

Albania & Kosovo

DRIVE

Developing Research & Innovation Capacities

Developing research and innovation capacities in Albania and Kosovo

DRIVE IS AN ERASMUS + CAPACITY BUILDING IN HIGHER EDUCATION PROJECT THAT INTENDS TO:

- o Enhance the teachers' capacities and their methodologies so that they effectively equip the students (graduate level and beyond) with the skills to conduct independent research.
- o Enhance the mentors' capacities to effectively guide the students in their research activity.
- o Enhance the research capacities of the academic and managerial staff through study visits and tailored trainings.
- o Strengthen the managerial capacities for research activities and innovation in institutional level by setting or strengthening dedicated research and innovation support structures (RISS).
- o Promote research excellence and innovation by developing a network that eases the interdisciplinarity and cooperation among local and international actors.

Project Duration: 2020-2023

Overall Budget: 927,755 Euro

The general objective of this project is to contribute in the development of the research and innovation capacities of HEIs in Albania and Kosovo by enhancing their institutional capabilities, staff skills and networking.

Work packages:

WP1 – Define project management structures and action plan

WP2 - Develop new teaching and mentoring methodologies that enhance students' research skills.

WP3 - Enhance staff capacity for research

WP 4 – Develop Institutional Capacities for Research

WP5 – Establish Network of Research Excellence

WP6 - Quality Monitoring and Control

WP7 - Dissemination and Exploitation

WP8 - Management of the Project

WP9- Sustainability of the Project



START OF THE PROJECT

CBHE grant holder meeting 2020

CBHE Grant Holder Meeting was organized for the beneficiaries of the Erasmus + CBHE 2019 Call, on 27-28 January 2020, where DRIVE project was one of them. During this meeting, representatives from higher education institutions from Europe, and not only, were introduced by the EACEA agency on management, budget and innovation guidelines. The bilateral meetings that followed brought EACEA closer to the winning IAL representatives.



Meeting between EACEA and Albanian coordinators

On October 24, 2019, the 2019 Call, granted Albanian Coordinators at the "Capacity Building" program, met with the representatives of EACEA, Anila TROSHANI and Inmaculada RODRIGUEZ. The meeting served as a fruitful training for the Coordinator's and the sharing of experiences between the coordinators with more experience was very important element. The project team from U-Polis, Lead Partner, met and discussed about the implementation of the DRIVE project.

Kick off meeting

Kick of Meeting for Erasmus+ funded project led by an Albanian Higher Education Institution, POLIS University was held on February 20-21, 2020. The project "Developing Research and Innovation CapacitiEs in Albania and Kosovo/ DRIVE" brings together 9 partners from Albania, Kosovo and EU countries, in an effort to improve capacities for research and innovation. The meeting focuses on the definition of the main project activities and planning of their achievement. The members of the project are introduced to each other and responsibilities of each partner with regard to planned activities are discussed. This meeting was led and hosted by the project coordinator, U-Polis.



MEETINGS

Drive project continue their work in planning future steps and activities

On March 31, 2022, Drive Partners had an online management meeting today discussing project implementation state of arts and coordinate on the ways to address the impact of the current situation on the progress of the activities

Managerial meeting of Drive project

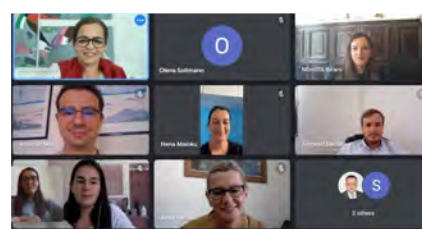
On September 14, 2021 took place the partner managerial meeting of the DRIVE project "Developing Research and InnoVation CapacitiEs in Albania and Kosovo". During this meeting were presented the challenges we face due to Covid- 19 situation, follow up information related to the Mid- Term reporting, preparation for the next activities such as:

- *Enhance staff capacity for research*
- *Training workshop on publishing, IPR, and ethics*
- *Training workshop on research management*

Managerial meeting for the finalization of the outputs

On November 2nd 2022 Managerial Meeting started with the presentation the Management Handbook for the Erasmus+ projects, produced by the project consortium.

In the second part of the day the drive team management members discussed about final deadlines and outputs of the project





STUDY VISITS

Study visits and workshop in Hamburg, hosted by Technische Universität Hamburg.

On 4-5 April 2022, Technische Universität Hamburg organized study visits and workshop in Hamburg. During this time, the participants had the possibility to hear from excellent speakers from TUTECH Innovation Academy about the Competence Development and how they stand at the interface between business and research, to visit the Institute of Business Logistics and General Management and to learn more about institutional research supporting structure and implementation of RISS

Study visit and workshop held by Aalborg University in Denmark.

