Universum College (UC) is a private higher education provider accredited by the Kosovo Accreditation Agency and evaluated by international experts. It is renowned for its academic background, research, facilities, the international profile of its programs, faculty and student body. Universum College aims at providing education and training along with a lifelong learning to enable individuals to realize their full potential. Our institution strives for excellence in fulfilling its central and primary purposes of teaching, and research and it places emphasis on the quality of teaching. Moreover, as a private university, Universum College has a particular responsibility to address societal issues and needs through providing its students with opportunities for scholarships, research, and creative extracurricular activities. The scholarly and social activity of the faculty enhances the teaching function at all levels of the student experience.

OUR MISSION

Universum College strives to provide high quality, accessible and affordable educational opportunities and services to Kosovars and international students by means of teaching excellence, providing opportunities for lifelong learning, encouraging applied research and building partnerships thus preparing students to be thoughtful, responsible and successful citizens who would further support the economic development of their country.

Universum College uses multidisciplinary and various innovative means to attain the mission. Hence, our college thrives to:

- provide sound education to the Kosovar, regional and international student body;
- maintain and develop the standards of excellence which is essential to the future of our students’ success
- foster applied research;
- continue developing innovative and flexible educational approaches which serve the needs of the students;
- encourage personal and social development of students through activities outside the classroom;
- grow the college as a life-long learning center;
- deliver support programs to help students achieve their goals;
- foster international partnerships and programs;
- provide students with an understanding and appreciation of world’s cultures;
• lead in the creation of partnerships that support the economic development of the region;
• arrange an incentive structure that fosters research and innovation on local and regional issues or interests.

TEMPUS AND ERASMUS +

The Erasmus programme is a European-wide initiative based on subject-specific exchange agreements between schools and departments at Universum College and academic counterparts at partner universities across Europe. The programme is provided with the support of the European Commission within the framework of Erasmus+. Universum College has participated in several projects under Tempus and Erasmus+ programme. Projects that we have been involved in are:

ERASMUS+ CAPACITY BUILDING

Universum College has been granted the approval for three out of five capacity building projects, which are approved in the national level of Kosovo. These three capacity building projects are to be implemented jointly with respective institutions across Europe. Implementation and partnerships as such contribute to the development and internationalization of our institution. Through capacity building projects we aim at increasing our capacities, promoting internationalization and professional cooperation, establishing strong partnerships and fostering cultural exchanges. Hence, three main projects are as following:

1. Innovative Teaching Education in Mathematics (ITEM)

ITEM aims at improving and increasing academic and professional capacities of students. This project has a wide spectrum of tools, methodologies as well as programs that targets mathematic skills of first year students enrolled in Computer Science and/or Electrical Engineering. Some of the aims and objectives of this project are:

• Motivate students to learn mathematics.
• Engage students in mathematics studies.
• Build students confidence in their ability to acquire mathematics skills.
• Reduce failure rate in mathematics courses.
• Improve teaching and teaching deliverable tools along mathematics lecture sessions.
• Promote inter-disciplinary teaching.
• Build digital literacy of teachers & students.
• Advance machine – human collaboration.
• Promote a personalized education.
- Enhance student & teacher mobility between Program and Partner Countries.
- Support life-long learning.

Our partner universities in ITEM are:
1. Aalborg University, Denmark
2. University for Health Sciences, Medical Informatics and Technology,
3. Holon Institute of Technology, Israel
4. Hadassah Academic College (HAC), Israel
5. Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel
6. Ceske Vysoke Uceni Technicke, Czech Republic
7. Technological Educational Institute of Crete, Greece

2. MSc in Sustainable Food Production Systems

This project aims at implementing modern MSc programs in sustainable food production systems. Through this project academic programs and courses will be reviewed, redesigned and integrated with modern MSc material. Such programs aim at supporting the development of agriculture and sustainable food production.

Our partner universities in this project are:
1. University of Sarajevo, BIH
2. Ceska Zemedeska Univerzita Praze, Czech Republic
3. Universitate de Stinne Agronomice ze Medicine Veterinara Din, Rumania
4. Research Innovation and Development Lab, Greece
5. University of Ruso Angel Kanchev

3. Enhancing and Validating Service Related Competencies in Versatile Learning Environments in Western Balkan Universities

This project aims at creating a blended learning approach to facilitate and validate competence development related to service orientation in rather informal learning contexts in higher education institutions and workplace learning contexts. Its contribution relies in the demonstration of those competencies that are of fundamental importance in the labor market and that are acquired to a large extent in non-formalized learning contexts. With its approach of combining higher education and professional practice, e-VIVA will contribute to an improved transparency of the acquired competencies in a transnational comparative scale. Moreover, it will provide learning and validation opportunities in highly contextualized and individualized learning settings. All this will also create new learning pathways and eventually lead to a better matching of learning contents and individual learning styles (preferences).
Our partner universities in this project are:

