



UNIVERSITY “HAXHI ZEKA”

**INTERNATIONALIZATION STRATEGY OF UNIVERSITY
“HAXHI ZEKA” IN PEJA**

2020-2024

Peja, March 2020

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1. INTRODUCTION

There is an increasing pace of change and dynamism in global terms, and we aspire to act flexibly and responsibly in order to provide new opportunities and innovation for academics and students in the field of international cooperation. Our University, like most Universities, recognizes the necessity of internationalization as the best way to respond to the rapidly changing global demands and response needed to adapt to these external changes, whether social or technological. The internationalization process will include joint educational projects, student exchanges and staff exchanges and will create new opportunities for those seeking new knowledge and experiences to supplement their areas of interest and career prospects in their future, reflective to their contexts and circumstances.

2. MISSION AND VISION OF THE UNIVERSITY FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

2.1. Mission of UHZ

Haxhi Zeka University is focusing its efforts on achieving a higher standard of internationalization. UHZ's mission is to become a leader in the region in terms of providing quality education and research, affirming academic relationships with other universities, providing conditions and a favourable environment to improve scientific knowledge and professional competence as well as mobility of academic staff, students and administrative staff, in accordance with their personal and social needs.

2.2. Vision of UHZ

University “Haxhi Zeka” has as its vision to contribute to educational development through the process of internationalization and internationally recognized educational programs and strengthening of academic position at local and international level. This vision will be fulfilled through a close cooperation with international universities and institutions, local and governmental enterprises and institutions, increasing the diversity of students and academic staff, organizing conferences of local and international character, and academic freedom for academic staff and students, especially in terms of creativity.

3. GENERAL AND SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES OF INTERNATIONALIZATION

3.1. Overall Objectives:

The purpose of the strategy is to determine the groundwork for building a strong international well-known tradition and reputation that will guarantee a better position of the institution in the years ahead and serve future generations. The strategy will focus on mobility activities, which provide a more competitive environment on an international basis and towards a more challenging agenda, which will bring quality and excellence crossing national boundaries. In this way, teachers and researchers will be equal to their colleagues in EU countries and beyond, taking advantage of the same standard and opportunity at the highest level, thus making them open to the international market as a result of which they will further contribute to the fulfillment of demands in global dimensions and trends. In this context, in addition to those who have benefited from the experience of mobility, aspects of internationalization will also be experienced by those who have not been part of mobility through communications with students and staff who have completed mobility and returned to their institution.

3.2. Specific Objectives:

The strategy of internationalization with the aim of creating a reliable and professional profile supports its efforts especially in the following directions:

Activities for achieving specific objectives:

3.2.1: Creation of functional and competent mechanism for international cooperation

Activity	Description:	Period	Budget
3.2.1 Creation of regulations and Office for International Cooperation	UHZ will draft and approve the Strategy for International Cooperation for a five-year period, in which will be detailed activities to be carried out by UHZ in order to increase international cooperation and partnership, increase joint projects with international partners, international mobility of academic staff and students, etc. From the existing Department for International Cooperation and Quality Assurance will be divided as separate	February 2020	0.00

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	Office for International Cooperation (OIC).		
3.2.2 Capacity building on International cooperation	<p>The Office for International Cooperation will have 3 members of staff, of which 1 will be promoted from the current position and 2 will be employed. This office will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1 office director and - 2 international cooperation officers (respectively one international cooperation officer and one international projects officer). <p>UHZ through the Office for International Cooperation (OIC) will select 15 academic staff members (3 from each academic unit) and 3 OIC officers (18 in total), for whom it will provide trainings by local and international experts as regards increase of international and inter-institutional co-operation, increase of joint projects with international partners, increase of international mobility of academic staff and students, identification of international and local partners, etc..</p>	March 2020	5x21,600.00
3.2.3 Consolidation of current agreements and establishment of new international partnerships	UHZ will resign and consolidate current agreements it had with different Universities and Institutions and will also identify new partners for achievement of agreements which are in the interest of both parties either for mobility of academic and administrative staff, either for different international projects.	Every year 2020-2024	5x20,000.00

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3.3: Increasing and intensifying international cooperation in mobility

Activity	Description:	Period	Budget
3.3.1 Mobility of academic staff (outgoing/incoming)	<p>In cooperation with international partner universities, UHZ will support the international mobility of academic staff each year, including the transfer of UHZ academic staff to international universities and the arrival of international university academic staff at UHZ.</p> <p>During an academic year, at least 10 individuals from the academic staff of UHZ will stay at international universities, while at least 2 individuals from the academic staff of international universities will stay at UHZ</p>	Every year 2020-2024	5x30,000.00
3.3.2 Mobility of students (outgoing/incoming)	<p>In cooperation with partner international universities, UHZ will support the international mobility of students every year, including the visits of UHZ students at international universities and the arrival of international university students at UHZ.</p> <p>During an academic year, at least 5 UHZ students will stay at international universities, while at least 2 international university students will stay at UHZ.</p>	Every year 2020-2024	5x30,000.00
3.3.3 Mobility of administrative staff of OIC (outgoing/incoming)	<p>UHZ through the Office for International Cooperation (OIC) will select 15 academic staff members (3 from each academic unit) and 3 OIC officers (18 in total), for whom it will provide trainings by local and</p>		