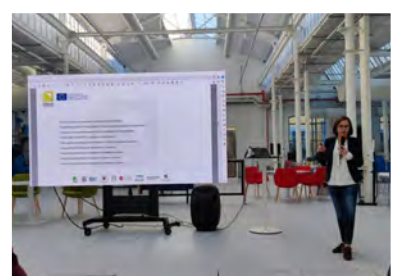
On November 11-12, 2021 Aalborg University in Denmark organized a two days workshop and study visits at its premises and its partners premises. Main topics and activities of this workshop were:

- *Action plan for research.*
- *How we do research with external partners?*
- *Smart Production/ Reconfigurable production system,*
- *A study visit at Laser Lab Research.*

“Training on RISS staff” study visits and workshop organized by Polytechnic University of Milano, Italy.

The Polytechnic University of Milano organized a two days activity including workshop and study visits. Main topics and activities during this event were:

- *A great presentation from MADE Competence Center lider in innovation projects,*
- *a visit to PoliMi library Campus Bovisa,*
- *introduction of Fondazione Politecnico di Milano at Leonardo Campus, Politecnico di Milano focusing in development of multidisciplinary innovation projects in partnership with companies, public authorities and research centers, in Italy and across Europe.*



TRAININGS

“Training Workshop on Teaching Methodologies”

The DRIVE project training was held at University of Gjakova “Fehmi Agani” in Gjakova, Kosovo on 22-24 September 2020. Four participants from each partner country of the project participated in the training. The “Training Workshop on Teaching Methodologies” consists in enhancing institutional capacities, staff skills and also networking. Best practices examples on teaching methodology at the EU universities. Learning and teaching methodology presented from AAU Engineers – Aalborg University, Politecnico di Milano and Hamburg University of Technology. Drive partners held discussions and presentations during the workshop about teaching methodologies applied in the current study programmes and how can the PBL (Problem Based Learning) approach be applied in the courses structure. Aalborg University introduced the Problem based learning (PBL) as a main concept of learning and teaching methodology.



Training workshop on mentoring research students

Three days workshop was held online with all DRIVE project partners on 7-14-15 December 2020. The purpose of the workshop was to identify competence gaps needed for the mentoring of Masters and PhD students and to facilitate the mentoring and knowledge transfer processes by presenting and discussing the real-life mentoring case studies of EU partner universities. The workshop was coordinated by U-Polis. The training starts with a gap analysis (Workshop 1) to identify the current mentoring practices at the partner universities and their deficiencies (competences, resources, etc.). On the second and third day, the case studies at POLIMI and AAU was presented and the possible adaptation of the mentoring practices offered by the partner universities has been identified (Workshop 2 and 3).

Training workshop on research management

On December 2-3, 2021 EUT organized a 2 days Training workshop on research management, hybrid model. Main themes of this workshop were:

- *Managing an EU Project: tricks and tips*
- *Code of research conduct: Presentation of EU universities and practical approach to implementation. Presenting code of conduct and ethics in academic HEIs in Albania and Kosovo.*
- *Presentation of the benchmarking system & research indicators at Polimi, AAU, TUHH. Adoption and implementation of research indicators in partner HEIs.*

Training workshop on publishing, IPR and ethics"

In the framework of the DRIVE project supported by ERASMUS+, at the Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Pristina "Hasan Prishtina", on October 14-15, 2021 was organized the training named "Training workshop on publishing, IPR and ethics" with participants from various partner Universities from Kosovo and Albania and trainers from European Universities: Aalborg University, Hamburg University of Technology and Polytechnic University of Milano. The training is organized in a hybrid form with physical and online participation

"Sustainability and Networking Workshop".

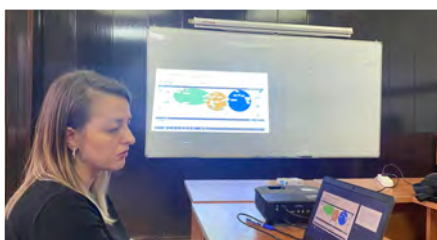
The Polytechnic University of Milano organized a two days Sustainability and Networking Workshop in mid-October 2022. Among the main topics discussed today were: Sustainability plan for online networking platform and Sustainability of International Partnerships. The meeting was finalized with concluding remarks and next steps of the Drive Project and possibility for further collaborations



DISSEMINATION AND NETWORKING

"Hints and Tips on Research Project Funding" training, organized by the Office for Project Development and Internationalization of UET

On June 16, 2022, the Office for Project Development and Internationalization organized a training on research projects funding for the academic staff of the European University of Tirana, entitled "Hints and Tips on Research Project Funding". This training is organized within the framework of Erasmus+ KA2 projects, such as DRIVE, co-financed by the EU. During this event the academic staff had the chance to learn more about the international and European projects and opportunities that they have to apply for funding to develop further their research ideas.



