



UNIVERSITETI - UNIVERSITY - UNIVERZITET
"HAXHI ZEKA"

Strategy for International Cooperation and Project Management

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Introduction

“Haxhi Zeka “University Strategic plan for international cooperation and project management is a plan that reflects further development of institutional international cooperation as well enables project initiation and their management as part of the institutional cooperation with relevant institutions of high education and the relevant business community.

Part of this strategic plan are tables that plan the results as per the set objectives and sub objectives foreseen in this plan.

1. Situational Analysis

The office for international cooperation (OIC) in Haxhi Zeka university is a central office placed in the rector's building. It is established aiming coordination of the activities and development of international relations with partner universities and other education and research and cooperation networks from Europe and worldwide.

The office for international cooperation and projects is established in 2012 as part of the organizational structure of UHZ. OIC operates under the supervision of Vice rector for international cooperation and quality assurance.

In November of 2021, OIC was strengthened by adding two new positions within the office: coordinator for international cooperation and the coordinator for science and projects appointed by the UHZ steering committee. In December of 2022, the director of OIC has been appointed.

Since the beginning of its operations OIC, university “Haxhi Zeka” has signed numerous cooperation agreements and MoU's in all fields of cooperation with different universities and science institutions.

Aiming the achievement of the profiling in entrepreneurship and becoming a temple of science, knowledge and community development, university Haxhi Zeka has developed numerous international projects with domestic partners, Europe and USA, thus with its work and activities continuously increases its role in the academic, scientific and business community.

2. Mission and Vision for International Cooperation and Project Management

3.1 Mission Statement

The University utilizes international cooperation to foster the development of education and research. The University aims to do so by enhancing the cooperation with universities and institutions worldwide to develop internationally recognized educational programs, strengthen the academic position at the international level, increase the diversity and enhance the quality by organizing international scientific and academic events and developing joint international projects and publications

The mission of the international cooperation strategy and project management is strengthening the Haxhi Zeka internationalization by presenting this institution as modern university with European values and quality.

Our values are reflected in the tradition of international cooperation, the culture of being open towards students, professors and our coworkers from region and further (international students, teaching and non-teaching staff visiting University Haxhi Zeka every year) by promoting the value of international cooperation between students, professors and university coworkers of the university and promotion of the diversity study programs.

3.2 Vision Statement

Our vision is to become an institution with international credibility that reflects values of UHZ.

Our vision reflects through strengthening of the partnership and leadership in the field of international cooperation. With a certain number of the cooperation agreements (bilateral or through program/projects) with universities worldwide and memberships in organizations and important networks, we expect to intensify mobility that will enable our students, lecturers and our coworkers to express their qualities in an international level, also to be improved through such contacts.

3. Main objectives and sub objectives

4.1. Development of international environment for education and research

Sub objective 4.1.1 Review and implementation of the regulation of OIC and project management (PM)

Sub objective 4.1.2: capacity building for OIC and PM

Sub objective 4.1.3: development of new cooperation's and consolidation of the existing agreements for cooperation with international partners that support institutional internationalization.

Sub objective 4.1.4: Establishment of the Center for Business Support (CBS) – aiming creation of the professional programs, strengthening Career Office and support to the business community.

Sub objective 4.1.5: establishment of the infrastructure and consolidation of the existing human capacities needed for international cooperation.

4.2 Research, Conferences and Publications

Sub objective 4.2.1 development of joint researches and publications in individual and institutional level

Sub objective 4.2.2: enhancement of organizations of joint scientific international conferences

Sub objective 4.2.3: Improvement of language and research skills for the staff and students

Sub objective 4.2.4: improvement of the research infrastructure to achieve the internationalization needs

4.3 Mobility and networking

Sub objective 4.3.1: increase the mobility for academic and administrative staff (incoming and outgoing).

Sub objective 4.3.2: Increase the student mobility (incoming and outgoing).

Sub objective 4.3.3: Advancement of organization of the International Summer University and other short term exchanges

Sub objective 4.3.4: expanding the network of the international partners and membership in different international associations.

4.4 Strengthening of project development and management

Sub objective 4.4.1: Strengthening the staff capacities in project management

Sub objective 4. 4.2: challenging and supporting the academic staff to develop international projects

Sub objective 4.4.3: drafting, preparing, submission and implementation of joint international projects.

5 Strategic fields as per the objectives / SWOT Analysis

5.1 Education and International Environment – SWOT Analysis

The internal and external analysis of the University's situation in terms of education and its international environment.

Strengths

- Institutional Commitment for Internationalization and PM
- Implementation of QUADIC
- Existing infrastructure (existing IR and PM offices)
- Existing staff capacities that speaks English and other foreign languages
- Number of signed agreements with other HEIs
- Interest of students to study at HEIs
- Existing rules and regulations for mobility
- International recognition of diplomas
- HEI accreditation policy and quality assurance strategies

Weaknesses

- Lack of study programs or list of courses thought in English
- Political constraints that hinder the movement of staff and students
- Insufficient competent administrative staff responsible for International Relations and Project Management
- Inadequate English language proficiency of the staff (academic and administrative)
- Insufficient budget allocation for internationalization
- Insufficient infrastructure (space, library, etc.)
- Insufficient materialization of the existing MOUs for the purpose of establishing study programs in foreign language
- Application of traditional teaching methods by majority of academic staff
- Lack of ongoing training for the staff on advanced teaching methods
- Lack of formal recognition of engagement in international projects for the purpose of staff promotion
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Opportunities

