

# BUANEWS

Balkan Universities Association E-Bulletin

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# **Balkan Universities Association**

## FREE MEDICAL CHECK-UPS FOR REFUGEE FOOTBALLERS IN ARISTOTLE UNIVERSITY



Figure 1 ARSIS refugee footballers getting check-ups in AUTH's Laboratory of Sport Medicine

The Laboratory of Sport Medicine of AUTH's Physical Education and Sport Science Department was visited by the football players of the ARSIS Football Club, a team consisting of refugee children and youth promoting social integration.

The medical check, which comprised of examinations, such as cardiogram, body mass index check, ultrasound, etc. was performed on more than 50 children and young people from Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Pakistan, Egypt, etc. who wish to play football, with the aim of issuing them athlete health cards.

The members of the group are children who reside in unaccompanied children shelters in the areas of Oreokastro, Peraia, Tagarades and in social housing in Thessaloniki.

Sources:

<https://www.auth.gr/press/parochi-dorean-iatrikoy-elegchoy-prosf/>

<https://arsis.gr/oi-nearoi-podosfairistes-tis-omadarsis-foo/>

## CONFERENCE FOR SUPPORTING INTERVENTIONS IN ROMA COMMUNITIES

Within the framework of the Program "Supporting interventions in Roma communities to strengthen access and reduce the dropout of education by children and adolescents in Central and Western Macedonia", a Conference was held in Aristotle University. The Conference was attended by partners of the program, members of the academic community, education officials, teachers and principals of the cooperating school units, students, Roma students and parents and other interested parties.

According to the contributors, the implementation of the program primarily sought to address educational inequality and the marginalization faced by this particular social group, through the improvement of the conditions for the participation and inclusion of Roma children in the Greek educational system.

In detail, the program includes educational, pedagogical, didactic, psychosocial and motivational activities and actions. These aimed at: a) strengthening the access of Roma children to all levels of education, from kindergarten to high school, but also encouraging young and/or Roma adults who have not completed compulsory education to participate in educational activities or re-connect with the



Figure 2 Photo from the Conference "We Stay in School"

educational system, b) the psychosocial and educational support of the Roma community, c) raising the awareness of institutions, the educational community and of the wider society, d) the organization, operation and strengthening of the access of teenagers and adults who have not completed compulsory education to lifelong learning and education structures, as well as e) the connection of local society, school and family.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR | GENERAL INFORMATION

The University of New York Tirana accomplished great milestones and hosted notable events in 2023, including the opening of the East Campus and the launch of UNYT Press, a pioneering platform for scholarly research study. The institution organized international symposiums, curated cultural exhibitions, and conducted conferences on a variety of academic issues, demonstrating its constant devotion to intellectual exploration. The highlight of the year is UNYT Graduation

Ceremony 23', celebrating the accomplishments of its graduates and recognizing their potential as future leaders.

In a bold step, UNYT announced its impending relocation to a new campus that will exceed worldwide standards and reshape the educational environment. This exciting transformation demonstrates UNYT's commitment to delivering an extraordinary learning environment, cementing the university's status as a regional leader.

## NEWS EVENTS OF THE YEAR

### UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK TIRANA EAST CAMPUS | OPENING CEREMONY

The University of New York Tirana (UNYT) celebrated the grand opening of its state-of-the-art East Campus, which was attended by prominent personalities from Albanian and Turkish institutions, including the Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Albania, the President of the Turkish Maarif Foundation, and the Deputy Minister of Education and Sports of Albania.

Prof. Dr. Erkan ERDEMIR, Rector of UNYT, emphasized the university's growth, reopening of PhD programs, and increase in international students. Additionally, Albanian Deputy Minister of Education and Sports Dr. Albana Tole, emphasized UNYT's internationalization efforts through numerous partnerships which was followed by Ms. Anuela RISTANI, Deputy Mayor of Tirana, who expressed delight in the

city's educational development. While H.E. Mr. Tayyar Kağan ATAY, the Ambassador of the Republic of Türkiye to Albania, acknowledged rising investments and the strong partnership between Albania and Türkiye.

