

BUANEWS

Balkan Universities Association E-Bulletin

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Balkan Universities Association

SUPPORT OF ARISTOTLE'S UNIVERSITY OF THESSALONIKI (AUTH'S) UKRAINIAN STUDENTS

In February 2022, all of humanity watched in shock the beginning of the war in Ukraine. Facing this crisis, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki decided to act.

AUTH decided, therefore, to show its solidarity in practice and to stand by the members of the Aristotle family who are suffering from the consequences of the war in Ukraine.

The Committee on International Relations of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, headed by its Rector, unanimously decided the **following measures**:

- Providing **free meals** for all affected students
- Exploring the possibility of providing **accommodation** on campus or privately, for those who face a relevant problem.
- Providing a special **grant** to cover expenses for students' basic needs.
- Setting up a **bank account** for donations by the members of the university community who would like to contribute for the affected students.

The implementation of the actions started immediately and is ongoing

In less than 4 days, an **application form** was available on-line to record the needs of the affected Ukrainian Students, filled in by 33 students.

After a Board's decision to ensure full **free meals**, all affected students already have access to free meals at the university student club.

In collaboration with the Panhellenic Federation of Hoteliers, it was possible to provide temporary **free accommodation** to AUTH's Ukrainian students who are facing housing problems. The hoteliers of Thessaloniki have offered hosting to a student of the School of Modern Greek Language of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki who arrived in Thessaloniki from Ukraine.

The **grant** was deposited in the accounts of all students and a new grant will be provided in autumn.



Figure 1. Meeting of AUTH's Rector and the Committee on International Relations with some of the University's Ukrainian students

A bank account has been opened, where members of the University community donate money to show their solidarity to the affected students.

At the same time, the Counseling and Psychological Support Center (KESYPSY) of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki is at the disposal of the students, to provide psychological assistance to any problem they face.

AUTH also offered hospitality to its students at its University Camp in Kalandra, Chalkidiki.

Also, new actions are planned, such as the acceptance of sponsorships, for the creation of paid jobs for students, the cooperation with private sector bodies for participation in corporate social responsibility programs, etc.

In addition, the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki is collaborating with Harvard University's Center for Hellenic Studies (CHS) in the context of AUTH's initiative for supporting its Ukrainian students



Figure 3. Meeting of the Rector of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Prof. Nikolaos G. Papaioannou, with Zoie Lafis, Executive Director of the CHS US and Christos Giannopoulos, Managing Director of the CHS Greece

CHS expressed its willingness to contribute to AUTH's efforts to support the Ukrainian students. In the context of this contribution, three initiatives were promoted, as follows:

1) A donation from the Center for Hellenic Studies to the relevant Special Research Fund Account, for AUTH to offer the amount in the form of scholarships to Ukrainian students who have expressed a relevant interest/need.

2) A joint invitation from the Center for Hellenic Studies and the International Olympic Academy for the participation of 7 Ukrainian undergraduate students of AUTH in the annual Symposium co-organized by the two institutions from 12 to 15

July in Olympia. The symposium organizers covered all travel, accommodation, and meal expenses of the students.

3) An invitation of AUTH's Ukrainian postgraduate students, who have joined the support program of the University, to visit Nafplio during this fall season and make use of the Center's unique digital library to support their research. The Center will cover all travel, accommodation, and meal expenses of the students.

The Aristotle University of Thessaloniki with a sense of responsibility stands next to its students, in order to help them continue their studies smoothly.

IDEAS, PLANS AND PROJECTS FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF GJIROKASTËR AND THE SOUTHERN ALBANIA

A multi-sectorial initiative promoted and organized by “Eqrem Çabej” University of Gjirokastra, the University of Udine, the University of Macerata, Honorary Consulate of Italy in Albania, Italian Trade Agency, Gjirokastra Municipality, the Prefecture of Gjirokastra, the Regional Council of Gjirokastra and Gjirokastra Chamber of Commerce and Industry, with the support of the Italian Embassy in Tirana and the Consulate General of Italy in Vlora, the meeting aimed at gathering public and private actors around the table to discuss the possible ways of the economic orientation of the region of Gjirokastra, which is an area with considerable growth potential and valuable orientation in the field of tourism and agro-food sector, towards sustainable development.

The main objective of the Forum was to assess the economic opportunities and the perspectives on the development of the

region of Gjirokastra, as well as the role of public management in the local economy. Another objective was the intensification of the already solid economic cooperation between the two countries and at the same time, the contribution to accomplishing the third mission of the University, the one of direct interaction with the community.

The region currently benefits from a series of European financial instruments that aim at developing the tourism offer. However, the regional panorama is characterized by a strong emigration mainly of young people. The phenomenon is also aggravating the sectors of the economy that are suffering the consequences of the lack of human resources.

The expected result of this International Forum was to bring new approaches for sustainable development in the local economy.



