STAND

Strengthening university autonomy and increasing accountability and transparency of Western Balkans Universities.

Kick off Meeting
3-5 March, 2021

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Project Coordinator
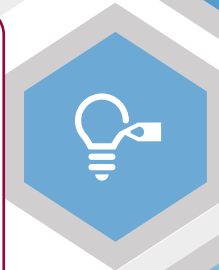
STAND Project

Background

Aim

GOVERNANCE

Higher education governance and its autonomy is strongly enhanced by the effective and convincing accountability, transparency and financial sustainability.

ACCOUNTABILITY

In spite of the challenges, higher education institutions should invest more in dealing with issues of social, academic and financial accountability to students and to the community at large.

AUTONOMY

The autonomy and university transparency take different forms in each country, however the intense debates between higher education institutions and the government manifest the need to foster the mechanisms that lead to strong university governance and increased accountability and transparency.
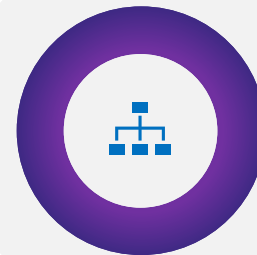
BEST EUROPEAN PRACTICE

To foster the transition of higher education system towards decentralized, autonomous governance and the capacities of national authorities in Western Balkans, the consortium took the initiative to address such important topic with an increasing demand for comparability and benchmarking university structure across borders using the case of Kosovo, Albania and Montenegro following the standards of the University Autonomy practices in Europe.

AIM OF THE PROJECT

STAND project aims to improve the processes and mechanisms of the university autonomy by increasing the management capacities, accountability and transparency of Western Balkans Universities.

The project is in line with national and regional priorities for joint structural projects on governance, strategic planning and management of higher education, under category II- improving management and operation of higher education institutions and will support public and private higher education institutions in Kosovo, Albania and Montenegro to achieve set priorities.

Countries Context

01

02

03

STAND

Kosovo

01

02

03

STAND

STAND project seeks to enhance university autonomy in Kosovo and to develop and upgrade both the management and governance of Kosovo universities, as well as the capacities of national authorities to modernise their higher education systems by supporting the development of adequate autonomy models, implementation and monitoring of reform policies on the university autonomy.

Albania

01

02

03

STAND project fosters the dialogue between universities and ministries, and thus enables the consortium to contribute more effectively to extending the autonomy of Albania higher education institutions and strengthening regional cooperation.

It is essential for the country to incorporate the standards and principles that ensuring quality and sustainability of HEI system.

STAND

Montenegro

STAND

01

02

03

STAND project will contribute to the country 's development through enhancement of higher education quality and dissemination of knowledge and skill. Meanwhile, the realization of effectiveness, efficiency, and integrity of governance in the framework of national reform is of high priority in Montenegro.

Collaboration of the University of Montenegro as the main public university in the country, the Ministry of Education and Science, Accreditation Agency and other stakeholders' part of the project will contribute to the country reforms in higher education system and ensure the long-term sustainability of university autonomy in other HEIs in Montenegro.

Objectives

Objective 1

To enhance modernization of governance in Western Balkans Universities through capacity building, experience exchange and upgraded infrastructure.

Objective 2

To create and adopt the university autonomy scorecard for Kosovo, Albania and Montenegro.

Objective 3

To improve the university autonomy through empowering national and university level regulations and structures.

Objective 4

To expand an effective cooperation between HEIs and the relevant ministries in improving the transparency, accountability and financial sustainability.

Objective 5

To establish the Expert network on university autonomy.

Strengthening university autonomy and increasing accountability and transparency of Western Balkan countries

STAND IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

WP1

February 22 2021

March 16 2021

WP3

March 16 2021

October 30 2021

WP8

January 15 2021

June 18 2023

WP5

February 01 2021

November 30 2023

2021　　　　**2022**　　　　**2023**

June 15 2021

December 01 2021

January 15 2021

January 15 2022

February 15 2022

December 30 2023

January 15 2021

January 14 2024

WP2

WP6

WP4

WP7

10

Project Partners	STAND
International Business College Mitrovica (IBC-M)	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (Kosovo)/(MEST)
University of Prishtina (UP)	Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth (Albania)
University of Gjilan " Kadri Zeka" (UKZ)	Ministry of Education (Montenegro)
University of Applied Sciences in Ferizaj (USAF)	Hamburg University of Technology (Germany)
University of Gjakova "Fehmi Agani" (UGJFA)	University of Zagreb (Croatia)
Universiteti POLIS/(U_POLIS)	University of Foggia (Italy)
University of Tirana (UT)	South East European University (North Macedonia)
Aleksandër Moisiu University Durrës (UAMD)	European University Association (EUA), Belgium
University of Montenegro (UM)	

Project Associated Partners	STAND
Kosovo Accreditation Agency (Kosovo)	Agency for control and quality assurance of higher education (Montenegro)
Quality Assurance Agency in Higher Education (Albania)	

EXPECTED RESULTS

- Developed the Autonomy Scorecard for Kosovo, Albania and Montenegro

- Enhanced the human, technical and organizational capacities in the governance and financial accountability

- Empowered university autonomy in main dimensions: organizational, staffing, financial, and academic levels

- Harmonized practices between HEIs and relevant ministries using the example of EU partners and upgraded University regulations

- Established Expert's Network on University Autonomy

INNOVATIVE CHARACTER

1. Development of university autonomy scorecard for Kosovo, Albania, Montenegro, internationalization approach that will enhance ongoing and complementary collaboration between universities, policymakers, and EU partners. This essential link is still considered weak in target countries with a traditional higher education system.

