



MARDS Project

1st Year Report

University of Vlora “Ismail Qemali”

The *REFORMING DOCTORAL STUDIES IN MONTENEGRO AND ALBANIA – GOOD PRACTICE PARADIGM* (MARDS) project addresses one of the most acute problems in Montenegrin and Albanian education systems, the doctoral studies. The main aim of the project is to reconstruct doctoral studies in line with Salzburg Principles, establish sustainable funding mechanisms in this area and introducing two modern Pilot Joint Doctoral. This will serve as an example of good practice for the WB Region. The project is funded by the European Commission (Grant: 598465-EPP-1-2018-1-ME-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP) and started at the beginning of 2019. During the previous year the project partners have worked hard and reached almost all their goals. University of Vlora (UV) is a key partner at this project and has contributed significantly in fulfilment of the objectives during the first year. In general, UV members have prepared documents, participated in training and quality assurance activities, participated in the conference about doctoral education, completed questionnaires asked by Work Package leaders, disseminated the project etc.

In details:

➤ *Participation in meetings:*

1. Participation at the kick off meeting on February 20-23. February 2019 organized by the coordinator of the project University of Montenegro (Rector of University Prof. Dr. Roland Zisi and Vice-rector Prof. Assoc. Kristofor Lapa);
2. Participation at the MARDS Conference on Doctoral studies in Kotor, Montenegro on 3-5 June 2019 (Vice-rector Prof. Assoc. Kristofor Lapa and PhD Enkeleint A. Mechili);
3. Participation in in MARSD Training in Vienna on “Professional Management of Doctoral Studies” on 25-28 June 2019 (Vice-rector Prof. Assoc. Kristofor Lapa, Dean Prof. Assoc. Hajdar Kicaj);



4. Participation at the Workshop on “*Professionalization of Ph.D. supervision*” in Dubrovnik, Croatia on 5-6 September 2019 (Vice-rector Prof. Assoc. Kristofor Lapa, Dean Prof. Assoc. Hajdar Kicaj);
5. Participation at the “MARDS Bilateral meeting between the Coordinator and partners from Albania, in Tirana on 22-23 September 2019 (Vice-rector Prof. Assoc. Kristofor Lapa and Mrs. Rezarta Sinanaliaj);
6. Participation at the “Training of academic and professional staff on EU practices of doctoral education: Collaborative Doctoral Programmes”, in Banska Bystrica on 2-5 October 2019 (Vice-rector Prof. Assoc. Kristofor Lapa, Vice-rector PhD Sokol Bana, and PhD Enkeleint A. Mechili);
7. Participation at the “Quality Assurance of Doctoral Studies”, in Maribor, Slovenia on 6-8 November 2019 (Vice-rector Prof. Assoc. Kristofor Lapa and Mrs. Zamira Alimemaj);
8. Participation at the MARDS Consortium Meeting in Vienna, Austria on 11/12-December 2019 (Prof. Assoc. Elenica Pjero and Mrs. Rezarta Sinanaliaj).

➤ *Document fulfilment asked by partners:*

1. Fulfilment of the document “A Report on the existing model of funding of doctoral studies in Montenegro and Albania”;
2. Fulfilment of the document “Report on the “state of the art” in doctoral education in Montenegro and Albania and comparison with EU practices”.

➤ *Dissemination activities:*

1. Dissemination of MARDS project at University of Vlora JOB FAIR, in May 2019;
2. Dissemination of MARDS project at SCfDS' 2019 international conference, in June 2019;
3. Dissemination of MARDS project among UV young researcher during a training activity, in November 2019;
4. Promoting MARDS project at UV web site.



➤ *Partnership agreements:*

1. Memorandum of Understanding signed between University of Vlora and University of Montenegro signed on 25.02.2019;
2. Memorandum of Understanding signed between University of Vlora and University of Shkodra signed on 19.11.2019.

➤ *Courses proposed by UoV:*

1. Research Methodology (PhD. Enkeleint A. Mechili);
2. Marine Tourism (Prof. Assoc. Kristofor Lapa and Prof. Assoc. Elenica Pjero);
3. Yellow Tourism (Prof. Assoc. Elenica Pjero and PhD. Sokol Bana);
4. Big Data and Artificial Intelligence (Dr. Eljona Proko and PhD Enkeleint A. Mechili).

➤ *Report on the Equipment:*

1. We asked for some minor changes in the equipment list and we got the approval from the Coordinator;
2. We faced difficulties in receiving the money because the entire process involves many institutions which overall delay the money transfer.

