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DRIVE DEVELOPING RESEARCH
AND INNOVATION CAPACITIES IN ALBANIA AND KOSOVO

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION SUPPORT STRUCTURES



AALBORG UNIVERSITY

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Introduction

WP4 aims to address one of the shortcomings identified during the needs analysis on country and institutional level: the need for coordinating structures that have processes and procedures in place to support research and innovation within each institution.

The poor performance of Albania and Kosovo in terms of R&D and innovation is not only an issue of limited resources (human or financial), it is also due to the lack of proper structures which have a specific focus on innovation. Unlike the departments that given the aforementioned conditions tend to get consumed with the day to day management of the study programs, these structures (RISS) seek to adopt a systemic and institutional approach towards research and innovation, considering it not merely an individual responsibility of the academic staff but also a matter of institutional culture and organization.

Because they will not confine within one department, RISS are planned to function as an inter-departmental and inter-disciplinary entity and as such they seek to bring together people from various disciplines and expertise, facilitating knowledge exchange, new research topics and innovation.

Out of the 6 HEIs from Albania and Kosovo, 2 have already similar units in embryonic stage and the remaining 4 have the objective to have dedicated units that support research and innovation in their Institutional Development Strategy.

However, besides the positive intention, know-how on how to get these structures up and running is required. Therefore, this WP has a twofold objective:

- Formalize RISS (legally within the HEI, as well as develop regulations, action plans for their activity)
- Train RISS staff so they are able to effectively and efficiently manage RISS

Overview of the outputs/ Del 4.1

Research and Innovation Support Centers, as units which will be a nucleus in each University in support of Innovation and Research, are established in four Universities in partner countries as was foreseen in the project proposal, while two other Universities had already established units, so regulation, action plan and job description will be develop in the framework of the project.

Polytechnic University of Tirana through the Administration Board with the decision number 36/4 on 23.01.2020, restructured the organigram and decided to establish new structure Scientific Research and Project Directory (Confirmation number 1193, date 14.07.2021)

University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina”. RISS structure is Faculty based and named Research and Innovation Support Hub Lab. This structure was established with the decision made by the Dean of the Faculty of Electrical and Computer Sciences (confirmation with prot.no. 1760/21, date 06.07.2021)

University of Gjakova “Fehmi Agani”. The notification that the project DRIVE was granted, has coincided with the development of the new organigram at the UGJFA. Thus, as a direct output of the project DRIVE the "Scientific Research and Project Management Office", was established, and this is also confirmed from the Rector of the University with the Letter from the Rector with the Prot. No. 1760/21, date 06.07.2021.

Universum College has established on 21st of March 2021 the Research and Innovation Center structures within its premises (Decision signed from the president of Universum, date 21.03.2021)

European University of Tirana, will enhance existing structures called “Office for Projects and Partnership”. This structure is under the direct supervision of the Deputy Rector for Research, and within the DRIVE project, regulation, job description, strategy and action plan

POLIS University: It has already established a dedicated inter-departmental cross-cutting unit, namely Innovation Factory – IF, which is a recently established structure within the institution (from May, 2017). This project will help structure its activity as well as develop a set of guidelines, strategy and action plan, having a long-term impact on the institution’s governance.