Located near TEG in Tirana-Elbasan Hwy Km 2, the new campus is spread across three floors, 3000 square meters, and provides an academic home for up to 600 students. The facility features modern classrooms, high-tech laboratories, and vibrant study spaces designed to support the academic life of our students. In 20 years, UNYT has been established as a dynamic multicultural leading center for higher education. University of New York Tirana vows to continue its endeavor toward Educating Tomorrow's Leaders!

## UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK TIRANA LAUNCHES UNYT PRESS

University of New York Tirana proudly announced the launch of UNYT Press at the University of New York Tirana! Our first published Book is a collection of academic research studies presented at the International Symposium on Turkish Teaching in the Balkans and Turcology. The symposium, organized by UNYT Balkan Research Center in September 2022, welcomed over 118 academic studies from esteemed academicians across Türkiye, Albania, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Serbia, Croatia, Greece, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Azerbaijan. UNYT is thrilled to share this impressive collection with you!



## THE EXHIBITION “SUPERMOSTRA ’22” BY PROF. LUIGI PRESTINENZA PUGLISI COMES TO UNYT EAST CAMPUS!

The University of New York Tirana unveiled the “SUPERMOSTRA ’22” exhibition, curated by the famous Prof. Luigi Prestinenza Puglisi, at a spectacular opening event at UNYT East Campus. Significant personalities from Italian cultural organizations and the architectural field attended the ceremony, including Mr. Alessandro Ruggera, Director of the Italian Cultural Institute of Tirana, architects, and UNYT representatives. During the ceremony, Prof. Dr. Erkan Erdemir, Rector of UNYT, emphasized the intersection of architecture and engineering in Albania, highlighting the collaborative nature of these disciplines.

Mr. Alessandro Ruggera, Director of the Italian Cultural Institute of Tirana, emphasized the importance of architecture

in Italian culture and the exhibition’s role in showcasing Italian architectural innovation. While the exhibition’s curator, Prof. Luigi Prestinenza Puglisi, presented insights into “SUPERMOSTRA ’22,” a virtual presentation exhibiting the works of 22 Italian architects in 2022. The exhibition attempted to capture the contemporary state of architecture and to spark innovation in an era when architectural progress has decreased. Ilaria Olivieri, the exhibition’s co-curator, explained how the exhibition explores itinerant architecture and its distinct qualities.

Compliments were received from several architects, emphasizing the necessity of human-centered architecture and gender-balanced design.

## INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON TURKISH TEACHING IN THE BALKANS AND TURCOLOGY | OPENING CEREMONY

On September 7th, 2022, UNYT Balkan Research Center organized the International Symposium on “Turkish Teaching in the Balkans and Turcology”, in cooperation with several universities and other national and international academic institutions.

The purpose of the symposium was to identify the main current problems in the field of teaching the Turkish language and studies of Turcology in the Balkan, to offer solutions to these problems, to evaluate scientific research about teaching in Turkish language and studies in the field of Turcology and the translation of Turkish literature in the Balkans. The symposium brings to the center of attention the works and publications of the most vocal researchers in these fields, to reveal previously unstudied issues and themes as well as shed light on future

studies. Representatives of Turkish and local institutions and organizations in Albania, Turcologists, academics, students, and other guests attended the program.

UNYT Rector Prof. Dr. Erkan Erdemir stated that the Foundation has a university and K12-level schools in Albania. Pointing out that UNYT offers undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral education, Prof. Dr. Erdemir said, “There are 670 students from 17 different countries in our university. For now, we have a small boutique university. Of course, we aim to grow in a very short time. We have international agreements with 37 universities from 17 different countries.” he said.

The symposium is planned to be held thematically in the upcoming years.



