



DRIVE DEVELOPING RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CAPACITIES IN ALBANIA AND KOSOVO

A Roadmap for the research network & Calendar of Activities

(Local and International linkages through research groups)

POLIS University

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1. Background

POLIS University is a regional educational platform in the territory of the Western Balkans and the Eastern Mediterranean, which aims to create a new generation of professionals and scientists with "social responsibility". POLIS University pays a particular attention to the involvement of students in education based on research, engaging in community projects, concrete services for local government, as well as research, development and innovation programs - for civil society, entrepreneurship and the authorities.

POLIS University offers a "focused range of studies" in Art Design, Architecture, Urban Planning and Environmental Studies, Engineering and Technology, public and private administration, and other profiles. POLIS University offers studies at four levels: Vocational Education, Bachelor, Professional Master, Executive and Scientific, or Doctoral programs, as well as postgraduate training courses and certificates valid for licensing.

2. A roadmap for the research and innovation network

Considering the impact of the establishment and contribute of the Innovation Factory to the date, Polis University has set three main objectives for a 5-year period:

1. Innovation Factory (IF) serving the WB region
2. Innovation Factory (IF) acting as a center of research in design and innovation
3. Innovation Factory (IF) actively engaging in the international network of related actors

IF serving the WB region

- Improving the premises of the laboratory and its equipment
- Support at least 15 startups/year
- Devise an “acceleration” plan to help further start-ups that have been passing the “incubation” phase;
- Test the business model
- Evaluation and critical reflections regarding the real and expected results from this first year of implementation – Include the feedback loop results into the business model

IF acting as a center of research on design and innovation

- Additive manufacturing;
- Sustainability and circular economy
- Material research
- Reverse engineering in the field of heritage and restoration
- IoT solutions and Smart Systems;
- KILAB, 3DMaking school for children

Networking and partnerships

- Capacity building;
- Cooperation with other stakeholders and actors in the market (Preneurz (NL), 3dmakerzone (NL))
- Participate in research projects (i.e., Green Lab);
- Joining the FABLAB International Networks;
- Engage in global value chains;
- Tech Transfer

2.1 Partnerships and Memberships

POLIS University has a wide network of national and international partners. In addition to the establishment and management of the Innovation Factory, POLIS also has a wide range of partners who have already signed long-term strategic partnerships and others with whom POLIS University offers joint degree programs and research projects, secondly in ad-hoc partners selected for certain activities such as joint workshops, common research activities and mobilization schemes of personnel and students.

POLIS University is the first Albanian university who officially signed the Bologna Charter otherwise known as “Magna Charta Universitatum” in Italy; is active member of following associations:

- CEEPUS; Central European Exchange Programme for University Studies”
- CEEMAN – Central and Eastern European Management Development Association”
- AESOP – Association of European Schools of Planning
- AEEA/EAAE – European Association for Architectural Education”
- ECLAS – European Council of Landscape Architecture Schools”
- AUA - Albanian Union of Architects and Urban Planners”,
- EUCEET
- ISOCARP
- EACSS

2.2 Institutions and Organizations collaborating with IF and Polis University

Nr	Collaborating Institutions and Organizations
1	National Academy of Sciences
2	National Archive of Central Technical Construction
3	Institute of Cultural Monuments
4	Co-PLAN
5	Metro_POLIS
6	State Geospatial Information Authority
7	Altea & Geostudio 2000
8	GeoConsulting Albania
9	Albanian Union of Architects, Urbanists and Planners_ AUA
10	REHAU
11	Pestan Doo
12	KNAUF
13	Megatek
14	ALUFLOR Construction Group
15	KIKA Construction
16	A.P.E shpk
17	Studioarch4
18	Studio “Alba Engineering” shpk
19	Studio “Speed Engineers” shpk
20	Union of Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Albania
21	Association of European Schools of Planning - AESOP
22	European Council of Schools of Landscape Architecture - ECLAS
23	Magna Charta Universitatum, Bolonja
24	Central European Exchange Program for University Studies - CEEPUS
25	National Real Estate Agency INF-93
26	National Civil Defense Agency
27	National Committee of Large Dams

28	Art's Library
29	Adrion Library
30	Ministry of Social Welfare and Youth
31	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development
32	Parliament of Albania
33	UNDP
34	Future Architecture Platform
35	National Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation

2.3 Investments for capacity improvement

U_POLIS pays specific attention to continuously improve its institutional capacities, in all terms: human, infrastructural, managerial, financial and so on. 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. POLIS University has a clear perspective in its policy of the human resources about the further qualification of the academic and scientific staff. Currently 18 out of 66 effective academic staff of U_POLIS are following their PhD studies in international programs. This counts for 27% of the entire effective staff and constitutes a potential for the institution in terms of capacity building and quality of the engaged academic staff. This figure re-confirms once more the concern of the institution to improve its capacities as well as provides a very important basis for the achievement of its mission to achieve excellence in teaching, research and innovation. The continuous investments in a number of laboratories, undertaken by U_POLIS through the years (especially in the last 3 years) are expected to boost the quality of the education it offers, and especially provide the students with a more comprehensive knowledge and better skills. Such laboratories can in the near future also get accredited and provide services for the third parties.

3. Innovation Factory (IF) Calendar of Activities

ACTIVITY	TIMELINE	KPI/s
“Acceleration” plan to further help 2022-2023 startups	2022	Collaborations with local and regional actors No of startups registered in acceleration programs
Business model and 2022 developed activities	2022	Validate financial forecast (profit / loss ratio);
Evaluation and reflections regarding the real and expected results from short term period	2021-2023	Active Users Survival metrics Burning rate
Additive manufacturing	2022-2023	Production Volume; Total Effective Equipment Performance
Host and support research in Sustainability and circular economy; IoT solutions and Smart Systems; virtual/augmented reality	2022-2023	No of Users No of Projects No of Papers Research Impact
Capacity building	2020 - 2025	No of Trained Staff
Cooperation with other ecosystem actors	2020 - 2025	No of signed MoUs and Joint activities
Participate in research projects	2022 - 2025	No of Applications in national/international level
Joining the FABLAB International Network	2022-2025	Acceptance Interest rate
Engage in global value chains; Tech Transfer	2023-2025	No of contractors
Tech Transfer	2025	Attract and retain primary actors in the field

References

1. POLIS University, Development Strategy 2021-2026
2. Statute of the POLIS University