1. Universiteti Bujqesor i Tiranes, Albania
2. Universiteti Haxhi Zeka, Kosovo
3. Drzavni Universiteti u Novom Pazaru, Serbia
4. Univerzitet SINGIDUNUM, Serbia
5. University of Sarajevo, BIH
6. Ceska Zemedelska Univerziteta v Praze, Czech Republic
7. Universitatea de Stiinte Agronomice si Medicina Veterinara, Romania
8. University of Ruse Angel Kanchev, Bulgaria
9. Research Innovation and Development Lab, Greece

**CONSUS**

Connecting Science-Society Collaborations for Sustainability Innovation (CONSUS) project aims at establishing a regional science-society network for sustainability innovations in Albania and Kosovo in order to strengthen the connection and collaboration of institutions in the field of higher education, research and practice.

Our partner universities in this project are:

1. University of Graz
2. University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences
3. Leuphana University
4. University of Salzburg
5. Kosova Accreditation Agency
6. University College Cork
7. National Qualification Authority

**1. Quality Assurance**

Supporting and developing the structures for QA at the Private Higher Education Institutions in Kosovo project aims at introducing and enhancing the quality standards and mechanisms at the Private Higher Education Providers in Kosovo in order to facilitate comparability, credibility and Quality Assurance practices in accordance with the Bologna principles and the Strategy for the Development of Higher Education in Kosovo (2005-2015).
2. Curriculum Development

The process of Curriculum Development based on Learning Outcomes and Research Guided Teaching in the Private Higher Education Institution of Kosovo projects aims at encouraging the process of curriculum development based on learning outcomes and research guided teaching in the private HEIs of Kosovo.

ReBUS

Ready for Business – integrating and validating practical entrepreneurship skills in engineering and ICT studies three-year project focuses on the development, testing, validation and creation of basic training modules for expansion of entrepreneurial competencies of graduates at the intersection of academic education and practice. With a duration from 2017-2019, this project involves active mobility of projects’ participants between partner universities, purchase of equipment and seminars on research topics.

Our partner universities in this project are:

1. University of Sarajevo
2. University of Duisburg Essen
3. University of Palermo
4. University FH Joanneum Gesellschaft M.B.H
5. European University of Tirana
6. Volga State University of Technology
Within Erasmus + credit mobility program we are consistently looking for partnerships, aiming at increasing the number of exchange students, faculty and staff to further expand our cooperation and internationalization. The table below consists of our current partners. Yet, we are currently in ongoing negotiations with many other potential partnering institutions and the table below is a subject to change.

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<th>Nr.</th>
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<td>Masarski Univerzita</td>
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RESEARCH PROJECTS

Although a teaching institution, Universum’s applied research in the fields of Entrepreneurship, Competitiveness and Public Policy has contributed in the improvement of business environment and policy making in Kosovo. Linking teaching with research and practice, Universum professors have undertaken many innovative projects that contribute to making Universum a center for public opinion surveys.

Some of research projects conducted from the Universum College Academics are:

1. Politics and Elections (Supported by: INDEP)
Politics and Elections - A survey of voters’ opinion on Politics and Elections. The Institute for Development Policy (INDEP) and Universum College (Universum) conducted extended field surveys in order to quantify citizen motivation behind their voting preferences. The question we have asked included modalities for the most pressing political and public policy issues discussed in the election, including the issues that drove political party preferences in voters. Additionally, the initial questions were aimed to assess general demographic information of the sample.

2. Education Policy (Supported by: GIZ and INDEP)
The project was funded by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and it was conducted through an extended field surveys in order to quantify citizen motivation for the most pressing public policy issues discussed in the election, including education policy. This report focuses on the quantification of the respondent’s answers regarding the education sector. Questions on the education sector, and how it affects the voter’s decision on voting were based on two factors. The first factor relied mainly around the main topics pushed forward in political party programs and in the public discourse, as evidence by INDEP and Universum through research and monitoring during the election campaign. The second factor was focused on the most pressing issues in the education sector as evidenced by analytical reports produced by local actors.

