



University of Shkodra "Luigj Gurakuqi"

SENATE

No. of prot. 722

Shkodër, 24th February 2017

DECISION

No.71 date 24th of February 2017

"For Approval Sectorial Strategies of Shkodra University

In support of law number 80/2015 "For the higher education and scientific research in higher educations in the Republic of Albania", article 38, University's statute, Academic Senate in its meeting of date 24/02/2017:

decided:

1. Approval of sectorial strategies of Shkodra University according to attached materials.
2. This decision enters into force immediately.

Rector

Prof. Adem BEKTESHI

UNIVERSITY OF SHKODRA "LUIGJ GURAKUQI"



Research and Innovation Strategy

December, 2016

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RESEARCH AND INNOVATION STRATEGY

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LIST OF ABBREVIATION

- ERA – European Research Agency
- EU – European Union
- MES – Ministry of Education and Science
- USH – University of Shkodra

2. VISION

Research should be considered the main objective of the work of all students of the University, unified with teaching. USH has no main vision of a development project with the highest possible standards, able to compare nationally and internationally, with the primary goal of creating the university leading in its field, worthy of being in the Blue Book (PBI).

USH requires scientific progress, its spirit of innovation and research programs to be conducted with wide progress, national and regional academic cooperation, aiming to become part of the scientific European Research Area (ERA).

USH should require a sustainable and competitive development of scientific research, workspaces building through the development of research policies and its strategies.

3. MISSION

Mission of the USH is to improve and increase the quality of research through its implementation in implementing the new technologies and active participation in the programs, projects and national and international studies.



1 INTRODUCTION

University of Shkodra “Luigj Gurraqi” is a higher education institution, which has the mission to provide education, research, development and transfer of knowledge and technology.

Research and education are the two main priorities for the sustainable development of every institution of higher education.

Research should not only be an active contributor and continual development of educational institutions, but throughout society and in all of its areas. Each university has an obligation as a targeted learning process and research.

Within the overall structure of the USH, along with faculties and departments develop their research activity also two research institutes: the Institute of Albanological Studies and Institute of Water Research. They encourages all members of academic staff to be active in the research field, providing comprehensive academic support. They, along with the departments try to develop a research of a quality as high.

2 VISION

Research should be considered the main objective of the work of all structures of the University, unified with teaching.

USH has as main vision of a development research with the highest possible standards, able to compete nationally and internationally, with the primary aim of supporting the university training in its three levels, focusing on the third level (PhD).

USH requires scientific progress, the development of creative policy and research programs in accordance with state programs, national and regional authorities concerned, aiming to become part of the prestigious European Research Area (ERA).

USH should ensure a sustainable and competitive development of scientific research work besides teaching through the development of sectoral policies and its strategies.

3 MISSION

Mission of the USH is to improve and increase the quality of research through in implementing the new methodologies and active participation in the programs, projects and national and international studies.

USH will aim to further the development of scientific research in the fields of albanology, natural, environmental, economic and methodological sciences aiming formation of young scientists and their ongoing training.

University aims to integrate scientific research with educational process, aiming at enhancing the quality indicators in research.

This goal should be realized through the establishment of close cooperation with institutions of higher education and research centers inside and outside the country, implementation of new programs of training multi-disciplinary for promising researchers and through teaching in the curriculum of the second and the third studies (Master and PhD).

The research will be supported on our heritage institutional and individual and best practices of the Albanian and foreign counterpart institutions.

4 PRIORITIES

One of the main priorities of the SHU is to improve the scientific research system, aiming at enhancing the concrete results in the areas it covers, promoting an approach better between research and teaching and the realization of a research qualitative fit to compete nationally and internationally. Increased revenues for science and its development should be another priority research.

This requires the strengthening of human and research infrastructure, which will be achieved through:

- continuous training of the staff of the University to enhance their research skills,
- promotescientific research policies in way that staff produce new knowledge and scientific research,
- increasing the participation of academic staff in national programs and those within the EU for research & innovation.
- strengthening of international cooperation in research in areas of common interest,
- stimulum of excellence and increased participation of students in the qualitative research, especially those of the second and third level of the study.

5 OBJECTIVES

- Promote research activity on traditional areas and those that have a significant impact on the community;
- Ensuring synergy between research and teaching, ensuring the independence of research;
- Promote continuous scientific qualification of the academic staff;

- Creating sustainable financial resources to research through development and participation in national and international projects and cooperation with local government and business;
- Updated with new knowledge and research methods in order to increase the quality of research;
- Mutual exchange of knowledge gained from research and application of operating experience;
- Develop strategies and policies of sustainable social and economic development of the region in cooperation with local and regional government and business.
- Internationalization of scientific research, creating synergies and partnerships with universities and other research institutes in the country, or with foreign research groups in order to integrate into the European research area;
- Stimulation and involvement of the students in scientific research programs..
- Continuation of the publication of the periodic journal "*Scientific Bulletin*" in his four series, publication of the summary "*Albanian Studies*" and publication of research results in scientific journals and other national and international etc.