- Increase the UHZ budget through ERASMUS +, Horizon Europe and other national and international projects
- Cooperation between Kosovo and countries of Europe for developing study programs in foreign language
- Experience on implementing joint programs between national HEIs
- Study programs in foreign languages
- Utilization of international experience of the academic staff
- Use of distance learning and adoption of latest information and communications technologies
- Utilization of innovations in digital devices
- Open-access policy in research infrastructure
- QUADIC project management platform

Threats

- Decreasing number of new students
- Brain Drain
- Strong competition of universities at the national and international level in the profile of study programs
- Kosovo is not an equal partner in some programs and international foundations
- Obstacles in movement/mobility (Non visa liberalization)
- Threats from economic, political and health crises

5.2 Research, Conferences and Publications – SWOT Analysis

The internal and external analysis of the University's situation in terms of research, conferences and publications.

Strengths

- Institutional Commitment for Internationalization of research sector
- Implementation of Research Cult Project
- Existing infrastructure (existing Office for Research)
- Existing staff with good capacities on research
 - Experience in organizing international scientific events
 - Existing rules and regulations for research and financial support from the HEIs and MEST
- Active participation in international consortia, projects, and grants
- Capital investments in research infrastructure

Weaknesses

- Political constraints
- Insufficient competent administrative staff dedicate to the research sector
- Inadequate English language proficiency of the staff
- Insufficient budget allocation to research support
- Insufficient infrastructure (space, library, lack of access to e-library in foreign language, etc.)
- Insufficient materialization of the existing MOUs
- Insufficient research cooperation and organization of joint scientific conferences
- Insufficient publication between academic staff of
- Lack of ongoing training for the academic staff on advanced research method and scientific writing

Opportunities

Support from the Ministry of Education and HEIs

- Fund-raising of national and foreign grant financing
- Erasmus + / Heras and other donors' projects
- Cooperation between Kosovo's academic staff and other
- Joint programs between national HEIs
- Current international programs finances by MEST , e.g. COST and HERAS
- Utilization of international experience of the academic staff
- Utilization of innovations in digital devices
- Open-access policy in research infrastructure
- Research Cult project management platform

Threats

- Lack of budget for research, artistic and cultural activities.
- Inconsistent government policy on quality of publication
- Non- readiness of academic staff to get involved in international research projects
- Pandemic threats
- Schengen visa issue

Mobility and Networking – SWOT Analysis

The internal and external analysis of the University's situation in terms of mobility and networking.

Strengths

- There is interest from management, academic staff and University students for international mobility (outgoing and incoming).

Implementation of QUADIC and use of other instruments for mobility

- Existing University/staff connection with staff of the universities in Europe and elsewhere
- Current international cooperation and joint projects
- Existing rules and regulations for mobility
- Active participation in international consortia, projects, and grants
- HEI accreditation policy and quality assurance strategies
- Use of experience from the existing networks e.g. BUA, ENAI, etc

Weaknesses

- Political constraints
- Not trained administrative staff responsible for mobility activities
- Inadequate English language proficiency of the staff and students
- Insufficient infrastructure (space, dorms, library, etc.)
- Insufficient materialization of the existing MOUs for the purpose of mobility
- Unattractive destination for international students
- Lack of courses offered in English language
- Lack of website materials in English
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Opportunities

- Support from the Ministry of Education
- Fund-raising of national and foreign grant financing
- Erasmus + / Heras and other donors' projects
- Cooperation between Kosovo and other countries
- Study programs in foreign languages
- Utilization of international experience of the academic staff
- Use of distance learning and adoption of latest information and communications technologies
- Utilization of innovations in digital devices
- QUADIC project management platform

Threats

- Visa liberalization issue
- Institutional and study program (Re)Accreditation
- Staff and student's readiness to get involved in the mobility projects
- Pandemic threats
- International universities reluctant to cooperate and involve University in mobility activities
- . • No interest from international academic staff and students for international mobility with University
- . • No budget allocation to promote and support international mobility from the University side and donors

5.3 Project Development and Management – SWOT Analysis

The internal and external analysis of the University's situation in terms of project management.

Strengths

- Institutional Commitment for Internationalization and PM
- Implementation of QUADIC • Existing infrastructure (existing IR and PM offices)
- Existing staff capacities
- Current international cooperation and joint projects
- Active participation in international consortia, projects, and grants

Weaknesses

- Insufficient competent administrative staff for project development and management
- Inadequate English language proficiency of the staff
- Insufficient budget allocation to project writing
- Insufficient materialization of the existing MOUs
- The quality of partnerships
- Lack of ongoing training for the staff
- Lack of formal recognition of engagement in international projects for promotion of academic and administrative staff
- Lack of project management platforms/software
- Lack of experience in project development and management

Opportunities

- Fund-raising of national and foreign grant financing
- Erasmus + / Heras and other donors' projects
- Cooperation between Kosovo and Albania, and other countries

Joint programs between national HEIs

- Utilization of international experience of the academic staff
- Utilization of innovations in digital devices
- QUADIC project management platform

Threats

- Brain Drain
- Inconsistent government policy
- Interest of donors declining to finance projects and training of staff
- Staff readiness to develop and get involved in international projects
- Pandemic threats

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