3. Internet Penetration (Supported by: STIKK, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and British Council).
Universum was commissioned to conduct one of the most important studies in Kosovo – the Internet penetration for Kosovo ICT Association, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and British Council. 1000 people have been interviewed using tablets and iziSurvey as a tool of gathering data. Kosovo Internet Penetration Study is a major strategic study as it informs policy-making in several dimensions and widely cited by local and international actors.
4. **Local Action Plan (Supported by: Regional Environment Center-REC)**

As part of the local action plan on environment, the Regional Environmental Center of Kosovo decided to expand its previous research on environmental issues concerning municipalities in the Republic of Kosovo. They have contracted our institution to conduct the research for the municipalities of: Vushtrri, Kllokot, Mamushe, Ranillug and Sterpca. In total, 5639 citizens were contacted, while 5353 decided to part-take in the interview. The interviews were conducted in person, based on the sample size decided by our institution in close cooperation with the needs of REC. The research is to be used for establishing an action plan for the aforementioned municipalities in order to improve their daily lives.

5. **The Kosovar Real Estate Market (Supported by: Foton MKA)**

The real estate market analysis is a primary research commission by Forton–MKA (Commercial Property Advisers). The principal objective of this study is to evaluate the trends of the retail and the office market potential of the city of Prishtina (the capital of Kosovo). The focus of this study is to conduct field research in the region of Prishtina, and to evaluate the trends and the potentiality of the inventory of the existing commercial buildings.

6. **Business Outlook**

Business Outlook is a 10-year research project, which is aimed at measuring the trends and movements in the business environment in Kosovo annually. Business Outlook contributes to the advancement of both our students and staff. On the one hand, the students of Universum gather the complex data needed to construct the quantitative analysis, whereas the staff complements the quantitative data with a qualitative analysis upon the data concerned. That being said, the Business Outlook shows the momentum of businesses’ performance, and predicts the potential shortcomings and/or challenges of the latter. By doing so, the Business Outlook, released at the beginning of each year, shows to the business community, foreign investors and public governors the current trends of performance and the forecasted movements in the business sector in Kosovo, as to sharpen their policies and to smooth their involvement.

7. **Feasibility Report - National Park (Supported by: Municipality of Ferizaj)**

The Feasibility Report conducted for the National Park of Nerodime was a project financed and submitted to the Municipality of Ferizaj in Kosovo. Part of this project was to create a detailed report on several fields whether a National Park could be built at Nerodime. This project was very important and useful for the Municipality of Ferizaj due to the great importance Nerodime has for Ferizaj’s tourism and sightseeing.
8. **Employment Barometer**

Employment Barometer is another 10-year research project, which is aimed at measuring the trends and shifts in the labor market in Kosovo. The Barometer is released once per year, and it is conducted through the students’ work and staff’s academic analyses. The Employment Barometer shows the current indicators in the labor market in Kosovo, and forecasts the shortcomings and/or prospects in the latter. To that extent, the Employment Barometer informs policy makers, private investors, business owners etc. about the needed steps to improve the potential challenges, and the prospective interventions that need to overcome the predict.

9. **Baseline Study Delivery of Education (Supported by: UNICEF and ECMI Kosovo)**

This baseline study of the Delivery of Education to Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities in Fushë Kosovë / Kosovo Polje was conducted as part of the project “Improving the Delivery of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Education in the Municipality of Fushë Kosovë/Kosovo Polje”, funded by UNICEF and implemented by ECMI Kosovo. The project aimed at improving the education of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities by strengthening the capacity of municipal officials to deal with Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian education and to implement the Municipal Action Plan (MAP) on Integration of Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian Communities in Fushë Kosovë / Kosovo Polje 2010 – 2012, with a focus on the education component as part of the Strategy for the Integration of

10. **Business in Kosovo**

Business in Kosovo ‘Policy Paper Series’ is a series of working papers that discuss, quantitatively measure, qualitatively analyze, and theoretically test the current leanings and challenges of the Kosovo’s business environment. The series contributes to the expansion, and to some extent innovation, of the policy debate over the business in Kosovo, the regional interdependence of the latter, and from time to time the interference of the global business trends in the Kosovo’s business performance. The series of papers are aimed at informing the policy-makers and academics about both the shortcomings and prospects of Kosovo’s business, through engaging with policy solutions and directions from most of the developed market economies’ practices. The ‘Business in Kosovo’ Policy Paper Series is the first of its kind in Kosovo, and has greatly promoted the study of policy, from both market and government standpoint, as a mean to being informed and capable of addressing rational policy solutions.

11. **Youth and Employability (Supported by: SOLIDAR SWISS)**

This project aims at gathering information and evaluate the career offices challenges in several municipalities. This project includes in field research using interviews, questionnaires, and surveys as tools to gather information. Consequently, these data will be processed and the final report on
the current situation regarding Youth and Employability in several municipalities throughout Kosovo will be published on February 2017.

