

Working Package 1

Mapping 3M activities in partner universities

Deliverable 1.2

Mapping 3M activities and needs in University of Shkodra

Final report

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**U3M-AL PROJECT - DEVELOPING THIRD MISSION ACTIVITIES IN
ALBANIAN UNIVERSITIES**

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Short profile university (type of university, size, special features)

“Luigj Gurakuqi” University of Shkodra was established on 02. Sept. 1957 as a High Pedagogical Institute. On the 28.05.1991 it changed its status to University of Shkodra, "Luigj Gurakuqi".

This University has a total of 178 full – time professors, 485 part time lecturers and 97 non- academic personnel. It has a total of 13751 students.

Shkodra University is organised as following:

- Rector,
- Pro – Rector,
- Chancellor,
- Senate,
- Administrative Council,
- Deans of the Faculties,
- Heads of the Departments.
- The Administrative personnel which plays a great role to the progress of the university activity.

The University of Shkodra now offers the following programs of study:

- 25 programs of study *bachelor*,
- 19 programs of study, *professional master*,
- 16 programs of study, *master of science*,
- 1 doctoral study.

This University offers two types of programs of study, full-time (during the week) and part-time (at weekend).

1.2 Regional context

University communities should play an important role in the social and economic life of a country. In the same time accordingly, cross / trans border cooperation is often considered by experts and policy analysts as an effective tool to boost social and economic development in remote areas and to move on with further integration of national economies in a given geographic area.

Shkodra University is the only public University in the northern Albania. In the above mentioned context, this University is improving or creating new curricula in order to best fit to the demand of the trade needs of the region. For example, Shkodra region is famous for the culture and tourism and in this framework there are offered new programs of study in Albanian Language, Tourism, Environmental Sciences etc, at this University.

Cooperation is also important for our University. In this framework, we have signed and implemented many different agreements in order to do the internationalisation of this University.

Students enrolled in this University are mainly from northern part of Albania. There are also some Albanian speaking students enrolled from the neighbour countries such Montenegro, Kosovo. Some Turkish students are attending their studies at the Faculty of Foreign Languages.

1.3 Changes in the role of universities in the context of regional economy and change of the U3M role

As already mentioned Universities are and will be the promoter of changes in the social and economic life. The new curricula need to meet the European standards. One step to do this has been the implementation of the Bologna process. The University of Shkodra started its implementation in 2002.

University of Shkodra has organised many national and international conferences on different topics related to the region, such as in Tourism, Economics, and Albanological Studies, Water Studies of the region ect and on district strategic developing plan.

2 INSTITUTIONAL PERSPECTIVE TO U3M

2.1 What are the main types of U3M activities developed in this university (technology transfer & innovation, continuing education and social engagement?)

Technology transfer: University is permanently working on the improvement and promotion of the above mentioned activities. In the framework of the technology transfer & innovation, our University has improved the teaching premises and supports e-learning. There is the **“Teaching technique and professional training centre” at our University** which directly assists the development of teaching process and the professional training at USH. It aims to use the technology in teaching and research activities of all didactic structures at USH. In this context it conducts seminars for teaching technique, computer courses and it helps to process the data of scientific work. This centre also uses audiovisual techniques to conduct practices or seminars on various

disciplines. There have been installed many equipment but there are still needed some new technologies in order to improve its activity.

In this University there are established two Research Institutes, The Institute of Albanological Studies and the Institute of Water Studies of the Region. As the last Institute bases its activity on research in field of study and the laboratories, there is needed the improvement of the infrastructure of its laboratory.

University of Shkodra has also got conference rooms which will be used this year for on-line courses conducted by professors from Italy and USA in accordance to the bilateral agreements that this University has got with other International Universities.

Some other activities that have their own impact to the Technology transfer and innovation are

- Bilateral agreements with different international Universities.
- Projects on academic staff and students' mobility (Ceepus, Tempus, Erasmus Mundus).
- Participation of the lecturers in different international research institutes (attending training courses or conducting research work).
- University started to offer on modules via video conferences conducted by professors from Italy, USA etc.

Continuing education: In this aspect our University is paying attention to the long-life learning. The University of Shkodra offers three cycles of studies. The third cycle is offered only in field Albanian Language. Our professors and students are provided information on different training courses and scientific conferences. We also disseminate information on such organisations and they apply on individual bases. In the framework of the Continuing Education, there are offered training courses by the Faculty of Educational Sciences for teachers of different elementary and secondary schools in the following fields:

- Civilisation in the framework of the European integration and globalisation;
- Integration of human rights in teaching;
- Teaching and learning;
- The use of Information and Communication Technology.

Social engagement: Social engagement of our University is related to participation in collective activities, social engagement and social exchange. Therefore our University is considered a motor of social life at our region. This

University organizes different social activities organized by our professors and students. Our professors also participate in the “developing strategy” making of the region. They are sometimes asked by the Municipality or District region in order to give their own expertise in their own respective fields.

At Shkodra University, as mentioned above there are two Institutes which have a great social engagement. The members of these two institutes have an important role in the strategic planning of the district.

Some professors are members of different organisations of civil society by giving their contribution to community life.

2.2 How have the number and intensity of the different types of U3M activities evolved at the institutional level? (e.g. which types of U3M activities have increased more? Which are the most important ones for the university?)

The activities that have increased most at our University are in technology transfer & innovation. Even though we paid attention to this aspect there are still some needs and equipments which we must improve in order to help in the teaching and research work of this University.

Another indicator is the programs of study offered in Informatics. This program is one the latest program offered by the University of Shkodra. It came as a result of the increasing demands of students to be qualified in this field.

