

Network of Albanian Researchers in the Diaspora (NARD)

In compliance with the national policies for the reformation of higher education, the University of Vlora “Ismail Qemali”, drawing on the new Law on Higher Education (No. 80/2015) and considering the necessity and importance of restructuring the educational links in tertiary education, undertakes the initiative of establishing the Network of Albanian Researchers in the Diaspora (NARD).

In line with the Internationalization Strategy and the European Charter for Researchers, NARD is essentially oriented towards all forms of exchange (mobility) as a means for extending the researcher’s professional career.

NARD is regarded as a cooperation bridge at the university level between the University of Vlora “Ismail Qemali”, Albanian universities and other universities worldwide (Diaspora), where prominent Albanian scholars have built up their teaching and research career, with the main aim to entwine academic and scientific work within the network for more quality in the participating beneficiary institutions.

Besides the abovementioned motivations, NARD comes as a follow-up and is in line with the First Albanian Diaspora Summit, organized by the Albanian government on November 18th-20th, 2016, section “Building the Pan-Albanian network of skills” which highlighted the cooperation/coordination of Albanian universities with the experience of Albanian researchers and scholars, personal and institutional, who work at European, American, Canadian and Australian universities. Such coordination aims at dealing with and answering questions such as: Can we build a record of scientific capacities at home and abroad? Can we create professional and effective collaboration platforms to facilitate exchange of information and experience? What should we learn from the experience of other countries? What concrete commitments can Higher Education Institutions as well as the Diaspora make in order to establish contemporary work practices of mutual interest?

In this context, NARD aims at expanding and signing agreements with academic and scientific institutions at the university level with the Diaspora within a one-year period (January-December 2017) in order to achieve:

- Academic and scientific collaboration with all university institutions in domains of mutual interest.
- Exchange of this experience among the participating institutions in the network.

- Increase and encouragement of employment opportunities for researchers in line with the need for internationalization
- Improvement of the quality of university research of scientific value and direct implementation in every aspect of social, cultural or economic life.
- Introduction of new joint degree programmes in all three cycles in compliance with the legislation in force in the respective countries.
- Organization of international events, seminars, congresses or conferences in fields of research of mutual interest.
- Starting new joint scientific journals, authored/co-authored monographic/polygraph publication of scientific books, as well as any other academic enterprises worth publishing.
- Student and staff (administrative and academic) mobility for strengthening institutional links among network members.
- Implementation of every agreement to the benefit of common interests and achievements.

NARD hopes for expanding the network in the Diaspora and bringing together interested institutions in order to improve aspects of university researchers' mobility and employability, of scientific and pedagogical quality, as well as to encourage internationalization variability. The creation of NARD is also an initiative motivated by European Commission policies for elite university education with common university goals among peoples and of educational and scientific benefits to them.

The fundamental aim of UV's involvement in this academic and research network is to gain university experience, mobility of researchers and scholars, international recognition, participation and other academic and scientific benefits.