**2ND CONFERENCE IN BUSINESS RESEARCH & MANAGEMENT (BRM):  
BUSINESS RESEARCH IN THE NEW NORMAL**

The grand opening ceremony of the “2nd Conference in Business Research & Management (BRM): Business Research in the New Normal” marked a significant milestone as three prestigious universities, the University of New York Tirana, University di Tor Vergata Rome, and Universidad de Castilla-La Mancha, joined forces to organize this remarkable event.

The ceremony commenced with the insightful remarks of Professor Eriona Shtëmbari, PhD, who spearheaded the conference organization for our university, and Dr. Matteo Cristofaro, from the University of Rome Tor Vergata, who brought profound expertise in the field of higher education, enhancing the conference with his valuable insights and extensive knowledge.

Following up, the baton was passed to Assoc. Prof. Juna Miluka, the Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business at UNYT, delivered a warm and inspiring welcome to the attendees. This was followed by Prof. Lucia Leonelli, the

esteemed Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Business at the University of Tor Vergata, who shared insightful words of encouragement and set the tone for the conference. Additionally, Prof. Santiago Broncano, PHD took the stage to deliver a welcoming speech, further fostering collaboration and exchange among the participants. Furthermore, we were privileged to welcome Prof. Dursun Delen from Oklahoma State University, whose extensive knowledge and expertise in business analytics provided valuable insights into effectively navigating the dynamic research landscape.

Finally, Ms. Virág Zsár, a distinguished Senior Grant Advisor at HÉTFA Group Research Institute and Center for Economic and Social Analysis, concluded the series of presentations, offering her expertise in grant advisory and research analysis.

We are greatly excited about the conference’s impacts and eagerly await the upcoming sessions.!

**STUDENT INFORMATION CENTER (SIC) OPENED AT UKLO ON WORLD SCIENCE DAY FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT**

UKLO has recently established a new practice of joining the celebration of the UN World Science Day for Peace and Development which is celebrated every November 10, highlighting the significant role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues, at the same time underlining the importance and relevance of science in our daily lives. The University management, led by the newly elected Rector, Prof. Dr Sc. Igor Nedelkovski, decided to mark this Day in 2022 by opening a new corner for student activities with a library – the Student Information Center, where UKLO students will be given an opportunity to interactively engage in a variety of extra-curricular activities, take part in debates on current topics and deal with topics of interest in the direction of building a career of young researchers. In the words of Rector Nedelkovski on the opening day, this is THE place to go to for

our students as it is meant to provide the necessary cohesion of science and art and to invoke in them the love and appreciation of both. In parallel, it is the place for closely linking the academia with the industry and society for the purpose of ensuring that the wider community is kept informed of what the University does.

Among the most prominent events held at the SIC is the series of workshops, known as the Non-formal Learning Project (outlined in the new Rector's annual action plan). The Project's aim is to enhance the skills and competences of our students through a series of structured trainings and lectures delivered by eminent academics and professionals. The particular significance of the Project is that it was practically designed with a great deal of student engagement and the resulting topics reflect their actual need and interests, expressed via a survey. The topics of the Non-Formal Learning were offered in two packages, Fostering creativity, innovativeness and stimulating learning environment, and Encouraging a modern research and creative approach.

**UKLO HORIZONS – INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC JOURNAL (HISJ) FOLLOWS THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF ACADEMIC PUBLISHING**

Following a couple of months of dedicated work and efforts, HISJ – a scientific publication of our University, has undergone a significant transformation and is ready for a new, upgraded edition, with new content and new modality. The new approach to publishing at our University is coupled with the introduction of a respectable international editorial board that vouchsafes the improved quality of the Journal.

Aside from this novelty, the Journal, whose first edition dates back to 2005, is an annual, international, interdisciplinary, open-access, peer-reviewed scientific publication of University "St Kliment Ohridski" – Bitola, composed of two sections – A Section featuring articles from social sciences and humanities and B Section featuring articles from natural sciences and mathematics, engineering and technology, biotechnology, medicine and health sciences.