Training and Education
Universum College offers Training and Education programme that caters for the needs of young and older people. Taking the form of interactive workshops, they are undertaken in a professional, up-to-date and beneficial manner. Based on extensive research, the workshops are designed to educate, challenge and stimulate participants to explore new ways of thinking.

1. Rural Tourism Development (Supported by: European Commission)
Universum College now is running an EU Project on Training and Education of young people for Rural Tourism Development. The specific objective of this assignment is to provide training to project beneficiaries (rural households, unemployed young individuals and women and relevant associations and institutions) on business startup, handicraft, and institutional development.

2. Training for GIZ (Supported by: GIZ)
Universum College now is running an EU Project on Training and Education of young people for Rural Tourism Development. The specific objective of this assignment is to provide training to project beneficiaries (rural households, unemployed young individuals and women and relevant associations and institutions) on business startup, handicraft, and institutional development.

3. Tourism Entrepreneurship (Supported by: European Commission)
Universum was sub-contracted by the EU Commission to conduct training and business skills development for Tourism Entrepreneurs in the region of Prishtina, as a part of the regional development strategies. Over 100 candidates were trained including:

- Households with tourism development potentials
- Municipality officials which support the tourism development in the region

4. STIKK Education (Supported by: Kosovo ICT Association)
Universum College is a contractor of STIKK Education regarding the teaching and delivering lectures. STIKK Education has been designed to specifically address the obstacles concerning skill-development and training. STIKK Education brings together all of the IT training opportunities already provided by STIKK, with a host of new IT programmes and initiatives. Its vision is to increase the local capabilities in the sector of ICT through professional and competent trainings, specifically designed to meet the needs of the local industry, while keeping on with international technology trends.
5. Training and Education on Soft Skills: PunPun Candidate (Supported by: GIZ)

This training was conducted on behalf of GIZ and aimed to develop transferable soft skills for 22 candidates of an educational reality show in Kosovo. Universum’s academic staff was in charge of delivering lectures and workshops in topics that were evaluated the candidates need most. Topics lectured by our academic staff were:

- Communication
- Enthusiasm
- Cooperation & Team work
- Problem Solving
- Professionalism and Networking

Candidates took part in workshops that aimed at equipping them with skills regarding CV Writing, Cover Letter Writing and other standard application required documents.

6. Business Development Skills (Supported by: YEP and USAID)

Provisions of Business Development Skills Training for Young Entrepreneurs (USAID YEP) is a project through which Universum carried out trainings at different sites for the USAID Young Entrepreneurs Program (YEP) and trained over 180 participants at four different locations (Prishtina, Strpce, Klina, Gjakova).

7. Entrepreneurship Development Skills (Supported by: YEP and USAID)

Universum College won the project from YEP/USAID to train 1000 young people. The main objective of this assignment was to provide support to 1000 Young Entrepreneurs (ages 18-35) in 16-20 different municipalities in developing certain entrepreneurial skills that are required by local, regional and worldwide market and industries.

8. Basic Education Program (Supported by: BEP and USAID)

The overall objective of the project was to provide assistance and logistics in carrying out several types of professional development programs for different levels of beneficiaries (School Directors, School Governing Boards, Parent Councils and Student Councils) from public primary and lower secondary schools in 15 target municipalities within Kosovo. The main activities of the project where:

- Organization and facilitation of seminars
- Organization and facilitation of trainings
- Organization and facilitation of workshops
- Information preparatory meetings
- Coaching and mentoring sessions
Universum College is Kosovo’s most entrepreneurial, innovative, international and responsible higher education institution. Universum is the only institution from Kosovo to be ranked in the Top 1000 Best Business Schools in the World by the French ranking agency - EdUniversal. Some of the projects and initiatives regarding entrepreneurship are:

1. **Get in The Ring (GITR)**
Get in The Ring is a non-profit event founded by The Erasmus Center for Entrepreneurship in Netherlands with the aim to bring together entrepreneurs around the world to compete with each other in order to secure financing for their ventures. GITR has started only three years ago and it is present in 84 countries and accepts more than 3000 individuals who compete in order to win the final price of €1 Million.

2. **Startup Weekend Fest**
This project aims at offering practical skills to start-ups, new businesses, individuals or groups with business idea that aim to increase their business capacities. StarUp weekend is being organized in more than 100 countries of the world including Kosovo. This event enables youngsters to realize their business ideas and begin a startup which in further steps can contribute to the society and become a profitable business.

3. **Global Entrepreneurship Week Partner Global**
Entrepreneurship Week event includes series of activities that participants to cooperate and bring innovation to existing startups and businesses. Global Entrepreneurship Week brings innovators and job creators who launch startups that bring ideas to life and aim to drive economic growth.

