



Working Package 1

Mapping 3M activities in partner universities

Deliverable 1.2

Mapping 3M activities and needs in University of Vlora

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)

The University of Vlora “Ismail Qemali” opened on 10 October 1994 upon decision of The Ministers’ Council **No. 105**, on 28.02.1944 under a technological definition as Technological University of Vlora starting with three faculties: the Faculty of Commerce with degrees in Business Administration (marketing profile) and Tourism Management, the Faculty of Naval Engineering and the Faculty of Nursing. During the period of 14 years of its existence, the University has made serious changes to upgrade its profile in teaching and research activity.

Nowadays, the university of Vlora is located in three building. The University of Vlora started to implement the Bologna process from 2006. The University curricula has been improved and grown over the years in the three levels of study programs (bachelor, master and doctoral programmes). There are studying 10600 students from the Albania regions in 30 bachelor programmes, 28 master programs and 1 doctoral programme in maths. The university develops a rich academic, scientific and social activity, aiming to become a development factor in the southern region of Albania. Nowadays, the university structure consists of four faculties, as faculties of Economics, Health, Technical Sciences and Education. Here there are working 217 people as academic staff, and 57 nonacademic staff. With its policies, University of Vlora gives a great support to its staff on scientific qualification. There is a considerable number of professors and PhD-s in specific fields. The university has been partner in several projects funded by European programmes and its activity is in full compliance with the Bologna process. The structure and the study programmes of the university are presented in the Annex attached to the document.

1.2 Regional context

The University of Vlora is one of biggest public academic institutions in the south of Albania. Its role has been very important in developing continuously human resources in several area of knowledge. Educating professionally, developing values and creating scientific competencies to young people, these are some of objectives that the university has aimed during its existence. The University of Vlora has always intended to be a important factor in the development of society and economy of the region. This goal has been the focus of transformation processes of the institution in accordance with regional changes.

The region of Vlora remains a major seaport and commercial centre, with a significant industrial sector. The economy sector is presented in several activities that need new skills in the field of administration, management and finance. The faculty of Economy covers a part of these needs and nowadays its

staff is involved in such processes, bringing and implementing new study and research programs.

Speaking about the needs of the region, Tourism has become a major industry in recent years, with many hotels, recreational centres, and beautiful beaches. The district is well-known for its beautiful coastline. Hundreds of hotels and holiday homes are welcoming tourists from home and abroad. This sector is still informal because agencies or tourist guide activities of the field has not significant influence in its development and promotion. The University of Vlora has supported this sector since the beginning with the tourism management branch. Hundreds of students are graduated in these years and are employed in several activities related to tourism in the region. The department of tourism has been partner in some European projects giving a special contribution on promoting the entertainment services and objects of the Vlora region ("Sustainable tourism, thematic routes and bridleways for the promotion of natural and cultural heritage" financed in the frame work of INTEREG III/A 2000 – 2006 ITALIA/ALBANIA ASSE IV – Tourism, cultural and institutional cooperation. M 4.2 – Support the partnership between Italy and Albania in tourism. ACTION "Integrated Projects in the fields of rural tourism, art, culture, language." Acronym: TO-NA-TUR (Code Project 36/50502/TUR))

Service sector is very powerful in the region's lifestyle. Comparing with the private sector, the public sector is more powerful in terms of employment of young people. The several institutions like the Municipality, Court, Department of Public Health, Regional Hospital, the postal service, water supply, social insurance, etc., are employed thousands of people graduated in the University of Vlora but we do not have yet the competence for the validation of their lifelong skills. Private service sectors such as bars, shops, beauty centres, etc., is developed much more than other sectors but it is obvious the necessity of improving the capacity and service quality. Hundreds of private activities spend a lot on advertisements and events to promote their activity or to insure their success on business. The Faculty of Technical Science offers four study programmes in ICT sciences. People graduated in these programmes are more required as employees or free profession. Actually there are 5 local TV stations where many young students work full time or part time as journalists, graphics designer, operators, editors, IT specialist, etc.

Education sector is also an important priority for the region community. Many teachers are graduated in these years and now, they are working in public or private schools, kindergartens. Public administration, ect. The Faculty of Education plays an important role on developing and integrating the newest didactic methods on teaching according the latest UNESCO directives for Teachers. The university has included education institutions in several scientific activities as conferences on education, workshops, etc., emphasizing the role of standards on teaching methods used by teachers and a new philosophy on

education. The university has always tried to create bridges with the community organizing various entertainment events. The university has created and developed its sports club in order to revitalize the city's life. There are a lot of competitions organized for the identification of values in several fields as sport, culture, and these events have had a big impact in the students' lifestyle.

