



## 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

# Report from Diaspora Academician & Industrial Networking Days in ICT



**Location:** UBT@Prishtina (8<sup>th</sup> of August) and

ITP@Prizren, Kosovo (9<sup>th</sup> of August)

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2022

**Time:** 09:00 CEST

## LIST OF ORGANIZERS

### Organizers:

UBT College

Ukshin Hoti University (UHU)

### Co-organizers:

Linnaeus University (LNU), Project Coordinator

Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora (MFAD)

University of Prishtina (UP)

South-East European Research Centre (SEERC)

Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)





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### Introduction

As part of the PhDICTKES project, WP 2.4, we have added an activity that focus on interaction with Kosovo and Kosovo diaspora and industry representatives. The conference aimed at sustaining the outcomes of PhDICTKES project, by further strengthening the relationship with academic diaspora and national industry representatives.

### Conference participants

The participants that attended the first day of the conference were fifty-six (56) in number and approximately half of them (26) continued also during the second day. Most of the participants had a university affiliation, ten were from business and industry, or business associations. Six participants were affiliated to governmental organizations, such as Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora, Prime Minister Office, and Pristhina Municipality. In addition, the Minister of Information Society and Administration of the Republic of North Macedonia attended as well as the representative for Swedish Embassy in Kosovo. A couple of the company attendees were Kosovars who had a company of their own which was placed in other countries.

### Program

The conference was held during two days of which the first day focused on academic interaction and benefits of developing collaboration between diaspora and Kosovo Higher Education Institutions. The first day was hosted at UBT Innovation Campus in Lipljan, Pristhina. The Rector of UBT gave welcoming speech and introduced the Mr. Lulezon Jagxhiu - Advisor to the Prime Minister on Information Technology, who represented the Prime Minister Office. He gave a supporting talk for the initiative of establishing national research collaboration through research education and also praised the contributions that international scholars will bring, particularly the Academic Diaspora. The other representatives of the Kosovo partners, Rector Naser Sahiti and Vice-Rector Arsim Susuri, presented their role in this project and the expected benefits for their respective universities. Next speakers was Ms. Katja Holböll who represented the perspective of Sweden Embassy in Kosovo. The final speaker in the morning program was Ass. Professor Miranda Kajtazi, who represented the Kosovo Diaspora. She gave an insightful speech on her contribution to establishing the Network of the Albanian Scientific Community in Sweden and complimented the Kosovo Ambassador in Sweden for her support.

The day continued with a Round-table discussion on the impact of Albanian Diaspora for increasing the ICT research capacities and visibility of Kosovo Education System. The invited for this program item were the Kosovo university partners, representatives from Kosovo ministries, the Minister of the Republic of North Macedonia, and the Deputy Mayor of Pristhina Municipality. This panel discussion was succeeded by more informal discussions and networking on how to collaborate and raised very good ideas to be further developed. Finally, the first day



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was closed with a networking session, which made it possible to let Kosovo Diaspora know and meet each other, while sharing their background and work that they are currently involved in.

The second day was devoted to industry-academy collaboration and included also international experience of the gains by such a collaboration. This day was hosted at the Innovation and Training Park (ITP) in Prizren. The Introductory remarks were given by UPZ representative Arsim Susuri and UBT representative Ermira Daka. Ass. Professor Bahtjar Vogel, Kosovo Diaspora and Network of the Albanian Scientific Community in Sweden, gave his experience of collaborating with business and industry in common research projects. This speech was followed by the perspective of the Kosovo Informatics Association, represented by Mr. Ridvan Bunjaku. The day continued by a panel discussion moderated by Ass. Professor Arianit Kurti, which focused on industry-academia collaboration. The panelists were representatives from international organizations and Kosovo organizations that had some interest/insight into this kind of collaboration. The second day also ended with thematic discussions on joint initiatives and networking. As experienced during the first day, these presentations and discussions raised further ideas for continued collaboration.

### Outcome – Proposal of Ideas

Below is a list of proposals to be further developed, which would initiate, maintain and strengthen the collaboration between Kosovo universities, academic diaspora, and national industry.

