



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. Cooperation with scientific diaspora established
Title of Deliverable:	Report
Institution:	University of Vlora "Ismail Qemali"
Author/s of the deliverable	Bledar Toska
Status of the document:	Final
Document Version no and date:	v.01, 26.11. 2016.
Number of Pages	2
Dissemination Level	Internal

Abstract	The following document is a report on the current situation of the relationships UNIhas with the scientific dispora
----------	---

Report on the current situation of the cooperation with scientific diaspora

The University of Vlora "Ismail Qemali" (UV) has good cooperation with the Albanian scientific diaspora. However, this cooperation does not follow a formal format or work at a well-organized institutional level. The cooperation is most notably a result of the links academics have established among themselves. The cooperation has so far worked in these directions:

1. Participation in conferences or scientific events:

Members of the Albanian scientific diaspora have often been invited to give lectures or talks in events, conferences or public lectures organized by the University of Vlora. These invitations have usually been made by individuals who have good contacts with the members of the diaspora and who have acted as negotiators on behalf of the institution. Besides keynote lecturing, Albanian scholars who live abroad have participated in scientific events organized in Albania and have often expressed their enthusiasm for doing so and for continuing to collaborate with their colleagues at UV. These scholars have mainly been from the USA, the UK, the Czech Republic, Italy and Germany.

2. Lecturing or visiting professorship:

Another way of maintaining the links with the diaspora has been to invite them to teach for short periods of time at our university. This has often been the case with professors who live



ERASMUS+ PROJECT

Re@WBC

Enhancement of HE research potential
contributing to further growth of the WB region



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

and work in the USA, Germany or Italy. Their contribution has been noteworthy especially in the accreditation of the PhD programme in Maths.

3. Links with the Arberesh community

One of the most significant collaborations is that with the academic Arberesh community in Italy, one of the oldest diasporic communities of Albanians in the world. This collaboration has been most notable in the field of philology. Several events have been organized in this respect, namely joint conferences, publications and book promotions.

4. Establishing links with other diasporic communities

At present UV is working towards identifying other Albanian academic communities in the world. More active in this direction has been the Faculty of Humanities who are working towards identifying departments of Albanologic studies and are trying to set up connections with them, the most recent being the collaboration with the Department of Albanology, University of Belgrade.

5. Maintaining links with the former UV students

Several students who have finished their BA studies at UV and are now studying at other universities abroad have maintained their contacts with their professors at UV. They often return to UV for research purposes. At present the alumni office in UV that collects statistical data about UV alumni among other things is unable to provide any specific information about UV alumni abroad. No such information has so far been officially collected.

Remarks

On the whole, the University of Vlora has good connections with the scientific diaspora. Members of the diaspora are often present in the activities organized by UV. However, there is a need to foster and formalize these connections into more institutionalized entities and organizations. For instance, UV has some informal information about its alumni overseas but there is a lack of official data about their exact number, occupation and educational and professional background. Thus, there is a need for the establishment of an alumni network that would identify in concrete data the presence of former UV students overseas. The network should work with a clear goal for establishing and strengthening links among the alumni and UV and act as a well-coordinated network for promoting UV, for cooperating with UV and also for advising and supporting prospective students of UV who want to study and live abroad.

The European Commission support for the production of this publication does not constitute an endorsement of the contents which reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.