



PhD ICT KES

Co-founded by the Erasmus+

ANNUAL REPORT

**The development and implementation of a PhD Program in
ICT for the Kosovo Education System (PhDICTKES)**

Project No: 609990-EPP-1-2019-1-SE-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP

This document is offering the detailed reporting regarding the 1st year of implementation of the project “The development and implementation of a PhD Program in ICT for the Kosovo Education System”, co-funded by Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union under the reference number: 609990-EPP-1-2019-1-SE-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP.

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1. Partner and project objectives within PhDICTKES

1.1 The Partner Country's specific objectives

- 1: Establish a national research school in ICT
- 2: Establish a national curricula for PhD studies in ICT with key elements of learning outcomes, goals and skills
- 3: Increase the knowledge, skills and abilities of Kosovo university staff and faculty
- 4: Facilitate the accreditation process to appropriate national bodies
- 5: Implement the national PhD program and register the first generation of graduate students

1.2 Wider objectives of the project as indicated in the Logical Framework Matrix

- Establishing a new PhD program in Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for HEI in Kosovo
- Increasing research capacities of faculty and students in HEI in the field of ICT
- Increasing internationalization of HEI through staff and programs in ICT

1.3 Specific objectives of the project as indicated in the Logical Framework Matrix

- Creating PhD curricula for ICT domain
- Training of faculty and staff to reach the highest standards
- Co-mentoring of graduate students with faculty from Programme and Partner institutions
- Increasing internationalization of programs and research capacities

2. Working package: Preparation

2.1. Kickoff Meeting (Activity 1.1)

The project was initiated with Kickoff Meeting hosted by University for Business and Technology, in Prishtina, Kosovo, by 25th of November 2019, where all the partners, including representatives from Ministry of Education, representative of Swedish Embassy in Kosovo, representative of Norway Embassy in Kosovo, rectors of respective HEI institutions, professors and students participated (in total 35 participants).



Image 1: A joint image from the Kickoff meeting participants, 25 of Nov 2019, @UBT

This meeting included the presentation of the detailed project including the financial documentation and reporting requirements. Further the partners presented their institutions and respective capacities. The workshop concluded by establishing the advisory board and management board, as two bodies that will lead the implementation of the project.

Partnership agreement will be prepared after receiving the grant agreement. Websites, Trello, Dropbox and Slack will be used as platforms to communicate with the public, and among each other.

2.2. Workshop for analysis of existing research centers and PhD programs globally / Industries (Activity 1.2)

Continued with the second activity “Workshop for analysis of existing research centers and PhD programs globally / Industries” organized in the University of Prishtina, 6 and 7 of February 2020.



Image 2: 1st day of workshop 1.2, 6 of Feb 2020, @UP

The workshop started with 16 participants from the consortium partners by presenting the initial work from the 1st deliverable of the project (see Image 2), the Benchmarking of PhD studies, and we continued with a presentation of PhD Standards from Kosovo accreditation agency.

The day concluded with a presentation from the project coordinator regarding the Brussel visit in January, and the presentation of the new logo for our project, which will be used as an identity for presenting our project and also for the website.



Image 3: 2nd day of workshop 1.2, 7 of Feb 2020, @UP

The second day continued with 23 participants from representatives from industries in Kosovo and consortium partners in order to find possibilities of collaboration for research projects among academia and industry (see Image 3).

To conclude, the benchmarking of PhD studies should be generated as a report (1st deliverable), and analyse the PhD standards from Kosovo Accreditation Agency for future PhD Programs. Additionally the Kosovo Universities should establish a strong collaboration with industry by creating clubs, inviting representatives of industries as guest lecture, co-supervising thesis, to name a few.

2.3 A study visit for analyzing research center in LNU (Activity 1.3 and 1st advisory board)

The participants visited Vaxjo and Kalmar locations of LNU buildings. During the study visit 1st Management (Feb. 25) and 1st Advisory board meeting (Feb. 24) was organised on campus as well as online.



Image 4: Study visit @ LNU, 25-26 of Feb 2020

The participants visited both campuses of LNU in Vaxjo and Kalmar, and they were introduced with research centers, how the PhD program is running from a number of dimensions (director, administrative, professor, students), the research infrastructure, as well as the schema how LNU is collaborating with Industry in the PhD level.



Image 5: Study visit @ LNU, 25-26 of Feb 2020

As an outcome of many discussions that were organized among a number of groups of professors, there is proposed also to organize a diaspora conference in the mid-of August, where all professors and industry representatives with Albanian origins could meet in Kosovo and elaborate the possibilities of upcoming collaboration in University and Industry level.

