

BUANEWS

Balkan Universities Association E-Bulletin

March 2023 / 31





Balkan Universities Association

IMU RANKS THE 3RD AMONG TURKISH PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES IN THE YOUNG UNIVERSITY RANKINGS 2023



In the Times Higher Education Young University Rankings 2023, which lists the world's top young universities that are aged 50 years and under, Istanbul Medeniyet University was ranked 301-350 globally, while it is the 3rd public university and the 9th among the 66 universities that are included in the list from Turkey.

THE Young University Rankings 2023 assessed

universities across a total of 13 performance indicators in five areas: teaching (the learning environment); research (volume, income and reputation); citations (research influence); international outlook (staff, students and research); and industry income (knowledge transfer). The list includes 963 young universities globally and 66 universities from Turkey that fulfill the criteria.

The detailed results show that IMU achieved its highest score in the Citation area with 66.4 points and ranks the 3rd among the young universities in Turkey and the 2nd among the Turkish public universities listed in this category. In terms of IMU's success in the ranking areas, the Citation category is followed by Industry Income, Teaching, International Outlook, and Research, respectively.

ISTANBUL MEDENIYET UNIVERSITY IN THE TOP 1000 OF THE WORLD'S BEST UNIVERSITIES



Times Higher Education (THE), which is considered the most prestigious organization evaluating the achievements of higher education institutions in the world, announced the results of the 'World University Rankings 2023'. Istanbul Medeniyet University ranked in the 801-1000 band among world universities and ranked 8th among 61 universities from Turkey.

THE World University Rankings, which is accepted as the most reliable success list where the world's best

universities are ranked every year, has included higher education institutions from 104 countries and regions in this year's list. The universities in THE World University Rankings 2023, which is the most comprehensive and diverse university ranking to date, were evaluated in terms of Teaching, Research, Citation, Industry Income and International Outlook criteria and ranked according to their success scores.

Istanbul Medeniyet University maintained its ranking from last year, ranking 801-1000 globally in THE World University Rankings 2023. In Turkey, it ranked 8th among a total of 61 universities. IMU shared this rank with five other Turkish universities. IMU ranked 550th in the world with a score of 66.4 in the Citation category, where it is the most successful among the evaluation criteria, and achieved a great success by ranking 3rd in Turkey in this category.

IMU RANKS THE 1ST IN ECONOMICS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE IN SCIMAGO INSTITUTIONS RANKING 2023

The 2023 Rankings has been announced for the SCImago Institutions Rankings (SIR), which assesses academic and research-related institutions based on three different sets of indicators; i.e., research performance, innovation outputs and societal impact measured by their web visibility. Istanbul Medeniyet University (IMU) ranks 44th in this year's list containing 134 institutions from Turkey. In the Ranking based on Scopus data, IMU has risen 72 spots in Research compared to its last year's rank.

In addition to the overall rankings, SCImago Institutions Rankings 2023 also assessed the scientific performance of universities in 19 different areas. In these rankings by subject areas, IMU has made impressive achievements and risen to a

leading position in certain areas among global and national universities. To provide a few examples from the ranking list by subject areas, IMU is ranked the 1st in Economics, Econometrics and Finance in Turkey and the 322nd globally and the 1st in Environmental Science in Turkey and the 258th globally. It also rose from the last year's 6th spot to the 3rd in Business, Management and Accounting in Turkey, while being ranked the 828th globally.

Some other significant positions that IMU has attained in Turkey in this year's ranking include the 4th position in Psychiatry and Mental Health, the 16th in Social Science, the 26th in Mathematics, 33rd in Energy, and 39th in Medicine.

THE CONFERENCE OF 7 MARCH SHKODRA UNIVERSITY "LUIGJ GURAKUQI"



On March 7, on the occasion of "Teachers' Day" the University of Shkodra "Luigj Gurakuqi" held the conference entitled "Achievements of Scientific Work at the University of Shkodra 'Luigj Gurakuqi' in the years 2020-2023".

The education of entire generations at the University of Shkodra has its roots in the tradition of an early European civilization, relies on excellent educational experience, and is based on the work and dedication of qualified and professional staff. The university offers multiple options for pursuing higher university studies in its 6 Faculties through its contemporary study programs. The qualification of UNISHK academic staff has always been at the center of the scientific work of the faculties and departments. During these years, there is an increase in the qualification and training of the academic staff, which is reflected in the increase in the number of degrees and scientific titles. Attention has been paid to the integration of young lecturers and students in scientific research. The papers of the conference focused on these very achievements on the special day of honoring figures with contributions to the education of generations.

SHKODRA STREET ART FEST



The first edition of Shkodra Street Art Fest was organized on March 11-12 in Shkodra, with the participation of 28 young artists from Kosovo, Montenegro and Albania. It was supported by RAYS, Reconnecting Albanian Youth and Society, British Embassy and the Municipality of Shkodra. The students of the

University of Shkodra excelled with their works. These young artists for 2 consecutive days through murals, graffiti and installations gave life by adding colors to the community spaces of our city.

TEKIRDAG NKU PROMOTION DAYS ENDED

The “Promotion Days” organized at Tekirdag Namik Kemal University for the “Preference Week” have ended.

Students and their parents visited the Promotion Stands where the staff of all faculties and schools provided information on the ground floor of the Social Center and received information about the departments and programs. In addition to social,

cultural and sports activities, job and career opportunities were also introduced to the candidates.

Rector of our University Prof. Dr. Mümin ŞAHİN also visited the stands and received information from the staff. Moreover, as a mechanical engineer himself has made information exchange with candidates and their families.

**TEKIRDAG NAMIK KEMAL UNIVERSITY SETS RECORD-BREAKING ENROLLMENT RATE**

According to the results announced by ÖSYM recently, the preference rate of candidates for undergraduate and associate degree programs of Tekirdağ Namik Kemal University reached a record rate of 100% in Associate Degree and 98.7% in Undergraduate Degree.

