics and Industrial Automation	Creativity Industry Hub	Remote / Contactless Delivery Services
UBT Smart City	Central Testing Hub	Smart Green Campus
UBT Go International	UBT Junior Hub	UBT Professional Schools
UBT Science and Technology Park	National Public Policy Simulation Lab	Virtualization- Based Delivery Services
Impact University	UBT Integrated Media Center	UBT Community Services
UBT High Schools	UBT GIS Center	UBT Health Care Services

Through these innovations UBT has brought to Kosovo a multidisciplinary approach to the functioning of one of the largest ecosystems of knowledge, which includes education, science, innovation, technology, smart city, sustainable development, Global Virtual Center, and other elements incorporated into the giant ecosystem of knowledge at UBT.

OVER 1200 PARTICIPANTS ATTENDED THE UBT ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, BUSINESS AND INNOVATION



The International Conference on Science, Technology, Business and Innovation extended its activity to 24 fields of study where participants had networking and interaction opportunities through local meetings and presentation events hosted by UBT.

This year's edition was the 10th - jubilee edition, which gathered more than 1200 participants, over 600 scientific researchers, with an increase in the number of international participants of 20%. This edition of the International Conference on Science, Technology, Business and Innovation brought topics that have not been addressed before, and assessments from different perspectives were given about the problems posed and addressed by local and international experts.

The UBT International Conference, which this year

was held in a combined form, physically and virtually, extended its activity in 24 different fields, proving once again the leadership in the field of science, technology and innovation in the country.

In 2022, UBT and Vienna University of Technology (IHRT), will organize the Conference "IFAC International Conference on Technology, Culture and International Stability, TECIS 2022", for the first time in Kosovo. The aim of this conference is to review the stability of the international system due to the development of technology and dramatic changes of this system. This conference is supported by the International Federation of Automatic Control (IFAC), while it is worth noting that the papers and publications of this conference will be indexed and listed in Scopus.



UBT

"GLOBAL UBT FEST 2021" PROVED ONCE AGAIN STRONGLY, THE ROLE AND INCOMPARABLE IMPACT THAT UBT HAS ON HIGHER EDUCATION IN KOSOVO



Last year, the academic festival "Global UBT Fest 2021" has successfully concluded its activity, a festival that received the attention of many participants from the country, region and Europe, who for 1 month attended numerous hybrid academies, forums, workshops, competitions, and other cultural and artistic activities.

In the closing ceremony of the largest academic event in the region, "Global UBT Fest 2021", the Rector of UBT, Prof. Dr. Edmond Hajrizi, emphasized that the festival was a strong arena for brainstorming, presentation of achievements and above all of the exchange of experiences between the participants, a saboteur who has given undeniable value to this festival.

"Twenty years ago, when I returned to Kosovo, to bring here the experience and quality of Western education, I was full of hope that one day the door of UBT will be open not only for our local students and professors but also for internationally respected academics, researchers, students and teachers. After twenty years, today, I say

with pride that the fulfillment of this goal has not been easy, it was full of challenges but unstoppable and achievable, for which today I am very proud", stressed Hajrizi.

Rector Hajrizi said that "Global UBT Fest 2021" aroused the interest of participants from many international countries, while focusing on innovation, sustainable development, at the same time had an academic perspective.

"Kosovo today has great potential in its youth, in its students. We are competitors everywhere today, in many areas, some of which are at the top of the list. This is proof of this inspiring potential which will provide Kosovo with a bright future," said Rector Hajrizi.

Integrated within the "Global UBT Fest 2021", the International Summer Academies of UBT, have already become a tradition, as they were held for the tenth year in a row. The academies, as well as other activities, were focused on numerous scientific disciplines where ideas were exchanged in a hybrid format by hundreds of professors and thousands of participants.

UNIVERSITY OF IOANNINA



The University of Ioannina (UoI) and Universities of the Republic of Albania, in the region of Tirana, Gjiorokaster, Korçë and Durrës, have followed an incremental approach towards close and effective cooperation over the last years. Institution-wide Agreements of Cooperation have strengthened strategic partnership leading to successful delivery of joint research projects (INTERREG Greece-Albania and Cross-Border Cooperation Projects). Furthermore, the University of Ioannina has awarded a significant number of postgraduate and PhD degrees to students originating from the Republic of Albania.