2. Enhanced links between university and ministry will improve university autonomy and will provide better educational outcomes that have a direct impact on labour market productivity and society as a whole.

3. Adoption of holistic university reforms accompanied with appropriate support for skills and organizational structure development in Kosovo, Albania and Montenegro.

4. Formation of a group of experts trained by STAND for the dissemination of knowledge on university autonomy in general and specifically for the case of Kosovo, Albania and Montenegro.
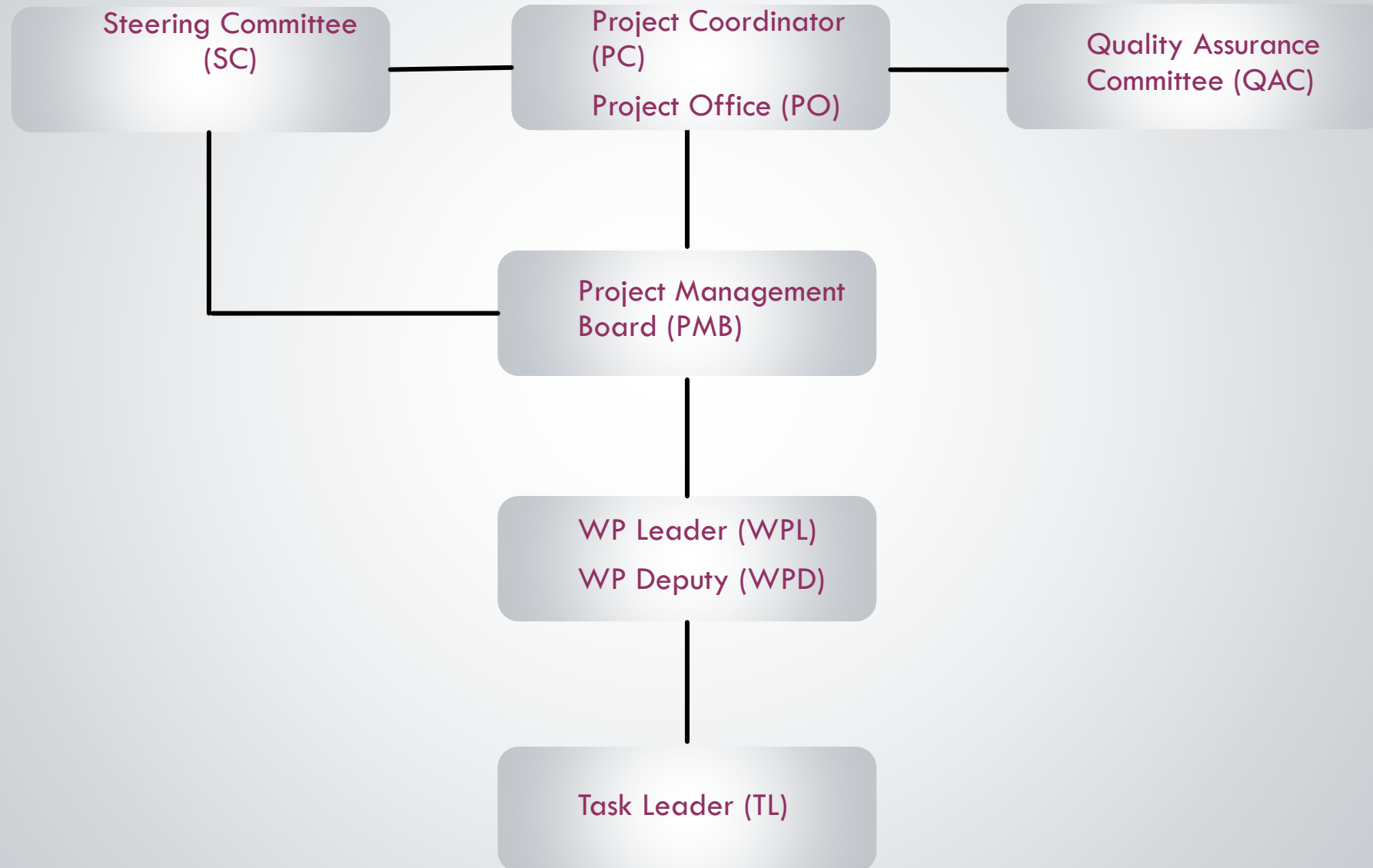
Work Packages

WP1	Preparation
WP2	Development of University Scorecard
WP3	Enhancement of university governance for promoting autonomy
WP4	Upgrade of national and university regulations
WP5	Technical Infrastructure Modernization and Update
WP6	Quality Plan
WP7	Dissemination and Exploitation
WP8	Project Management

BUDGETING

Budget Model (Annex III of Grant Agreement)	EUR
Staff costs	395,206.00
Travel costs	74,435.00
Equipment	298,000.00
Costs of stay	152,640.00
Subcontracting	78,000.00
TOTAL GRANT	**999,081.00**

STAND Management Organigram

IMPACT

- STAND will bring together HEIs, national authorities in partner countries, including international organisations that are operating in the region and supporting the HEI sector.

- STAND will update the national strategy in higher education and contribute to the reforms the HEIs in the region that will strengthen the university autonomy, as well as accountability and transparency.

- STAND will provide a recommendation on adapting/ upgrading of standards that ensure adequate university governance, an increase of study programmes in line with labour market requirements, the promotion of scientific research, and the facilitating of artistic work and innovation in higher education institutions.

- STAND will streamline & simplify rules and regulations, to bridge the gap between theoretical and real autonomy; set the appropriate balance of autonomy and accountability.

THANK YOU