While the number of students who preferred our university was 3671 in Associate Degree 1st Education, 388 in Associate Degree 2nd Education and 4059 in Associate Degree intotal; the number of students who settled in Undergraduate 1st Education was 2456; 194 in Undergraduate 2nd Education and 2650 in Undergraduate. Our university revealed that 6709 students enrolled with Associate's and Bachelor's Degrees.

In Associate Degree 1st Education, 3671 students opted for our university; in Associate Degree 2nd Education, 388 students chose our university; and a total of 4059 students selected our university in Associate Degree. As far as Undergraduate 1st Education is concerned, 2456 students enrolled; in Undergraduate 2nd Education, 194 students took admission; and 2650 students settled in Undergraduate. Our university revealed that 6709 students enrolled with Associate's and Bachelor's Degrees.

All 8 Faculties recorded a 100% enrollment rate, apart from the Faculty of Agriculture with 97% and Çorlu Faculty of Engineering with 90% occupancy rate. Moreover, the Vocational Schools attained a full enrollment rate.

Prof. Dr. Mümin ŞAHİN, the Rector, declared that “Tekirdag Namik Kemal University, having been granted Institutional Accreditation, is in possession of the Turkish Qualifications Framework; It is a rapidly advancing, pioneering and honoured University in its region with its experienced academic staff. As per the announced outcomes, our University has become a favoured center once more. We remain dedicated to providing our students with the necessary opportunities to remain current in terms of educational and training requirements. On behalf of Tekirdag NKU University, we thank our students for choosing us and hope that the results will benefit our University, Tekirdag, and our students”.



THE SENIOR SECURITY ENGINEER AT MICROSOFT DELIVERS LECTURE TO UKZ STUDENTS



Teuta Hyseni, who holds the position of Senior Security Engineer at Microsoft, addressed the students of the "Kadri Zeka" Public University in Gjilan.

During her lecture, Teuta spoke about her educational journey, studies, and career. Subsequently, she focused primarily on Office 365 modules, discussing application security projects, assessing potential application vulnerabilities, and reviewing application architectures.

She shared that she began her career as a Software Engineer at Rackspace, later transitioning to Denim Group

and Google, where she started working in the field of cybersecurity. This young Kosovar, now employed by the tech giant Microsoft, is considered one of the most promising engineers in Silicon Valley. Her mission is to safeguard our data from malicious hands.

In her address to the students of UKZ, Teuta explained that cybercrime is evolving into a global battle among nations, emphasizing the urgency of addressing this issue on a global scale. The internet is open to everyone, and hackers can use it as a tool for manipulation and control. Therefore, it is crucial to do everything possible to prevent it," stated Teuta Hyseni, a security engineer for Microsoft products.

Teuta believes that society should encourage girls and women to pursue careers in science and technology. "The more women we have in the field of technology and exact sciences," she said, "the better it will be for the global economy. Girls should be encouraged from a young age and shown that technology and engineering are not exclusive to boys."

Students and other attendees highly appreciated Teuta's lecture on cybersecurity and the possibilities for protecting humanity from artificial intelligence.

STUDENTS OF THE FACULTY OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AT THE PUBLIC UNIVERSITY "KADRI ZEKA" WILL UNDERTAKE PROJECTS FOR THE DIGITALIZATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF GJILAN.



This decision was reached on the occasion of the signing of a collaboration agreement between the Dean of the Faculty of Computer Science at UKZ, Mr. Artan Dërmaku, and the Mayor of the Municipality of Gjilan, Mr. Alban Hyseni.

According to the aforementioned agreement, under the

guidance of the academic staff of the Faculty of Computer Science, students will develop a Agriculture Database for the farmers of Gjilan, as well as various IT-related projects that will provide higher quality and more accessible services to the citizens.

**UKZ HONORS MR. LUKAS MANDL WITH
"DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA" AWARD**

The Public University "Kadri Zeka" in Gjilan, in collaboration with the Regional Business Council of Gjilan and following the decision of the Senate, has bestowed the "Doctor Honoris Causa" award upon Mr. Lukas Mandl, a member of the European Parliament.

In his remarks, the University Rector, Prof. Dr. Bajram Kosumi, highlighted Mr. Lukas Mandl's longstanding advocacy for Kosovo's freedom, international recognition of Kosovo, and Kosovo's integration into the European Union. "Public University 'Kadri Zeka' values this vision and the humanitarian voice of Mr. Mandl. We appreciate and believe in a reformed EU, enriched with the states that are still outside it today. Mr. Mandl's commitment and vision are honorable, and therefore, our university has awarded him this accolade," Rector Kosumi stated.

Prof. Dr. Bajram Kosumi presented the "Doctor Honoris Causa" diploma of the Public University "Kadri Zeka" to Mr. Lukas Mandl, a member of the European Parliament.

In his address, Mr. Lukas Mandl expressed his delight

and gratitude for the recognition bestowed upon him by the Public University "Kadri Zeka" in Gjilan. He conveyed that he feels greatly honored and proud to receive the title of Doctor Honoris Causa.

The Public University "Kadri Zeka" in Gjilan conferred upon Mr. Lukas Mandl the "Doctor Honoris Causa" diploma, citing his significant contributions to the advancement of human relations, support for peace consolidation in Kosovo and the wider region, his involvement in the state-building processes of the Republic of Kosovo, advocacy for the Kosovo cause in the European Parliament, the Council of Europe, and the European Union, his unwavering support and advocacy for international recognition of the Republic of Kosovo, his continuous efforts as a rapporteur for the Republic of Kosovo in the European Parliament and the European People's Party (EPP), his role in the establishment of the Austria-Kosovo Friendship Association, and his contributions to the fields of culture and media in promoting the truth about Kosovo.

ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AT UKZ: "SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN PROMOTING HUMAN VALUES"



The second Annual International Scientific Conference on "Science and Technology in Promoting Human Values," organized by the Public University "Kadri Zeka" in Gjilan, brought together renowned figures from the fields of academia, including university professors from prestigious institutions such as the University of Tuscia in Italy, the University of Tallinn in Estonia, Ismail Qemali University in Vlorë, Albania, among others, as well as professors and researchers from various regions within the country, the broader region, and Europe.

