

# **INTERNATIONALIZATION STRATEGY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF VLORA “ISMAIL QEMALI” 2016-2020**

## **1. Introduction**

In compliance with its mission “virtue, science, truthfulness,” the University of Vlora “Ismail Qemali” places its emphasis on the support of international exchange in teaching and research by fostering collaboration with other universities and partners around the world.

The university’s international approach includes and harmonizes various aspects of university life: teaching, research and administration. In this context, the University of Vlora “Ismail Qemali” is committed to achieve international presence and include an international dimension into research at university, university’s publications and those of its academic staff at home and abroad in prestigious and internationally acknowledged journals, exchange of students and staff, academic and administrative, with old and new partner universities, and into the establishment and strengthening of international cooperation.

In 2016 the University of Vlora “Ismail Qemali” has enjoyed the partnership of more than 14 universities around the world, with which it has signed a number of collaboration agreements in research, teaching, joint publications, as well as exchange programmes for staff and students. 2 academic staff members are international. Furthermore, the university has signed 7 inter-institutional agreements through the Erasmus + programme for student and staff mobility. These are proof of the strong will to make internationalization a tangible reality at the university.

## **2. Wider Objectives**

The University of Vlora “Ismail Qemali” aims to become one of the most popular among Albanian universities worldwide by strengthening its international orientation and cooperation. The main objective is to create a credible and professional profile with regard to teaching, research and international collaboration in the framework of research and development projects and cooperation for mutual capacity building.

By achieving this goal, the University of Vlora “Ismail Qemali” seeks to become the seat of cultural values and encounters not only through strengthening international cooperation, but also through promoting tolerance towards, respect for and recognition of other cultures.

In order to meet the general objectives, the University of Vlora “Ismail Qemali” has set a series of long-term objectives, which focus on the following strategic aspects:

- Institutional partnership,

- International experience for students as well as academic and administrative staff,
- Internationalization of programmes and curricula,
- International cooperation in the fields of research, development and transfer of knowledge and technologies.

### **3. Strategic Objectives**

Strategic objectives aim at involving the university in new activities and undertakings towards internationalization. They include:

- 1) Promoting mobility for students and staff, academic and administrative.
- 2) Encouraging and supporting international cooperation in the fields of research, development and transfer of knowledge and technologies.
- 3) Strengthening links with the Albanian scientific Diaspora.
- 4) Increasing the university's international visibility in the region and beyond.
- 5) Reinforcing administrative support services for project implementation and external relations.
- 6) Internationalization of programmes and curricula.
- 7) Awareness of the intercultural component in relation to international partners.

#### **1. Achieving the strategic objectives:**

| <b>Strategic objectives</b>   | <b>Aim</b>  | <b>To be achieved through:</b>  |
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| 1) Promoting mobility for students and staff, academic and administrative | Increasing opportunities for mobility for UV students and staff | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The present agreements with the other universities.</li> <li>• The inter-institutional agreements recently signed under Erasmus + components and international other programmes.</li> <li>• Encouraging staff to apply to obtain other exchange inter-institutional agreements in the framework of EU programmes etc.</li> <li>• Increasing the number of incoming and outgoing teaching staff.</li> </ul> |

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| 2) Encouraging and supporting international cooperation in the fields of research, development and transfer of knowledge and technologies | <p>International promotion and recognition of research carried out by UV staff</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhancing UV human potential in research, development, technology in order to promote their work.</li> <li>• Increasing the quality and authenticity of research, development and technology at UV.</li> <li>• The presentation of research, development, and technological work done at UV in international activities.</li> </ul>            |
| 3) Strengthening links with Albanian scientific Diaspora  | <p>Demonstrating the international dimension of activities in research, development and transfer of knowledge and technologies carried out at UV</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engagement in international activities and research and development projects.</li> <li>• Increasing confidence in UV human capacities in research, development, technology in the eyes of international partners</li> <li>• Joint publications.</li> </ul>   |
| 4) Increasing the university's international visibility in the region   | <p>Deepening international cooperation through links with the Albanian Diaspora.</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identification of the Albanian scientific Diaspora.</li> <li>• The establishment of an academic Diaspora / alumni network.</li> <li>• Encouraging existing cooperation with the Diaspora like that with the Arbëresh community in Italy, with the scholars in the US, UK, Italy, Germany, etc.</li> <li>• Fostering joint projects.</li> </ul> |
|   | <p>Greater participation in scientific activities and research and development</p>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing the number of applications for international projects as</li> </ul>   |

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| and beyond   | projects   | <p>leader or partner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encouraging staff to deepen cooperation with their colleagues in international universities.</li> <li>• The organization of international scientific and publishing activities.</li> </ul>   |
| 5) Reinforcing administrative support services for project implementation and external relations | Efficient structuring of administrative support services for project implementation and external relations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training administrative staff to support academic staff in writing project proposals.</li> <li>• Recruitment of qualified staff in international relations and writing project proposals.</li> </ul>   |
| 6) Internationalization of programmes and curricula  | Improvement of programmes in response to the international experience.                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Programmes that support student and staff mobility.</li> <li>• Programmes that foster teaching and learning in contemporary disciplines and support the enhancement of human resources in research and development.</li> <li>• Increasing the number of study programmes in English.</li> <li>• Increasing the number of joint degrees.</li> <li>• Increasing the number of international students.</li> </ul> |
| 7) Awareness of the intercultural component in relation to international partners                | Increasing the intercultural awareness of the administrative staff.  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing the administrative staff's awareness of the cultural diversity of international students and staff.</li> <li>• Providing more opportunities for administrative staff mobility</li> </ul>  |

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|  |  | <p>for the recognition and appreciation of international experience and culture.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Training of administrative staff at international universities.</li> </ul> |
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## 2. Measures of achievement:

The achievement of these objectives will be measured through the following instruments:

- Statistical data about the number of international students and staff at UV, projects obtained by UV, project applications by UV, partnerships with other universities.
- Studies and surveys with international students.
- Studies and surveys with international staff.
- Research data.
- Number of obtained mobilities.