Over the course of the years, the Journal has always been committed to upholding high standards of academic integrity and intellectual rigor. As it is free to access and read, the Journal makes scientific research available to a global audience of researchers, scholars, students, thus aiming at promotion of its interdisciplinarity and fostering collaborations among researchers from a variety of fields, at the same time enabling new discoveries, innovations and creative solutions to the emerging complex issues.

Ever since its early days, the Journal is dedicated to providing an active international forum for analysis, research and debate in a broad range of scientific fields, bringing together established scientists and esteemed scholars, and, early-career scientists and doctoral students to give their input and contribute to greater exchange of ideas and knowledge.

**UNIVERSITY'S BALKAN POLYPHONIC YOUTH CHOIR RECEIVES INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL AWARD**

“The ‘Balkan Polyphonic Youth Choir’ of Trakya University, composed of students, returned with an award from the International Choir Festival held in Çanakkale. This year, the Trakya University Balkan Polyphonic Youth Choir participated in the 7th Çanakkale International Choirs Festival. Under the direction of Instructor Zübeyde Omurtak from the Faculty of Education’s Music Education Department, the Trakya University choir received the ‘Success Award in General Impression’ at the festival, where a total of 25 choirs, 19 from Turkey and 5 from abroad, performed.

During the festival, the 25 choirs from Mersin, Ankara,

Manisa, Istanbul, Çanakkale, Denizli, Edirne, Iskenderun, Bursa, Siirt, Bulgaria, and Germany presented their works. The performance of the Trakya University Balkan Polyphonic Youth Choir at the Çanakkale International Choir Festival, which brought together the unique historical values and beauties of Çanakkale, was highly acclaimed by the audience. The choir performed at the Troya Museum, Barış Kordonu, and İÇDAŞ Kara Yusuf Congress Center, providing a true musical feast for music enthusiasts.

The festival, filled with vibrant visuals and great enthusiasm, was attended by academics, choir conductors from both Turkey and abroad, and choir enthusiasts.”





## MEETING WITH THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO ALBANIA MR. ALASTAIR KING-SMITH

The Rector of the University of Elbasan, Prof. Dr. Skender Topi, held a fruitful meeting as part of internationalization with the British Ambassador to Albania, Mr. Alastair King-Smith.

During the meeting, they discussed the possibilities of increasing cooperation between the University of Elbasan, the British Embassy in Albania, and Higher Education Institutions in Britain. The Rector emphasized the importance of advancing higher education through the implementation of concrete collaborations. He mentioned the creation of

joint programs, participation in projects, the development of open lectures for students by British experts, the increase in academic mobility, and changing the narrative regarding emigration.

As part of his visit, Mr. King-Smith also held a meeting with students where issues related to students and their academic development were discussed.

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



## MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR OF SWEDEN TO ALBANIA, MRS. ELSA HÅSTAD

The Vice-Rector of the University of Elbasan welcomed the Swedish Ambassador to Albania, Ms. Elsa Håstad, in an official meeting.

During this meeting, discussions revolved around existing collaborations and prospects for future cooperation with higher education institutions in Sweden, as well as other partner institutions.

This meeting took place within the framework of the 8th Roundtable on Gender Issues, with the theme "Women's

Activism for Gender Equality," organized in collaboration with the Department of Foreign Languages. Ms. Håstad, along with Mr. Michele Ribotta, the representative of UN Women in Albania, and Ms. Mirela Gjoni from the Elbasan Women's Forum, engaged in discussions with students about empowering women's voices in society and increasing their participation in various spheres of society.

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



## THE UNIVERSITY OF ELBASAN "ALEKSANDËR XHUVANI" SUCCESSFULLY HELD THE 2ND INTERNATIONAL STUDENT CONFERENCE ON "CHALLENGES OF THE NEW GENERATIONS FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE."

