

## Editorial

Dear Readers

Summer has come and although the weather does not abide by the rules we are looking forward to some hot season: During the last couple of weeks the sub-competitions for the Balkan Case Challenge took place in Albania, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Slovenia and we look forward to a spectacular final event in Vienna from 5th-10th July including a concert by the (in-)famous artist Rambo Amadeus (aka RASMC, aka Antonije Pušić). Please, check the website at [www.bcchallenge.org](http://www.bcchallenge.org) for up-to-date information.

Furthermore, new projects, "Supporting and Developing the Structures for the Q&A at the Private Higher Education Institutions in Kosova" and KIKT (Kosovo Interdisciplinary Triangle Centre) have successfully concluded the initial project phase. Both projects highlight the importance of establishing and developing Quality Assurance and Research & Development capacities at Higher Education Institutions in Kosovo. At the same time the implementation of these projects emphasizes the commitment of the Higher Education Institutions in Kosovo to constantly assess and re-assess their situation, react to new trends and keep up with the newest developments.

Another fairly new project - PATTERNS Lectures - financed by the ERSTE Foundation and implemented by WUS Austria aims at the development of new university courses in the fields of art history, cultural studies and cultural sciences and focuses on the visual arts and culture of the 1960s in South-Eastern, Eastern and Central Europe until today. It encourages lecturers from these regions to submit university course proposals: Out of 61 applications from 19 countries only 16 courses were chosen which will be taught at the respective universities in the academic year 2010/2011. Among these courses we find interesting titles such as Feminist Art-making: Social Voices and Creative Options (The Hungarian University of Fine Arts, HU); Fragmented Space: The Transformation of Central European Cities (Budapest University of Technology / Moholy-Nagy University of Arts and Design, HU) or Testimonies - Female Voices in Czech and Slovak Art (Academy of Art Architecture and Design, CZ).

Best regards,

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## Thematic Article

### Linking Kosovo

On May 21, 2010 the kick-off meeting of a new Tempus project took place at the premises of the Medical Faculty of the University of Prishtina to launch one of the biggest projects on higher education in Kosovo - the Kosovo Interdisciplinary Knowledge Triangle Centre (KIKT). Prof. Dr. Shemsedin Dreshaj, coordinator of the project at the University of Prishtina, moderated the kick-off meeting that was attended by representatives of the national TEMPUS office in Kosovo, the Medical Faculty of the University of Prishtina, Ghent University, Austin Pock + Partners and WUS Austria. The core of the project is the Interdisciplinary Knowledge Triangle Centre that is aimed to not only provide a modern laboratory with newest equipment that will allow PhD students to practice with the same technical equipment like their colleagues in other European countries but also to build a platform for research and networking in the academic world. The overall objective of the project is to improve the conditions for the development of professional research capacities and PhD study programmes for the medical and natural sciences at the University of Prishtina. Thus, the project is a further step in contributing to the reformation and development of higher education in Kosovo linking the country with professionals and experts from all around

the world.

This is no matter that can be taken for granted. The war at the end of the 1990s represented a turning point in the development of the education systems which since then recovers only slowly as the government has only little or no money at its disposal to invest into education and the educational system. Thus, the implementation of reforms very often relies on donations. However, there is no lack of ideas or enthusiasm on the side of the students or their teachers to bring about change. Youth in Kosovo practices a culture of volunteer engagement which is one-of-a-kind. Young people are involved in community action, social work and last but not least they want to take their professional future into their own hands. The exchange of views and opinions with the academic world outside of Kosovo constitutes the basis for all these initiatives and actions. Which brings us back to the planned Interdisciplinary Knowledge Centre at the Medical Faculty of the University of Prishtina. As Prof. Dr. Dreshaj resumed at the kick-off meeting: We have a lot of work ahead of us. But then this seems to have never held back anyone in Kosovo.

## Recent News & Events

14.06.2010

### **Third workshop on the implementation of Quality Assurance System at the University of Montenegro**



*Podgorica* - The goal of the final workshop on implementation of Quality Assurance System at the University of Montenegro was to present experiences in implementation of the Quality Assurance System at the universities in Austria, give comparison with the University of Montenegro and discuss relevant issues which will be reflected in the QA guidelines. The workshop took place on 14th June 2010 at the Rectorate building of the University of Montenegro. [read more](#)

14.06.2010

### **BCC Workshop - Bitola**



The workshop "Linking Higher Education and Economy. Various Forms of Cooperation between Universities and Business: Best Practices, Experiences and Cases from Macedonia and Austria" was organized at the biggest University in South Western Macedonia - St. Kliment Ohridski University in particular at the Faculty of administration and management of information systems - Bitola on 28 May 2010. [read more](#)

04.06.2010

### **New project KIKT launched at the University of Prishtina**



*Prishtina*. On May 21, 2010 WUS Austria together with the University of Prishtina launched one of the biggest projects on higher education in Kosovo - the *Kosovo Interdisciplinary Knowledge Triangle Centre (KIKT)*. [read more](#)

28.04.2010

### **16 Course Proposal selected by International Jury for Project "PATTERNS Lectures"**

*Vienna*. On the 8th of April, 2010, the members of the Academic Advisory Panel of the PATTERNS Lectures project met for a whole day in the premises of ERSTE Foundation in Vienna. They had to accomplish a difficult mission, since 61 eligible applications were received! [read more](#)