

**Strategic support on strengthening the  
quality assurance structures at the  
private higher education institutions in  
Albania - QAinAL**

# Rationale

- In order for Albania to successfully integrate into the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) it is essential for the country to incorporate the standards and principles that have been set out and agreed by the countries which have signed up to the Bologna process, including all countries of the European Union.
- These standards and principles include the key objectives of ensuring high standards in quality of teaching and scientific research in higher education institutions.

# Preparatory work

The Ministry of Education and Sport (MES) in coordination with Public Agency of Higher Education (PAAHE) and the National Inspectorate of Education (NIE), started a process of Verification of Legal Requirements and Minimal Standards at public (59) and private (44) higher education institutions:

- documentation based evaluation and onsite inspections according to 36 legal and academic criteria ending with consultations and discussions with higher education institutions (HEIs) and preparation of final individual reports

# Outcome

- 18 out of 44 private HEIs were closed
- 13 private HEI-s were suspended for up to 2 years
- 15 public and 13 private managed to successfully pass this process and continue to operate as Higher Education Institutions
- 5 of these 13 private HEIs have been chosen to participate in the project

# Aim

The project addresses the following problems of the private higher education institutions:

- Lack of clear QA structures and processes;
- Few experiences on development of self-assessment reports;
- Lack of experiences of the PHEI on conducting QA internal / external activities;
- Lack of documents, which clearly describe the role of QA units;
- Lack of experiences to interact with management, teaching and administrative staff, students and external stakeholders on enhancing the institutional quality assurance
- To modernize the infrastructure of Quality Assurance Offices.

→ thus the project aims to create sound and sustainable QA processes and mechanisms to ensure effective management and continuous improvement of teaching and learning.

# Aim

- To establish/support the quality assurance structures/offices at the private higher education institutions in Albania
- To provide capacity building on quality assurance
- To provide trainings on designing study programs based on labour market needs
- To draft action plans supporting the processes of quality assurance and improvement in teaching, learning and administration
- To modernize the infrastructure of Quality Assurance Offices
- Development of QA guidelines

# Partners

1. Paris Lodron University Salzburg, Austria
2. University Politechnica of Bucharest,  
Romania
3. University of Genoa, Italy
4. World University Service Kosova, Kosovo
5. Turgut Ozal Education JSC-Epoka University,  
Albania
6. European University of Tirana, Albania

# Partners

6. Marin Barleti University, Albania
7. University of New York, Albania
8. Polis University, Albania
9. Ministry of Education and Sport in Albania
10. Akademia Evolucion, Kosovo
11. Pjeter Budi College, Kosovo



# Work package 1

## **WP1: Preparation phase**

Lead partner: **WUS Kosova**

- 1.1 Kick off meeting
- 1.2 Needs analysis questionnaire development
- 1.3 Data gathering
- 1.4 Data processing
- 1.5 Report on needs (on the QA existing structures and processes)
- 1.6 Study visit

# Work package 2

## **WP 2: Establish/support the quality assurance structures**

Lead partner: **PLUS**

- 2.1 Establish / support the QA structures
- 2.2 Training needs analysis for QA offices
- 2.3 Study visit and workshop – gain experience
- 2.4 Job descriptions for the QA officers
- 2.5 Round table discussion
- 2.6 Ongoing support to the QA Office
- 2.7 Target trainings for the QA office

# Work package 3

## **WP 3: Equipment purchase**

Lead partner: **PLUS**

- 3.1 Identification of the needed equipment
- 3.2 Preparation of the tender procedure
- 3.3 Launch of the tender
- 3.4 Equipment purchase and contracting

# Work package 4

## **WP 4: Trainings at all levels**

Lead partner: **UPB**

- 4.1 Training for management staff
- 4.2 Training for academic staff
- 4.3 Training for administrative staff
- 4.4 Training for students

# Work package 5

## **WP 5: Action plans for the institutions on QA**

Lead partner: **UNIGE**

- 5.1 Development of a SWOT analysis by PHEI -Each private higher education institution will develop the institutional analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats
- 5.2 Study visit and workshop -Each private higher education institution will develop its draft Action Plan for Quality
- 5.3 Development of a QA Action Plan
- 5.4 Online coaching

# Work package 6

## **WP 6: Quality Control (QPLN)**

Lead partner: **WUS Kosova**

- 6.1 Quality control of implementation and management plan
- 6.2 Internal financial controlling
- 6.3 External evaluation (project & financial)

# Work package 7

## **WP 7: Dissemination (DISS)**

Lead partner: **WUS Kosova**

- 7.1 Dissemination through project website
- 7.2 Dissemination through multiplication
- 7.3 Dissemination through events and other activities

# Work package 8

## **WP 8: Project Management (MNGT):**

- 8.1 Day to day project management - This includes the following main issues: strategic and contractual mngt, planning, steering, reporting, controlling, advice and feedback to partners, organization, co-ordination, and communication
- 8.2 Financial Management and Controlling -The Applicant and the main Beneficiaries will deal with budget management, controlling and bookkeeping.



# Work package 9

## **WP 9: Sustainability (EXP):**

Lead partners: MES, **UPB**, WUS Kosova

- 9.1 Sustainability through dissemination
- 9.2 Sustainability through local ownership & institutionalization