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

Since its creation, there have been a number of changes in the context of changes occurring in the region, the economy and society. Based on the needs recognition of the region, especially in human sources, University has added other new programs of study, as well as has update existing programs in accordance with these requirements. For the technology transfer and innovation, the university has set up e research center with a rich scientific research activity. Also, to support continuing education, was created LLL office.

The University has applied to projects with significant impact on the region:

- “Social Inclusion of immigrants”. Adriatic New Neighborhood Programme, INTERREG/CARDS –PHARE, Measure 3.2 Institutional and cooperation strengthening in communications, research and between institutions to promote harmonization of systems. Acronym: SIOI, (leader partner for Albania).
- Acoustic pollution monitoring in ambient and indoor environments in public institutions in Vlora, Fier and Gjirokastra Prefecture, and recommendation concerning measures to reduce pollution, Department of Physics, University of Vlora in cooperation with Department of Physics, University of Gjirokastra, funded by MoES, 2008-2009.
- The development and application of analytical methods and improvement techniques for groundwater and surface water in basins in the cross- border area between Greece and Albania. “Greece-Albania IPA Cross-border Programme”, 2005-2007. Department of Physics and Chemistry, University of Vlora, in cooperation with Department of Chemistry, University of Ionanina, Greece, 2005-2007.
- The study of the possibility of using solar radiation to improve energy balance in Vlora, Fier and Gjirokastra Prefecture. Department of Physics, University of Vlora in cooperation with Department of Physics, University of Ferrara, Italy, 2007.
- Development of monitoring methods for radioactivity measurements in environment air and food products in Vlora Prefecture, “Per Kerkim Fondamental dhe Ekselence” Programme on fundamental research and

excellence, 2011, Department of Physics, University of Vlora. Funded by MoES and UV, July- December 2011.

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 and innovation

The academic staff of the university is engaged in several U3M activities like

- Participating directly as research partners in projects with considerable impact in the region environment, economy, society, etc. We can distinguish some projects into IPA programme, national Projects, etc.

Continuous education

- A preliminary work is done to create the appropriate conditions, necessary for the development of continuing education. Creating the LLL office to coordinate the activities in this field. This activity has started with the study of the requirements of the community and the market, and has been working in the design, implementation of which will lead to the fulfilment of these needs.
- Offering consultancy services attached to national projects of training. (teacher training on ICT usage,)
- Participating as contracted facilitators in workshops organized by local NGO-s to train employees that work in the public administration.

Social engagement

The University of Vlora has organized many social activities to help the community:

- Periodically engagement of professors and students of Public Health Faculty in the provision of free health services for the community.
- Periodically engagement of professors and student of University of Vlora "Ismail Qemali" in campaigns organises from Red Cross (Vlora branch) for fund raising, for blood donation.
- Fundraising campaign organizes by the SIFE (Students in enterprise) staff to help Shkodra' s residents during the flooding (.2011.)

- Fundraising campaign for the city orphanage through sports activities organized in the framework of hundred anniversary of independence of Albania (November 2012).

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?)

With the initiative of the former rector in 2009, the ULLL centre has been established in order to organize continuous education in institutional terms. The Centre has had a modest allocation being represented by an office director and a secretary. The office is working continuously to consolidate the U3mission participating in several activities such as the 41, Spain Granada 2011, 42th conference of EUCEN, Genoa, Italy in 18 November 2011. There was also a good experience the cooperation with the project for the establishment of regional development centres. At the end of 2011, the Centre has also presented a project called CONPROD CENTER in order to develop LLL centre activities on continuing education in the context of U3M. The project established a development plan taking into account the specific requirements and conditions of the needs of our region. Currently, there are not courses of continuing education. This situation is a product of several reasons, among which, I can align:

- Lack of specialized laboratories for courses designed
- Lack of a legal basis to establish eligible financial relationships among the institution of the MoES, the university and students
- Lack of financial means to start organizing promotional activities that stimulate the interest and attention of the community
- Lack of incentive policies and collaborative leaders for Staff Academic institution that should be included in such activities

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?

We can say that there are some efforts showing the presence of institutional policies to support the third mission of universities. At this point, that is to say that there are direct actions by the authorities of UV. In 2009 the office of the LLL was founded and now, there are two people working part-time, the director

and a secretary. The main task is to organize the new mission of UV according to the directives of EUCEN conferences where we have participated since 2010.

Until now, the LLL office has done a good job in these areas.

