



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

**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. 2.8. Ethical committee procedures improved
Title of Deliverable:	Report
Institution:	University of Tirana
Author/s of the deliverable	Elvana Cela
Status of the document:	Final
Document Version no and date:	v.05
Number of Pages	3
Dissemination Level	Public/Internal

Abstract	The following document is a report on the current situation of the ethics committee at UV.
----------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------



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

## Actual situation

The ethic in Albanian universities is a topic which has been regulated by legal framework which provided the main standards and principles necessary to ensure a satisfactory level of ethic in the universities' human resources. The law has also provided the necessary institutional framework which would guarantee the management of the ethical issues in sustainable way.

The Ethical Committee is established and it operates based on the article 17, law nr.9741 "For the Higher Education in the Republic of Albania". According to point 2 of this article, the members of the Ethical Committee are elected by the Academic Senate of the University, after being proposed by the Faculties.

A series of bylaws are approved to make the law applicable and operational, regulating the functioning of ethical committees, as well as defining the work processes and procedures for addressing the ethical issues. The Statute and Regulation of the University are the core bylaws which regulate the rights, duties, organization and functioning of the Committee, further detailed by the regulations of each Faculty.

In general, the Ethical Committees are guided in their management and functioning by sound principles and well design policies. Below find a short description on how the Ethical Committee is set up and is functioning in University of Tirana.

## The setup of Ethical Committee

The members of the Ethical Committee are elected by the Academic Senate from the academic staff, based on the Rector's proposal. The Ethical Committee has 7 members. Based on University of Tirana Statute dated 16.12.2009 (article 28), each gender (male and female) should have at least 2 representatives at the Ethical Committee. 6 members are elected from the academic personnel of the University and 1 member is from the Rectorate. Each Rectorate unit proposes a respective candidate to the Rector. The Ethical Committee elects its Chairman and nominates it to the Academic Senate.

## The guidance of Ethical Committees

The Code of Ethic defines the decision making processes, handling and analyze of complaints and enforcement of respective decisions and sanctions. The University's Code of Ethic is a written set of guidelines issued by the Ethical Committee to its workers and students, to help them conduct their actions in accordance with University primary values and ethical standards.

The Committee has the right to request and obtain information from the academic personnel, teaching and administrative staff as well as the member units of the University of Tirana, apart from the Academic Senate, Rector, Council of Administration and parallel structures and student councils, to make sure the ethical principles of their work are in accordance with University primary values and ethics.

The verification of the ethical cases in governing bodies of the university and respective procedures, as well as when the cooperation with individuals, agencies and institutions outside the University of Tirana is required, the Ethical Committee should get permission from the Academic Senate. If this is impossible, the Committee should get permission from the Rector. In the end, the Ethical Committee submits the conclusions to the Rector, with the corresponding recommendations.

When verifications are related to academic personnel, and the consent by the Academic Senate is obtained before this verification, the Rector informs the Academic Senate about the findings and the

*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.*



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

conclusions. The cases handled by the Ethical Committee are considered transparent since all meetings are open to the public; anyone can attend but without right to vote.

### **The administrative support for Ethical Committee**

The members of the Ethical Committee are not remunerated for their work. There is only one secretary who keeps the correspondence, the minutes of meetings etc.

### **The changes in legislation**

The legislation on the higher education has been changed recently with approval of a new law nr. 80/2015, date 22.07.2015. As the previous law, the law approved in 2015, keep the same approach when deals with the ethics in universities. It requires the establishment of the Ethical Committees, while delegates to the universities the responsibility for approval of the bylaws for its functioning.

### **The performance of Ethical Committee**

The Ethical Committees are operating without a sustainable funding mechanism, which would guarantee that these structures could perform in planned and structured manner, by preparing annual plans and setting objectives. Regardless of such constraint, the Committees have been able to detect, analyze and to make decisions for several cases related with plagiarism. As the funding constraints are not matters which can be resolved in short term, it remains crucial to be explored for alternative funding ways beyond the annual budget of Universities, in order to provide that the ethical issues will be dealt properly. Raising funds through projects with donators and groups of interest are options, which can serve to increase the effectiveness of Ethical Committees.

This approach is supported by the platform of newly elected University management, which consider the ethics issues as important component of Internal Quality Assurance activity