The opening of the conference was conducted by the Rector of the Public University "Kadri Zeka" in Gjilan, Prof. Dr. Bajram Kosumi, who warmly welcomed the attendees and extended his greetings to the conference participants. Rector Kosumi emphasized that due to government policies in higher education, the academic community has been directed towards publishing scholarly achievements in international journals, particularly those indexed in Scopus and Web of Science. This conference, he added, serves as an excellent opportunity to raise questions, address issues, and seek answers and solutions to topics that concern individuals and contemporary society.

Upon the recommendation of the Conference Organizing Committee and with the approval of the Rector of UKZ, Prof. Dr. Bajram Kosumi, the "Marin Barleti" Annual Conference Award of UKZ was presented to Academic Fejzullah Krasniqi from the Academy of Sciences and

Arts of Kosovo. This award is dedicated to the outstanding achievements of distinguished figures in the realm of science for their extraordinary contributions to academic research in higher education, significant research contributions, novel ideas, collaboration, and other perspectives. Additional considerations encompass leadership roles, as well as current or potential relationships between research conducted and the improvement of higher education in general, through the connections between researchers and International Academic Leaders in various countries with the Public University "Kadri Zeka."

The conference also featured discussions in five parallel sessions within the framework of UKZ's faculties, titled: DiGiDay Conference, MathDay Conference, EduDay Conference, Economics Conference, and Justice Conference.

During the Plenary Session of the Conference, renowned figures from the field of science presented their scholarly work.

The "Science and Technology in Promoting Human Values" AC UKZ 2023 Conference serves as a gathering and platform for researchers, educators, and policymakers from the region and around the world. The conference combines inspirational keynote addresses, a wide variety of research presentations across different fields – including computer science, mathematics, education, justice, and economics – and interactive workshops in a stimulating and friendly atmosphere.

SUM DEMONSTRATES DIGITAL MATURITY BY SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTING AN ELECTRONIC ENROLLMENT RANKING SYSTEM.

The University of Mostar proudly announces the completion of the application process for eEnrollment for the academic year 2023/2024, showcasing its full maturity in digital transformation. This significant step in modernizing the university system has enabled a faster, more efficient, and transparent method of enrolling students.

The ranking lists are publicly available and can be accessed on the official website of the University via a provided link. Through this system, every applicant can find out their position on the ranking list and compare themselves with other candidates. One of the major advantages of this new enrollment system is the simplification of administration thanks to the Information System of the University of Mostar. All data entered during the selection process is automatically recorded, greatly simplifying the enrollment process for both students and administrative staff. High school students using SUMT Matica and Dnevnik had their grades automatically recorded through the system.

This year, electronic enrollments represent a significant advancement in the modernization of the university system, providing convenience and efficiency for all involved. The University of Mostar takes pride in being among the first to implement this system, paving the way for further improvements and innovations in higher education, positioning itself as a developed eUniversity on a global scale.

It's worth noting that the University of Mostar was the first university in Bosnia and Herzegovina to introduce eIndex, adopt a Digital Strategy, and establish a Center for Artificial Intelligence. With the support of modern technology, transparency, and educational quality, the University of Mostar will continue to introduce innovations to achieve its mission of creating an environment where SUM becomes a digitally mature university that provides its users and the community with top-notch digital learning, research, collaboration, and work experiences, supporting individuals and the community in realizing their full potential.

SUM HAS BEEN AWARDED THE ERASMUS CHARTER

The European Commission has awarded the University of Mostar the Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE) for the period 2021-2027. The Charter provides a fundamental framework for ensuring the quality of international cooperation between partner institutions within and outside the European Union, contributing to better standardization of key elements and activities within the Erasmus+ mobility program. The award of the ECHE is a prerequisite for participation in the new Erasmus+ program, as well as in the three key activities it encompasses: individual mobility for learning purposes, cooperation for innovation and exchange of good practices, and support for policy reform.

The principles of the Charter are strongly aligned

with the new guidelines of the Erasmus+ program for the period 2021-2027 in the areas of digitization, inclusiveness, and sustainability. This year, higher education institutions from non-EU countries in the Western Balkans were given the opportunity to apply for the ECHE for the first time, which also serves as a guarantee for full participation in project proposals within the Erasmus+ call for European Universities.

The Charter is not only a guarantee but also a prerequisite for active and quality participation of higher education institutions in mobility programs aimed at acquiring new knowledge for both students and staff, as well as exchanging good practices for better and more advanced partner cooperation within the Erasmus+ program.

UNIVERSITY OF MOSTAR- THE FIRST UNIVERSITY IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO RECEIVE SUPPORT FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION FOR THE EUPEACE PROJECT

The European Commission has announced the results of the 2023 call for proposals for the Erasmus+ European University Initiative, which provides support for alliances of higher education institutions. As one of the nine partners of the European University for Peace, Justice and Inclusive Societies (EUPeace), within the “European Universities” Erasmus+ initiative, the University of Mostar is among these seven new alliances, being the only university from Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The list has been expanded with seven new alliances of European universities, bringing the total number to 50 alliances covering over 430 higher education institutions in 35 countries. The goal of the European university strategy is to expand to 60 alliances of European universities with over 500 universities by mid-2024.

The project is led by the Philipps-Universität Marburg in Germany, with which the University of Mostar has a signed agreement, and an amount of almost 14.4 million euros is allocated for the initial four-year funding period. The partners of the University of Mostar within this initiative are the University of Marburg - Philipps-Universität Marburg (Germany), the Justus-Liebig-Universität Gießen

(Germany), Universidad Pontificia Comillas (Spain), Çukurova Üniversitesi (Turkey), the University of Calabria (Italy), the University of Limoges (France), the University of West Bohemia (Czech Republic), and University of Prishtina „Hasan Prishtina“ (Republic of Kosovo).