4. **Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM)**
The Global Entrepreneurship Monitor (GEM) project is an annual assessment of the entrepreneurial activity, aspirations and attitudes of individuals across a wide range of countries. GEM is the largest ongoing study of entrepreneurial dynamics in the world which cover 75% of world population and 89% of global GDP. Universum hosts the Kosovo National Team to conduct country report.

5. **Code Weekend Fest – CWF**
Code weekend Fest aims at bringing youngsters from surrounding region and help them gain insights and basic necessary skills in regards of coding and getting to know the coherent programming languages that are used to launch apps, websites and other software systems. This activity aims at increasing the awareness towards the recent developments and provide professional guidance and assistance for talented and interested youngsters in the computer sciences.
6. KosICT Tech Festival

KosICT started 5 years ago as a regional conference with the aim to bring the global IT trending topic to the Balkans. But with over 50 speakers during the last 4 years and more than 1,000 participants, the expansion was inevitable. That’s why the 5th edition was a reinvention of KosICT, where it is went Global, expanding the topics line-up, introducing the SEE Outsourcing & Startups Fair, an eSports Championship and KosICT Nights. Universum was one of the two partners organizing this event and helped in bringing prominent speakers from globally known companies such as; Google, Apple, Entrepreneurship Magazine and many more.

PUBLICATIONS

BALKAN JOURNAL (Supported by: U.S. Embassy, Prishtina and U.S. Department of State)

International Journal of Balkan Policy Research is a double-blinded peer-reviewed Journal published by Universum college in Kosovo with the financial support of the US Embassy in Kosovo and the US State Department. It is edited by an International Editorial Board which consists of prominent Academics, Scholars, and Practitioners from the field and led by the Editor-in-Chief Dr. Adrian Treacher from the University of Sussex in the UK. IJBPR is a gateway to key policy research on the Western Balkan region and individual countries of Interest to policy-makers, scholars, and readers of Western Balkan affairs, it aims at addressing theoretically-informed and empirically-tested economic, legal, social, and political issues which directly shape policy and attitudes in the region. The review process ensures that the academic quality of the published articles is approved by experienced scholars/practitioners from the relevant field. The aim of this project was to establish the International Journal of Balkan Policy Research to be a leading journal in the field.

Some of the articles published are:

1. The New Dimensions in Croatian-Hungarian Interregional Relationship. Author: Lorinczne Bencze
2. Tred of Citizens’ Participation in the Civil Sector in Albania. Author: Elona Dhembo
PUBLISHED BOOKS

Universum College has significantly contributed to the enrichment of literature available in Albanian language for the reader in Kosovo. Subsequently, apart from authentic publications made available through university funds, Universum College in association with European Union Agencies has translated and published well-known literature for the ease of accessibility for students across Kosovo and other Albanian speaking communities. Below you may find the list of published material:

Work published by Universum’s academic staff:


Other authors’ work translated by Universum’s academic staff:


Universum sees itself as a teaching institution with well-developed taught degrees. Under our strategic investment plan, Universum plans to significantly increase financial allocations to research by 2015. In addition, all academic programs at our institution will see an improvement in conditions and receive more funding. Markedly, an area of great importance to our institution is research, where management envisions increased investment. Stress is placed on the need to carry out an active search for funding from a wide variety of sources possible and to attract researchers and teaching staff from outside Kosovo. Staff retention and development remain a high priority. The institution itself has, thus far, been the main financer for funding research. Our aim is to expand our research range, quality, and products. To this end, we have adopted a research strategy and created a stronger mechanism to carry out the objectives. Universum is currently implementing an integrated teaching, research and staff development policy, by making it obligatory for staff to spend a greater proportion of their time conducting research. Additionally, UC is consolidating its research policies, priorities, partners, commercialization opportunities, and national and international research schemes. Lifelong education and distance learning are points that Universum has prioritized in its teaching plan. Universum is channeling students from a traditional lecture-based system, based on rote-learning and oral examinations, to one based on a variety of teaching approaches and examination procedures, including seminar, problem-based learning, formative assessment, essays, projects, and written examinations. Our long-term strategic orientation is the creation of a reputable regional and international institution of higher education by focusing at the national level. Universum is slowly moving towards introducing new technologies in teaching; it is becoming common to have reading materials required for courses available electronically. Thus, we believe that our recent institutional changes and reforms carried out at our institution, specialized areas, up-to-date curriculums, costs of study and importantly our internationalization strategy will boost our competitiveness in the future.
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