

# Partner Search Form

INSTITUTION/CONTACT PERSON				
<b>Mr/Ms</b>	Last Name	<b>Marku</b>	First Name	<b>Alketa</b>
Institution		<b>Albanian University</b>		
Department		<b>Political and Administrative Science</b>		
Role in the institution		<b>Head of Scientific Research Office and Academic Publications</b>		
Address				
Town		<b>Tirana</b>	Country	<b>Albania</b>
Telephone		<b>00355/0672317166</b>	Email	<b>markualketa@gmail.com</b>
Website of the institution:		<b>www.albanianuniversity.edu.al</b>		
IS LOOKING FOR PARTNERS TO COOPERATE WITHIN THE FOLOWING TYPE(S) OF PROJECTS:				
Type of project idea	Please, tick the appropriate one/ones: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Erasmus+ KA1: International students and staff credit mobility</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Erasmus+ KA1: Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Erasmus+ KA2: Strategic Partnerships <input type="checkbox"/> Erasmus+ KA2: Knowledge Alliances/Sector Skills Alliances <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Erasmus+ KA2: Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Erasmus+ Jean Monnet programme</b>			
Discipline / Academic field	<b>Design, electronics and computer engineering, pharmacy, nursing, dentistry, education, economics, psychology, political science and law</b>			
Institution's preferable role in the project	<input type="checkbox"/> Applicant <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Partner</b>			
Experience in project implementation (please describe briefly all relevant projects implemented so far by your institution within the last 3 years):				
<p>Albanian University for the last three years has been part of an Erasmus + KA1 project, with Powislanski College in Kwidzyn, an Erasmus + KA1 project with the University of Foggia, Italy and one with the University of Salerno in Italy. At the same time, AU has become part of the Erasmus+ KA2 project in Capacity Building, a project involving around 11 Universities in and out of the country.</p>				

*Please provide a short presentation of your organisation (key activities, affiliations, size of the organisation, etc.) relating to the area covered by the project (limit 2000 characters).*

The Albanian University (AU) is a private and independent Higher Education Institution. It was licensed in April 2004 from the Ministry of Education and Science, as well as ratified by the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania. At present, it is one of the leading higher education institutions in Albania with considerable academic infrastructure investments and a vast student body. The University fully abides with the requirements and criteria of the Bologna Charter and proudly engages in high quality teachings in all levels of higher academia education.

#### Historical Background

Initially known as the *Universitas Fabrefacta Optime* (UFO), the University initiated its first academic year in 2004-2005, with the first course of studies at the Department of Dentistry, with about one hundred students. Since the first year of its inception, the University placed in the center of academic life, the promotion of the intellectual product and the merging of the learning process with scientific research, all of this finalized with the First Conference of Dentistry "UFO Dental", which opened the way to a tradition now already consolidated.

A year later, the University started offering undergraduate majors in other branches such as, Pharmacy, Architecture, Legal and Political Science. Approximately 600 undergraduate students attended during this academic year (2005-2006). Contemporary study programs, a long-experienced academic and professional staff, as well as modern infrastructure are some of the elements on which the University still relies today. Important to note that this this academic year was completed with the translation of Dentistry literature obtained from the University Tufts of Boston, a periodical, which was published by the Publishing House UFO Press. Many publications have followed since enriched by a large number of books and academic journal entries in all areas of study.

During the academic year 2006-2007, the University was completed with its eight branches of study, including Dentistry, Pharmacy, Architecture, Finance-Banking, Law Sciences, Political Sciences, Psychology, Communication Sciences, and about 2000 students attended. Besides completing academic tasks, the University emphasized the involvement of academics of all levels, in debates and public and social engagements. Open discussions, public debates and conferences on issues of legalization and registration of lobbying by interest groups, were the first steps towards being a factor in the public life of the country. Forums, workshops, seminars, conferences have involved not only academics, but also students and interest groups, aiming this way to achieve the University goals towards excellence and better higher education. In April 2007, except UFO's Press, the University expands its public space through the television channel "UFO Education" (now UTV News). It was designed as an educational television channel. Its aim is to establish knowledge in the political, artistic, and literary aspects, trying to transmit values and independent information.

In its fourth year, the University counted for more than 3100 students who sat in its the classes and auditorium and it marked the year that graduated the first generation of students in the branch of Dentistry and Political-Administrative Sciences. 94 Dentistry and 26 PAS graduates, all currently employed, continue postgraduate studies at home and abroad.

In the history of the University, the academic year 2007-2008 will mark the first honorary title awarded by the Academic Senate, "Honorary Professor" to Dr. Erhard Busek, lecturer, researcher and politician, a

strong supporter of Albania in the international arena.

The 2008-2009 academic year brought new challenges to the University. Study programs in secondary and third academic cycles, profiling and training its students to move closer to the labor market, were some of them. Second level degree programs and second level Masters Degrees, all offered under a specific project "For the qualification of Public Administration". 600 students of these programs joined the 4000 students of the first cycle of studies, expanding the student community of the UFO University. This year was successfully finalized by honoring the title "Doctor Honoris Causa" to Mr. Richard Gordon from England (Ex Deputy for the Defense of USA) for his contribution in Albania's membership in the Euro-Atlantic community. This academic year also marks the 1st Conference of the Department of Pharmacy, which was held on 13 June 2009. This conference, in addition to several students of Pharmacy Branch at Albanian University, was attended by a considerable number of our country's pharmaceutical service leading specialists and industry technicians.

The academic year 2009-2010 was the year that marked the qualitative consolidation of our university. During this year all the Bachelor programs and the integrated programs of Pharmacy, passed the accreditation process, and in 2010 received a positive evaluation from the Accreditation Public Agency of Higher Education.