EUPeace follows a socio-political approach that will provide future Europeans with skills and knowledge to contribute to the promotion of peace, justice, and inclusive societies in Europe and the world. The call for proposals for the year 2023 has, for the first time, opened the opportunity for higher education institutions from the Western Balkans countries to participate as full partners. Universities play a strong role in the development of teaching, research, and public engagement activities that foster the necessary conditions for peace.

The alliances of European universities bring together a new generation of students who can study and work in different European countries, in different languages, and in academic disciplines. Thanks to these alliances, students can obtain a degree by combining studies in multiple European countries, contributing to the international competitiveness of higher education institutions in Europe.

SUM AI BECOMES A KEY INSTITUTION IN THE FIELD OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RESEARCH AND APPLICATION

The University of Mostar is opening the doors to the Center for Artificial Intelligence (SUM AI), the first of its kind in the country, thereby becoming a crucial institution in the field of artificial intelligence research and application. Founded based on decisions made by the University's Senate and Board, SUM AI represents a logical continuation of the development of information technologies at the University, aligning with the latest global trends and achieving one of the goals of SUM's Digital Strategy.

The Center for Artificial Intelligence at the University of Mostar (SUM AI) is dedicated to fostering research and the application of artificial intelligence, with a particular emphasis on the field of education. The center's goal is to research, develop, and educate in the field of artificial intelligence. One of the key tasks of SUM AI will be to analyze the labor market's needs for experts in the field of artificial intelligence, train students and university staff, and connect potential experts with the artificial intelligence industry. This initiative plays a pivotal role

in developing high-quality talent in the field of artificial intelligence and ensuring that the University of Mostar meets the demands of the job market.

Today, it's challenging to imagine advanced software that doesn't contain at least one component based on artificial intelligence. SUM AI recognizes this fact and aims to be a regional leader in research and development of AI technologies. Currently, there are only three research centers in the region dealing with artificial intelligence, two in Zagreb and Rijeka, and one in Novi Sad.

The establishment of the Center for Artificial Intelligence (SUM AI) at the University of Mostar represents a significant step in the development of information technologies in the country. SUM AI will shape the future of education and promote the development of high-quality experts in the field of artificial intelligence. Additionally, SUM AI will actively address the ethical and legal issues arising from the application of artificial intelligence and collaborate with other institutions to contribute to the safe and responsible development of this crucial technology.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOSOVO VJOSA OSMANI VISITED THE UNIVERSITY OF TETOVA



The President of the Republic of Kosovo, Her Excellency Vjosa Osmani, stayed at the University of Tetova for an official visit. In the square in front of the statue of the founder and the first and historical Rector of the University of Tetova, Prof. Dr. Fadil Sulejmani, it was received by a large number of students and lecturers. Her presence at our University, in addition to honoring the students, the academic community and the administrative staff, honored all the Albanians of this region, for whom the founding of the University of Tetova and its history over the years has been their greatest sublime sacrifice.

The President of the Republic of Kosovo, Vjosa Osmani, during her stay at the University of Tetova held a meeting with the Rector of the University of Tetova, Prof. Dr. Kushtrim Ahmeti, President of the Senate, Prof. Dr. Vullnet Ameti and other leaders, while afterwards, in the Amphitheater "Sevasti and Parashqevi Qiriazhi", in front of students and professors, she held a lecture on the topic: "Regional political and security challenges".

Rector of the University of Tetova, Prof. Dr. Kushtrim Ahmeti, in his speech, said that the visit of the President of the Republic of Kosovo, Her Excellency Vjosa Osmani to UT, is evidence that she dedicates herself to education and the role that our university is playing in building a brighter future for our region. "As long as we talk about challenges and vicissitudes, we never forget the stability, strength and determination of our people. UT keeps burning the beacon that illuminates the sacred work and sacrifice of all our martyrs, martyrs of freedom and knowledge. University of Tetova has continuously made efforts to pursue the general objective of addressing these topics with experts in the relevant fields through various scientific activities. Therefore,

the presence of influential personalities from the academic and political world, in the treatment and discussion of such topics, is undoubtedly an added value for the University of Tetova. As an institution of higher learning, we are committed to nurturing ties between our people on both sides of the border and promoting peace, stability and prosperity in this region. We believe that education is the key for building a brighter future for everyone and we are proud to play this role with dignity for three consecutive decades", emphasized the Rector of the UT, Prof. Dr. Kushtrim Ahmeti.

"Regional political and security challenges" was the topic of the lecture of the President Vjosa Osmani. As for the importance and role that universities have in various processes, political, diplomatic, economic, strategic, security and others, at the national level, she declared that the University of Tetova together with the University of Pristina have been guides to extraordinary political changes in our countries. "In these Universities, not only intellectuals were formed, but was formed something more powerful than knowledge and intellectuals, was formed the ideal, the ideal which is still alive today among Albanians, and wherever we go around the world, in universities of free and developed states, we mention one thing, that for us as Albanians, the right to education is never taken for granted. Each of us, who have come today, have been educated in a system where we were denied the right to education, we had to go to school houses, our professors were beaten, imprisoned and killed, just because they wanted to spread knowledge and were denied any other basic right and freedom for more than a decade that then culminated in our liberation war. So for us it was never just education, it was education and the ideal, an ideal through which we ensured that we survived a regime so



brutal that it has rarely been known anywhere else in human history. And through education, today when we are free, when the opportunities are up to the sky, through education I am convinced that our countries will lead them to the top, that we will make sure that we show the world that our youth is exceptional, that in the moment they have an opportunity they shine and that's exactly why our future is bright", said among others the President of the Republic of Kosovo, Vjosa Osmani. After the lecture, she held a conversation with our students regarding the liberalization of visas, the vote for Kosovo's admission to the Council of Europe, as well as the process against the former leaders of the KLA in the Hague.

At the end of the meeting, the President of the Republic of Kosovo from the Rector Prof. Dr. Kushtrim Ahmeti accepted the portrait of the founder and the first Rector of UT, Prof. Dr. Fadil Sulejmani, while the President of the Senate Prof. Dr. Vullnet Ameti bestowed to her the Monograph of the University of Tetova, along with several other scientific publications of the University of Tetova, among which the author's book, Prof. Dr. Nusret Pllana titled: "Terror of invading Serbia over Albanians, 1844-1999.