1. Communication Channel
2. Cross Disciplinarity with the Government
3. Establishing of one Joint Research Center (in the ITP Facility)
4. Guest Lectures from the Industry
5. Credit Internships (15 or 30 Credits)
6. Regular Networking Events
7. Yearly workshop for PhDs in Kosovo with the PhDs from Kosovo studying in other Countries
  - Knowledge Sharing
  - Creating Networks
  - Potential for Concrete Joint Projects
  - Potentially Strengthening quality for the national PhD School from International Input/Influence
8. Mixed supervisor teams with Local Professors, International + Industry /Public Institutions for PhD Students
  - Different Perspectives
  - Different Competences
9. Learn from the National MIT Research School in Sweden
10. Organizing a series of Webinars enhancing the visibility of the applied research status in Kosovo



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11. Thematic ICT Clusters
12. Public Financing
13. Study Visits to Industry

### **Reflections by participants**

Overall, the impression is that Diaspora is very interested to contribute for the research capacity development of the Kosovo universities. There is great interest in sharing experiences and participating in joint projects and several proposals for cooperation came up, which are listed in the above. Next step is to prioritize these proposals and appoint responsible, which would be a natural activity to be organized by the PhDICTKES project and the governing body of the National Research School in ICT (NRSI).






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Appendix 1 – Conference program

# Diaspora Academician & Industrial Networking Days in ICT

## Agenda

 **Location:** UBT@Prishtina (8<sup>th</sup> of August) and  
ITP@Prizren, Kosovo (9<sup>th</sup> of August)  
 **Date:** 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of August 2022  
 **Time:** 09:00 CEST

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Day 1 – 8<sup>th</sup> of August - Prishtina@UBT

Address: UBT Innovation Campus, Lipjan

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09:00 – 09:30 Registration of participants

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09:30 – 10:30 Introductory Remarks

Welcoming Speech – Rector of UBT - Edmond Hajrizi  
Project Coordinator - Anita Mirijamdotter - LNU  
Advisor of the Prime Minister of Kosovo – Lulezon Jagxhiu  
Rector of University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina” – Naser Sahiti  
Vice-Rector of University of Prizren “Ukshin Hoti” – Arsim Susuri  
Embassy of Sweden in Kosovo - Katja Holböll  
Diaspora Representative (Network of the Albanian Scientific Community in Sweden) – Miranda Kajtazi

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10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

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11:00 – 12:30 Roundtable Discussion - (Edmond Jahjaga)

- Deputy Minister of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation – Edona Maloku Berdyna
- Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs and Diaspora – Liza Gashi
- Minister of Information Society and Administration of the Republic of North Macedonia – Admirim Aliti
- Deputy Mayor of Prishtina Municipality – Donjeta Sahatciu
- Rector of University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina” – Naser Sahiti
- Rector of UBT College – Edmond Hajrizi
- Vice Rector of University of Prizren “Ukshin Hoti” – Arsim Susuri

The impact of Albanian Diaspora in increasing the ICT research capacities and visibility of Kosovo Education System through international research projects

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12:30 - 13:30      Lunch break

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13:30 – 15:00      Project & Research Session (Ermira Daka)

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15:00 – 16:00      Networking Session

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16:00                  Closing

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Day 2 – 9<sup>th</sup> of August - Prizren@ITP  
Address: Innovation and Training Park (ITP), Prizren

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09:00 – 09:30 Registration of participants

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09:30 – 10:30 Introductory Remarks

Welcoming Speech – Arsim Susuri UPZ; Ermira Daka UBT;  
Diaspora Representative (Network of the Albanian Scientific  
Community in Sweden) – Bahtjar Vogel  
Informatics Association – Ridvan Bunjaku

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10:30 – 11:00 Coffee Break

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11:00 – 12:30 Industry Panel Session (Moderator Arianit Kurti)

- Diana Unander, Research and project coordinator, LNU
- Simon Floeth, Head of Digital Transformation Center bei Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)
- Ercan Canhasi, Gjirafa
- Gramoz Karagjyz – Celonis
- Gazmend Kajtazi - Interadria

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12:30 - 13:30 Lunch break

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13:30 – 15:00 Thematic discussions and joint initiatives / Networking Session  
(Moderator Arsim Susuri)

Participants from Higher Education Institutions and Industry

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15:00 Closing

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### Appendix 2 – Financial report

Income, conference fees	+ SEK 849
Cost, LNU conference system	- SEK 1000
Cost, sandwich lunch and refreshments	- SEK 3790,9 (€168*2)
Total	- SEK 3941,9

Linnaeus University has covered the deficits according to the above.

UBT and UHU has covered the cost for premises for the conference days.