We have tried to:

- Create links with European and international institutions' that bring standards in Albania. They offer short training programmes at European level like (certification of English language, European or international computer certification standards. ect.
- Detect and analyse the problems, the needs, conditions, possibilities to launch the first training courses for specific skills requested by the community.
- Organize and promote the third mission of the UV and its benefits in Academics and Institutional environments.
- Organize and lead to students classrooms the latest news about new skills learning.

This work is done by the director of the office, Mrs. Eva Çipi, who is responsible of the LLL activity, under the institution directives.

We have been working on implementing a concrete proposal to start courses or short programmes that include the emergent needs of the community in the region.

Last year, we had a good experience collaborating with MoES and the European partner representative in this issue. At the end we presented a draft program based on revising our proposals made by our office.

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

There are sporadic activities encouraging U3M activities in the university. For example, the university has participated in some international Conferences for the continuous professional development organized by EUCEN. Little groups of academic staff have participated in these workshops to gather information and to bring European LLL experiences in the university. The university has supported staff costs but there are not concrete changes concerning the implementation of these experiences.

Another problem is the availability of academic staff to work in the LLL domain developing U3M activities. There are not policies to encourage U3M activities via human resources management incentives. The academic staff is not promoted to be interested in these activities. For example, my job as director of

LLL office is free and there are not funds that support the accomplished tasks. Every activity attached to this office is made voluntary

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 main problem is the lack of absence of practical and laboratory experiences. This situation is a product of:

- Weak laboratory infrastructure. In general there are not sufficient laboratories and the number of students in classroom is not comfortable
- Weak programmes of study where the model of teaching and learning is still old and not efficient
- Weak knowledge of needs and a deep gap between university and public and private institutions
- No practical skills of academic staff. There are no or few expert on creating, developing, innovating and implementing new solutions

2.3.3.1.2 Needs

- The university should implement continuous relationships and good collaboration with public and private institutions of the region in order to better understand the reality, needs and its role as problem resolver.
- The University needs continuously funds to invest in laboratory infrastructure, literature to improve the technological equipment of the students in a classroom.
- The university needs a new vision of appreciating the staff competences according professional skills in the practical concept of the issue.
- The university needs to find themselves new ways in order to self-manage its budgets and to self –organize a new model reviewing its innovator role.
- At the end, we need a model to observe and to simulate it importing experiences from other universities that have a good results concerning the U3M issue.

2.3.3.2 Continuing education

2.3.3.2.1 Main problems

- There are not law bases that allow the university to organize and manage this activity. The problem of centralization of the funds is present and make difficult the process of implementing continuous education
- There are again problems of funding the administration activity
- There is not a feasibility study of the needs of the community. We have a proposal of the list of the continuous training but this is not tested
- The existed infrastructure can't support the implementation of the continuous education.
- There are not strong policies by the government on requiring certified skills in the work market to encourage the employment.

2.3.3.2.2 Needs

This activity needs an administrative staff well organized..

Most of the programmes need new technological equipment's

Students and academic staff need to clarify and to improve their perception of the role of the university as a centre of creating continuous competencies.

2.3.3.3 Social engagement

2.3.3.3.1 Main problems

Low University investments in infrastructure for cultural and sport activities.

2.3.3.3.2 Needs

- More projects in social area in the regional context
- More fundings to implement new ideas from academic staff efforts on the issue
- More knowledge and experiences imported to use as a guidance
- More support for participating in this activities both community and academic staff & students.

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 university staffs understanding the role of technology transfer and innovation in the regional development but the local government does not express interest. There are no institutional links to support this process.

The innovation and transfer-technology is a good opportunity increasing the incomes but there is not an institutional structure that provides all the facilities for a good application.

The institutional procedures are very long and complex and there is not confidence on achieving the goal successfully.

2.3.4.1.2 Legal limitations

There are no legal limitation.

2.3.4.1.3 Needs

- The university needs a bigger collaboration with local government.
- The university needs to promote themselves as the main institution that can support innovation through the research and innovation activities of its staff.
- The university needs a model that shows how the other universities have resolved this problem.

2.3.4.2 Continuing education

2.3.4.2.1 Main problems

There are not supporting policies by local government for this activity. There are thousands of people that work in several institution of the region. The local government does not apply criteria of continuous certification skills on employment process.

2.3.4.2.2 Legal limitations

There are not legal limitations on this issue.

2.3.4.2.3 Needs

- The university needs the support of the central government in the development of policies that encourage and promote continuing education.