The visits of high state officials to the University of Tetova, from the region and the international arena, confirm the reputation that our institution appreciates not only in academic circles, but also among influential authorities in social life.



THE UNIVERSITY OF TETOVA ALLOCATES 10,000 EUROS IN FINANCIAL AID TO THE REGION AFFECTED BY THE EARTHQUAKE IN TURKIYE



The Senate of the University of Tetova, in the meeting held on 27.2.2023, brought a decision to donate financial resources to the Government of the Republic of Turkiye, for the region affected by the earthquake of February 6, 2023. With this decision, the University of Tetova has allocated 10,000 euro in countervalue in denars from own financial means.

While today, the Rector of the University of Tetova, Prof. Dr. Kushtrim Ahmeti accompanied by the Chairman of the Senate, Prof. Dr. Vullnet Ameti, Vice Chancellor for Finance, Investments and Development, Prof. Dr. Faton Shabani and Head of the study program of Oriental Studies at the Faculty of Philosophy, Prof. Dr. Adnan Ismaili met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkiye, His Excellency, Hakan Mehmet Sekizkok. On this occasion, the leaders of our University communicated the decision of the Senate to grant the donation of our University to the Government of Turkiye and at the same time, on behalf of the students and all other employees, they expressed their condolences to the Turkish people for the victims, who unfortunately lost their lives in the tragic earthquake.

While the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkiye, His Excellency Hakan Mehmet Sekizkok, thanked the leaders of the University of Tetova for their visit and the solidarity they have shared with the Turkish people, giving them courage to overcome this tragedy. He said that the donation granted by the University of Tetova to the Government of the Republic of Turkiye testifies to the humane values of the professors and students of this University.

**UNIVERSITY OF TETOVA ORGANIZED A SOLEMN CEREMONY
FOR THE GRADUATES OF THE GENERATION 2022/2023**

University of Tetova, through the organization of the solemn graduation ceremony, promoted today the generation of the academic year 2022/23. About 800 graduates in thirteen academic units have completed their first cycle of studies, so today, together with their parents and family members, they solemnly closed a chapter to open another in their professional career. This activity gathers thousands of citizens and is considered the most important event for higher education in the Albanian language, because it marks an educational-scientific achievement for the University of Tetova and the entire society.

This ceremony was declared open by the member of the Senate of the University of Tetova, Prof. Dr. Flamure Ibraimi – Sadiku, who said that this university has always created space and many opportunities for in-depth studies in all spheres of knowledge.

“As a university, we have enabled studies and research in all spheres of knowledge and we have promoted new ideas and solutions at the national level and beyond. Today, the University of Tetova is a recognized name not only nationally, but also internationally. This university

is a center of knowledge and an inspiring force even for those who will start their studies at this institution this year. The graduates of our university have proved themselves in all spheres of knowledge. They have scored numerous successes in all spheres of social life”, said Prof. Dr. Flamure Ibraimi-Sadiku.

In the following of her speech to the graduates, she emphasized that, the knowledge you have gained, you will now apply outside the doors of the university, with a sense of responsibility for yourself, your family and society.

“Our society will benefit from your knowledge. With your commitment, you will influence the public good. With your creativity you will influence a better life and society. With your professional competence, you will influence institutions to be shaped according to the demands of global citizenship. We strongly believe that You will fulfill the mission that You have assigned to yourself. Only dedication and hard work enable success and create great and unforgettable works that benefit society and humanity. You have learned the message that learning continues even after graduation. The

time to learn and study never ends. This is a permanent process, which will complete your lives”, declared the member of the Senate of the UT.

The graduation ceremony of UT graduates was also greeted by the Minister of Education and Science of the Government of RNM, Jeton Shaqiri. He congratulated the students who today graduated from the University of Tetova, this university that bears the stamp of the struggle for knowledge, it makes proud Tetova, North Macedonia, but also the entire Albanian-speaking region and beyond.



“With the University of Tetova, years ago, we as a country took an important step in providing higher education in the Albanian language. “With the University of Tetova, years ago, we as a country took an important step in providing higher education in the Albanian language. Today, UT is taking important steps in the direction of raising the quality of scientific research, with organizations and participation in valuable conferences and symposiums, both in the country and in the region, in the investment of the educational framework, new study programs in keep up with the times, the labor market and the latest technologies. In a word, UT today is an institution respected by everyone and it is the obligation of each of us to do our best to promote and fanatically protect this hearth of knowledge, this temple of social advancement”, declared the Minister, Jeton Shaqiri.

Speaking on behalf of the government of our country, the Minister of Education and Science pledged that

they will do their best to improve the conditions for employment, the standard of living, the improvement of the business climate, support for opening businesses, for all those who be accepted in the best universities – fully covering the costs of studies, to make our country safer, to make it the number one option to live and work.

In the capacity of an excellent student, on front of colleagues and parents, with occasion speech held Fatbardha Zendeli, graduate of the Faculty of Pedagogy. She singled out the support they have received as students of the University of Tetova from the leaders of the University, from the professors and the Union of Students, which is indescribable because their priority has been always and is the students, especially the advancement in various scientific programs, considering the scholarships awarded to excellent students. “As a student of the Faculty of Pedagogy, I am happy and satisfied that I studied at this University, because my knowledge is engraved in a temple of knowledge such as the University of Tetova, by creating space and opportunities for us to practice for these four years in countries outside North Macedonia, enabling us to face the newest innovations, contemporary literature, as well as motivation to participate in various conferences and trainings that are in step with the times, as well as the innovations that technical and scientific development brings, including the digitalization of the University that it facilitates the work of students and academic staff, and this is to be welcomed”, said Fatbardha Zendeli.

Meanwhile, the Rector of the University of Tetova, Prof. Dr. Kushtrim Ahmeti emphasized that today a new generation of graduates is being added to our University, who this year will complete their studies in thirteen faculties and in dozens of study programs, from who we as leaders, you as parents, and the entire society, await the future cadre with great hope.

