

# BUANEWS

Balkan Universities Association E- Bulletin

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# **Balkan Universities Association**

**Official opening of the new school year at the Agricultural University- Plovdiv**

On September 11th, the new academic year 2023/2024 was inaugurated with a solemn ceremony at the Aula of the Agricultural University of Plovdiv. In her welcome address to the first-year students, Prof. Dr. Hristina Yancheva, the Rector, assured them that they had chosen a university with national and international prestige and that its membership in the European “green” university alliance UNIGreen, would provide them with opportunities for joint educational pro-

inspired, and active and confirmed that the faculty and administration would always be there to support them.

A special guest at the ceremony was Prof. Galin Tsokov, the Minister of Education and Science. He congratulated the first-year students and reminded them that the university is a leader in the ranking system of higher education institutions in the country, particularly in the fields of “Crop Science” and “Plant Protec-



grams with foreign universities in the alliance. Prof. Yancheva reassured the students that they would be able to develop new skills and competencies and would have the chance to work towards a better, more integrated and more functional Europe. They would receive top-notch theoretical knowledge and practical skills at the university, as well as discover a diverse multicultural world with the presence of youth from various nations. She wished the students to be bold,

and it is prestigious and recognized in Europe. He pointed out that the university provides excellent opportunities for its students, and the business community highly appreciate the quality of the students’ education.

Confirmation of the success of the students from different parts of the world was also provided by special guests, including the Minister of Forestry of the Republic of Congo, Rosalie Matondo, and the Min-



ister of Social Affairs, Irene Mboku-Kimbasa, both of whom were graduates of the university. Matondo spoke to the students about the exciting, highly important, demanding field of their studies and the numerous expectations because their research could guarantee food security for their compatriots and all of humanity.

Radko Hristov, Business Development Manager for Europe and Africa in a multinational plant protection chemicals company and a former student of the Agricultural University, delivered a motivational speech to the students and presented the student ID to Alex Yordanov, the student with the highest admission score at the university.

Official guests at the event included His Excellency Yanko Yordanov, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Bulgaria to the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Congo; Ms. Renske Fos, Acting Charge d'Affaires of the Republic of South Africa in Bulgaria; Dr. Yang Tian, Education Officer at the Embassy of the People's Republic of China; Karina Angelieva, Chief of Staff to the Minister of Energy; Dr. Honoris Causa of the AU; Dr. Mariana Cholakova,

Honorary Consul of the Federal Republic of Germany in Plovdiv; Mr. Giuseppe De Francesco, Honorary Consul of the Italian Republic in Plovdiv; Mr. Korhan Kyungeru, Consul General of the Republic of Turkey in Plovdiv; Eng. Iliya Zyumbilev, Regional Governor of Plovdiv Region; Dimitar Dobrev, Deputy Regional Governor of Plovdiv Region, and many others.



## Opening of the Antalya Student Dormitory at Dzemal Bijedic University of Mostar



The dormitory was named Antalya as a sign of gratitude for the selfless help and support of the Turkish Metropolitan Municipality of Antalya, the main financier during the construction.

Antalya Student Dormitory of Dzemal Bijedic University of Mostar was officially opened on the 1st of September 2023. The dormitory was named Antalya as a sign of gratitude for the selfless help and support of the Turkish Metropolitan Municipality of Antalya, the main financier during the construction.

In her speech, prof. dr. Alena Huseinbegovic, Rector of Dzemal Bijedic University of Mostar, said that the opening ceremony marked a new era for the oldest higher education institution in Herzegovina, stressing

that apart from the City of Antalya, the Union of Municipalities of the Turkish World provided equipment for the student dormitory. In addition, the City Council of the City of Mostar financed the construction of the ground floor around the student dormitory while the Government of Herzegovina Neretva Canton financed the final works.

The student dormitory has five floors and 22 modernly equipped apartments and can accommodate 180 students. It also includes a student outpatient clinic, psychological counselling clinic and health care services that will be provided by the Stari grad Health Centre.



## The 3rd International Balkan Studies Congress was Hosted by Istanbul Medeniyet University

Organized by the Balkan Studies Foundation and supported by the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB), International Balkan University and the Academic Studies Association, the 3rd Balkan Studies Congress was hosted by Istanbul Medeniyet University on 1-2 September 2023.

The third Balkan Studies Congress, the first of which was held in Skopje/North Macedonia in 2021 and the second in Tirana, Albania in 2022, was held with the participation of 49 researchers and historians from 11 different countries.

Rector Prof. Dr. Gülfettin ÇELİK, 29th Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Prof. Dr. Mustafa ŞENTOP, Head of Cultural and Social Relations Department of the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities Murat KAZANCI, Vice Rector of Maria Terasa University and also the President of the Congress Prof. Dr. Büjamin BELA, President of the Balkan Studies Foundation Dr. Sevba ABDULA, President of the Scientific Research Association Prof. Dr. Taha EĞRİ, university administration, academics and students attended the congress held at Istanbul Medeniyet University Ziraat Bank Library.

