



DRIVE DEVELOPING RESEARCH
AND INNOVATION CAPACITIES IN ALBANIA AND KOSOVO

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A Roadmap for the research network & Calendar of Activities

Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering (FECE)
University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina”



Roadmap for establishing a research network

This Roadmap sets out the actions, milestones and target dates relating to the establishment of a research network and the accompanying virtual platform within framework of the Erasmus+ DRIVE project.

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1. Background

The Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering (FECE) is an integral part of the University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina” (hereinafter “UP”) headquartered in Prishtina, Republic of Kosovo. FECE has defined its mission in educating the youth in the fields of Electric and Computer Engineering, at all levels of higher education (Bachelor, Master and PhD), with the aim of preparing them for the demands of the labor market in the country and beyond, and for the continuous education in this highly dynamic field, and also to contribute directly to the sustainable technological, social and scientific development of Kosovo. The graduates of all study programs at FECE will have the knowledge and competencies to solve difficult engineering problems, to implement complex systems, to act as a leader of a team, and to conduct research and development in the field of engineering. The curricula of study programs at FECE are carefully planned so that besides professional courses, graduates will gain competences from lab-oriented courses as well as project management and scientific research methodologies courses.

2. Roadmap for research and innovation network

Considering the impact of the research as one of the main pillars for scientific development of the country, one of the main objectives of FECE is to create a research center which will serve as the main university laboratory for research and innovation. This will be achieved through actions divided in three main phases:

1. Preparatory Phase

- Establishment of contacts with regional, European partner HEIs
- Establishment of contacts with local industry partners
- Identification of potential research areas
- Identification of appropriate legal mechanisms

2. Establishment Phase

- Data collection
- Establish the Research Data Management system and Virtual Platform
- Establish linkages between research teams
- Develop the data management skills and knowledge of FECE-UP researchers
- Develop the skills and knowledge of key professional services staff

3. Implementation Phase

- Fully functionalize the research network and the Virtual Platform
- Initiate common research projects between research teams
- Raise awareness among researchers and encourage dissemination of research data
- Increase research impact through use of the Virtual Platform

3. Calendar of activities

I. Preparatory Phase:
technical, organisational and legislative actions necessary to enable the creation of the research network

Objective / Step	Actions / measures	Timeline (starting date- target date for completion)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior management clearance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion with management of University • Approval by management of Faculty 	By the end of 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of contacts with regional, European partner HEIs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a list of potential contacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Previous collaborators ○ Previous HEI partners ○ Alumni now working in regional, international HEI or research institutes • Initiate preliminary contact with an introductory email • Active participation in workshops/conferences/roundtables 	By the end of 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of contacts with local industry partners 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make a list of potential contacts: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Previous collaborators ○ Main companies in the industry ○ Alumni • Initiate preliminary contact with an introductory email • Active participation in industry events 	By the end of 2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of potential research areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize brainstorming sessions with research staff within FECE • Organize brainstorming sessions with industry representatives • Draft a list of potential research areas • Identify the potential contributions to the identified research areas in terms of 	By the end of 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The list of potential research and innovation areas must be drafted taking into account the capabilities

	infrastructure (labs, equipment, etc.) and human resources	and interests of the research staff, infrastructure available at the University, as well as the needs and demands of the industry.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of appropriate legal mechanisms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyse national legislation and internal university regulation • Identify in collaboration with consortium partners the necessary legal arrangements to establish the network 	First half of 2022

II. Establishment Phase:

Initial and transitional actions needed to establish the research network, especially in terms of infrastructure, data management systems and training

Objective / Step	Actions / measures	Timeline (starting date- target date for completion)
1. Data collection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collection of available data about research at FECE, University of Prishtina • Make a list of locally available databases and repositories • Make a list of international databases/repositories in use • Analyse the availability and visibility of research produced by FECE and how it can be improved 	By the end of 2022
2. Establish the Research Data Management system and Virtual Platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft the Terms of References for the RDM/Virtual Platform by taking note of similar systems available internationally • Contribute and participate in coordination activities to ensure that the digital platform fulfils all institutional requirements and is fully functional • Explore possibility of integration of current research data repositories into the new platform for research data management • Utilise expertise and guidance from partner universities in using RDM systems • Investigate how publication of research datasets can be used as indicators for institutional benchmarking • Collaborate in initiatives to incorporate data into research assessment frameworks. 	By the end of 2022
3. Establish linkages between research teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Depending on the identified common research areas establish formal linkages between research teams • Encourage interdisciplinary research collaboration 	By the end of 2022

<p>4. Develop the data management skills and knowledge of FECE-UP researchers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure research data management (RDM) skills development for FECE UP researchers through trainings/workshops offered by the Project • Work with research teams to explore embedding research data management skills development in coursework curricula and professional development offerings 	<p>By the end of 2022</p>
<p>5. Develop the skills and knowledge of key professional services staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure research data management (RDM) skills development for FECE-UP key staff such as librarians, RISS staff, and administrative staff (financial, procurement) through trainings/workshops offered locally or through the Project 	<p>By the end of 2022</p>

III. Implementation Phase:

Final actions needed to establish the research network and actual implementation of the research network

Objective / Step	Actions / measures	Timeline (starting date- target date for completion)
1. Fully functionalize the research network and the Virtual Platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate data population activities across all participating research teams • To the extent possible encourage researchers to populate the platform with current and old research data • Embed RDM activities within each current/planned research project lifecycle 	By the end of 2022
2. Initiate common research projects between research teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start writing and collaborating in common research projects • Identify funding opportunities • Ensure RDM activities such as usage of Virtual Platform and research output dissemination are embedded in the project planning and budgeting 	2022-2025
3. Raise awareness among researchers and encourage dissemination of research data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Organize activities that articulate the benefits to the participating Institutions and incentives for researchers of disseminating data and metadata. • Offer advocacy and guidance about data publication, data access and discovery • Promote the use of the virtual platform as a means to making data more discoverable both within the consortium and externally (e.g. publish structured metadata for discovery services) • Highlight opportunities to link research data with other types of research data repositories and research-related metadata 	2022-2025
4. Increase research impact through use of the Virtual Platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure research publications have appropriate links to underlying data 	2022-2025

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide advocacy and guidance about tracking data impact metrics• Collect impact evidence relating to research data	
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References

[1] University of Bath Roadmap for EPSRC- Compliance with Research Data Management Expectations, 26th April 2012, Version 1.1

[2] UK Research and Development Roadmap, July 2020.

[3] League of European Research Universities (LERU) Roadmap for Research Data, December 2013.

[4] Oxford Brookes University Research Data Policy, February 2013.