Geographical proximity between the two countries, long-term relations between the people, economic ties, cultural affinity, cross-border students who undertake

higher education studies at the University of Ioannina, are all pivotal to promoting deeper and more sustainable cooperation. These joint efforts are complemented by the educational activities of the Center for Greek Language and Culture of UoI, enhancing even cooperation further.

Any challenges, linked to incompatibilities between degrees awarded, are expected to be resolved soon, as a prerequisite condition for students of Albanian Universities to successfully seek higher education opportunities at the University of Ioannina.

Following the support and encouragement of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Albania, alongside the structured assistance of the Embassy of Greece in Albania, the guidance of the Hellenic Ministry of Education and Religious Affairs and the Consulate General of Greece, UoI and its Albanian counterparts have proposed actions and incentives that can be pursued to enhance their collaboration, leading to a Greece-Albania Strategic Partnership. To this end, high-level meetings were convened, with the presence of the Rector of UoI, Prof. Triantafyllos A.D. Almpanis

and his Albanian counterparts, Vice-Rectors, Deans of Schools and Heads of Departments of both sides, representing academic fields of mutual interest (Humanities, Psychology, Engineering, Sciences, Economics, Education, Nursing and Arts).



UNIVERSITY OF MACEDONIA

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON "CONSTITUTION MAKING AND DEMOCRACY IN TROUBLED TIMES"





ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΟ ΙΔΡΥΜΑ ΕΥΡΩΠΑΪΚΗΣ & ΕΞΩΤΕΡΙΚΗΣ ΠΟΛΙΤΙΚΗΣ HELLENIC FOUNDATION FOR EUROPEAN & FOREIGN POLICY



ΔΙΕΘΝΕΣ ΣΥΝΕΔΡΙΟ

Constitution-making and Democracy in Troubled Times

An international conference in hybrid form (with physical presence and online), entitled "Constitution-making and democracy in troubled times" and with more than 30 academics from 15 countries (USA, UK, Sweden, Germany, etc.), as guest speakers and many representatives of the Hellenic and European Parliament and civil society, was co-organized in Thessaloniki on 16 and 17 December 2021. The Conference was an initiative of the Research Center for Democracy and Law (KEDID) of the University of Macedonia, the Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP), and the 4-year, European Union (EU) funded research project titled "Constitution-making and deliberative democracy" (CA17135).

The aim of the conference was to analyze using both a theoretical and an applied approach while maintaining an interdisciplinary character, the challenges, perspectives and innovations in the fields of democratic theory and human rights, especially in the light of the relevant crises over the last decade. The conference was innovative due to the combination of academics and experts, but also the conduct of a master class on the future of the EU with the participation of 25 undergraduate / postgraduate students and PhD candidates from Athens and Thessaloniki.

https://kedid.org/activities/conferences/constitution-making-democracy/



UNIVERSITY OF MACEDONIA

THE NEW VOLUNTARY STUDENT GROUP "SOLIDARITY ACTION TEAM" OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MACEDONIA ACTIVELY SUPPORTED ATHLETES WITH VISUAL DISABILITIES

The newly formed voluntary group "Solidarity Action Team" of the University of Macedonia made its first dynamic appearance, at the 3day long international Goalball Tournament "Volcano" which took place from the 3rd to the 5th of December at the indoor gym of Stavroupoli Thessaloniki during which the volunteers provided assistance to athletes with visual disabilities and help organizing the tournament.

Out of the total of 30 volunteers of the group, which was initiated by Giannis Nikolaidis, professor of the Department of Applied Informatics of the University of Macedonia, 12 of them actively participated in the event.

The tournament was a great success leaving all participants satisfied, but also full of strong emotions from the experience and the overall participation!

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cDhL4E5rJp9oqG_ jPFzNeK3MgAdWw9i3?usp=sharing





A SERIES OF REMARKABLE SCIENTIFIC PRESENTATIONS AT THE 14TH PANHELLENIC CONFERENCE OF FREE SOFTWARE COMMUNITIES - FOSSCOMM 2021



More than 1,500 participants joined the 14th Annual Pan-Hellenic Conference of Free Software and Open Source Communities - FOSSCOMM 2021, which became a benchmark for presenting a number of remarkable scientific lectures, presentations and workshops. The conference was held online, took place between 13 and 14 November

2021 and was held under the auspices of the Department of Applied Informatics of the University of Macedonia and EL / LAC. During the two days of the conference a total of 55 lectures and workshops on open technologies were held, in addition to the international participation of foreign presentations on important projects related to open source software which are currently under research.