On Friday, September 1, the Congress started with the opening speeches of Prof. Dr. Fatih SARIOĞLU, Vice Rector of IMU, and the opening panel on "Balkan Relations in the 100th Year of the Republic" was held with the participation of Rector Prof. Dr. Gülfettin ÇELİK, Prof. Dr. Mehmet HACISALİHOĞLU and Dr. Mehmet Uğur EKİNCİ, moderated by Prof. Dr. Faruk BAL, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Political Sciences of

IMU.

In the panel, Istanbul Medeniyet University Rector Prof. Dr. Gülfettin ÇELİK pointed out that the Balkans constituted a very exceptional example in every period such as the Roman period, the Ottoman period, the Socialist period and the Capitalist period and continued his speech as follows: "The Balkans is a very exceptional, very special region that the world should discover in the 21st century. Understanding the Balkans will be enough to save the 21st century in my opinion... What is the mechanism that sustains the

Balkans? If we find the answer to this question or if we try to find the answer, whatever we produce, articles, books, all our agendas, but especially if we produce answers for the people living in the Balkans, I think we will catch up with the agenda."

On Saturday, September 2, sessions addressing different topics were held at the congress and

12 simultaneous sessions were held by 49 researchers and historians from 11 different countries in three different conference halls of Ziraat Bank Library.

In his speech at the Congress, which he attended as Honorary Speaker, 29th Speaker of the Grand National Assembly of Turkey Prof. Dr. Mustafa ŞENTOP drew attention to the great importance of the Balkans for Turkey and Europe and our common history and culture, and expressed his appreciation for Istanbul Medeniyet University for hosting such an important congress. After his speech, Prof. Dr. Mustafa ŞENTOP visited Rector Prof. Dr. Gülfettin ÇELİK in his office and visited the library building of the University.



## UKZ Becomes Part of the Seventh Forum of Rectors from Southeastern Europe and Western Balkans

International Cooperation and Projects, Associate Professor Dr. Dukagjin Leka, stated that engagements in international projects, especially those under Erasmus+, are yielding tangible results and facilitating access for both staff and students. These projects also enhance collaboration with renowned universities from across the continent.

A delegation from the Public University “Kadri Zeka” in Gjilan, consisting of the Dean of the Faculty of Computer Science, Artan Dërmaku, who will assume the position of UKZ Rector from October 1, 2023, the Vice-Rector for International Cooperation, Dukagjin Leka, and Professor Selim Daku, participated in the Seventh Forum of Rectors from Southeastern Europe and the Western Balkans, held at the University of Rijeka in Croatia.

At the Forum of Rectors for Southeastern Europe,

which includes 27 universities from the region, participating universities present their work, thereby establishing a network to enhance collaboration among academic institutions in this part of Europe.

During this event, representatives from the participating universities in this forum emphasized the need for visions and policies that uphold civic, democratic, multi-ethnic, multi-confessional, open, pluralistic, and inclusive societies in our countries. Furthermore, universities at the forum reaffirmed their commitment to actively and proactively contribute to this process. On the other hand, UKZ’s presence and contribution to this forum align with the university’s ongoing active role, expressed at the regional and broader levels, concerning ideological concepts, international projects, quality assurance policies, innovation, and science, among others.



## The amount of TNKU Undergraduate Programs with TQF Logos has been on the rise

As of now, the diplomas of the Undergraduate Programs of the Faculty of Agriculture such as Horticulture, Plant Protection, Agricultural Biotechnology and Animal Husbandry as well as the Nursing Program of the Faculty of Health Sciences of Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University will be marked with the Turkish Qualifications Framework (TQF) logo.

The TQF logo, which was introduced at the launch program hosted by the Ministry of Labor and Social Security and the Vocational Qualifications Authority (VQA) in Ankara last June, will ensure the validity of graduation certificates in Europe. In the same program in Ankara, it was announced that Tekirdağ Namık Kemal University was one of the 40 universities responsible for the higher education qualifications in the TQF, and our University's Faculty of Medicine was entitled to use the TQF logo on its diplomas.

At the 42nd Turkey Qualifications Framework Board meeting, held on July 18, 2023, the number of faculties at our University that will bear the TQF logo was determined to be three. The Faculty of Agriculture's Horticulture Department, Plant Protection, Agricultural Biotechnology and Animal Husbandry Undergraduate Programs, as well as the Nursing Program at the Faculty of Health Sciences, now have the TQF logo on their diplomas, signifying the presence of high qualifications and quality sought in the education and employment market in Turkey and overseas.