5.1 SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ACTIVITY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF SHKODRA

University of Shkodra is known for scientific research, and this showed publications, scientific journals, the presence of many renowned specialists, participation in projects and national and international scientific events.

Research at the university is often developed on an individual basis rather than on the basis of research groups, who are more set within the project. But it should be noted that certain individuals have outstanding achievements in research and have contributed not only to the development of national science, but in some cases and international.

During the past 20 years in USH they have developed their activity two important scientific institutes of international importance, in Albanology and water ecology and biology. Both institutes are recognized for the contributions and scientific opinions that they have arrived in terms of local, regional and national development.

Institute of Albanology Studies, established since 1994, first as Sector of Albanology Studies (later Research Center), the Institute of Water Research was established in 1996 as a Sector of Bio-ecology of Lake Skadar (later Research Center), as two units of scientific research at the University of Shkodra that perform research and study in the fields of Albanology, ecology and biology of water.

The two research institutes have developed research activities, reaching some important indicators for more than two decades. They are following a long tradition and very positive in the field of research.

The spotlight of the USH research has been expanding and deepening research activities through the organization of scientific activities, participation in projects in cooperation with scientific institutions inside and outside of country.

Most of the achieved results are published in the journal of the University of Shkodra "Scientific Bulletin" (Series Social Sciences and Series Natural Sciences), the periodical "Albanian Studies" in scientific journals of national and international, or monograph studies genuine scientific character.

Some of the achievements of scientific work of the academic staff of the SHU are also referred to in scientific conferences of national and international character, most of which have been published in scientific journals or in scientific reports within and outside the country. These publications are a clear manifestation of the development of scientific thought in the field of natural, environmental and humane sciences. Institute of Albanology has prepared for publication 6 of 7 volumes of work "Historical lexicon of the Albanian language" by Kolë Asha, which reaches approximately 2200 news page.

Research Institute of Water has achieved significant results in his research work, mainly in the study and analyze of chemical, biological, microbiological and ecological water parameters, focusing more on the Skadar Lake, the Bojana River, the lower part of etc. Drin river.

One of the directions of the Institute's work is also Albanology doctoral schools (PhD). In the Institute, in the academic year 2011-2012 was open doctoral schools "Albanian language". The school's mission is to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to perform research with high level. The studies are intended to reflect scientific progress in the field of Albanology in general, and of the Albanian language in particular, as well as conducting more thorough study based on the latest scientific information.

A contribution to the improvement of scientific work has also provided various implementations of projects, the nature of research as well as those to improve research infrastructure.

Research at the University aims at developing and implementing modern methodologies in the study and management of natural, cultural and human resources based on a scientific foundation, management and legal.

5.2 POLICIES OF EXPANSION OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

University research aims to produce nationally and internationally, stimulating areas where currently he is the leader, as well as promote excellence in academic staff.

This goal will be achieved through:

- a. Establishment of an appropriate infrastructure of research;
- b. Identification of individuals or research groups, who have achievements in research.
- c. The creation of new research groups, being reorganized along the lines institutes based on study areas.

- d. The opening of the doctoral schools at universities or between academic departments where there are large storage capacity and infrastructure.
- e. Increased participation in national and international scientific projects.
- f. Continuously liaising with universities and scientific and educational institutions in Tirana, the Albanian universities in other, universities in the region and beyond.

5.3 DISSOLUTION OF THE CONCEPT OF SECTORAL STRATEGY

University of Shkodra, during the period 2016 - 2020 should provide the necessary standards for the realization of a scientific research as more qualitative, aiming at taking part actively and successfully in the Framework Programmers of the EU, for scientific research innovation in the European Research area (ERA), and in various forms of international cooperation in the field of science.

The University should encourage centers of research excellence based on the principle of smart specialization and support the policies of science open (open science) and intake (open access) on the results of scientific publications that are financed by public funds.

To strive for a research capable to compete nationally and internationally.

University should carry out scientific research activities in traditional areas, those relating to the community, but also to stimulate new areas. It should help improve the academic and infrastructural capacity to research and try to gain income through a qualitative research work, national and international projects and through cooperation with local and regional government and business.

It is necessary to strengthen research on the actual institutes and departments, as well as to stimulate the establishment of new research groups supporting them in infrastructure and projects.

Some of the key fields should be:

1. Albanology

- by conducting **language** studies in diachronic and synchronic plain about language publications by contemporary authors and those of tradition, studies in the field of dialectology, the onomastics, the sociolinguistics, the toponymy, the history of language, relations standard with dialects, about relation of Albanian with other languages etc.;
- by conducting detailed studies of **literary** of less popular authors and publications or forbidden for a long time, that should be studied for better values in development of Albanian literature and culture;
- treating the **historical** events related to the North zone and Shkodra in different periods of old and modern history, which are not explained properly etc.