2.3 University policy and strategy towards U3M activities

2.3.1 Are there any institutional policies to foster U3M activities? Who is in charge of developing them? Which are the main types of U3M activities encouraged? To what extent are U3M policies contextualized in institutional strategies?

The university has its own developing strategy in which there are included three above mentioned activities. The persons in charge for developing this strategy are the Rector, Pro – Rector, Chancellor, Senate, Deans of the Faculties and the Administrative Council. The strategy consists of:

- Conducting new programs of teaching in accordance to the trade market and the experience of the western universities.
- Improvement of the teaching research infrastructure.
- Internationalisation of the University.
- Increase the contribution of the academic staff in regional development.

2.3.2 Are there policies to encourage U3M activities via human resources management incentives?

There is the so called “Excellence fund” which is at the disposal of the University Academic staff for the Scientific Research. Professors can apply through a project which is evaluated by a commission chaired by the Head of the Scientific and Curricula Office at Shkodra University.

Professors are also stimulated to qualify themselves in their own respective fields of study. The University itself is trying to improve the equipment in order to best serve to the academic and administrative staff. It is important to stress out that the basic needs are fulfilled but this aspect still needs to be improved and updated with the new technologies.

2.3.3 To what extent the U3M activities described above are a consequence of institutional policies? Describe the main problems and needs at institutional level to promote U3M considering the three types of activities

2.3.3.1 Technology transfer & innovation

2.3.3.1.1 Main problems

The University members are trying to be informed on new updated technologies. But sometimes this information is not complete or they might not receive it in the right time.

2.3.3.1.2 Needs

New modern equipments are needed to be installed in the “Teaching technique and professional training centre” and the conference rooms.

It is important for the staff to have access to different portals which provide the needed information on the technologies.

Fund raising is another need.

2.3.3.2 Continuing education

2.3.3.2.1 Main problems

The Educational Department at Shkodra University is a consolidated branch therefore there are no problems. In the other departments there should be a bigger possibility of exchanging the experiences with their colleagues in other national and international institutions.

The role of the Faculty members and their engagement should be bigger.

2.3.3.2.2 Needs

There is still the need for further staff qualification and new model of continuing education which might be used by the academic staff.

2.3.3.3 Social engagement

2.3.3.3.1 Main problems

There should be a bigger staff engagement and motivation.

2.3.3.3.2 Needs

There should be offered qualified training for the staff in helping them in the process of compiling and implementing projects according to the latest European standards and forms.

Fund raising is another need.

2.3.4 To what extent the U3M activities described above are a consequence of local or regional policies? Describe the main problems, legal limitations and needs at local or regional level to promote U3M considering the three types of activities

2.3.4.1 Technology transfer & innovation

2.3.4.1.1 Main problems

The coordination work between private enterprises (which have a great role in the region development) and University staff can be considered a problem.

There is not big exchange between stakeholders and the University staff.

2.3.4.1.2 Legal limitations

There are no legal limitation that can prevent the work of Technology transfer & innovation.

2.3.4.1.3 Needs

There is the need for a bigger collaboration between Local Government/stakeholders and the University specialist in order to exchange their experiences. Of course this should be done at institutional level.

2.3.4.2 Continuing education

2.3.4.2.1 Main problems

The public administration in the local government should have their own continuing education in order to meet nowadays requirements and best serve to the people of the region.

Interaction between basic units of Local Government/ stakeholders of the region and those of University is another problem.

2.3.4.2.2 Legal limitations

There is no legal limitation on this topic.

2.3.4.2.3 Needs

University should offer to the public administration of the local government different courses on different topics such as: Administration, Law, Research, Trade Market, Community Service Provider etc. These courses should be conducted according to the Regional Development Strategy.

2.3.4.3 Social engagement

2.3.4.3.1 Main problems

There is collaboration between the University and Local administration in different activities organised by these two institutions but this collaboration is not permanent.

2.3.4.3.2 Legal limitations

There are no legal limitations that can prevent the work.

2.3.4.3.3 Needs

When we talk about Regional Development Strategy made by the local government which might have a direct impact to the social issues, there should be taken into consideration a bigger collaboration between these institutions mainly in the field of expertise.

2.3.5 To what extent the U3M activities described above are a consequence of national policies? Describe the main problems, legal limitations and needs at national level to promote U3M considering the three types of activities

2.3.5.1 Technology transfer & innovation

2.3.5.1.1 Main problems

Information received is not disseminated on time to the target groups which belong to the responsible structures.

2.3.5.1.2 Legal limitations

There are no legal limitation that can prevent the work of Technology transfer & innovation.

2.3.5.1.3 Needs

The Central Governmental Institutions responsible for the dissemination of the information on this topic should disseminate the information immediately to the target groups directly dealing with it. In this way the staff can meet the deadlines for different applications that can be called by different national and international organisations and donators.

2.3.5.2 Continuing education

2.3.5.2.1 Main problems

The qualitative and quantitative information for the needs of the economical development and trade market should be more complex. Even though there are studies on economical development and trade market need, which might be used by the interested target groups in identifying the needs and the improvements, they are sometimes not comprehensive.

2.3.5.2.2 Legal limitations

There is no legal limitation.

2.3.5.2.3 Needs

There is the need for the frequent information on the national trade trend for the students in order to match the requests with offers.

There should be done detailed studies on economical development and trade market which include many fields of interest.

2.3.5.3 Social engagement

2.3.5.3.1 Main problems

Wrong concept that everything should be provided by the central governmental bodies.

Institutions are not very active.

Collaboration

2.3.5.3.2 Legal limitations

There is no legal limitation.

2.3.5.3.3 Needs

Getting experience from international institutions in establishing new offices that provide information on social engagement of the students and conduct researches in finding out which of the professions are more requested by them.

Conduct researches in finding out which of the professions are more requested at national levels.