NO REMARKS FROM THE NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE

For the third year in a row, no remarks have been found from the National Audit Office regarding financial management at University "Fehmi Agani" Gjakovë (UFAGJ). This is the result of the report published by the National Audit Office for the annual financial statements (2021) for the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), namely for the sub-programs that operate within this ministry, of which it is a part and UFAGJ.

Vice Chancellor for Budget and Finance, Prof. Asst. Dr. Melinda Mula, said that the auditor has no findings and

recommendations for UFAGJ. It should be added that the audit process in the UFAGJ was carried out in accordance with the International Standards of Supreme Auditing Institutions (SNISA) and that the object of control were: planning, management, expenses, source of income and financial control of the activities carried out in it all economic categories.

Rector of UFAGJ, Prof. Assoc. Dr. Artan Nimani, did congratulate the Budget and Finance Directorate and all the administration workers for their professional work.

WORKSHOP ON RESEARCH PLANS DEVELOPMENT

At the "Kadri Zeka" University in Gjilan, a workshop was held with the theme, "Development of University Research Plans" within the ResearchCult (Enhancing Research Culture in Higher Education in Kosovo) project.

The workshop was led by the vice-rector for International Cooperation, Prof. Assoc. Dr. Dukagjin Leka, at the same time the project manager at UKZ, while the participants were the vice-rector, dean, academic staff and heads of offices at UKZ, while some other public and private universities in Kosovo also participated in the online workshop.

During the workshop in question, the purpose and methodology as well as the research objectives were presented, as well as the state of universities in relation to scientific research was discussed.

The participants worked on defining the responsibilities, objectives and steps to be taken in the future for the design of the plan for scientific research.



REPRESENTATIVES FROM CELAL BAYAR UNIVERSITY IN TURKEY VISITED "KADRI ZEKA" UNIVERSITY



Rector of the University "Kadri Zeka" in Gjilan, Prof. Dr. Bajram Kosumi, together with the vice-rectors and deans, hosted the Rector of the "Celal Bayar" University from Manisa, Turkey, in a meeting, Prof. Dr. Ahmet ATAÇ, Dr. Betül Bülbül OĞUZ Coordinator of International Relations and Mehmet Nuri ÖGÜT. Initially, Rector Kosumi thanked the delegation of "Celal Bayar" University and his colleagues for the visit, while he informed them about the work, activities and development of the University, study

programs, projects and international cooperation. On his part, the rector Prof. Dr. Ahmet ATAÇ thanked the rector Prof. Dr. Bajram Kosumi for the reception, informing him about the university, study programs at the University of Manisa. During the meeting, it was also discussed about the possibility of cooperation between the two universities, for the development of a new partnership for the exchange of staff and students in the study programs.

UKZ AND NINE STUDY PROGRAMS ARE RECREATED

The Public University "Kadri Zeka" in Gjilan has been re-accredited at the institutional level for a period of 3 years (October 1, 2021 - September 30, 2024). This is what the State Quality Council of the Republic of Kosovo decided at the meeting on July 27, 2021, after analyzing and voting on the reports of international experts on the assessment of higher education institutions in Kosovo.

For the first time this year, the Public University "Kadri Zeka" brings 4 new master's level programs, accredited for the 3-year period (October 1, 2021 - September 30, 2024).

Accredited in the Faculty of Education; The Albanian Language and Literature Teaching Program (MA) and the Teaching and Curriculum in Primary Education (MA) program.

The Faculty of Law has accredited the program: Criminal Law (LLM)

In the Faculty of Computer Sciences, the program: Control Systems and Artificial Intelligence (Msc) has been accredited.

Likewise, for the three-year period (October 1, 2021 - September 30, 2024), the Primary (BA) and Preschool (BA) programs in the Faculty of Education, the Finance and Applied Accounting program (BA) in the Faculty

of Economics have been reaccredited. In the Faculty of Computer Sciences, the E-Governance Program (Msc) has also been re-accredited, for the next three years, while the Computer Sciences (BA) program has been accredited for a 5-year period (October 1, 2021 - September 30, 2026).

On this occasion, the rector of the Public University "Kadri Zeka" in Gjilan, Prof. Dr. Bajram Kosumi, expresses his happiness that UKZ has received high evaluation from international experts and has been voted for institutional re-accreditation and re/accreditation of study programs.

For this important decision, Rector Kosumi congratulates the students, academic staff, administrative staff and citizens of the Gjilan Region, expressing his gratitude to all those who contributed with their dedication and tireless work, helping to raise the quality of the University .

The process of institutional evaluation and study programs at the Public University "Kadri Zeka" in Gjilan, was done by international experts, who held meetings and evaluated the institution at different levels, starting from the managerial, academic and administrative level, of students, graduates/ alumni, employers as well as external shareholders.