“With hundreds of graduates of engineering and technology sciences, social sciences, humanities and arts, medical and natural sciences, they complete their studies and together today we celebrate the success achieved with a lot of effort and sacrifice, so I want to congratulate each and every one of them. I want to express my most heartfelt thanks to the real contributors in shaping your success: parents, family, relatives, friends, professors and colleagues, who have believed in your abilities by giving you the impetus

to move forward, advising and supporting you, even serving as an example to follow. This support has served as a foundation on which you have built the dreams and goals you have set for yourself”, stated the Rector of UT. He also added that, on this symbolic day of the successful completion of this life cycle, remember that you are the hope and the future of this people, that you have given life to this University, even tomorrow when you put into practice your knowledge that you have acquired during your studies, honor yourself, your family and this temple of knowledge, by performing good deeds, in the service of society and humanity.

“You will always be our voice that will break through the reason of new generations, cultivating knowledge and sowing love for it. You will be the ones who will make us more successful because the success of a university is measured by the achievements of its students. You, the best ambassadors of the University, never forget how this temple of knowledge began to breathe, so proudly present it and raise your voice, even beyond the borders of our country, being a worthy competitor alongside your colleagues from other universities of the country,

the region and beyond, to face the challenges of modern society”, said Rector Prof. Dr. Kushtrim Ahmeti.

At the end of his speech, the Rector of UT said that with the experiences of this important day, the emotions and feelings of sacrifice of the first generations of students, who did not have the opportunity to celebrate in a solemn way, so they symbolically join hands and your joy and experience becomes theirs as well. According to him, the work and sacrifice of previous generations of professors and students of this University is turning into luck and happiness for them and the future generations.

This year’s graduation program ended with the artistic part performed by Bajramali Idrizi and Shpëtim Mustafa. The annual organization of the graduation ceremony of our graduates testifies the contribution of a joint work that is successfully developed by the students and lecturers of the University of Tetova, which was raised on this pedestal, on the resistance and sacrifice of the Albanian nation, the blood of to the martyrs of Albanian education, Abdylselam Emini and the vital contribution of the founders headed by Prof. Dr. Fadil Sulejmani.



**COOPERATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN MACEDONIA
WITH WEST BALKAN UNIVERSITIES**

“Strengthening International Staff & Student Mobility Offices in the West Balkans - ROAMING” is a Capacity Building project aiming at reducing the unbalanced international mobility uptake of remote and less privileged Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in the West Balkans by strengthening the capacity of their International Relations Offices. Implemented within the framework of the Erasmus+ program with the co-financing of the European Union, the ROAMING project responds to the European Commission’s commitment to reinforce ERASMUS+ programme “in particular by reaching out to increasing numbers of people with fewer opportunities”. In this vein, the consortium was established with a mix of experienced and less experienced HEIs in matters related to ERASMUS+ from Albania, Kosovo and Montenegro, North Macedonia and Greece namely Logos University in Tirana, the coordinator, POLIS University of Albania, Rochester Institute of Technology and International Business College Mitrovica of Kosovo, Mediterranean University of Montenegro International University of Struga of the Republic of North Macedonia and the University of Western Macedonia of Greece.

The University of Western Macedonia (UOWM), an experienced European university in issues related to the ERASMUS+ program, offers its «know-how» in mobility matters, coordinates training syllabi and delivers in

cooperation with the International University of Struga, training courses to the staff of the collaborating universities on issues related to: a) strategic internationalization b) operation and services provided from the International Relations and Erasmus Offices and c) the enhancement of staff’s skills.

The UOWM participates in the project through the Department of Public and International Relations and the Erasmus Office and is coordinated by the Vice-rector for International Relations, Global Engagement and Lifelong learning.

The experience and know-how transfer on the subject, is carried out by the Vice-rector for International Relations, Global Engagement and Lifelong learning, Professor Eleni Griva who coordinates the UOWM team, the Head of the Department of Public and International Relations, Christina Petaloti, the Coordinator of the Erasmus+ program in UOWM, Lecturer Ekaterini Blanda and Malamati Tzonou, staff of the Department of Public and International Relations.

The kick off meeting was held on March 2023 at Logos University in Tirana, with the participation of all partners.

On May 15-16, 2023, the University of Western Macedonia (UOWM) welcomed 13 representatives from consortium partners of Western Balkan Universities for

a productive Study Visit aiming to explore best practices in international cooperation and draw inspiration from UOWM's International Relations Office (IRO). During the two days study-visit, participants had the opportunity to gain insights into the structure of UOWM's IRO, including its internationalization strategy objectives and priorities for international cooperation as well as a detailed information on the management of the Erasmus+ program.

In the following months, trainings sessions will be carried out in the partner universities in Albania, Montenegro and Kosovo, based on a) the general and specific objectives of the Erasmus+ Programme, b) the needs of the target group c) the general Characteristics of Adult Learners, with the ultimate goal of increasing the participation of their students in mobility activities.



BALKAN MEDICAL JOURNAL MAINTAINS ITS SUCCESS

The rising star of scientific publishing, Balkan Medical Journal, continues to hold its prominent place in the world of academic publishing under the umbrella of Trakya University. Balkan Medical Journal, a publication recognized globally for its quality and impact factor among Trakya University's scientific publications, has sustained its success in the current year. The journal, which has been strengthening its influence in the field of medicine with each passing day, maintains its success consistently according to the Impact Factor Report of Journal Citation Reports 2023.

Journal Citation Reports 2023 (JCR), which displays the citation performances of journals indexed in SCIE and SSCI, has been released. Trakya University's Balkan Medical Journal, with an impact factor of 3.0, has once again secured its place at the top of general medical journals in Turkey. Achieving the top position in this category for three consecutive years and being the sole Turkish journal in the second quarter (Q2) in the same category, Balkan Medical Journal ranked fifth among the 257 indexed journals from Turkey across all categories and 75th globally in the general medical journals category.

