

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

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

**Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth**

**Matilda Bulku Head of Unit, Unit of Scientific Research Policies and  
Strategies, Egest Gjokuta Head of Unit, Unit for Preparation and Feasibility  
of Projects in Scientific Research**

## **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

- **Decision of Council of Ministers No.505, dated 13.09.2017 point 3:** Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth exercises its activity conform respective legislation in the following areas:
  - b) Higher education
    - **Law 80/2015 “On higher education and scientific research in higher education institutions in the Republic of Albania”:** Article 7 defines the competences of MESY in the area of higher education. On finances: The Ministry proposes in the Council of Ministers the funding budget models for higher education and scientific research based on this law and other bylaws;

## University Autonomy

- **Law 80/2015** : Article 3 guarantees the academic and financial autonomy for higher education institutions: point 1: Higher Education Institutions are guaranteed the right for academic freedom, financial autonomy, organisative and personnel selection freedom conform respective legislation.

## University Autonomy

- **Law No 80/2015 Article 3 (3) letters a-d:** Financial autonomy is guaranteed by the right of HEIs to: create legal income by teaching, scientific research, intellectual property rights marks or patents and by services, by artistic and sport activities and by other economic activities conform legislation in force; to benefit funds from state and other organisms, to define internal funding rules on distribution and use of incomes according to activity and needs of the institution; to define study tariffs conform the law; to administer all HEI assets that they legally possess conform their mission

## Academic and financial accountability

- **Law 80/2015 Article 7 letter ë:** The Ministry responsible for education audits at least three times per year the use of public funds in HEIs. Public higher education institutions send to the Ministry a detailed yearly report on their activities.
- **DCM No. 781/2018, «On guarantee of transparency in higher education institutions»:** The boards of administration of higher education institutions send at Interinstitutional Center of Albanian Academic Network detailed data on their income and expenses, data on midterm budget, yearly budget, grants from state budgets and other incomes, expenditures for scientific research and capital expenditures for any public higher education institution, data on scholarships and funding means of programmes of HEI etc.

## **Strategic partnership, grants**

- The Ministry of Education Sports and Youth has participated in several Erasmus Plus projects from 2014 onwards including also structural projects.
- The ministry possesses staff that has the necessary experience for participating in projects as well as in other international partnerships including Erasmus Plus grants

## Strategic partnership, grants

### Examples of Erasmus Plus projects include:

#### Networks:

- **E-twinning**
- **Eurydice**
- **Eurostudent**

#### Other type of Projects

- **Reforming Doctoral Assistance in Montenegro and Albania (MARDS)**
- **Improving Research Capacities of Albanian Higher Education Institutions in Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage (RICH)**
- **Bologna Hub peer support**
- **Supporting European Quality Assurance Agencies in Meeting the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the EHEA (SEQA-ESG)**
- **Strengthening Quality Assurance of Private Higher Education Institutions in Albania**



## Role in Stand Project

- **The Ministry supports the activities of the project and looks forward for its final document to be used in the future when drafting policies regarding financial accountability of Higher Education Institutions.**