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	<p>international experts as regards increase of international and inter-institutional co-operation, increase of joint projects with international partners, increase of international mobility of academic staff and students, identification of international and local partners, etc..</p>	<p>Every year 2020-2024</p>	<p>0.00</p>
<p>3.3.4 International Summer School</p>	<p>UHZ will make all necessary preparations for the organization of the UHZ International Summer University, which will be organized annually, during summer holidays.</p> <p>Within this summer university will be offered various courses in English by professors from UHZ, other local universities and international universities. The courses that will be organized will be mainly related to current topics from UHZ fields of study and topics that promote the values and tradition of UHZ and Dukagjini region.</p> <p>Also, attending students will also be local and international. Credits earned by students during summer university will be transferable to their respective universities.</p> <p>Also, within the Summer University will be organized numerous social, cultural, sports and recreational activities for all participants.</p>	<p>Every year 2020-2024</p>	<p>5x12,000.00</p>

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3.4: Joint international researches, projects, conferences and programs

Activity	Description:	Period	Budget
3.4.1 Joint international individual and institutional researches	Every year UHZ will support the conducting of scientific research, which will be conducted in collaboration with some UHZ professors and some of their colleagues from international universities.	Every year 2020-2024	5x40,000.00
3.4.2 Joint international projects	<p>Through the Office for International Cooperation, during the five-year period UHZ will be the implementing partner of 5 joint projects with international universities, of which 2 projects will be drafted and managed by UHZ, while in the other 3 projects will be the implementing partner. These projects will be of different areas, from which UHZ, its staff and students benefit. The projects will, among others, be related to the design and accreditation of new programs, joint programs and strategic development of the institution.</p> <p>For the implementation of these projects will be secured international donations from existing schemes available, but as needed, UHZ will financially support this collaboration with a separate budget allocated for this purpose.</p>	2020 partner project 2021 partner project 2022 partner project 2023 partner bearer 2024 partner bearer	100,000.00 100,000.00 100,000.00 100,000.00 100,000.00
3.4.3 Joint international University conferences	On purpose of exchanging ideas and most recent inovations on different fields with different international colleagues and researchers, UHZ will be organizer of international	Every year	

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	conferences and will participate in different conferences as an essential part of the academic life.	2020-2024	
3.4.4 Joint international programs	<p>In cooperation with local and international partner universities over a five year period, UHZ will prepare, accredit and start implementing at least 3 joint degree programs with international universities (1 PhD, 1 MA and 1 BA).</p> <p>These study programs will be in English, with academic staff from UHZ and international partner universities, as well as local and international students.</p> <p>For the implementation of these projects will be secured international donations from existing schemes available, but as needed, UHZ will financially support this collaboration with a separate budget allocated for this purpose.</p>	<p>2020 – Joint master program FAG (with UP)</p> <p>2021 – Joint Bachelor program, FB (University of Sarajevo)</p> <p>2022 – Joint PhD program FB (With University of Malta, Zagreb and Tetova)</p>	<p>0.00</p> <p>3,500.00</p> <p>3,500.00</p>

4. Implementation of the internationalization process

There is a mechanism, resources and staff responsible for organizing international and inter-institutional cooperation (Office for International Cooperation, Director, Cooperation Officer and Project Officer) which will ensure the safe implementation of the whole process and the fulfillment of objectives. This office has trained professional staff who are able to address all the needs and requests of students and academic staff related to international activities. The inclusion of all levels and areas of the University will make University “Haxhi Zeka” competitive, attractive and will encourage local and international qualified students, lecturers and researchers to become part of mobility programs and agreements. The strategy facilitates the access of

academic staff and students to information and mobility opportunities and provides a successful mechanism for their exchange programs.

5. Involvement and academic cooperation with the Kosovo Diaspora

Given that a large number of Kosovo Diaspora (as important contributors to Kosovo) live in foreign countries and they represent an important factor in the daily life and activities of Kosovo, the University recognizes the potential they have and will undertake steps needed to foster relations with the Diaspora and create sustainable conditions to include the Diaspora as an active partner in the development of the University.

6. Alumni

The University is aware of the great potential it has among its students, and is seriously committed to creating benefits from the University's exchange agreements with other Universities and institutions. Any kind of interactive collaboration is welcome after the completion of their internationally recognized achievements. In one way or another, alumni can be informed of the University's activities and maintain a special bond, as well as remain a committed and loyal supporter of the University's progress. In addition to providing the professional support they have gained at different times in their experiences, they can serve as the best promoters for other students who wish to pursue their studies abroad.

7. Transparency and equal opportunities

The internationalization process is based on the principles of transparency and equality. Everyone will have unlimited access to the right information, and all applicants are equal. With this we believe it will enable and simplify people's mobility as well as increase credibility and foster further collaboration between students and academic staff with the University. This will help them to understand current developments fairly and make independent decisions with the conviction and confidence that their demands will be fulfilled impartially.

8. Conclusion

Having set out specific objectives and activities to achieve these objectives, but also the importance of the internationalization process in furthering and

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strengthening the University “Haxhi Zeka” in Peja, we conclude that we remain deeply committed to our work and the progress of this process.

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