Expressing their great joy regarding the success of Balkan Medical Journal, the Chief Editor, Prof. Dr. Servet Altay, stated, 'This achievement has been accomplished through the journal's dedication to high-quality research articles and our rigorous publication standards. At Balkan Medical Journal, we attach significant importance to the publication of scientific research, the promotion of knowledge sharing, and the advancement of progress in the field of health. This success underscores our journal's international recognition and continued impact. I extend my sincere gratitude to our authors, editors, and the publication team for their invaluable contributions to achieving this remarkable success. We reaffirm our commitment to maintaining the impact Balkan Medical Journal has achieved on the international stage and strengthening our position as a leading journal in the field of scientific publishing.'

Trakya University has become a brand in academic publishing with its 19 journals, and Balkan Medical Journal is considered the flagship publication. Prof.

Dr. Erhan Tabakoğlu, the Rector, emphasized the university's ongoing efforts to increase its national and international impact in scientific publishing. He stated, 'Our achievements in these efforts motivate us and provide strength as we progress steadily toward our goals. Balkan Medical Journal, which serves as the locomotive in our quest to reach the summit, will guide our other journals with its experience and success. I would like to express my gratitude to Prof. Dr. Filiz Akata, the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Prof. Dr. Servet Altay, the editor of the journal, and the entire team for their contributions to the international recognition and visibility of our university.'

For detailed information about Balkan Medical Journal and to access the journal issues, you can visit <https://balkanmedicaljournal.org/>."

Sıra	Dergi	Impact Factor
1	Engineering Science and Technology-An International Journal-JESTECH	5.7
2	Atmospheric Pollution Research	4.5
3	Journal of Language Teaching and Learning	3.6
4	Journal of Sports Science and Medicine	3.2
5	Balkan Medical Journal	3.0
6	Turkish Journal of Agriculture and Forestry	2.9
7	Central Bank Review	2.8
8	Anatolia-International Journal of Tourism and Hospitality Research	2.6
9	Turkish Journal of Hematology	2.6
10	Eurasian Journal of Medicine and Oncology	2.5
11	Turkish Journal Of Medical Sciences	2.3
12	TURKISH JOURNAL OF BIOLOGY	2.2
13	Diagnostic and Interventional Radiology	2.1
14	Turkish Journal of Physics	2.1
15	Online Journal of Communication and Media Technologies	2.0
16	Eurasian Journal of Applied Linguistics	1.9
17	European Journal of Rheumatology	1.9
18	International Journal of Engineering and Geosciences	1.9
19	Journal of Clinical Research in Pediatric Endocrinology	1.9
20	Records of Natural Products	1.9
21	Turkish Online Journal of Distance Education	1.9
22	European Endodontic Journal	1.8
23	TURKISH JOURNAL OF BOTANY	1.8
24	Advances in Hospitality and Tourism Research-AHTR	1.7
25	Organic Communications	1.7
26	Turkish Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences	1.7
27	European Journal of Breast Health	1.6
28	International Journal of Optimization and Control-Theories & Applications	1.6
29	Joint Diseases and Related Surgery	1.6
30	Eurasian Journal of Medicine	1.5
31	Turk Pediatri Arsivi-Turkish Archives of Pediatrics	1.5
32	Journal of the Turkish-German Gynecological Association	1.4
33	TURKISH JOURNAL OF CHEMISTRY	1.4
34	Anatolian Journal of Cardiology	1.3
35	International Journal of Education in Mathematics Science and Technology	1.3
36	Journal of Chemical Metrology	1.3
37	Teknik Dergi	1.3
38	Turkish Journal of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences	1.3
39	Turkish Journal of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation	1.3
40	Turkish Journal of Urology	1.3
41	Medical Bulletin of Sisli Etfal Hospital	1.2
42	New Perspectives on Turkey	1.2
43	Turkish Archives of Pediatrics	1.2




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 2nd quartile among
167 journals in the Medicine,
General & Internal - SCIE category,
holding the 75th rank.



VISIT OUR WEBSITE
<http://www.balkanmedicaljournal.org/>



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
2nd quartile among 167 journals in the Medicine,
General & Internal - SCIE category,
holding the 75th rank.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
www.balkanmedicaljournal.org



DR. DAN SHECHTMAN – PROFESSOR HONORIS CAUSA OF UKLO

Conferring the honorary titles to distinguished individuals, as the highest act of appreciation of their achievements is inherent to the Academia and higher education institutions are permanently working on enriching their portfolios with illustrious names of people who contribute significantly to science, education, arts, culture and every other segment of human living and existence. This, 2023 year, UKLO had a very special occasion of awarding the Professor Honoris Causa title to an extraordinary scientist, the Israeli Noble Prize Laureate, Dr Dan Shechtman, in acknowledgment of

his impressive scientific opus in the area of chemistry, with an emphasis on his exceptional, ground-breaking and world-acclaimed achievements in the scientific research related to quasi-periodical crystals, but at the same time in regards to his longstanding commitment to the advancement of the educational process and the provision of progressive high quality education for young generations, both at his home and international higher education institutions.

The solemn ceremony was held at the beautiful Hall of the Culture Center in Bitola, on May 26, 2023 during Dr Shechtman's visit to Macedonia and participation at a scientific conference organized by the Macedonian Academy of Science and Arts. At the ceremony that was led by the Rector of our University, Prof. Dr Sc. Igor Nedelkovski, who wholeheartedly embraced the initiative of our Faculty of Technology and Technical Sciences, recognizing the true values of the 2011 Nobel Prize Laureate in Chemistry, Dr Shechtman, and, in compliance with the established institutional procedure, delivered an inspiring speech on the significance and greatness of this world-renowned scholar. Following the act of accepting the University regalia, Dr Shechtman made his address packed with words of gratitude, to the audience – UKLO academic community, his family and friends, diplomatic corps representatives and local and national authorities.

