

# ***Strengthening university autonomy and increasing accountability and transparency of Western Balkans Universities (STAND)***

**Kick off Meeting  
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**POLIS University**

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## General overview of the institution

POLIS University (U\_POLIS) is a young, yet ambitious institution, research-led university, supporting a focused range of core disciplines in the field of architecture, design, civil engineering, urban planning and environmental management. U\_POLIS delivers education by the highest academic standards and through applied and scientific research it develops and promotes “scientific excellence and innovation”.

The university is comprised by 3 main units: Faculty of Research and Development, Faculty of Architecture and Design and Faculty of Planning, Environment and Urban Management.

## University autonomy

POLIS University is a “privately funded institution” with strong social responsibility.

The founders are a group of prominent Albanian professionals, civil society activists and academics that aim at the “creation of a critical mass” of expertise and civic-entrepreneurial leadership able to push Albania and the Region towards EU and global trends



- Established by the decision of the District Court of Tirana No. 35386 dated 04.04.2006;
- Licensed by the Council of Ministers Decisions VKM No. 698, dated 11.10.2006.
- Accredited institutionally as well as in the respective programs
- By Decision of Council of Ministers [VKM No.746, dated. 24.10.2012.](#) U\_POLIS is known as Higher Education Institution with the "University"

## Academic and Financial Accountability

U\_POLIS has a unique profile among Albanian HEI –s deriving mainly from the specific business model adopted by the Board of Founders.

- U\_POLIS considers its legal status as a “private” HEI not as a mere profit-making instrument, but rather a status that ensures institutional independence, while being fully aware of the social corporate responsibility.
- Therefore in practice U\_POLIS acts as a non for profit institution, reinvesting everything in the ulterior growth of the institution, not only in quantitative but also qualitative terms.
- This is not very typical for the management of an HEI in Albania, but in this case, the fact that the founders are also professionals and civic activists with long standing experience in the disciplines delivered at U\_POLIS makes them very committed to the quality of these programs.

## Academic and Financial Accountability

U\_POLIS pays specific attention to continuously improve its institutional capacities, in all terms:

- human,
- infrastructural,
- managerial,
- financial



Actually it provides an optimal academic staff / student ratio, an excellent space / student ratio and several services and support structures, which contribute in a high quality teaching and learning environment.

## Strategic partnership, grants

POLIS has an extensive network of international partners and partnerships, which intends to reinforce and enrich further, but the more specific focus is to strengthen the school's position in the region.

Scientific research is an integral and essential part of higher education. Transfer and application of knowledge and direct involvement in projects constitutes a POLIS objective, instrumental to its teaching excellence and overall mission. The university has a growing portfolio of implemented projects, be it in the capacity of partner or lead partner, both on a local, regional and international scale, such as:

## Strategic partnership, grants

- POLIS University has implemented successfully in the capacity of lead partner (among 11 partners) TEMPUS project “Developing and Adapting Professional Programs for Energy Efficiency in the Western Balkans” This was the first TEMPUS Project for Albania as a lead partner.
- POLIS University is implementing many projects for Capacity Building in Higher Education, in two of which POLIS University is in the role of Coordinator, the project: “Developing Research and Innovation Capacities in Albania and Kosovo”/DRIVE and ”Inclusive tertiary EDucation in the West BAlkanS “/ IDEA
- Many research projects are being developed with Universities from Austria, Italy, Netherland etc.

## Role in the STAND project

POLIS will participate and play a proactive role in every work package:

- It will provide relevant expertise primarily from the project management, development, dissemination and exploitation.
- It will utilise all of its regional and international networks to exploit the results of the projects to maximise the impact of this project in quality of higher education.
- In particular, it will active role in the development of University Autonomy Scorecards and upgrade of national and university regulations.





**Thank you for the attention!**