In his welcoming speech, the Rector of the University, Prof. Dr. Skender Topi, expressed his appreciation for student engagement, considering this conference as the right platform to promote student talent and create an open debate on topics that are most important to them. As part of this conference, a Student Competition for Artistic and Artisanal Works was also held, with awards given for the best work.

The conference was attended and addressed by the Minister of Education and Sports, Prof. Dr. Evis Kushi, the State Minister for Youth and Children, Ms. Bora Muzhaqi, the Mayor of Elbasan, Mr. Gledian Llatja, the Mayor of

Maltepe, Istanbul, Mr. Ali Kiliç, as well as the director of the Regional Directorate of the National Employment and Skills Agency, Ms. Marsida Hyseni.

This conference, organized by the University of Elbasan, demonstrated the significant increase in student interest in exploring the fields of science, establishing their international networks, and presenting their original work. It also facilitated productive discussions and interactions among their peers.

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



**TURKISH AMBASSADOR TO ALBANIA, MR. TAYYAR KAĞAN ATAY, VISITED THE UNIVERSITY OF ELBASAN "ALEKSANDËR XHUVANI"**

Turkish Ambassador to Albania, Mr. Tayyar Kağan Atay, visited the University of Elbasan "Aleksandër Xhuvani" as part of the activities commemorating the 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Albania and Turkey. During his visit, he met with the Rector, Prof. Dr. Skender Topi, and engaged in a dialogue with students and faculty members of the university.

In his welcoming speech, Prof. Topi emphasized the excellent level of Albania-Turkey relations, exceptional cooperation with prestigious universities in Turkey under the Erasmus+ program, the ongoing joint projects that have seen continuous growth year after year, and the opportunities for studying the Turkish language at the University of Elbasan.

Ambassador Atay expressed his appreciation for Prof. Topi's efforts in creating spaces and opportunities for learning the Turkish language at the University of Elbasan. He also noted the increasing interest of young people in studying Turkish and highlighted the advantages that can be offered to young individuals pursuing university studies through full scholarships from undergraduate to doctoral levels.

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





The University of Ioannina recently joined a European consortium of seven higher education institutions, which aimed at submitting a proposal for funding under an EU Call for Projects. The alliance worked together closely (teleworking) to draft a proposal addressing a specific theme through a collaborative perspective. The aim of the project is to advance knowledge and train students in a subject area which is not addressed adequately in one national educational context alone or by one single institution.

After the proposal was filed our collaboration continued. We shifted to meetings by physical presence. Each partner University, in turns, acts as host organization, and the costs for travel, organization and subsistence are all covered through the Erasmus programme (Learning mobility), since we have all signed inter-institutional agreements to support our physical mobility.

Our University hosted a well-structured core meeting, in Metsovo (a mountainside town straddling the Pindus mountain range which is considered to be the hidden winter

gem of Greece), 24-27/04/2023, welcoming delegations from 5 of the 7 partner universities. This experience represented an excellent opportunity to get to know and evaluate our partner university, especially with regards to issues as trustworthiness, professionalism, communication, work ethics and approach to education.

During the meeting all participants recognized the challenges of the present, in any collaborative activity: designing compatible fee policies, aligning regulatory issues, customs and different educational systems, assuring quality processes, overcoming language differences, and contributing the same level of commitment to and engagement in the project.

The different roundtables that were organized and the very fruitful discussions that took place had a common objective: the brainstorming and the emergence of concrete projects both in the field of teaching and research on a specific topic that our consortium is tackling.



## ON THE 27TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BEGINNING OF THE FIRST LECTURES, WAS PROMOTED THE MONOGRAPH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TETOVA

On the occasion of marking the 27th anniversary of the beginning of the first lectures, the University of Tetova promoted the Monograph, during the period 1994/95 – 2004/2005. The monograph consists of 15 chapters and has a bibliography of 295 source materials. Special merits for the finalization of this magnificent work have the Editor-in-Chief of this work, Prof. Dr. Vullnet Ameti, former rector of the University of Tetova, who together with his team, with great perseverance, determination and maximum dedication worked on the finalization of this publication.