"KADRI ZEKA" PUBLIC UNIVERSITY IN GJILAN HAS PRESENTED THE NEXT ERASMUS+ STEAMEDU PROJECT

In his speech, the Rector, Prof. Dr. Bajram Kosumi said that the presentation of the new Master STEAMedu program is of special importance, through which the theoretical and practical education of students will be promoted through a package of compulsory, elective courses and seminars for the integration of fields from Science, Technology, Art and Mathematics.

While Prof. Assoc. Dr. Xhevdet Thaqi, Vice-Rector for Learning, Scientific Research and Student Affairs, at the same time Coordinator of STEAMedu at UKZ said that the purpose of the STEAMedu project is the opening of the master's program with the same name, which aims to prepare teachers in the field of Science, Technology, Informatics and Mathematics (STEAMedu).

Even the vice-rector for International Cooperation Prof. Assoc. Dr. Dukagjin Leka, Dean of the Faculty of Applied Sciences Prof. Ass. Dr. Shprese Qamili, Dean of Computer Sciences, Prof. Assoc. Dr. Artan Dermaku and the vice-dean of the Faculty of Education Prof. Asst. Dr. Bashkim Dalipi congratulated STEAMedu for its continued success, saying that through this program we will increase students' knowledge in the integrated areas of STEAMedu.

During the presentation of the analysis of the basic principles of STEAMedu, among others, from UKZ students

who are part of the KIT IT Club, there were presentations and discussions about the enablers of STEAM, while the KIT IT club presented emphasizing flexibility, using a blended delivery model that combines classroom-based teaching methods with online learning and addressing the need for concrete steps towards creating a cross-curricular educational ecosystem.

The STEAMedu project is about the establishment of Master's studies in the field of STEAM education within the UKZ. In other words, the STEAMedu project aims to contribute to promoting innovative and cross-disciplinary teaching approaches in Science, Technology, Computing, Art and Mathematics (STEAM) by designing, developing and evaluating a Master's level study program. This program is dedicated to students, teachers and professionals seeking the knowledge and skills to drive educational change in response to the developed and increasingly dynamic society.

During the implementation of this project, important activities will be developed for the students and teachers of UKZ. Students will be able to be able to inspire more to specialize in STEAM fields in order to undertake scientific careers, while teachers will be supported to improve the quality of teaching from these fields which are part of educational reforms supported by the European Union.

THE STUDENTS OF ZUG UNIVERSITY STAYED ON A STUDY VISIT AT UKZ

At the "Kadri Zeka" Public University in Gjiçan, students from ZUG University in Switzerland stayed on a one-week study visit, which was realized as a result of the cooperation agreement between UKZ and ZUG University.

The Swiss students accompanied by our students had meetings with the Management of UKZ, the Academic Staff, where they were informed about the activities, work and other developments at the University and at the same time they were informed about the field of education and educational teaching.

Workshops have also been organized at UKZ. The workshop on the topic: "The role of teachers in school and

society", was held by Prof. Assoc. Dr. Dukagjin Leka and Prof. Asst. Dr. Selim Daku. During this lecture, students had the opportunity to debate, express their interests about "Kadri Zeka" University and at the same time present the developments and comparisons between UKZ and ZUG. The workshop on the topic "Situation with the Covid 19 Pandemic and the impact of technology on our lives" was held by Prof. Asst. Dr. Lindita Nebiu and Prof. Asst. Dr. Kastriot Dermaku. During this workshop, it was specifically discussed about the impact of technology before and during the pandemic, as well as the challenges that have brought us all during this time.



Discussions were also organized on topics decided by the students themselves during previous online meetings between ZUG and UKZ students.

Meanwhile, during their stay in Kosovo, respectively in Gjilan, the Swiss students, always accompanied by UKZ students, were received in a meeting by the Mayor of the Municipality of Gjilan Lutfi Haziri, they made visits to preschool and school institutions in our municipality, where they seeing specifically how the learning process develops.

While an excursion was also carried out around Kosovo, as in the Historical Monument in Prekaz, a visit to the old town of Gjakova and a visit to the old town of Prizren.

The students from Switzerland, of which there were also Albanian students studying at ZUG, such as Drin Emini and Merita Isufi, expressed their enthusiasm with the teaching process of UKZ, Jenny McMahan also thinks the same, they said that nothing regarding the teacher distinguishes the University of ZUG from UKZ. According to them, the teacher-student relationship at "Kadri Zeka" University is excellent.

Otherwise, the Swiss students have stayed in Albanian families, respectively in the families of our students, to learn more about the educational system, about Albanian culture, about our traditions and in general about Kosovar life.



