

NEWSLETTER

October 2024

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH UNIT

Welcome to the first edition of our newsletter. The academic year 2023-2024 has seen remarkable progress in international collaborations, both with our existing partners and through new partnerships across various fields of interest. We are excited to share key developments and future opportunities that continue to strengthen our global network and advance scientific research.

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS OF COOPERATION

Our office recently facilitated several agreements focusing on cooperation in scientific research, exchange of staff and students, and the organization of joint academic activities. We are pleased to announce collaborations with the following esteemed international universities:

- National University of Taipei
- Tokat Gaziosmanpasa University, Turkey
- Inti International University, Malaysia
- University of Western Macedonia, Greqi
- Erciyes University, Turkey

These partnerships aim to foster a dynamic exchange of knowledge, resources, and innovation, ensuring that our academic community continues to thrive on a global stage.



OUR STRATEGY

At the International Relations and Scientific Research Office, our strategy is centered around building partnerships that promote global collaboration in education, research, and innovation. By aligning our goals with global challenges and opportunities, we aim to:

- enhance global scientific cooperation
- foster mobility and exchange programs
- organize joint academic and research activities
- promote interdisciplinary research
- secure funding and resources for research

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MOILITY FOR OUTGOING STUDENTS AND STAFF

Throughout the 2023-2024 academic year, EÇUG has established a series of inter-institutional agreements with esteemed educational institutions in Greece, Italy, Spain, and Poland. These collaborations have provided enriching opportunities for 15 students, as well as over 20 academic and administrative staff members.

Participants from different fields of study, namely economic, nursing, IT, etc, have enjoyed valuable experiences during their visits to our partner institutions, where they engaged in knowledge exchange, broadened their professional networks, and explored innovative practices in their respective fields. This initiative not only enhances the academic and cultural experience of our community but also strengthens our global connections, fostering collaboration that extends beyond borders. As a result, both students and staff have returned with fresh insights and renewed enthusiasm, contributing to the overall dynamism of EÇUG.

MOBILITY FOR INCOMING STUDENTS & STAFF

We successfully hosted professors and students from European partner institutions at our university. Seven students came to complete their internship at UGJ or our partner businesses, where they found a welcoming atmosphere. They contributed their knowledge and benefited from the exchange of experience.

The visiting staff also shared their expertise with our professors and students and expressed their willingness to continue collaborating on future initiatives.



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INTERNATIONALLY FUNDED PROJECTS

Over the past year, we have played a key role in the preparation and implementation of:

- **EPPAL** – Europeanisation of Public Policies in Albania, a Jean Monnet project currently in its second year.
- **TCCWB** – Supporting development of Trans Cultural Competence for healthcare professionals in the Western Balkans led by Odisee in BiH is another project facilitated by our office is the CBC Erasmus+ initiative. The agreement was signed in March, and the project officially began implementation on April 1, 2024.
- **DilanEdu WB** - Digital Transformation in Language Study and Education of the Western Balkans led by Logos University. The project will start the implementation this year.

INFO DAYS

Special attention has been given by the International Relations and Scientific Research Office to provide informational sessions and support for drafting international and national project proposals. In this context, the involvement of field experts has been considered beneficial to present application opportunities and the specific requirements associated with each. The academic staff has welcomed these activities and shown interest in participating in research projects with a broad impact on the community.



PROJECTS FUNDED BY NATIONAL SOURCES

Regarding nationally funded projects we have facilitated the preparation and implementation procedures for the following projects:

- Media Literacy – funded by the US Embassy in Tirana and implemented by AMI and the Department of Foreign Languages at EÇUG.
- 5Projekte të bashkëfinancuar nga AKKSHI
- 2 projects funded by EÇUG.

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CONFERENCES

During the 2023-2024 academic year, our office initiated and supported the organization of the International Interdisciplinary Conference, The National Park of Vjosa – The Dialogue of Science, Cultures, and Sustainable Development.

This conference focused on the importance of the cultural, economic, historical, and social wealth offered by the National Park of Vjosa, an internationally unexplored resource until now.

The conference brought together academics, researchers, graduate students, Ph.D. candidates, and experts from Albania and European partner institutions who exchanged knowledge, perspectives, and experiences in the targeted fields.

National and international keynote speakers delivered insightful presentations on issues such as economics, tourism, archaeology, internationalization, linguistics, and more, fostering a rich exchange of ideas across various fields.

CONFERENCES

Representatives from EÇUG participated in the online seminar 'Language, Discourse, Sign,' which took place on June 17 and 18. This seminar marks the beginning of a collaboration between Shanghai University of International Studies, the University of Bari, the University of Lecce, and 'Eqrem Çabej' University of Gjirokastrë.

The webinar aimed to bring together linguists, semiologists, and discourse analysts to share their findings and establish research connections.

Academic staff from our University presented on 'Imperative Sentences in English and Albanian and 'Synonymic Relationships between the Conjunctive Mood and the New Infinitive from a Syntactic Perspective.'

This event was an excellent opportunity for our representatives to share their research and connect with international scholars



INTERNATIONAL WEEKS

Representatives from the Office of International Relations and Scientific Research attended the International Week organized by Józef Gołuchowski University of Applied Sciences in Poland.

The aim of the visit was to strengthen the collaboration between the two universities and expand networking with other higher education institutions participating in the event.

Academic staff were also part of similar organisations in HMU, Crete and education institutions in Spain.

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OPEN LECTURES

Our office continues to promote academic dialogue and knowledge sharing through a series of Open Lectures. These events are designed to connect experts and the broader academic community, offering valuable insights into various fields. Here are some lectures from last academic year:

- **Fatos Tarifa** - Obtaining a doctoral degree in the 21st century.
- **Thomas Christiansen** - Speaking with confidence in English for pre-university teachers and lecturers.
- **Triantafyllos Almpanis** - Environment and Environmental Risk Assessment.
- **Eric Archer** - Strategjitë për përfshirjen e të mësuarit bazuar në probleme.
- **Luljeta Minxhozi** - Zhvillimet e tregut financiar dhe sfidat e edukimit financiar në këndvështrimin e bankës së Shqipërisë.
- **Volfgang Merkel** - Polarizimi politik, perspektivë akademike.
- **Marina Tzakosta** - Dialektet dhe gjuhët në trashëgimi, rrugëtime të përbashkëta dhe mënyra të njëjta për ruajtjen e tyre.
- **Lutfi Dervishi** - Edukimi për median dhe informacionin për mësuesit e ardhshëm.
- **Marika Rullo** - Identiteti social dhe normat e grupit të prosocialitetit.

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AMERICAN TEACHERS

Sara Gace, an American professor from the Fulbright Program was with us during the 2023-2024 academic year. Sara taught in the Department of Foreign Languages and led a series of activities, including:

- an informational session in the framework of the American cultural week.
- a two-week course with students from schools that won the competition organised by the Department of Foreign Languages at UGJ.

IMPACT WEEK

The University of Gjirokastra, in collaboration with local business actors and Impact Week, organised a major event aimed at modeling individual, institutional, and business plans based on Design Thinking.

Impact Week was held for two successive years at the University of Gjirokastra, featuring the participation of around 30 international trainers, 20 national coaches and 150 students. The event was partially supported by Lufthansa Airlines and local actors.

The project aimed at:

- becoming part of an intercultural, interdisciplinary working style within a broad international network.
- joining an enthusiastic and passionate movement of Design Thinking experts who have inspired universities, companies, and organizations worldwide.