At the beginning of his speech spoke about the historical role that the University of Tetova has had in many important processes for our nation. “The University of Tetova is an example of knowledge, freedom, culture, art and civilization. The University of Tetova is the precious stone in the eternal crown of our identity. The University of Tetova is a continuation of the ideas and efforts of the thinkers of the National Renaissance and later paradigms, who believed, rightly, that a nation becomes free through cultural and educational exaltation. Education opens new worldviews for life, society, nation, man, and humanity. Education heals the wounds of society and gives the right direction to the nation’s journey. Through education nations are ennobled and become part of the great family of civilized nations. They become part of cultural interactions and coalitions and participate in the creation of values that are put in the service of all humanity. Through education man becomes aware of his role in society, in national life and beyond. With this ideal, the University of Tetova was founded and exalted, which has created and continues to create its own history. The ideators and founders of the University of Tetova worked tirelessly with this ideal, with this spirit of dedication and sacrifice. They wanted Albanians to live in a righteous state. According to Plato, the just state enables the citizen to have a just cultural and social formation. A just state enables man to take advantage of the opportunities offered by freedom. We live with these ideals, which make the world more beautiful for future generations, who must preserve this spirit because it guides and motivates them during their life journey. Social orientation towards Western civilization has been and continues to remain the primary mission of UT. Working for the University of Tetova is more a sense of responsibility than a sense of privilege. During my work as rector, I felt as a moral, civic, and intellectual obligation for the University of Tetova to have a comprehensive monograph. This project has been thought of and worked on for a long time. Remembering the difficult path that the University of Tetova went through, we know the value of this

sacred institution. We feel that we have this institution as a testament that we must always preserve and make it better. Despite many obligations, I have always found time to work diligently in this project, which has now been finalized “- said the Editor-in-Chief of the Monograph of the UT, Prof. Dr. Vullnet Ameti.



He, further, speaking in the capacity of Editor-in-Chief of the monograph, said that today I am happy to have the special honor to present to you the monograph for the University of Tetova. According to him, the preparation of the monograph required a lot of effort and dedication, extensive research, collection of materials and documents, field work, data verification, systematization and editing of texts. “The monograph contains a total of 15 chapters. The first chapter brings original evidence on the initiative for the foundation and start of work of the first Albanian University in the Republic of North Macedonia. The other chapters, from the second to the ninth, shed light on the functioning of the University of Tetova, the resistance of the university leaders in the face of state pressures, as well as the sensitization of the public opinion of the country and the international factor for its officialization. Chapters X-XI provide data on the agreement reached between the leadership of UT and the chairman of DUI, Ali Ahmeti, which resulted in the officialization of UT, amending, and supplementing the Law on Higher Education, as well as the approval of Law on the State University of Tetova. “Dear Mr. Ali Ahmeti, thank you for the continuous support you have given and are giving to the University of Tetova!”. In Chapters XIII-XIV we find information about finances, teaching facilities, administrative and other auxiliary spaces

during the years 1994-2004. The monograph concludes with Chapter XV, emphasizing the commitment of the UT to the implementation of the mission launched by key figures of the Albanian people. This text of the Monograph extends to 499 pages, is based on 326 footnotes and bibliography of 295 source materials. This work has been as arduous as it is tempting, because when someone works for the University of Tetova it feels more deeply the obligation one has for the common good. When man works with love, passion, and with a sublime purpose, then it gains a strange force. Through research and scientific work, we believe that we have managed to properly finalize the comprehensive monograph, which will serve our memory, will be an appreciation for those who sacrificed and worked for the University of Tetova and will be a meaningful message for those who study and will study at this university. And the message is that great works, such as the University of Tetova, require joint work, wisdom, perseverance, sacrifice, and determination. As the initiator and Editor-in-Chief of the monograph, I was convinced that had been created the right time distance to write the history of the University of Tetova, starting from the birth of the idea, its shaping, the foundation of the institution and the subsequent work. We have seen the whole process in the light of documents and facts. By preparing the monograph we have recalled all the tireless work that has been done for the University of Tetova during this period. A job that deserves to be remembered and respected, because this is a journey through many difficulties and sacrifices “- added among others Prof. Dr. Vullnet Ameti.