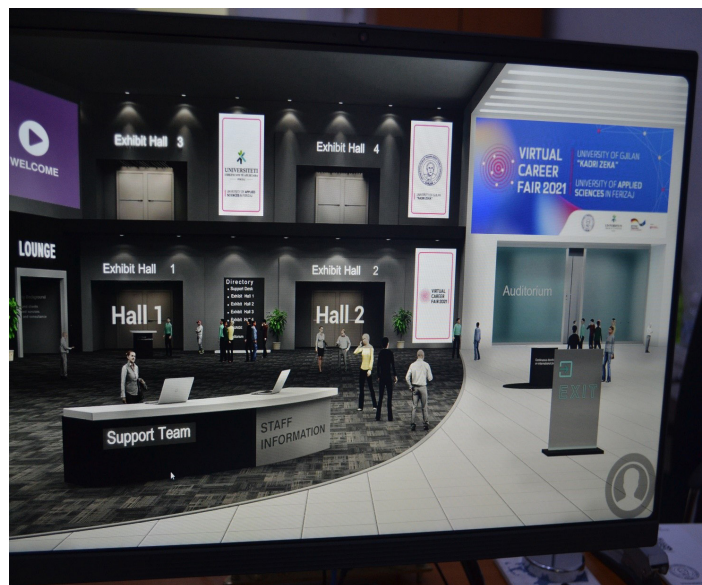
UKZ PART OF THE "VIRTUAL CAREER FAIR 2021"

The "Kadri Zeka" Public University in Gjilan, with the support of GIZ, has organized the "Virtual Career Fair 2021". In this edition of the "Career Fair", more than 50 companies and organizations have participated, as well as more than 1 thousand students and other interested parties.

Initially, the Rector of the Public University "Kadri Zeka" in Gjilan, Prof. Dr. Bajram Kosumi, wishing success to the participants, expressed his satisfaction that, despite the circumstances, they were able to organize such an important activity for students, graduates and business.

Rector Kosumi said that such organizations between the university and business are good forms for students, because we must connect academic studies with the labor market and that they, in addition to the knowledge they receive during studies, must prepare for the generation of jobs.

According to the Rector, events like the "Career Fair" pave the way for everyone in the connection between the university, students and businesses in the labor market.



The rector also thanked the companies of the Gjilan region for cooperation and participation in the fair.

PROFESSOR ARBEN SAHITI IS RANKED AS THE BEST SCIENTIST OF THE "KADRI ZEKA" PUBLIC UNIVERSITY IN GJILAN



Professor of the Faculty of Economics at the Public University "Kadri Zeka" in Gjilan, Prof. Asst. Dr. Arben Sahiti, has been ranked as the best scientist in UKZ for 2021, according to the AD Scientific Index. The ranking that emerges from this index places Professor Arben Sahiti among the most influential scientists in the Republic of Kosovo, not only from the field of Economics, but from all scientific disciplines.

According to Prof. Asst. Dr. Arben Sahiti, this achievement is thanks to his continuous work and thanks to the promotion of UKZ's scientific research: "This success is the result of unparalleled dedication and research work, as well as the continuous support of the University "Kadri Zeka" of Gjilan

through academic policies that are designed to promote scientific research among the academic staff", said Professor Sahiti.

The list of the most influential scientists in the world was prepared during a study conducted by a team of Stanford University professors, which includes a ranking of 7 million scientists from around the world, in which 22 fields and 176 sub-fields of study are summarized. .

The ranking of the most influential scientists in the world for 2021 is the result of a comprehensive analysis, for the compilation of which a large number of indicators were analyzed, such as the total number of published scientific works, citations, index citations, index citations - i10, the years since the first scientific work published by scientists, as well as the general influence of scientists in the relevant field of scientific research.

Otherwise, Professor Arben Sahiti is an Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Economics, in the field of Finance and Accounting at the Public University "Kadri Zeka". He is the author and co-author of a large number of scientific publications published in prestigious journals indexed in credible databases including Scopus and Web of Science, he has also participated in a significant number of scientific conferences where he has presented his publications. also in different countries of Europe.

UKZ STUDENTS PART OF THE YOUTH EXCHANGE IN ISTANBUL

Some students of the Public University "Kadri Zeka" in Gjilan, under the leadership of assistant Berat Dermaku, have stayed on a visit to Istanbul, Turkey, as part of the youth exchange.

This visit was carried out within the framework of the project Young Ambassadors of non-formal education, which is implemented by the Kosovar Center for Diplomacy, as a partner organization of a consortium of nine other organizations.

In addition to young people from Kosovo, young people from Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey, North

Macedonia, Greece, Montenegro, Bulgaria and Serbia also participated in the youth exchange activity.

This activity, which was held from December 4, 2021 to 12.12.2021, served to exchange the experiences of participating students from different countries of the Balkans, through informal education.

The coordinator of this project is the organization LDA Mostar from Bosnia and Herzegovina, while the partner for Kosovo is the Kosovar Center for Diplomacy. The project is supported by the European Commission within the Erasmus+ program.