2.3.1 Second Management Meeting

We continued with our second Management meeting virtually due to COVID-19 situation (April 30th)



Image 6: A screenshot from the second management meeting

The meeting was focused with respect to working package status, the partnership Agreements, Procurement, Administration issues, and other important points with respect to COVID-19 situation.

2.3.2 Third Management Meeting

On 2nd of September the third Management meeting continued virtually due to COVID- 19 situation.

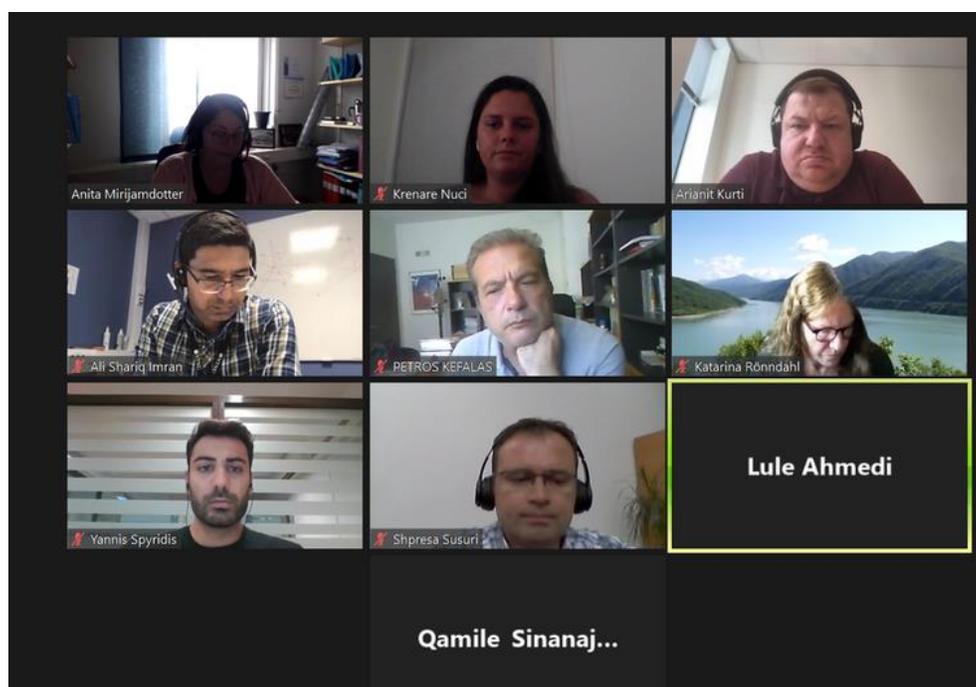


Image 7: A screenshot from the third management meeting

The meeting initiated a discussion related to the EACEA EPLUS CBHE projects questionnaire including status report.

Then continued with discussion related to the current procurement process and closing with Comments on minutes from the last meeting and discussion related to upcoming activities.

2.4 A workshop for development of Strategy for national research PhD school and PhD program and round table discussion for existing PhD programs

The project continued with online workshop using the zoom platform, and on 18th of June 2020 SEERC managed to run the activity 1.4, namely the workshop for development of strategy for national research PhD program.



Image 8: A screenshot from the online activity 1.4

The participants were split into three groups, and they worked parallelly to generate the second deliverable of the project, namely the Initial Strategy for the national PhD School.

3. Working package 2.1: Initiate the research national research school in Kosovo

Activity 2.1 the study visit to NTNU is postponed due to COVID 19 and the analysis of research institutes is linked with the study visit to NTNU, therefore it is also delayed.

Regarding activity 2.3, namely the creation of regulation for research institutes in Kosovo, as part of the 1.4 workshop we have discussed three scenario:

Activity 2.4 (Plan and purchase the RI equipment) is in progress currently and all HEI have reopened the procurement process for the second time (inline with discussion that we had with our PO in Brussels) since the first iteration was closed without receiving any interests from companies.

Activity 2.5 (Training staff for RI equipment in PR) will continue after the installment of the equipment.

Activity 2.6 (The establishment of a national PhD school in PRN) will be organized once the borders are reopened due to COVID situation.