During the workshops that followed, in addition to the research of purely technical issues related to free software and open source, presentations were also held for the general public, in areas such as health and education. Highly impressive were the projects presented within the framework of the 3rd Panhellenic Competition of Open Technologies in Education, during which junior "hackers", from infants to high school students presented the results of their own projects created in collaboration and supervision of their teachers.

UNIVERSITY OF TUZLA

INTERNATIONAL SUMMER UNIVERSITY

The 26th International Tuzla Summer University - LJUT 2021 began on June 21, 2021. The opening ceremony was held at the Faculty of Physical Education and Sports of the University of Tuzla and via the Zoom platform.

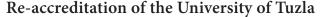
Lecturers from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Australia,

the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, Poland, Serbia, Croatia, Northern Macedonia, Slovenia and Germany participate at Tuzla Summer University – LJUT 2021, that was held from 21 – 25 June 2021. It was filled with really interesting topics, panel discussion, workshops and lectures.









University of Tuzla has been re-accredited on 13 April 2021 for the period of 5 years. The Commission in charge for the accreditation of the University of Tuzla is composed of the following:

- Prof.Dr. Sead Pašić, president of the Commission
- Prof. Dr. Tihomir Latinović, representative of academic community



- Ammar Miraščija, representative of economy and practice,
- Prof. Dr. Goran Kušec, international expert
- Dragana Bizić Filopović, student

ERASMUS+ MATCHMAKING EVENT

The University of Tuzla and the University of Kassel signed ERASMUS+ mobility agreement and organized a series of events from 18 October to 21 October 2021. The aim of the events was to promote cooperation between the two universities and encourage the students and academic staff from the University of Tuzla and the University of Kassel to participate in mobility program.

20. OKTOBAR 2021. GODINE **ERASMUS**+ MATCHMAKING EVENT LAST ANNOUNCEMENT

Sajam projektnih ideja

On 18 October 2021, the International Relations Office of the University of Tuzla organized a meeting for students of the University of Tuzla interested in mobility program with Professor Uwe Dorka, a coordinator of the mobility program on behalf of the University of Kassel. The meeting was attended by students from the Faculty of Mining, Geology and Civil Engineering, Faculty of Technology, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Faculty of Economics, Faculty for Special Education and Rehabilitation, Faculty of Physical Education and Sports, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Faculty of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Faculty of Law and Faculty of Electrical Engineering.

On 19 October 2021, an online meeting between the International Relations Offices of the University of Kassel and the University of Tuzla was held. At the meeting, all information necessary for the implementation of future cooperation between the two offices was exchanged. In the meeting a number of issues related to the coordination of activities between the two offices was raised in order to facilitate the mobility participation on both ends.



On 20 October 2021, the Matchmaking Event was organized in the University Campus, in the newly opened laboratory of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering. The aim of the event was to match the researchers and masters' and doctoral program students of the University of Tuzla with their peers at the University of Kassel. This was the first such event organized by the International Relations Office of the University of Tuzla, with the online participation of professors and students from the University of Kassel



UNIVERSITY OF TUZLA

GENDER MAINSTREAMING AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TUZLA

The University of Tuzla is a partner in the four-year multilateral institutional program University and Gender Mainstreaming (UNIGEM), financed by the UK and Northern Ireland Governments, led by the TPO Foundation, with the participation of a number of universities from the country and the region. In October 2021 the TPO Foundation and 17 universities from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia and Montenegro signed a Memorandum of Understanding in Sarajevo thus marking the beginning of project implementation. The project is recognized and supported by the BiH Higher Education Agency.









The aim of the project is to prevent and combat gender-based violence, discrimination and sexual harassment, and to ensure integrity and quality in higher education. Therefore, participation in UNIGEM reflects the University's commitment to gender mainstreaming and dedication to creating a safe environment for academic and administrative staff and students of the University of Tuzla.