UKZ STUDENTS ARE ON A STUDY VISIT IN ZUG, SWITZERLAND

The students of the Public University "Kadri Zeka" in Gjilan, under the leadership of the Vice-Rector for International Cooperation Prof. Assoc. Dr. Dukagjin Leka, have stayed for a one-week study visit at PH ZUG University in Switzerland. 15 UKZ students are following the exchange week at PH ZUG, who only two months ago hosted their colleagues-students from PH ZUG in Gjilan. UKZ students were accompanied by Swiss students, who welcomed them into their families.

During their study visit, the students of our University, accompanied by the students of ZUG University, during their one-week stay in Switzerland, held joint activities, meetings and visits to the Municipality of ZUG, they also saw closely the way of teaching and learning at ZUG University during the visit they made to some schools there, but they also had other visits to the city.

During this study visit, workshops are held on various topics, among them is the one on intercultural dialogue and its impact on the development of society in general.

UKZ students express their satisfaction with the visit to Zug, while they say that as far as the teaching process is concerned, UKZ does not differ much from ZUG University. The students speaking about the visit to Switzerland, respectively to ZUG University, have emphasized that by recognizing the achievements and successes of other Universities, we gain knowledge and share experiences with professionals, in this case with Swiss professors and students, which in the future can serve you for their professional achievements.



**NKUA IS THE TOP GREEK ACADEMIC INSTITUTION,
ACCORDING TO THE U-MULTIRANK RANKING**

In the 2022 rankings of U-Multirank the University of received the highest grade “A” in 13 of the 29 indexes of the rankings. This is the ranking, which is implemented by the European Commission and co-financed by the Erasmus + program, the Bertelsmann Foundation and the Santander Group.

In the 2022 ranking, in which data and comparisons are provided for 15 Greek Universities, NKUA received the highest grade “A” in 13 of the 29 indexes of the ranking. It is followed by the University of Crete with 8 and the University of the Aegean, Ioannina and National Technical University with 6 indicators with the highest grade “A”.

Greek universities with the highest number of overall top scores in 2022	Total 'A' scores
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens	13
University of Crete	8
National Technical University of Athens	6
University of the Aegean	6
University of Ioannina	6



**FOR SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR THE NKUA ENTERS THE TOP 200 UNIVERSITIES
WORLDWIDE IN NTU RANKINGS, ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT GLOBAL RANKINGS**

For a second consecutive year, the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens has broken into the top 200 of an important international ranking <http://nturanking.csti.tw/>

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<https://elearninguoa.org/>

İSTANBUL UNIVERSITY IS THE NUMBER ONE IN ITS FIELD WITH NEARLY 10.000 INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Istanbul University (İU) is the number one in Turkey in its field with almost 10.000 students from 143 different countries. On the other hand, The International Student Application and Research Center (ISUMER), remains the first and only international student “application” and “research” center in Turkey.

According to the official figures, there are currently more than 200,000 international students in Turkey. İstanbul University holds the biggest share with a total of 9.568 international students. When considering the number of international students by level of education, the situation is as follows: 1.140 undergraduate, 5.931 graduate, 664 masters (without thesis); 1.033 masters (with thesis), and 800 PhD students.

The First and Only International Student Application and Research Center in Turkey: ISUMER

A unit called İSUMER deals with international students at Istanbul University. ISUMER was established on May 31, 2019. While ISUMER used to carry out its services as an “international student office”, it now continues to serve in four different areas: administrative support, social and cultural activities, alumni activities, and the R&D and

publications. In addition to administrative support such as collecting student residence permit documents, coordinating the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB) Turkey Scholarship students, and contributing to the İstanbul University International Student Examination (İÜYÖS), ISUMER carried out 50 different works/products/activities in 2021. Their distribution is as follows: 15 social and cultural activities of 7 different types, 5 academic meetings of 3 different types, 9 graduate activities of 4 different types, and 21 publications of 6 different types.

18 Universities Offered 34 Activities in Total, and Only ISUMER Offered 50 Activities

According to the “Turkey International Student Monitoring Report-2021”, the first of which was prepared; there are jobs/products/activities for international students or related to international students at 19 different universities. While all of the international student-oriented jobs/products/activities at 18 universities other than İstanbul University are 34, there are 50 jobs/products/activities at ISUMER. Thus, İSUMER registered that it is the first in its field in Turkey.

For more information, please visit;

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



A MODERN, POWERFUL, AND RICH INFORMATION CENTER: İSTANBUL UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

Istanbul University libraries, which also provide benefits to society with their electronic resources, especially The Central Library and Rare Works Library, continue to provide benefits in every field from academic studies to social responsibility projects.

More than 1 Million Works Available

A total of 1.252.351 studies consisting of 720.725 books, 65.277 theses, 436.181 journals and newspapers, 6.657 separate editions, 22.379 articles, and 1.132 non-book documents were presented for the benefit of researchers at the Central Library. According to data; 46.751 publications reached 4.099 daily and 1.496.377 users annually in the year 2016. By 2017; 45.009 publications reached 3.112 daily and 1.136.050 users annually. In 2018 (Between January 1, and 2018-June 18. 2018), it was observed that 22.000.135 publications reached 3.310 users daily and 556.195 users annually. The number of PDF newspapers used was determined as 33.270 in 2017, 34.492 in 2018, and 44.530 in 2019.

