



Annex B to QC Manual - Word document template

**Erasmus + Project No 561586-EPP-1-2015-1-RS-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP
Enhancement of HE Research Potential Contributing to
Further Growth of the WB Region
Re@WBC**

Ref. No and Title of Workpackage	Activity no. 2.9 / Work package 2. Cooperation with scientific diaspora established
Title of Deliverable:	2.9 Cooperation with scientific diaspora
Institution:	University of Tirana
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Status of the document:	Final
Document Version no and date:	v.01, 03.06.2018
Number of Pages	5
Dissemination Level	Internal

Abstract	The following document is a report on Activity 2.9 Cooperation with scientific diaspora established
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Report on Activity 2.9

University of Tirana aims to foster relationships between present and future alumni by enriching the professional and personal lives of all alumni and by recognizing alumni contributions to our university community and to enhance the growth, development and advancement of University of Tirana

There is an opportunity for alumni to act as promoters for the University of Tirana, using their experience, knowledge and leadership skills to assist student recruitment goals. Through the provision of postgraduate alumni insights, we can better target and cross-promote relevant postgraduate courses and enrolment opportunities in our alumni channels. In addition UT is trying to strengthen opportunities for the alumni to take an active role in promoting the University of Tirana, offering volunteering opportunities to represent the University to potential future students. The goal is to empower alumni to become confident promoters when attending and presenting at student recruitment events.

There are no exact figures about scientists living and working outside Albania and no systematic analysis or survey of scientific Diaspora has so far taken place. Raising awareness among the general public about this population's possible contribution and the setting up of scientific Diaspora networks is very important.

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In full compliance with the National Strategy on Diaspora (2018 – 2024), the National Strategy for Science, Technology and Innovation (decision of the Council of Ministers no.710 date 01/12/2017), and the University's Strategy for Development, University of Tirana has started to analyze ways on how to connect scientific Diaspora Alumni from everywhere around the globe could strengthen the links between the Albanian scientists living and working abroad with the scientists living and working in Albania and create a network. Scientific Diaspora and Alumni associations can play a key role in forming research partnerships and enhance cooperation between scientists.

Having more permanent structures and a list of databases of Albanian academics living and working abroad who are willing to come to their home country and contribute to the University of Tirana engaging in various development projects or undertaking teaching assignments at our university would result in the constitution of real Alumni networks.

The strategic plan of research of the University of Tirana, which can be found at http://www.unitir.edu.al/images/Vendim_Senati_Akademik_Nr.11.pdf, *Objective 1: Enhancing the capacity and quality of research in UT*, foresees in point 1.4 that "the recruitment of students pursuing post-doctoral studies abroad and prominent Albanian scholars living abroad through the best use of the benefits of research mobility funds".

Thus, the set-up of the scientific Diaspora alumni database by the University of Tirana is very important, as well as an alumni contact point who might be the main point for the spreading of information to the rest of the members. This database system will enable Albanian Diaspora to become members filling their profiles in the system. Having created the system, the University of Tirana could bring scientists from the Diaspora and Albania altogether in different research activities which help develop the scientific research. UT has started working by preparing and distributing a survey to obtain information from Alumni. This survey can be found at the following link.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1uDB18hb2F3Wfh-LINApB4LU2R1VDPAvKIVuSKED2AqI/viewform?edit_requested=true

In addition to the survey, University of Tirana has also compiled the strategy of the job market in order to improve and develop the study programs of all cycles of study. The strategy encompasses the pursuit of employment of students who have completed their studies in Master's programs (scientific and professional) at all faculties of the University of Tirana in the last four years. It aims to analyze the data supply and demand for employment of young people who attend their studies the University of Tirana. It provides an overview of the specialties offered by the University of Tirana in the labor market based on the data obtained from the faculties of the University of Tirana and the number of students completing the Master programs. The link to the questionnaire is <http://ut.morix.al/>. The questionnaire was filled by **1,168** students and detailed information is provided with regard to their location and jobs. A detailed database is being created.

Meanwhile, the Faculty of History and Philology has also created a platform for its Alumni. The Alumni of this faculty is a volunteer organization that has been created to maintain ties with the Faculty and each other. Its mission is to search, serve and involve all Alumni and current students; to encourage and promote a long-term intellectual and emotional connection between the University and its graduates; cooperate with FHF in realizing activities, meetings, conferences and ensure support for the Faculty.

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Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
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