UKLO - MEMBER OF THE COLOURS (COLLABORATIVE, INNOVATIVE, SUSTAINABLE, REGIONAL UNIVERSITIES) CONSORTIUM

COLOURS European University Alliance gathered together nine European medium-sized HEIs with strong innovation potential in teaching, research and knowledge transfer and shared deep commitment to the sustainable development of their regions with a common aim to intensify their mutual cooperation and joint dedication towards creating a European inter-university campus. The partner universities:

- Paderborn University, Germany
- University of Castilla La Mancha, Spain
- University of Ferrara, Italy
- Le Mans University, France
- Jan Długosz University, Częstochowa, Poland
- Kristianstad University, Sweden
- Josip Juraj Strossmayer University, Osijek, Croatia
- Ventspils University of Applied Sciences, Latvia and
- University "St Kliment Ohridski" – Bitola, Republic of North Macedonia, prepared the

proposal for submission at the open Call of the EC on January 31, 2023 and received funding for a 4-year project in the course of which, the Consortium will engage in numerous activities towards successful realization and achieving the outlined results. The long-term vision is to gradually transform COLOURS into an inter-university campus, and it is to be achieved through a strategic step-by-step approach, via addressing the major societal challenges in the consortium members' regions. The main task is to share and

combine experiences, competences and resources in order to achieve comprehensive and sustainable cooperation. In line with promoting high-quality joint education programmes, the Alliance will promote innovation and knowledge transfer to society, by means of multidisciplinary European teams, at the same time enhancing the scientific collaboration and the cooperation in regards to entrepreneurship and technology, applying joint interdisciplinary research and innovative pilot projects. Last but not the least, the alliance network is expected to boost the involvement of regional stakeholders in the knowledge creation process, to strengthen the regional development, and therefore have a positive impact on the society in general.

UKLO is the first and only Macedonian University that receives granting for a Project in the frames of European Universities Alliance and this was announced, accordingly, by the EU Delegation in Skopje and our National Agency for European Educational Programs and Mobility.

**COLOURS**COLlaborative innOvative sUustainable
Regional univerSities

UNIVERSITY OF ELBASAN HAS SUCCESSFULLY ORGANIZED THE 2ND INTERNATIONAL WEEK ON "CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION" WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ERASMUS+ PROGRAM.

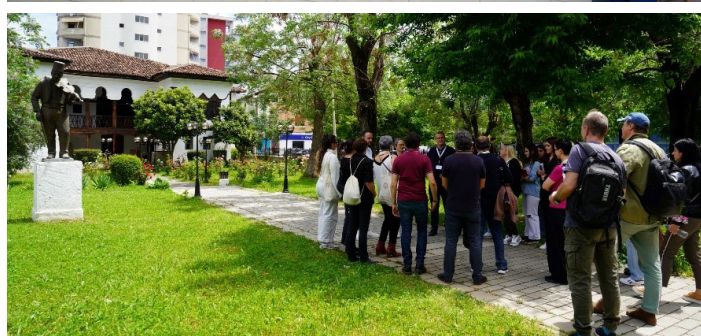


From May 8th to May 12th at the University of Elbasan "Aleksander Xhuvani," a series of activities were held as part of the International Week. Participants from partner universities had the opportunity to get acquainted with the university and the city of Elbasan, exchange knowledge and experiences, and share best practices.

During this special week, participants engaged in various activities such as seminars, cultural tours, participation in the UNIEL Fair, where they could learn about Albanian traditions, language, history, and culture up close. They also had the chance to meet our faculties, staff, and students.

Internationalization is a fundamental element of the mission of the University of Elbasan, and its commitment to shaping higher education according to international standards. Through this dedication, the university provides a rich academic and scientific environment that contributes to the education of students and the development of a society open to the world.

For more information, please visit; <https://uniel.edu.al/universiteti-ue/drejtore/drejtoria-e-koordinimit-dhe-marredhenieve-me-jashte>



RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ELBASAN PROF.DR. SKENDER TOPI MEETING AT THE SENATE OF THE ITALIAN REPUBLIC



An important agreement was reached between the University of Elbasan “Aleksandër Xhuvani” and the International Center for European Funds Economic Studies. On April 6, 2023, the First International Conference on European Funds was held at the Senate of the Republic of Italy, with the participation of scholars from North America and the Euro-Mediterranean region. During this significant meeting, Prof. Dr. Skender

Topi, the Rector of the University of Elbasan “Aleksandër Xhuvani,” signed a strategic cooperation agreement with Prof. Santi Tomaselli, the President of the International Center for European Funds Economic Studies, as well as with Prof. Michele Vincenti from the Western University of Canada and Prof. Basem Ibrahim, the Representative for Foreign Affairs and Business of Egypt. In his welcoming speech, Prof. Skender Topi expressed:

“I am pleased because this agreement, signed in one of the most important buildings of Italian institutions, the Senate of the Republic, marks an achievement for the University of Elbasan in the field of scientific cooperation on European Funds.”

For more information, please visit; <https://uniel.edu.al/universiteti-ue/drejtore/drejtoria-e-koordinimit-dhe-marredhenieve-me-jashte>



THE UNIVERSITY OF ELBASAN “ALEKSANDËR XHUVANI” PARTICIPATED IN THE INTERNATIONAL WEEK ORGANIZED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS IN CRACOW, POLAND.

As part of the activities, an official meeting took place between the Vice-Rector of the University of Elbasan, Prof. Dr. Elvira Fetahu, and Prof. Dr. hab. Paweł Lula, Vice-Rector of the University of Economics. During this meeting, they discussed the successful collaboration over the years between the two institutions and explored opportunities for expanding this cooperation in the future.

For more information, please visit; <https://uniel.edu.al/universiteti-ue/drejtore/drejtoria-e-koordinimit-dhe-marredhenieve-me-jashte>





Balkan Universities Association

BUANEWS



Address :

Secretariat of Balkan Universities Association
Trakya University International Relations Office
22030 Balkan Campus
EDİRNE/TURKEY

Phone : +90 284 213 96 34

Fax : +90 284 223 42 03

e-mail : bua@baunas.org

www.baunas.org



Editor: Exp. Nurgül SARSILMAZ

Design: Yıldıray ERCAN