



NEWSLETTER

Second Edition

October 2025



IN THIS EDITION YOU WILL FIND:

- Updates on new international partnerships and cooperation agreements.
- Highlights from staff and student mobilities.
- Coverage of scientific activities, and international conferences.
- Collaborative initiatives with our partner universities and institutions.
- Special feature on the visit of American professors at "Eqrem Çabej" University and their contribution to our academic community.
- A spotlight on student and staff achievements within the framework of international collaboration.

INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION PROJECTS AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH UNIT

Welcome to the second edition of our newsletter. The 2024–2025 academic year has witnessed significant growth in our international collaborations, both with longstanding partners and through new partnerships across diverse fields of interest. We are pleased to share the latest developments and upcoming opportunities that continue to expand our global network and promote excellence in scientific research.



OUR STRATEGY

At the International Coordination, Projects 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.

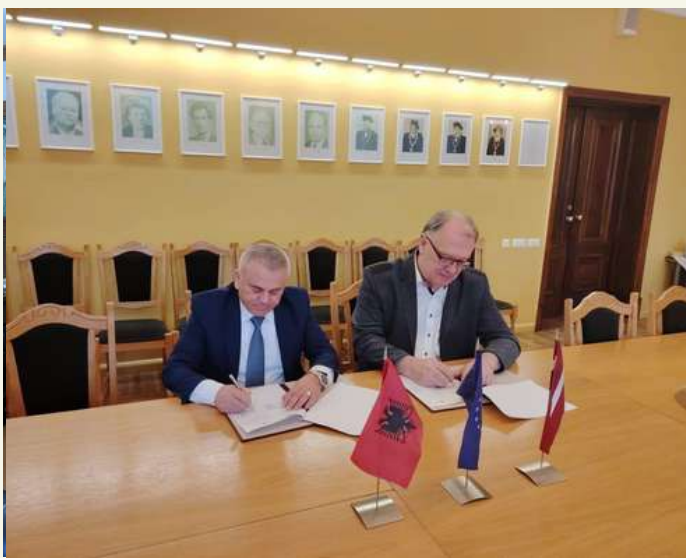




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NATIONAL AGREEMENTS OF COOPERATION

We have also facilitated agreements with several national universities and institutions to strengthen collaboration in areas such as academic research, student internships, and professional training. Among them, we can list key partners who have actively supported these initiatives:

- Academy of Sciences of Albania, Tiranë;
- The General Directorate of Taxes, Gjirokastrë;
- The Regional Water Supply and Sewerage Company, Gjirokastrë;
- The Regional Employment Directorate, Gjirokastrë;
- The Regional Directorate of the Social Insurance Institute, Gjirokastrë;
- The Albanian-American Development Foundation, Tiranë;
- The association "For a Healthy Albania", Elbasan.

These partnerships aim to promote joint research initiatives, provide hands-on learning experiences for students, and enhance the overall connection between higher education and the professional sector.

INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS OF COOPERATION

Our office has recently facilitated several agreements aimed at enhancing cooperation in scientific research, staff and student exchanges, and the organization of joint academic activities. We are proud to announce collaborations with the following distinguished international universities:

- Karamanoglu Mehmetbey University, Turkey
- University of Florence, Italy
- Daugavpils University, Latvia
- Lingaya's Vidyapeeth, Faridabad, India
- Democritus University of Thrace, Greece
- University of Patra, Greece
- "Dimitrie Cantemir" University, Romania
- International Black Sea University, Georgia
- Armenian State University of Economics, Armenia
- International University of Struga
- Institute of Industrial Technology, Kalinga BHUBANESWAR, India

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.





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MOBILITY FOR INCOMING STUDENTS

About 15 Spanish students completed their internships at our university's partner institutions during the academic year 2024–2025. They came from various fields, including Business Administration, Tourism, Accounting and Finance, Archaeology, and more.

Here is what Anna, a student from Madrid, shared about her experience in Gjirokastër:

"I chose 'Eqrem Çabej' University of Gjirokastër to complete my internship as an archaeology student at the city's castle. Thanks to the collaboration between 'Eqrem Çabej' University of Gjirokastër, the Higher School of Restoration and Conservation in Madrid, and the Regional Directorate of Cultural Heritage in Gjirokastër, I gained an exceptional hands-on experience in the field of archaeology while discovering the beauty and culture of Albania. I highly recommend this experience to my peers from other European countries and beyond."

MOBILITY FOR OUTGOING STUDENTS

During the 2024–2025 academic year, EÇUG signed new inter-institutional agreements with universities in Greece (Hellenic Mediterranean University), Italy (University of Salento), Spain (IES Ribeira de Louro & IES Abastos), and Poland (Jozef Goluchowski University of Applied Sciences). Thanks to these partnerships, 15 students took part in exchanges that broadened their knowledge, networks, and professional skills.

Representing fields such as economics, foreign languages and nursing, participants gained valuable insights and explored innovative practices at our partner institutions. These experiences enriched our community, strengthened EÇUG's international profile, and brought fresh energy and ideas back to campus.





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MOBILITY FOR INCOMING STAFF

During the 2024–2025 academic year, EÇUG welcomed staff members from partner institutions in Spain, the Gołuchowski University in Poland, the Ionian University, and the University of Thrace in Greece.

