

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

**Kick off Meeting
3-5 March, 2021**

**University of Gjakova
“FEHMI AGANI”**

Denis Spahija – Head of International Cooperation Office

Outline of presentation

- **General overview of the institution**
- **University autonomy**
- **Academic and Financial Accountability**
- **Strategic partnership, grants**
- **Role in the STAND project**

- **General overview of the institution**

- **The University of Gjakova “Fehmi Agani” (UGJFA) is a descendant of the High School that prepared the teachers during the second half of the sixties (1968) and of the University of Prishtina. The government of Kosovo established the Public University of Gjakova which began operating since 1 October 2013 with three Faculties:**
 - **Faculty of Education;**
 - **Faculty of Medicine;**
 - **Faculty of Philology**
 - Faculty of Applied Sciences;
 - Faculty of Social Sciences.

- **UGJFA with its existing accredited academic units together with planned new programs have the consent of qualitative staff in relevant fields. Studying programs are drafted based on Bologna system and foresees the transfer of credits, and are closely related to the labour market requests in place, region and even wider.**

- **University autonomy**

Our universities has four main dimensions of relative autonomy:

- **Academic;**
 - **Organizational;**
 - **Financial and**
 - **Staff autonomy.**
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- We do apply Bologna study system, and do apply for accreditation.
 - When it comes to finances we do report and manage the state grant that is foreseen by government for our institution and for moment, it goes through MEST.

Academic and Financial Accountability

The University of Gjakova 'Fehmi Agani' highly values the protection of the academic integrity of professors and insists on maintaining their professional ethics based on institutional regulations. This commitment of the university has been confirmed by the monitoring of central institutions and civil society organizations which deal with the assessment of academic integrity in higher education institutions in the Republic of Kosovo. The University's commitment to academic integrity is ongoing.

The Strategic Plan of the University envisages one of the strategic objectives "Quality Assurance and Academic Integrity" while concrete activities envisage:

- a) drafting the Manual for Academic Ethics which will contain guidelines to avoid fraudulent journals and
- b) b) training on academic ethics with academic staff and with students.

Academic and Financial Accountability

In terms of regulations, the University of Gjakova has:

- **Code of Ethics** which has been approved by the Governing Council and which is in line with the University Statute and the European principles of protection of academic integrity in teaching and scientific research. Through this Code the university aims to protect academic integrity, the values of academic freedom, institutional autonomy and ethical integrity.
- **Code of Ethics for Administrative Personnel** which aims to establish ethical rules of conduct for administrative staff, in accordance with the highest professional standards of work, impartiality and independence in the exercise of public office and in the performance of duties and responsibilities. The Code of Ethics for Administrative Personnel aims to avoid all forms of discrimination and abuse, govern conflict of interest, improve the organizational climate and work environment, prevent unethical and illegal behaviour.

Academic and Financial Accountability

- The Ethics Council;
- Disciplinary Commission;
- Law on Public Financial Management and Accountability, and follows the Budget Law for the Fiscal Year according to the budget limits approved by the Assembly of Kosovo;
- Kosovo Financial Management System (KFMIS) is applied, which is an integrated system for budget expenditure oversight procedures by Budget Organizations, with a high control by the Kosovo Treasury and the CBK;

Strategic partnership, grants

Strategic partnerships:

- **Partnership with Business Environment;**
- **With Universities in region;**
- **With universities in Europe that do have similar programs, that are from small places who understand and are willing for cooperation ect.**

Strategic partnership, grants



Erasmus +



Heras



Ceeplus



U.S. Embassy



Caritas



WORLD BANK

World Bank



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Ministria e Arsimit, e Shkencës dhe Teknologjisë
Ministarstva za Obrazovanje Nauku i Tehnologiju



Strategic partnership, grants



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

SUSWELL (Building Capacity Through Social Innovation Towards Improving And Sustaining Health And Well-Being In Communities)

Strategic partnership, grants

- HERAS+ for 2021: “The Writer and Man – approaches to profiles of Ivo Andric, Ezra Pound and Peter Handke”
- “Capacity Building in International Relations and Project Writing”;
- “Active Ageing in a Developing Society – current state of art and future perspectives”;
- “Set up effective institutionalized interaction between University and Alumni – a concept for Kosovo and/ or the University of Gjakova”;
- “Percutaneous coronary intervention in patients with acute myocardial infarction in population of Kosovo”;
- “Prevalence of Sarcopenia and the Impact of Genetic Factors”;



Central European Exchange Program
 for University Studies

Strategic partnership, grants

- ” Network “Computer Aided Design of automated systems for assembling”
- “Network "Engineering as Communication Language in Europe"

CEEPUS mobilities from UGJFA	2016	2017	2018	2019
Alba Iulia 27.05-03.06.2017		1		
Koszalin 04.06-10-06.2017		1		
Poloni		1		
Hungari			1	
Poznan 20.05-26.05.2018			1	
Koszalin 03.06-09.06.2018			1	
Budapest 12.02-16.02.2018			1	
Poznan 19.05-25.05.2019				1
Warsaw 18.03-25.03.2019				2
Sozopol 03.06-03.07.2019				6
Budapest 12.10-19.10.2019				2

CEEPUS mobilities to UGJFA	2016	2017	2018	2019
Poznan 15.05-21.05.2017		1		
Obuda Budapest 05.06-10.06.2017		2		
Poznan 23.04-29.4.2018			1	
Sofia 11.03.17.03.2019				2
Poznan 29.04-03.05.2019				1
Koszalin 20.05-24.05.2019				13

Strategic partnership, grants



- "Sustainable use of groundwater resources and Insurance review in the municipality of Gjakova“;
- Fulbright scholarship.

Strategic partnership, grants



"Establishing high quality preschool standards by strengthening education, science and economics - HOPE"

Strategic partnership, grants



KODE

National Research and Education Network (NREN)



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Strategic partnership, grants

- “Heavy metal contamination of cow's milk and biomarkers of effects: Contamination and risk assessment”

Strategic partnership, grants



- La protection et la prévention de la propagation de COVID-19, aussi le traitement psychologique de victimes de violence domestique pendant la pandémie (avec un focus particulier sur les femmes dans les Maisons Sûres à Gjakova et Peja)



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Strategic partnership, grants

- “Heavy metal contamination of cow's milk and biomarkers of effects: Contamination and risk assessment”

Role in the **STAND** project

UGJFA will participate at Kick-off meeting and project management workshop and take part in formation of project's structure and adoption of working methodology. UGJFA will analyze reports obtained from Partner Countries, related to needs, constrains and possibilities, and then build them up by own review and propositions. The aim is to set the realistic base for the strength of university autonomy, accountability and transparency and ensure future financial sustainability.

UGJA will participate in all trainings at all levels during the project together with all other partners on university governance for promoting autonomy, contribute to the establishing a regional expert network on university autonomy, conduct capacity building training and consultancy sessions for management staff (senior and middle

Role in the **STAND** project

UGJFA will participate in work of Committee for Quality assurance, including establishing quality standards and indicators, and deliver appropriate reports; and attend planned meetings, in order to secure the attractiveness, quality, availability, finally the long-lasting use of project result concerning the production of scorecard and strategy document on university autonomy and national/regional education strategy.

UGJFA will attend dissemination meetings, will post the information about project on institutional web site and regularly update it, and will as well contribute to the high-quality appearance and regular updating of project profile in social networks.

UGJFA will engage in organization and holding of wide range of promotional and informative events (such as open hours during the meetings, workshops or capacity building activities; institutional, local, regional, national or international promotions of published scorecard reports and new national/regional strategy on education; participation at professional gatherings; trainings and workshops, etc.).

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