Making a statement on the subject, Rector of our University Prof. Dr. Mümin ŞAHİN said " Having the TQF logo on the graduation certificates, which is a clear point of reference to the European Quali-

cations Framework (EQF), demonstrates that quality assurance activities are being properly conducted in that undergraduate program. I express my immense pride for my university, and I sincerely wish you all the best".

Our university is currently conducting studies to include the TQF logo on the graduation certificates of our undergraduate programs like Science, Literature, Since and Literature, Language, History and Geography that have been accredited by the FEDEK Association for Evaluation and Accreditation of Curricula.





**TRAKYA UNIVERSITY RECTOR AND BUA SECRETARY GENERAL PROF. DR. ERHAN TABAKOĞLU AND BUA TERM PRESIDENT PROF. DR. NERMINA HADŽIGRAHIĆ VISIT TURKISH AMBASSADOR TAYYAR KAĞAN ATAY**

The BUA delegation, which was in Tirana, Albania for a series of meetings, paid a visit to the Turkish Ambassador to Albania, Tayyar Kağan Atay, at his office.

The delegation, consisting of Trakya University Rector and Secretary General of the Balkan Universities Association (BUA) Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu, Vice Rector Prof. Dr. Osman Nuri Hatipoğlu responsible for international relations, BUA Term President Prof. Dr. Nermina Hadžigrahić, Rector of Tuzla University, and Vice Rector Dr. Jasmin Suljagić, met with Ambassador Tayyar Kağan Atay to provide information about the activities and projects of BUA. Also present at the meeting was Metin Bulut, Educational Attaché at the Turkish Embassy in Tirana.

Ambassador Tayyar Kağan Atay expressed that he finds BUA's activities highly valuable and acknowledged Trakya University's strong influence in the region. He stated that the expanding BUA plays a significant role in the Balkans and expressed readiness to

support collaborations and projects that will be implemented as the Turkish Ambassador.

**TRAKYA UNIVERSITY DELEGATION VISITS UNIVERSITY OF TUZLA BEFORE THE BUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Ahead of the Balkan Universities Association (BUA) General Assembly, Trakya University Rector and BUA Secretary General Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu, along with Vice Rector Prof. Dr. Osman Nuri Hatipoğlu responsible for international relations, visited Prof. Dr. Nermina Hadžigrahić, the BUA Term President and Rector of the University of Tuzla.

The delegation, consisting of Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu, Prof. Dr. Osman Nuri Hatipoğlu, and Lecturer Enes Turbic, traveled to Bosnia and Herzegovina to discuss the details of the 7th BUA General Assembly Meeting, which is scheduled to take place at the University of Tuzla on September 27-28, 2023. During the visit, they met with Prof. Dr. Nermina Hadžigrahić to exchange views on the BUA General Assembly and the Rector's Meeting, as well as the conferences focused on the Balkans and higher

education.

The meeting also included participants from the University of Tuzla: Vice Rectors Prof. Dr. Jasmin Suljagić, Prof. Dr. Damir Zenunović, and representatives from the International Relations Office, Mirha Mujkanović and Alan Alagić. Additionally, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sorin Costreie, Vice Rector of the Universi-



ty of Bucharest and President of the Union of European Capital Universities, joined the meeting online.

Prof. Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu, Rector of Trakya University, highlighted the ongoing preparations for the 7th BUA General Assembly Meeting, noting, “Upon the kind invitation of our Term President, Prof. Dr. Nermina Hadžigrahić, we had the opportunity to discuss all the details of our general assembly and the conference planned within this framework. Under the title ‘Academic Collaboration in the Balkans: Challenges and Future Perspectives,’ our conference will include panels and roundtable discussions to expand our Union’s impact and open doors to new collaborations.”



## BALKAN MEDICAL JOURNAL CONTINUES ITS SUCCESS

The Balkan Medical Journal, an emerging value in scientific publishing, maintains its leading position in the field of scientific publishing under the Trakya University brand.

Recognized globally for its quality and impact factor among Trakya University’s scientific publications, the Balkan Medical Journal has continued its success this year. The journal, which is increasingly influential in the field of medicine, has consistently maintained its success according to the Journal Citation Reports 2023.

The Journal Citation Reports 2023 (JCR), which shows the citation performance of journals indexed in SCIE and SSCI, has been published. In the report, the Balkan Medical Journal, with an impact factor of 3.0, ranks first among general medicine journals in Turkey, continuing its success. For three consecutive years, the Balkan Medical Journal has topped this category and is the only Turkish journal listed in the second quartile (Q2) of the same category. Among the 257 journals indexed from Turkey across all categories, it ranked fifth, and it was positioned 75th globally in the general medicine journals category.

**BALKAN MEDICAL JOURNAL**  
The Official Journal of Trakya University School of Medicine

**The Balkan Medical Journal, with an impact factor of 3, is positioned in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quartile among 167 journals in the Medicine, General & Internal - SCIE category, holding the 75<sup>th</sup> rank.**

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