Nearly 40.000 Users Have Been Served in the Last 5 Years

The number of works in the Rare Works Library, where 14 personnel work, is 102.961. In the Rare Works Library, which served a total of 39.127 users between 2017-2021 and 6.008 users in 2021, 112 original studies and 54.340 digital studies were used during 2021.

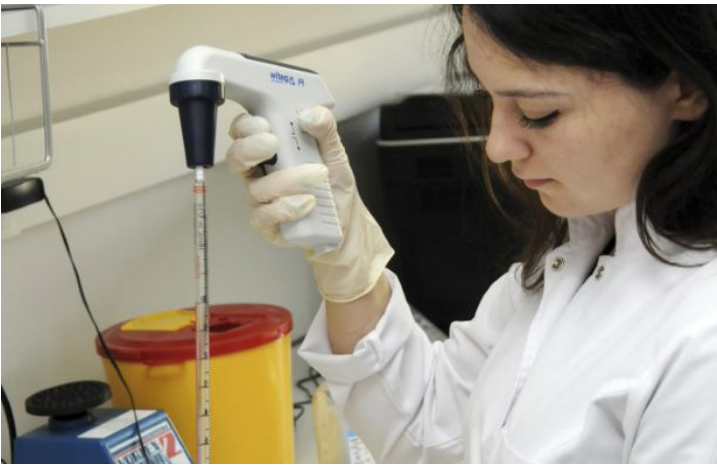
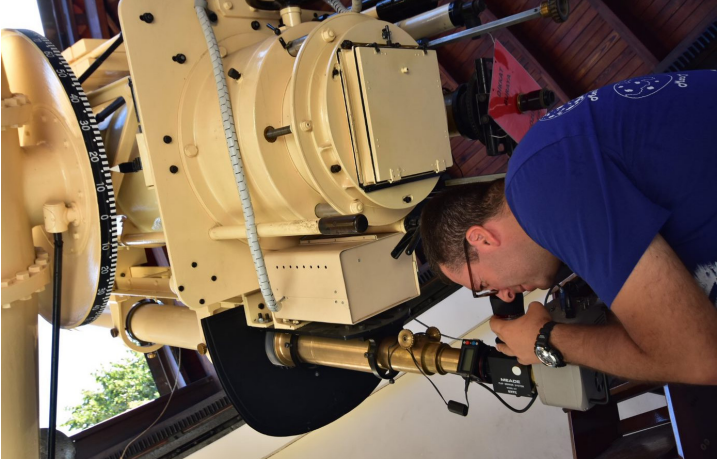
360.146 Electronic Books are in Open Access

A total of 360.146 electronic books, 32.157 of which are Turkish electronic books, were opened to access. İstanbul University has also carried out important studies in the process that requires the subscription of new electronic resources of different types for 'distance education' due to the global epidemic. The number of full-text journal-article and book usage from open access databases between 2016 and 2021 is 1.351.869.

For more information, please visit;

https://www.istanbul.edu.tr/en/_



THE CENTER OF SCIENCE AND SUCCESS: İSTANBUL UNIVERSITY

İstanbul University, which has the status of a research university, has a leading position in Turkey in the field of publications, citations, national and international projects, and patents. On the other hand, İU always takes a respectable place in the world rankings.

At İstanbul University, there are 77 Application and Research Centers and 145 Research Laboratories. As with all other processes, the quality management process of İU has been on the agenda since 2005. Within this framework, as a result of the cooperation with the Turkish Standards Institute (TSE), non-formal training on quality processes began, and about 1.700 people participated in these training sessions.

Our 71 Programmes Received 74 Accreditation Certificates

Within İU, 71 programmes have 74 accreditation certificates obtained from national and international institutions. According to the 2021 Report prepared by YÖK, İU ranks first among all Turkish universities in 3 categories and ranks second with 4 indicators. Considering the average of 2017-2020, İU ranks 3rd among 20 research universities.

İstanbul University is at the top in the Field of Patents

İU is also the leader in Turkey in patent applications and registrations. As of February 2021, in the University Patents Analysis Report, İU ranked first among universities in Turkey with 596 patent-useful model applications and 164 patent registrations in both criteria. According to the results of the performance analysis conducted for the sector/technology group and the sub-technology groups of these groups, it ranks first in 14 main areas, second in 3 main areas and third in 2 main areas.

We are Included in all 11 World University Rankings

İstanbul University, which is one of 4 Turkish universities included in all 11 world university rankings in 2021, also has the distinction of being the only Turkish university in ARWU and Leiden to enter the top 500. Besides, in the ranking prepared by QS in 2022, among Turkish universities, İU ranked first in Modern Languages, Pharmacy and Law; ranked 2nd in the Humanities and Life Sciences and Medicine General Field Rankings, and in Biological Sciences and Medicine Subfield Rankings.