4. Working package 2.2 Increase human capacities for research and mentorship

4.1 Training for mentorship (Activity 2.2.1)

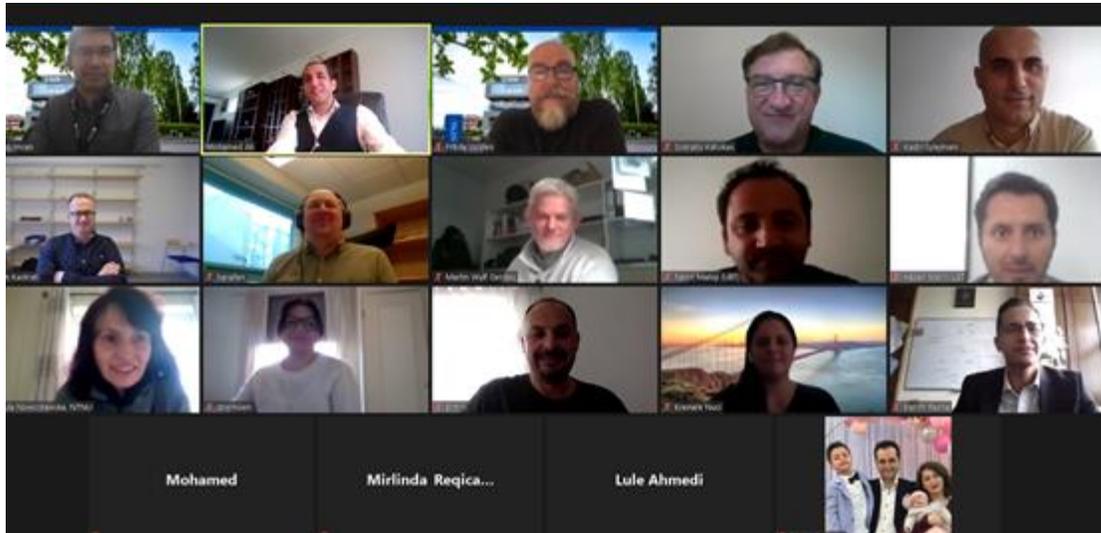


Image 9: A screenshot from activity 2.2.1 - mentorship training

The two day workshop initiated with "Research methodology", then continuing with "Requirements, quality, evaluation, collaboration within PhD Program". In the second part of the day, NTNU continued with "Supervising PhDs in Norway and in Greece: Experiences, challenges, similarities, differences", and "PhD Experiences"

The second day continued with "Ethics", "Recruitment and administration", "Life as a PhD Student in Norway", "The required documentation toward student-mentor collaboration -from PhD program perspective".

Since the workshop was online, it was open for all the participants from HEI in Kosovo, professors, administrators and students.

5. Overall implementation of activities in details

As shown in Image 10, the working packages are running in parallel, and the progress is expressed as percentage (%) for each of the working packages.

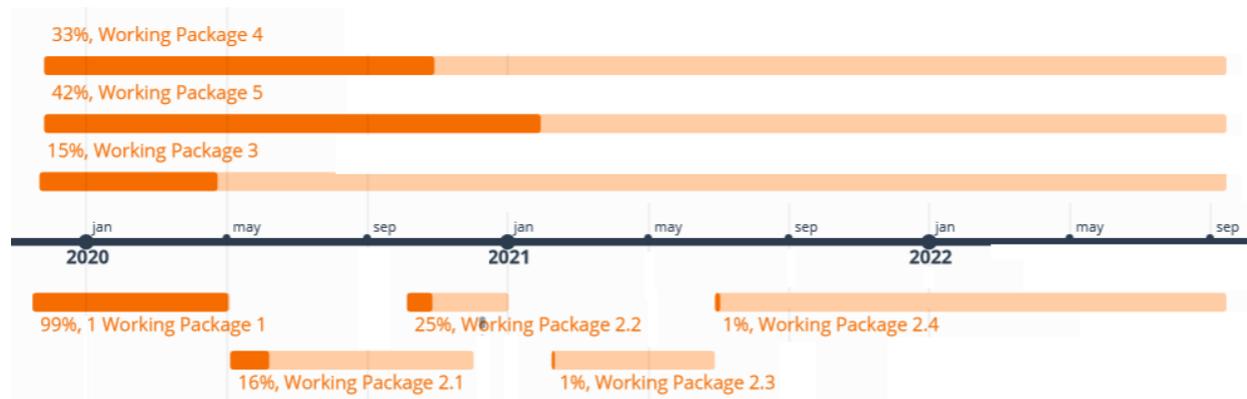


Image 10: Detailed progress of the project activities

5.1 Detailed analysis for the 2019/2020 activities

Table 1: Working Package 1 - Preparation

Activities	Activities date	Venue	Deliverable	Status
1.1. Kickoff Meeting	25-Nov-19	UBT@Kosovo	Management team, the organogram for the implementation of project	Completed
1.2. Workshop for analysis of existing research centers and PhD programs globally / Industries	6-Feb-20	UP@Kosovo	A report - the benchmarking of PhD studies	Completed
1.3 A study visit for analyzing research center in LNU (invite advisory board as well)	24-Feb-20	LNU@Sweden	N/A	Completed

1.4 A workshop for development of Strategy for national research PhD school and PhD program	18-Jun-20	Online	A report - defining the strategy in abstract level for national PhD school	Completed
1.5 Round table discussion for existing PhD programs	16-Apr-20	Online	N/A	Merged with Management Meeting organised on 30th of April.