At the end of his speech, the Editor-in-Chief Prof. Dr. Vullnet Ameti said that, by preparing the monograph, we aimed to arouse the necessary feeling that big projects require unity and cooperation between researchers, for a work to be as perfect as possible. “When we work for our university, which will remain behind us, because it is the castle built and perpetuated between the common sacrifice, we must focus our mind and will there and believe that we have never done enough for it. That we need to do even more. Only in this way, we not only justify our work, but also respect every effort and contribution to this university. The University of Tetova, due to its specific history, evokes a special sensitivity in the soul and mind of Albanians. Therefore, they are not indifferent to this hearth of knowledge. This constant civic and national attention is good for the University of Tetova. This attention is the guardian angel of this university, which is exalted and will be exalted continuously. We believe that the Monograph for the University of Tetova will motivate many other authors in the future to write books of this size, because for this castle of light, education, culture, art, and science will be written throughout the life. As the primary purpose of this monograph is to reveal a memory and history of the University of Tetova, we are open to any suggestions,

to be completed during future reprints. As Editor-in-Chief of the Monograph, I am grateful to all those who as part of the editorial staff have given their effort and knowledge in this finalized project, we have been open and ready to consider any suggestions, because we all have a good goal, and our good intention is the commitment to our University and Yours, to the University of all. This Monograph has been written by everyone. It was written by those who came up with the idea for the foundation of the University of Tetova. It was written by those who shaped the project. It was written by those who brought the University of Tetova to life. It was written by those who supported it in all ways, those who lectured and those who studied there. Above all, this monograph was written by those who sacrificed for this University. With their work they honored themselves and the nation. They kept alive the enlightenment spirit we mentioned above. And this spirit guides us today and forever, that a free and exalted nation is one that has love for knowledge, science, culture, art, and works tirelessly to have a deserved place in the family of free nations and civilized, who are moving towards a future oriented by the light of hope, of a better national, international, but also individual life “- concluded his speech Prof. Dr. Vullnet Ameti, Editor-in-Chief of the Monograph of the UT.

According to the reviewer, Prof. Dr. Arsim Bajrami, the monograph of UT, is a publication and documentary, which reflects the difficult history of this institution, the popular support that gave support to this institution, the political support of political parties, the founding mayors of Albanian-majority municipalities and up to the process of full formalization under the Ohrid Agreement. “The monograph, with statistical data describes the process of expanding the academic capacity of UT year after year, increasing the number of faculties from 6 to the foundation of new faculties in all academic fields. The authors of the Monograph rightly highlight the historical role of the former Rector, Prof. Dr. Fadil Sulejmani, who with intellectual courage led and led the process of founding UT, facing state repression, constant pressure, and humiliation that the then government made to this institution. Professor Fadil Sulejmani is rightly considered as one of the founders of UT and his statue in the courtyard of this university will remind the new generations of its historical role. Also, the authors of the Monograph emphasize the importance of the martyr Abdylselam Emini in defense of UT. On this occasion, I want to express the greatest respect to the family of this martyr who was martyred with the ideal of knowledge, education, and prosperity of the Albanian nation in North Macedonia “- said the reviewer, Prof. Dr. Arsim Bajrami.