Introducing problem-based learning (PBL)

On February 1, 2022 University of Prishtina, presented some samples of how new teaching methodologies, such as Project and Problem-based-learning (PBL) introduced through DRIVE Erasmus+ Project are being implemented at BSc and MSc level courses at the Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering. During this training, students worked in groups or individually to solve particular problems or present projects within the scope of the course.

Presentation of Drive project by Universum College

On December 2021, Universum College representatives from Kosovo presented Drive projects and its goals, objectives and activities at the Cluster meeting on Challenges in the financial management of Erasmus+ CBHE projects.



Presentation of Drive Project at Klik Ekspo fair by Polis University

On December 1, 2021 Polis University participated at the Klik Ekspo fair to promote technology, innovation projects and opportunities for specializations and trainings. A specific attention was dedicated to Drive projects presenting the progress and activities realized so far.



Erasmus Days 2021 at EUT.

The DRIVE project was promoted in the Projects' Fair, organized at UET during the Erasmus Days. Prof. Dr. Drita Kruja Nikshiqi - Vice Rector at the European University of Tirana- also congratulated the successful implementation of DRIVE. This event was organized in cooperation with project partners, stakeholders and relevant national and international institutions. The impact added values and connection to labor market is stressed during this event



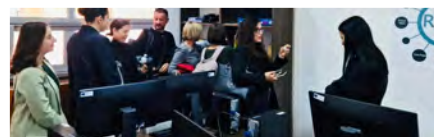
Erasmus days 2022 at POLIS University

In the framework of Erasmus Days 2021, DRIVE team presented the project in a series of activities organized in these 3 days, sharing the project to different audiences and stakeholders. Another event was organized by Polis University to present its possibilities, projects, and students mobilities. A specific attention in this activity was dedicated also to the DRIVE project.



DRIVE networking in Kosovo

Discussion with the invited guests from the industry, governance, national and local businesses. Project partners had fruitful discussion on How to enhance and improve the collaboration among stakeholders.



Presentation of The Gender Equality Plan and Code of Conduct and Ethics in Research.

The Gender Equality Plan and Code of Conduct and Ethics in Research, as part of the results of the DRIVE project, were presented to a wide audience of researchers and academics from the Western Balkans and the EU, in the event held at University of Banja Luka in the framework of WBC_RRI.NET (Responsible Research and Innovation in the Western Balkans) on September 23, 2022. DRIVE project and the above results prepared by all the partners of the Consortium, were presented by the Coordinator Polis University, respectively the Vice Rector Dr. Elona Karafili, Project Manager Dr. Flora Krasniqi and General Director of NASRI Mrs. Mirela Muca, in the role of associate partner in the project.



Video promotion: Gender Equality in Research and Innovation

<https://driveproject-eu.com/project-publications/>



Target Groups

- HEIs in Albania and Kosovo, local or international businesses and industries
- Master and PhD Students / Lecturers / Mentors
- Research Management, Researchers
- HEIs, researchers, management, administrative staff, local and regional businesses and Industry

Quantitative indicators

More than 450 academic and research staff from 6 Universities in Albania and Kosovo are trained on:

- New teaching methodologies
- Publishing, IPR, ethics;
- Research management;
- Development of Research and Innovation Support Structures (Strategy, guideline and Job

Description of RISS staff

- Gender Equality in Research and Innovation
- Research Quality Indicator's;
- Developing local and international linkages among Academia and Businesses through interdisciplinary research group
- Training on sustainability of the project results

Tangible outputs:

- 20 new teaching methodologies in HEIs from Albania and Kosovo
- 1 in depth analyze of current needs for new practices in research mentoring for Albania and Kosovo
- 6 Gender Equality Plan's, for each of the Institutions from Albania and Kosovo
- 6 Code's of Research conduct and Research ethics for each of the Institutions from Albania and Kosovo
- 6 Benchmarking systems for quality indicators
- 1 Manual for Management of the Projects in Consortium level
- 6 Research and Innovation Support Structures Established, with the new strategy, action plan and Job description
- Development of a network, supported by 1 Virtual platform with an open access for interdisciplinary research groups, industry and other stakeholders

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