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

TNKU HOSTED THE TESTING FIELD APPLICATION VISITS AND MANAGEMENT MEETING OF THE AGREEN PROJECT

Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University hosted the Executive Committee Meeting and Field Application Visit for the European Union-funded AGREEN “Cross-border Alliance for Climate-Smart and Green Agriculture in the Black Sea Basin” Project, carried out within the framework of the Black Sea Basin Cross-Border Cooperation Program.

The second Test Area Application Visit of the AGREEN Project, which developed climate-sensitive agricultural models and a common brand strategy in the Black Sea Basin countries, brought together the experts who performed climate-smart modeling for this visit in Tekirdağ. Application visits, which monitor product trials conducted simultaneously in Turkey, Bulgaria, and Georgia, are attended by all partners in each country. Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University which hosted the first application visit in June organized the Project Executive Committee and Application Community Meeting, and Application Visit together this time. Thus, the event brought international experts together with local stakeholders.

On the first day of the three-day event, the AGREEN Executive Committee members met at Des Hotel for meeting and evaluated the project management work. Following the opening of the hybrid meeting by Prof. Dr. Tolga ERDEM, Project Coordinator and Faculty Member at TNKU Faculty of Agriculture; Violeta Dimitrova NADANYEVA, General Coordinator of the AGREEN Project, continued the session.

In the second session, AGREEN Application Community Workshop was held. The session, which brought together the Community Coordinators and experts from the project partners in six countries, was hosted by AGREEN COP Coordinator Duygu DOĞAN, PhD., on behalf of our University. In this section, international project activities and the planning of the pilot entrepreneurship training were reviewed. The second day of the event began with a presentation by modeling experts from Turkey, Bulgaria and Georgia. Afterward, the Tekirdağ Viticulture Research Institute visit and onsite monitoring were carried out. The sunflower and walnut trials of the project were reviewed by international experts. Agreen Modeling Specialist and Faculty Member Assoc. Prof. Dr Mehmet ŞENER, explained the technical details of the tests.

On the third day of the event, a visit was made to the Silivri Municipality Agricultural Production and Research Center as an example of organic agriculture and climate-sensitive agricultural applications in Thrace. The plant species that are cultivated were examined and information on their production capacities was obtained.

The AGREEN Project, supported by European Union funds, is being carried out in cooperation with universities, non-governmental organizations, and public institutions from Turkey, Bulgaria, Romania, Greece, Georgia, and Armenia.



TNKU CONTRIBUTED TO THE LITERATURE WITH FIVE SEPARATE BOOKS

Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University has contributed to the literature with five books that are valuable as a source for the academicians who work in the field of social sciences or interested in doing so.

Three of the books consist of papers presented at the symposia organized in 2021 under the auspices of Prof. Dr. Mustafa SENTOP, the Speaker of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, and under the presidency of Prof. Dr. Mümin ŞAHİN, Tekirdag Namık Kemal University Rector. Prof. Dr. Celalettin VATANDAŞ, the Vice Rector of TNKU, also took part as the editor and also administered the symposia. They are namely “National Sovereignty and Democracy” on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of the Opening of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, “Yunus Emre on the occasion of the 700th Anniversary of His Death”, and “Mehmet Akif Ersoy and National Anthem on the occasion of the 100th Anniversary of its Adoption”. The books also constitute basic resources of the related subjects.

Prof. Dr. Mümin ŞAHİN remarked that “Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University, which carries out new and valuable scientific studies every day, is rapidly increasing its success” after examining the books Vice Rector Prof. Dr. Celalettin VATANDAŞ presented him at the rectorate office.

The other two books consists of papers presented in “III. International Symposium from Past to Present Religious and Cultural Life in Tekirdağ” and the symposium on “Values of Tekirdağ from History to the Present: Scholars, Works, Institutions” that were held by TNKU Faculty of Theology in 2020 and 2021.

Prof. Dr. Hasan KESKİN, the coordinator of these symposia and the Dean of the Faculty of Theology, presented the books which were the first two books of the TNKU Tekirdağ Culture, History, and Arts Studies Application and Research Center to Prof. Dr. Mümin ŞAHİN at the rectorate office.

Rector Prof. Dr. Mümin ŞAHİN congratulated Prof. Dr. Hasan KESKİN, editor of the books, and Prof. Dr. Celalettin VATANDAŞ, Coordinator of the Center for their efforts and work, and stated that “Tekirdağ Culture, History and Art Works Application and Research Center continues to demonstrate that it is an exemplary academic unit in its field.” Prof. Dr. Mümin ŞAHİN emphasized that “The culture, history and art of Tekirdağ are scrutinized meticulously at our university. We are honored to serve our city.”