The academic year 2010-2011 marked a special year for our university. The former name of the university "UFO University" was changed into a more meaningful and thoughtful name which better represents the 5400 students of the University.

Year 2011 marks the agreement with regards to the cooperation between University of Palermo, Italy, and Albanian University, Tirana. This agreement was heralded by both rectors and was considered as a mutual and necessary tool for cultural exchange and development, academic altercation and its interaction between the two institutions.

The academic year 2011-2012 marks an important period in the academic life of the university because at this time the university offered the third cycle of studies that of long-term specializations in dentistry in 8 fields, in which the practice courses are performed by foreign professors and academicians. In addition, this year marks a great number of academic and cultural activities throughout the AU departments which were reflected and published in the academic journal *Optime*, as well as a great number of publications of our printing press.

The academic year 2012-2013 was of special importance because it marked the ten anniversary of the private service of education in Albania. This year offered a wider range of Masters professional programs in Nursing and Psychology, as well as the doctoral studies in law, economics, psychology, political studies, pharmaceuticals, and architecture.

The academic year 2013-2014 marked yet another successful year with regards to the expansion of the programs which included the licensing of 5 BA and MA programs and 3 doctoral programs. At the same year, 10 BA programs were accredited in the AU branches of Berat and Tirana. The first European Conference of Implantology, international conferences in Psychology and Political Studies, as well as collaborations with other national public and private universities, enriched the curricula of activities of the University.

Today the University counts several consolidated academic programs:

- 8 Specializations in Dentistry,
- 16 Bachelors,
- 3 II-level integrated programs

- 13 Professional Masters,
- 20 Master of Science (MSc.)
- 8 Doctorate (PhD.)

The academic infrastructure is well expanded through the cities of Tirana, Durres, Berat and Fier. It counts a total number of 5400 Students and 400 lecturers and professors, ultimately representing one teacher for every 74 students. Furthermore, AU represents a pioneer in the higher education infrastructure in Albania. Since its first days the school thrives in the development of knowledge and academic excellence of the student body throughout its faculties in the Medical Sciences, Architecture & Engineering as well as a considerable Social Science school. In particular, Medical Science and its school of Dentistry represent the flagship of the Albanian University and it is fully developed to provide comprehensive study programs in BA, MSc. and Doctorate levels.

Ultimately, the Albanian University strives in creating an atmosphere of excellence in academia, initiative in research and scientific publications and strongly encourages a culture of knowledge, openness and strict network with the private and public institutions and agencies.

If more detailed information is needed, please visit the University's website:  
<http://www.albanianuniversity.al/en/home>

*Please describe also the role of your organisation in the project (limit 1000 characters).*

Please specify the excellence within your organization and the best practice you promote in employability and student tracking. Based on this info the section will be improved by AlmaLaurea.

Albanian University (AU) as a project partner aims at ensuring full compliance with the guidelines and objectives of the project operational plan and academic goals. Its main duties with rely on providing full support and guidance as needed, developing and expanding the boundaries of knowledge through better education, intellectual growth, social and cultural development of students, contributing to the benefit of the community with the aspiration of an intellectual environment that promotes critical and creative thinking, with values, principles and academic institutional ethics. Furthermore, the University will facilitate the process of finding the appropriate applicants and staff for the proposed exchange programs. The university will engage several key staff members to contribute to the implementation and success of the project.

For more information, please see the Partner Sheet document.

The university aims at contributing and assessing, as well as absorbing advanced skills and expertise in the areas and departments that mainly are designed to serve the student body. These departments are represented through the offices of:

- Curriculum Development
- Project Management & Scientific Research
- Student Transfers & Equivalence of Studies
- Student Support & Coordination
- Alumni & Career

Furthermore, the University organizes and promotes seminars and open conferences with local business and early career workshops in order to create a network of relationship. This network is intended to address questions and concerns coming from the student body towards the employment market in Albania. Albanian University has its main interest in developing a well-structured and sustainable system

of improving the actual employability and student tracking platform. We consider that much has been done towards the development of the academic infrastructure and the level of technical teaching. However, it is our moral obligation as well as mission to create an optimal operational infrastructure to further increase the market demand for our students.

As a private university, but with an important public mission, AU stimulates students to develop their research and reflection skills on issues important to the national and international community through a qualitative education and modern studying programs.

The purpose of our academic mission is to give a new dimension to university education, to increase the number of research programs, to foster the climate of mutual respect among students, to support the development of their ideas in the service of the nation and the state, with the primary goal of achieving university's perfection and its competitiveness in the labor market. The mission is to generate a product as more compatible with the market in reaching the primary target: "The product that is in advance in the labor market, the professional!" Hence, the University focuses on three main faculties:

- Medical Sciences
- Architecture and Engineering
- Social Sciences

All three of these faculties have their own organization with departments and deans. While Medical Science being the AU's flagship since day one, also both other schools have been enriched with considerable investments in lecturing halls, laboratories and highly acclaimed faculty staff, both nationally and internationally. AU at present claims one of the top spots in the Albanian Academia with national and regional demand on the rise.

In the hierarchy of values of the Albanian University stands the human dimension and volunteering, which gives priority to the will over the intellect and action in intellectual thought, through a joint activity and productive working volunteers that promotes the common good. AU as a value, but also materially belongs to the students, professors, staff and all those who contribute to the further development of this initiative

We have ambitious and long-term goals, based on the accreditation of programs and statutes of the Albanian University. We aim to secure improvement in preparing staff to respond to the market economy, aiming to always be a powerful center of non-public education in the country.

The values to which we believe:

- Quality in every academic initiative,
- Organizational Integrity and fairness,
- Collegiality and participation in decision-making,
- Volunteering and accountability in the achievement of educational standards,
- Accountability and academic freedom.
- Preservation of ethics and credibility establishment.