Table 2: Working Package 2.1 - Initiate the research national research school in Kosovo

Activities	Activities date	Venue	Deliverable	Status
2.1 A study visit in NTNU	26-May-20	-	-	Postponed
2.2 Analysis of Research Institutes of LNU,NTNU	End of June (6/29/2020)	-	-	Postponed
2.3 The creation of regulation for research institutes in Kosovo	End of September 2020	-	-	Postponed
2.4 Plan and purchase the RI equipments*	29 June 2021 to 7 Sep 2021	Kosovo	A report - listing the equipments	In progress
2.5 Training staff for RI equipment in PR	26-Oct-21	-	-	In progress
2.6 The establishment of national PhD school in PRN	30-Nov-20	-	-	Postponed

Table 3: Working Package 2.2 - Increase human capacities for research and mentorship

Activities	Activities date	Venue	Deliverable	Status
2.2.1 Training for mentorship	5-Oct-20	Online	Event	Completed
2.2.2 Workshop for co-mentoring and research projects in SEERC	26-Oct-20	Online	-	In preparation phase
2.2.3 Study visit in LNU/NTNU(two groups will go separately)	23-Nov-21	-	-	In progress
2.2.4. Identifying the PhD program holders for accreditation process	7-Dec-20	Need action from HEI in Kosovo	-	In progress

6. Procurement Process

University of Prishtina - The procurement process is split into two sub processes, the first one is already finished whereas the second list of equipment is still in progress

University for Business and Technology - The procurement process is in progress, the first call was closed without receiving any offer.

University of Prizren - The procurement process is split into two sub processes, the first one is already finished whereas the second list of equipment is still in progress

7. Visibility, dissemination and publicity

The website was created under the domain: *phdictkes.eu*, and inline with the project office in Brussels requirements there are also created social media pages.

7.1 Website stats

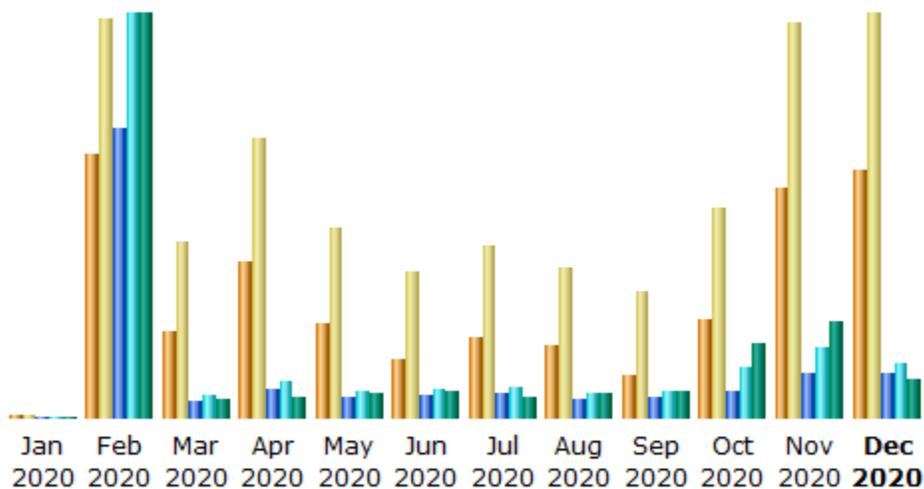


Image 12:Monthly history

Month	Unique visitors	Number of visits	Pages	Hits	Bandwidth
Jan 2020	7	7	7	7	6.91 KB
Feb 2020	443	668	6,895	9,651	195.44 MB
Mar 2020	145	298	419	561	8.94 MB
Apr 2020	262	471	729	877	10.49 MB
May 2020	160	319	503	684	12.63 MB
Jun 2020	99	246	546	740	13.73 MB
Jul 2020	139	288	639	769	10.30 MB
Aug 2020	123	254	462	639	12.50 MB
Sep 2020	74	215	513	689	13.76 MB
Oct 2020	166	353	695	1,218	36.03 MB
Nov 2020	386	661	1,109	1,693	46.93 MB
Dec 2020	418	679	1,102	1,299	18.83 MB
Total	2,422	4,459	13,619	18,827	379.59 MB