2. Ecology, water chemistry:

- by conducting studies on geographic and climatic features, physical-chemical parameters, chemical water qualities, chemical contamination (heavy metals, toxicity), bacteriological pollution and their impact on wildlife, problems of water regime, erosion and degradation of territory, protection of nature region, interactions and relations of the human activities to aquatic ecosystems in the region, etc.

3. Water biology:

- by conducting studies on taxonomy, flora, fauna and aquatic vegetation, biological qualities of water with the aim of assessing their ecological status according to EU directives, the conservation of nature and biodiversity, supporting sustainable development policies in the region, etc..

4. Information Technology

- by conducting studies and restructuring of information technology by most developed programs as a very important tool for the exchange of information, and also as a benchmark of quality in research, which will affect the strengthening of the image of the University.

5. Justice

- by conducting studies of law and the development of individual freedoms, property rights, minority rights, information, complaints, etc., and adjust them to better experience of EU countries etc.

6. Economic sciences

- by conducting detailed studies of the potentials of natural, historical, cultural, tourist and human resources present in the region, and on this basis to designing policies and strategies for sustainable economic and social development of northern region.

7. Education sciences

- studying the works and achievements of the best didactic, artistic, cultural and sports from the University, designing policies and drafted concrete programs for their further development at the university and the region.

6 SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE INSTITUTION

Strengths:

- an important tradition in research;
- a series of achievements in scientific work of individuals and groups of researchers;
- it has two research institutes (Institute of Albanologu Studies and Water Research Institute) in the structure itself;
- participation in national and international projects;



- favorable climate for scientific research;
- a relatively qualified academic staff and willing to work;
- the presence of the second and third cycle of education (MSc and PhD);
- closer cooperation with several institutes and research groups within and outside the country.

Weaknesses

- deficiencies in internal research staff or experts in several key areas, such as history, archeology, limnology (Hydrology), Ichthyology, etc.;
- small number of students in the second cycle of qualitative study ("Master of Science")
- some gaps in research infrastructure;
- lack of permanent funding for research;
- the ability of small income generation;
- lack of experience in developing international projects;
- limited space of qualified academic staff.

Opportunities

- Broader participation in national and international projects;
- Opening of new profiles of Master of Science and Doctoral school;
- Increased cooperation with local and regional authorities and the business sector.

Threats

- Lack in academic capacity (experts) in some important areas of research.
- Limited scientific capacity and infrastructure for the acquisition of major research projects.
- Disability for funds from business and local government, probably due to inadequacy of research practices traditionaler local development.

6.1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- Support of individuals or groups of researchers who have achievements in nationally and internationally research.
- Ensure the training of young specialists in the areas of deficiency.
- Efforts to enhance the second cycle of study (Master of Science) and the opening of the third cycle of study (PhD) in those faculties where is possible.

6.2 MEASURES TO BE TAKEN

- Establishment of academic and research capacity, especially the institutes of study in accordance with the Higher Education Law (2015), with a view to covering the most important areas of study.
- Improvements in research infrastructure (tools, equipment, scientific laboratories, etc.).
- Financial support from USH and NASRI (National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation) to participate in scientific conferences and symposia, publications of relevant studies and scientific papers in better quality journals and with impact factor etc.

7 ACTION PLAN

The action plan of sector strategy research and innovation is based on the development strategy of the University of Shkodra for the period 2017-2020.

Through the development of research programs, University of Shkodra strives to be one of the most popular research centers in Albania, in region and beyond.

In this regard, we commit some of the projects (project idea) that we think should/can be realized during the next four years:

Projects idea/Projects	Responsibility action plan	Deadline	Funding
Initiation and organization of two scientific conferences every year.	Directors of institutes and departments, Deaneries	2017-2020	USH, NASRI
Application for the opening of school doctorate (PhD) in those faculties that can be met the criteria.	Deaneries, Rectorat	2018	MAS
Application and participation in research projects of national, regional and international.	Directors of institutes and departments, Deaneries	2017-2020	NASRI, IPA
Attendance of the publication summary of "Albanian Studies"; nr. 24, 25, 26, 27, 28.	Institute of Albanology	2017-2020	USH
Assessment of ecological status of aquatic ecosystems of the lake and river in the region of Shkodra, as Buna, Drini, alpine rivers etc.,	ISURSH Department of Biology-chemistry	2017-2020	USH NASRI

According to EU directives (WFD and Natura 2000).			
Creation of pedagogues and students opportunities for on-line access at the libraries and foreign scientific journals.	Deaneries, Rectorat	2017	USH
Development of technology and information network for the University and the region.	FNS, Rectorat	2017	USH
Enabling the qualification of young researchers in key and necessary areas within and outside the country.	Rectorat	2017-2018	USH, MAS
The organization's annual workshop "Regional development challenges" with the presentation of the best diplomas.	Rectorat, Deaneries, departments	2017-2020	USH

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