- The university needs to recognize the real requirements of the administrative staff in the main occupational categories in order to construct strong bridges with institutions that contain employed people

2.3.4.3 Social engagement

2.3.4.3.1 Main problems

- There is not collaboration of the university with local government. The problem is concentrated to political diversity of relationships on leader level.
- *The presence of the extremism in politics in leaders levels does not allow the establishment of cooperative relations in social plan*

2.3.4.3.2 Legal limitations

There are not legal limitations on this issue.

2.3.4.3.3 Needs

- The university needs to become a partner of governing institutions that implement social policy.
- The university should create and maintain their cultural, sportive and educational instruments in order to become a powerful factor in the social development of the region

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

In Albania, there is not a network to support the national institutional communication and coordination. The main structures do not exceed real time the needed information to interested people. The technology transfer and innovation activity is directly monitored by the ministry of innovation. In accordance with ministry of education, this institution should promote the activity but there is a weak impact in academic area. There are several effort by the government providing funds for the implementation of transfer technology and innovation. This is not enough. These institutions are yet playing their role as a leader in a deterministic way.

2.3.5.1.2 Legal limitations

There are no legal limitations at national policy in the context of technology transfer and innovation.

2.3.5.1.3 Needs

The university needs the support of Government on involving the academic staff to technological and scientific solutions. The government has all the power to become a coordinator and to ensure success of investments in this way.

The university needs a transparent process to select the best of the solution proposals and the financing of innovative ideas

2.3.5.2 Continuing education

2.3.5.2.1 Main problems

In this context, the central government does not have a specified strategy for the promotion of continuing education at the university. Although efforts have been made to promote this activity, it is not estimated the university as the first institution that can carry out this process.

2.3.5.2.2 Legal limitations

There is no legal basis for the organization of this activity by the university

2.3.5.2.3 Needs

- First, Ministry of education should prepare a draft law for approval to the parliament for organization of activity at the institution of the university.
- Secondly, the central government should provide funds in its budget to invest on developing the necessary infrastructure.
- Third, MoES should decentralize the distribution of revenue from this activity without losing the right of control over the finances of the institution

2.3.5.3 Social engagement

2.3.5.3.1 Main problems

The role of the university on social engagement is weak. The university does not have the power of government instruments to organize national events in order to promote its own role in this issue.

2.3.5.3.2 Legal limitations

There are not legal limitations.

2.3.5.3.3 Needs

There is a need of governance support in financing universities for infrastructure for cultural and sport activities. This will help universities become important centres of social engagement.

3 ANNEX

Faculty of Economy

Full time study programs

Bachelor study programs	Master study programs	
	Scientific	Professional
1. Finance	1. Finance	1. Finance
2. Accounting	2. Real estate	2. Accounting
3. Economics	3. Economics	3. Public administration
4. Business administration	4. Business administration	4. Marketing
5. Marketing		5. Economics in enterprise
6. Tourism management		6. Enterprise in tourism

Part time study programs

Bachelor study programs	Master study programs (professional)
1. Business administration	1. Public administration
2. Tourism management	

Faculty of Public Health

Full time study programs

Bachelor study programs	Master study programs	
	Scientific	Professional
1. General nursing	1. Nursing sciences	1. Adult nursing
2. Obstetrical nursing		2. Surgical nursing
		3. Pediatric nursing

Faculty of Technical Sciences

Bachelor study programs	Master study programs	
	Scientific	Professional
1. Mathematic	1. Naval Engineering	1. Physical
2. Actuaristic sciences	2. Computer Sciences	2. Studies of Advanced Maritime
3. Mathematic - finance	3. Physical	3. Naval and Industrial Operations
4. Mathematic – physic	4. Mathematics	4. Teacher of Informatics for High School
5. Physic		5. Teacher of Mathematics and Physics
6. Informatics		
7. Information technology		
8. Computational Sciences		
9. Computer Sciences		
10. Fishing Vessels		
11. Mechanical engineering		
12. Naval engineering		
13. Electrical Engineering		
14. Biology		
15. Chemistry		
16.		

Ph.D studies

Ph. D in Mathematics

Faculty of Human Sciences

Full time study programs

Bachelor study programs

1. Language literature
2. English language
3. Italian language
4. Low cycle
5. Lower school cycle
6. Special pedagogy
7. Law
8. Geography –History

Master study programs

Scientific

1. Albanian and Literature
2. Special and Social Education
3. International Right

Professional

1. Foreign language

Part time study programs

Bachelor study programs

1. Law

Scheme 1: Structural Organization of University of Vlora