Image 13: Detailed monthly history

France	fr	489	495	1.27 MB	
United States	us	188	225	3.41 MB	
Russian Federation	ru	92	92	1.07 MB	
Ukraine	ua	89	89	1.82 MB	
Great Britain	gb	42	45	597.22 KB	
Germany	de	31	43	448.66 KB	
India	in	25	25	327.99 KB	
Italy	it	15	15	5.90 KB	
China	cn	15	61	2.37 MB	
Albania	al	11	61	3.23 MB	
Austria	at	9	9	46.64 KB	
Chile	cl	9	9	3.54 KB	
Canada	ca	9	10	172.41 KB	
Netherlands	nl	8	8	127.75 KB	
Turkey	tr	7	7	127.51 KB	
Australia	au	6	6	126.96 KB	
Japan	jp	5	5	1.97 KB	
Switzerland	ch	5	5	1.97 KB	
Israel	il	4	22	2.28 MB	
Iran	ir	3	3	1.18 KB	
Armenia	am	3	3	1.18 KB	
Moldova	md	3	3	65.81 KB	
South Africa	za	3	3	1.18 KB	
Denmark	dk	3	3	1.18 KB	
Lithuania	lt	3	3	22.69 KB	
Others		25	49	1.33 MB	

Image 14: Visitor location - top 25

7.2 Facebook stats

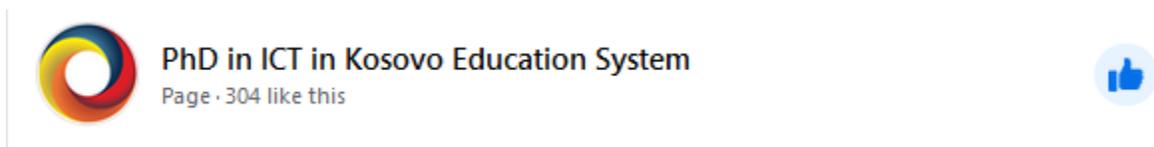


Image 15: Facebook page

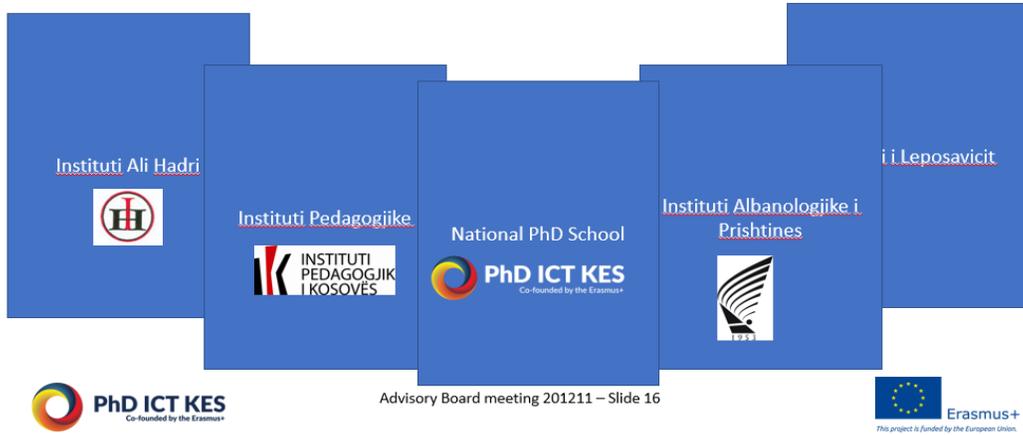
■ Reach: Organic / Paid
 ■ Post Clicks
 ■ Reactions, Comments & Shares

Published	Post	Type	Targeting	Reach	Engagement
11/01/2020 1:33 PM	 Workshop: Supervisory Seminar for PHDICTKES- 28 and 29 October 2020			357 	82 23 
10/29/2020 5:39 PM	 Supervisory Seminar for PHDICTKES project - 28.10.2020 - 29.10.2020			279 	43 16 
10/26/2020 5:35 PM	A project info post on University of Prishtina website On the University of			101 	13 3 
10/21/2020 7:53 PM	 Upcoming event of PhDICTKES Project Training for mentorship in			72 	1 9 
10/17/2020 2:12 PM	 Monitoring Visit Organized by National Erasmus Office+ Kosova at			89 	3 4 

Image 16: Facebook page details

Appendix: Positioning of National PhD School Proposals

Positioning of national school - Plan A



Positioning of national school - Plan B

- Establish Universities research centers.



Positioning of national school - Plan C

Establish a pool of resources (labs, supervision, mentoring etc.) within the University partners of the project and increase the collaboration in research level