While the reviewer, Prof. Dr. Myqereme Rusi, one of the women participating in the founding of UT, talking about

the events of 1994 said that I am very proud and happy to be part of the history of the founding of the University of Tetova, but that this university does not resemble to others. "The only temple we talk about the history of the foundation is the University of Tetova, there is no talk of other universities, because they have the date and year of foundation that they celebrate. It is quite different, that other universities are established by institutions, by foundations, i.e., a completely different way of founded, as universities should be founded. Meanwhile, this is something else entirely because it came from the people themselves. The initiator was Prof. Dr. Fadil Sulejmani, but we all supported him with great dedication and courage until the end, until this idea was accomplished. There were many vicissitudes, there were many Albanian intellectuals among us who said, it is not done, it is utopia, and they left the initiative we had. I guess not everyone takes this job seriously because we will go to the end. We worked hard, we sacrificed a lot. The foundation of the UT has not been easy at all. Only the collection of signatures has been quite difficult, 14 of us were that night at the house of Haxhi Bariu, who showed courage and came to sign the act of founding the University of Tetova" - said Prof. Dr. Myqereme Rusi.

Whereas the former Rector of the University of Tetova, at the same time the reviewer of the UT Monograph, Prof. Dr. Nexhbedin Beadini, who assessed that the period from the founding of the university has not been easy. The first period is from 1994 to 2004. This is the most historic, most glorious period of the University of Tetova, because it is the period of resistance, it is the period of sacrifice, it is the period of glory, which survived during those 10 years, to end with a capital work, with a historical stoicism of the University of Tetova and for this the students of the University of Tetova deserve credit, the professors of the University of Tetova have merits, in particular, the professors of the University of Prishtina, who with persistence of them and without hesitation came to our aid to conclude this capital work. I would also like to thank the professors of the University of Tirana, who also stood by us, to successfully conclude this important and historic work during that period of the first decade. The second period is during the officialization and after the officialization, because as the foundation and the officialization of the University of Tetova is a capital work, for this reason I especially greet the chairman of DUI, Mr. Ali Ahmeti, who together with us had the courage to sign a historic Memorandum for the officialization of the University of Tetova, which was a guide and a document that would follow the act of officialization," said Prof. Dr. Nexhbedin Beadini.

This promotion was attended by many personalities of academic, intellectual, political, and social life. The University of Tetova distributed copies of the monograph to all participants in this promotion.



## LEADERS OF THE UT WELCOMED IN THE MEETING THE ATHLETE FROM TETOVO, AGRON HAJREDINI



Rector of the University of Tetova, Prof. Dr. Jusuf Zejneli, President of the Senate, Prof. Dr. Vullnet Ameti, Dean of the Faculty of Physical Education, Prof. Dr. Shpresa Memishi organized a special reception for special Olympic champion Agron Hajredini and his coaches Ifraim Luta and assistant coach Elmedin Mustafa.

The athlete Agron Hajredini in the Special Olympic World Games, for people with special abilities, which were held in Berlin, Germany, managed to be declared Olympic champion, where he also won the gold medal in athletics in the long jump category of 1.60 cm.

Initially, the Rector of the University of Tetova, Prof. Dr. Jusuf Zejneli congratulated them for the success they have achieved in the Special Olympics World. He said that the athlete Agron Hajredini should be an example for all the rest of us on how to be engaged and dedicated to reach the heights of success. His success is motivating for Agron himself, it is also an additional motivation for his coaches,

but also for the rest of us who bear public responsibilities.

While the President of the Senate, Prof. Dr. Vullnet Ameti said that Agron, with his victory in this Olympiad, has not only written his name in the history of this sport, but has also honored us as a society and as a state. Therefore, we as an institution will always be open to help the people who with their works make us all proud.

Meanwhile, the athlete Agron Hajredini and his coach Ifraim Luta thanked the leaders of the University of Tetova for the opportunity and continuous support they have given them, especially in the use of the sports ground of the University of Tetova, whenever they needed.

More than 7,000 athletes from 190 different countries of the world participated in the Special Olympic World Games, while as a sign of respect for the success achieved in these competitions, the leaders of the UT, to the athlete Agron Hajredini and his coaches were bestowed some symbolic gifts.







# **Balkan Universities Association**

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