The realization of the project objectives includes a comprehensive research on the state of gender equality at universities before and after the implementation of the project. The UNIGEM project also envisages the establishment of a special body to combat gender-based discrimination at all universities that have signed the Memorandum. Therefore, in November 2020 the Senate of the University of Tuzla established the Council for Gender Equality, which coordinates all activities in the areas covered by the project.

Project activities include: research on gender equality at the institutions involved in the project, preparation and adoption of the Gender Equality Action Plan, trainings for academic staff, administrative staff and students, mobility programs, research, campaigns and system activities relating to approaches to gender equality issues at networked universities in the country and the region through their institutional development and regional



cooperation. The education sector, especially universities, are the key to long-term, meaningful and sustainable change as they are the ones to actively promote equality, non-violence and inclusion, justice and fairness.

In January 2022, the University of Tuzla adopted the Gender Equality Plan (GEP). The GEP is a key mechanism for establishing gender equality at the University of Tuzla and addresses issues relating to equal representation of genders in all spheres of both private and public life, but also strives to enable the right to diversity. The introduction of innovative models related to structural changes in gender policies within higher education institutions proposed by the GEP will enable the improvement of gender equality and the position of women at the University of Tuzla.



GEP is available on: https://unitz.ba/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/GEP_UNTZ_2022_2025_januar2022.pdf

VARNA FREE UNIVERSITY



VFU "Chernorizets Hrabar" is the first Bulgarian private university to go deeper into an educational cooperation with public and foreign universities by developing joint innovative master's degree programmes. VFU "Chernorizets Hrabar" is actively working on three projects funded by the operational programme Science and Education for Smart Growth.

Varna Free University is the leading partner in the project Innovative Model for Modernization of Higher Education through the Creation of an Academic Ecosystem VFU "Chernorizets Hrabar" - The Technical University -Varna - Plovdiv University "Paisii Hilendarski". The three universities are jointly developing two master's degree programmes: Ecotechnological Systems in Industry and 3D Technologies for Production Design. The programmes focus on the green and blue industries, as well as the practical application of 3D technologies, data and process visualization, virtual reality and additive technologies. Associated partners are the University of Digital and Distance Learning in Madrid and universities from Slovakia and Romania.

The joint master's degree programmes Protection of Human Rights and Counteraction to Cybercrime are being developed by the Academy of the Ministry of Interior and VFU "Chernorizets Hrabar" under the project for improvement and modernization of the educational infrastructure. The leading organization is the Academy of the Ministry of Interior in partnership with VFU "Chernorizets Hrabar", the University of Architecture, Civil Engineering and Geodesy and the Medical Institute of the Ministry of Interior. Associated partners are "Main School of Fire Service", Poland and VSB - Technical University of Ostrava, Czech Republic.

VFU "Chernorizets Hrabar" is a partner of the Medical University "Prof. Dr. Paraskev Stoyanov" in the project Developing a Multidisciplinary Educational Environment for the Development of Personnel with Integrated Competencies in the Field of Biomedicine and

Health Care. The two universities in Varna are develping innovative digital master's degree programmes, the training in which will be entirely in English - Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare and Artificial Intelligence in Biomedicine. Associated partners are Université de Tours - France; Ruhr Universität Bochum - Germany; Health Center Odenwaldkreis GmbH - Germany, Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza Research Hospital - Italy.

Teaching and student mobility will be done under the three projects in the associated partners' universities. Trainings will be held to improve the language and digital competencies of teachers. Entrepreneurial, presentation and communication skills of students will be developed in different courses.

The candidate student campaign of VFU "Chernorizets Hrabar" for admission to the specialties of the university after graduating from high school is underway. Traditionally, there is a strong interest in the specialty Law. Young people choose to study Psychology and National Security.

In the new academic year, students in the professional fields Administration and Management, Economics, Informatics and Computer Science and Psychology will be able to acquire a second specialty without additional tuition fees.

Architecture and Construction of Buildings and Facilities at Varna Free University continue to be among the most popular majors. This year the attention of the candidatestudents is also attracted by the programmes Interior Design, Graphic Design, Water Supply and Sewerage and Fire Safety and Protection of the Population.

Foreign students show interest in the specialties taught in English - Informatics and Computer Science, International Business, Civil Engineering and Architectural Design, as well as in the master's and doctoral programmes at the university.

Find more information at www.vfu.bg.

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