THE TURKISH EDUCATION DAY PROGRAM, HELD IN NORTH MACEDONIA WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF PROF. DR. MUSTAFA ŞENTOP, SPEAKER OF THE GRAND NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF TURKEY, AND PROF. DR. ERHAN TABAKOĞLU, WAS GRACED BY THEIR PRESENCE.



Celebration programs were organized in the capital Skopje on the occasion of the official holiday of Turkish people living in North Macedonia, “Turkish Language Education Day,” which is celebrated on December 21st 2022. Trakya University Rector Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu, who attended the celebrations with the presence of the Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, Prof. Dr. Mustafa Şentop, did not leave the North Macedonian Turkish community alone on this special and meaningful day.

On December 21st 2022, within the scope of Turkish Language Education Day, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, Prof. Dr. Mustafa Şentop, met with students at the International Balkan University Student Meeting event. Trakya University Rector Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu, where the highest number of Balkan students study in Turkey, also attended the program. Prof. Dr. Mustafa Şentop stated that December 21st has been celebrated as a holiday by the Turkish community in North Macedonia since 2007. He emphasized that Turkish language is a very significant and fundamental element for preserving the existence and identity of the Turkish community.

Prof. Dr. Mustafa Şentop stated that North Macedonia is a multi-lingual, multi-cultural state where people of various faiths live together in peace, and can serve as an example to many countries around the world. He said, “The Balkans have been a very significant center in terms of settlement and a place for numerous civilizations in history. People of different languages, faiths, and cultures have lived together for centuries in these lands. We have also built a common culture, a common civilization by coming from different cultures. One of the most significant elements of this is the Turkish community and the Turkish language here.



In this respect, the proper learning, teaching, and importance of Turkish is also a very valuable issue for us.”

Trakya University Rector Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu paid a visit to International Balkan University (IBU) Rector Prof. Dr. Mehmet Dursun Erdem to discuss joint projects and collaborations between the two universities.

A reception was held in North Macedonia on December 21 2022 to mark Turkish Language Education Day. The reception was organized by the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TİKA) and the Macedonian-Turkish Civil Society Organization Federation (MATÜSİTEB). The event was attended by various dignitaries including Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Prof. Dr. Mustafa Şentop, North Macedonia Parliament Speaker Talat Caferi, North Macedonia Republic Constitutional Court President Dobrila Katsarska, North Macedonia Republic Deputy Prime Minister Boyan Mariçiç, Turkish Ambassador to Skopje Hasan Mehmet Sekizkök, TİKA President Serkan Kayalar, and MATÜSİTEB President Tahsin İbrahim. Trakya University Rector Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu was also present.

During the event, a presentation was made of “Balkans Online Writing Workshop 2021 Works,” a collection of works by young writers, consisting of Turkish poetry, essays, and stories, sponsored by TİKA, and organized by the Balkan Writers Association and the Eurasian Writers Association. The awards were presented by Prof. Dr. Mustafa Şentop, Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey, to young writers from North Macedonia, Kosovo, Romania, Sandzak, Western Thrace, Bulgaria, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Crimea, who contributed to the work.



1ST INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS SYMPOSIUM AND 1ST INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS WORKSHOP



The “1st International Logistics Symposium and 1st International Logistics Workshop,” chaired by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mustafa Hatipler, the director of Edirne School of Social Sciences, was held on March 20-21, 2023. Scholars from eight different countries gathered at Trakya University’s Balkan Congress Center, in collaboration with Sofia Todor Kableshkov University of Transport, for the international symposium and workshop.

A total of 37 papers on logistics, transportation, and energy management were presented during the two-day symposium. Participants included scholars, industry representatives, and students from Turkey, Bulgaria, Austria, the Czech Republic, China, Russia, Serbia, and Slovakia. The symposium included four separate sessions, accompanied by simultaneous sessions featuring contributions from Edirne School of Social Sciences board members and faculty members. During the workshop, logistics industry representatives and academics discussed various issues.

At the opening ceremony of the I. International Logistics Symposium and the I. International Logistics Workshop,

held at Trakya University in Edirne, Turkey, the importance of cooperation between the two universities was emphasized. In her speech, the Rector of Todor Kableshkov Transport University, Prof. Dr. Daniela Todorova, thanked Trakya University for making them feel at home. She expressed her deep sorrow and condolences for the earthquake disaster in Turkey. She also stated that sharing knowledge, love, and effort increases them.

Following the opening speeches of the representatives of the two universities who took on the organization of the symposium, Ambassador Murat Ahmet Yörük, the Representative of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey in Edirne, highlighted the important efforts made by Turkey in recent years to open regional and global transportation corridors and to become a reliable, sustainable energy center. The two-day scientific sessions and workshop activities, which addressed logistics, transportation, and energy management issues at the global and regional levels, concluded after the opening of the I. International Logistics Symposium and I. International logistics workshop.





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