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Challenges on setting-up and implementing research and development structures, documents and indicators in the HEIs of Kosova

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Legal framework in Kosova related to Higher Education Institutions and research activities

- Law on Higher Education no. 04/L-037 (2011)
- Law no 04/L-135 on Scientific Research Activities
- Strategy for Development of Higher Education in Kosova 2005 – 2015
- Kosovo Education Strategic Plan 2011 – 2016
- The National Research Programme of the Republic of Kosovo 2010 – 2015
- Kosovo Innovations Strategy 2013 – 2020 (draft)
- National Development Strategy 2016 – 2021.
- Strategy on Scientific/Artistic Research and Development Activities 2013-2016
- Individual strategies of each HEI

Basic data about HE in Kosova

- 7 public universities
- 27 private higher education institutions (this is very dynamic and might vary from year to year)
- 120000 students in the academic year (2015/2016)
- Funds provided by the Government for research too low

Obstacles towards implementation of the scientific research and development activities in the following fields

- Profile of higher education institutions
- Governance and processes
- Human resources
- Infrastructure
- International cooperation
- Linking with the economy and society

Profile of higher education institutions

- Research or teaching – oriented?
- Institutional profiles should be based on an appropriate strategic framework (considering the national and regional requirements and particularities)
- In terms of relevant criteria in any case the HEI should serve to societal, scientific and economic development of the country.

Governance and processes - Increase of governmental funds for financing the research activities

- At the level of the government the amount of public funds allocated for scientific
- research is very low in relation to the number of higher education institutions in
- the country.
- Such a thing prevents scientific research that would contribute to
- innovation and economic development
- HEIs do not motivate their staff to apply for grants for research activities.
- No formula for stimulating academic staff exist to enhance their scientific research
- work and to utilize the maximum of available funds according to priorities set by the
- National Research Council.

- The research landscape should encompass scientific or applied research, appropriate support and services for the development of the institution, professor's work in consulting and advising students, preparation and design of projects, leading or mentorship of master and doctoral thesis, achievements in research projects involving students of the second and third study level
- Topics for possible research projects determined by the government to match with research needs of the country.
- Lack of information system (*Database of researchers; Database of existing R&D projects; Database of open calls ; Database of agreements of the HEIs with the partners of the economy*)

Human resources

- Human resources planning / staffing plan
- Categorization of staff
- Job description / workload (*current differentiation; real workload for teaching; existing student-to-teacher ratio; remaining capacity for research activities*)
- Salaries (bonus, allowance)
- HR-development, career paths, recruiting

Infrastructure

- Lack of sufficient physical space, inadequate infrastructure and outdated equipment;
- Insufficient cooperation between the HEIs for better joint utilization of available space and equipment and limited commercial use of infrastructure for purposes of scientific research and contracted services;
- Lack of or under-utilization of a part of available modern infrastructure due to lack of adequate training of the staff for the use of this technology for scientific research and services;

International cooperation

- Lack of systematic data on international cooperation projects;
- Insufficient capacity for drafting and implementation of international research projects;
- Administrative and other difficulties

Linking with the economy and society

- Lack of research and development projects in cooperation with the business sector and lack of opportunities to do practical research;
- Limited offer of services for the economy;
- Limited influence of scientific and research work results in policy making, development, and trends in society;
- Insufficient inclusion of stakeholders from economy and society in drafting of curricula for graduate studies.