Representing diverse fields such as nursing and education, the visiting staff engaged in valuable experience-sharing activities. They attended lectures, provided training sessions for EÇUG staff, and participated in conferences organized in collaboration with our international partners.

The focus was placed on strengthening cooperation in teaching, scientific research, exchanges, and other areas of mutual interest. The program also included visits to some of the city's main cultural and tourist attractions, giving guests a closer look at the rich heritage of Gjirokastrë.



Thank you for your contribution!



ERASMUS+ STAFF WEEKS AT PARTNER UNIVERSITIES

Within the framework of the Erasmus+ Programme, EÇUG's academic and administrative staff participated in International Staff Weeks organized by partner universities. These activities highlighted the importance of the internationalization of higher education, offered specialized training for professional development, and facilitated the exchange of experiences and innovative ideas. Participants also had the chance to visit modern laboratories and research facilities. These events provided a valuable opportunity to build bridges of collaboration, gain new knowledge, and bring innovation back to the University of Gjirokastrë.



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EÇUG AWARDS DOCTOR HONORIS CAUSA TITLES

During a solemn and dignified ceremony, the University of Gjirokastrë "Eqrem Çabej" conferred the title Doctor Honoris Causa to two distinguished academics:

- Prof. Dr. Theodoros Theodoulidis, Rector of the University of Western Macedonia
- Prof. Dr. Eleni Griva, Vice-Rector for International Relations, Global Engagement, and Student Affairs

This memorable event celebrated their outstanding contributions to academia and marked another milestone in strengthening EÇUG's international partnerships.



COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES WITHIN ERASMUS+ CAPACITY BUILDING PROJECTS

Within the framework of Erasmus+ co-funded capacity building projects, TCCWB and DiLanEdu-WB organized "training of trainers" sessions, in which EÇUG participated actively, both on-site and online.

Through these sessions, EÇUG's academic staff and students enhanced their knowledge and skills, strengthening institutional capacities for modern and inclusive education. The upcoming piloting phase will also make use of the new laboratories and equipment acquired through project funding, ensuring hands-on application of the knowledge gained. With this preparation, participants are now ready to advance to the piloting phase, where the newly developed approaches and tools will be tested and further refined. These activities not only contribute to the professional development of staff and students but also reinforce EÇUG's role as an active partner in international collaboration and knowledge exchange.





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CONFERENCES & SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

Building upon framework agreements signed with partner universities, EÇUG has developed a series of academic activities, including conferences and summer schools, as follows:

- International Scientific Conference on Language, Literature, and Culture in the Greek Ethnic Minority Areas of Albania, organized by the Department of Greek Language, Literature and Civilization of EÇUG, with the aim of institutionalizing an international conference series. The first edition took place on 30 May 2025, dedicated to education in the minority, with the theme: "A Historical Approach to Education in the Greek Ethnic Minority in Albania until 1990."
- 6th International Summer School for Youth: "Greek Language, Culture, and Mass Media", organized by the Online Alumni Association of the International Summer School "Greek Language, Culture, and Mass Media", in cooperation with EÇUG and the Department of Greek Language, Literature and Civilization. The event was held in Gjirokastrë, 25–28 August 2025.
- Scientific and Academic Research Congress. Held on 1–4 July 2025, this Congress was jointly organized by Karamanoglu Mehmetbey University, Turkey, "Eqrem Çabej" University of Gjirokastrë, Albania, Sustainability Education Research and Practice Association (SERPA) and Selçuk University, Turkey.





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CONTRIBUTION OF AMERICAN FELLOWS

This year, American teachers Michael Decker and Sara Gace, from the English Language Fellow and Fulbright programs, contributed to EÇUG through both teaching and the organization of informative activities for students. Their presence enriched the academic environment, offering students opportunities to strengthen their English language skills, intercultural communication, and critical thinking.

In addition, they played an active role in the podcast series on Media Literacy, a project funded by the U.S. Embassy and implemented by the Albanian Media Institute in cooperation with EÇUG. Through this initiative, students were engaged in discussions on the importance of media literacy in today's digital world.





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MEMBERSHIP IN ASECU NETWORK OF UNIVERSITIES

EÇUG became a member of the ASECU network of universities, opening new opportunities for international collaboration and exchange. This membership has already enabled the active participation of our staff and students in two major academic events.

- The first was the ASECU Winter School 2025 held in Corinth, Greece, where 16 students and 5 lecturers from EÇUG took part in a week full of knowledge, challenges, and unique experiences under the theme: "Future Technologies and Artificial Intelligence for a Digital Economy and Society."
- The second was the 14th ASECU Youth International Conference and Summer School, organized in Gyumri, Armenia, under the theme: "The New Economy: Innovators Shaping Tomorrow." Our University was represented by one professor and two students who actively contributed to the discussions and academic exchange.

Both events provided valuable opportunities for students and staff to exchange ideas, engage in academic debate, and strengthen EÇUG's presence in an international academic community.

ASECU 2025





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Looking Ahead at EÇUG

We warmly thank all our academic staff, students, and international partners for their active engagement throughout this academic year. Your dedication has strengthened EÇUG's presence in international networks and collaborative projects.

"Together we shape the future of education at EÇUG and beyond."

Upcoming opportunities:

- Erasmus+ Exchanges & Capacity-Building Projects – gain international experience and skills.
- Summer & Winter Schools – unique learning, workshops, and networking.
- Conferences & Workshops – share research and engage with global partners

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