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**Strengthening capacities and digital competences in biomedical education  
through internationalization at home - BIOSINT**

**E 1.3—MEETING IN TIRANA  
FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECT ACTIVITIES  
AND  
CONTINUATION OF E 4.2 INTERNATIONALIZATION OF  
CURRICULUM**

**FACULTY OF DENTAL  
MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF  
MEDICINE  
TIRANA JUNE 4-5, 2025**

**THE MEETING MINUTES**

VENUE OF THE MEETING	DATE
<b>Faculty of Dental Medicine, Dibra Street, Lecture Room No. 2, Fifth Floor</b>	<b>4-5 JUNE 2025</b>
HOST PARTNER	MINUTES PREPARED BY
<b>UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE, TIRANA (UMT), ALBANIA</b>	<b>Prof. Dr Edit Xhajanka Dr. Neada Hysenaj</b>

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### ➤ 1. Participants Attending Meeting

No.	Name and Surname	Institution	Position
1	Julian Kraja	UNISHK	Staff
2	Erard Çurçija	UNISHK	Staff
3	Geert De Lepeleer	KU LEUVEN	Staff
4	Marko Lucovic	SUM	Staff
5	Danijel Pravdic	SUM	Staff
6	Mario Prskalo	SUM	Staff
7	Radmila Balaban	UES	Staff
8	Nenad Marković	UES	Staff
9	Minja Cosović	UES	Staff
10	Elma Mujaković	UNITZ	Staff
11	Dalila Kavgić	UNITZ	Staff
12	Vladimir Jakovljević	UNIKG	Staff
13	Djorđe Djukić	UNIKG	Staff
14	Branka Brzaković	UNIKG	Staff
15	Aleksandra Stojanovic	UNIKG	Staff
16	Bozidar Pindovic	UNIKG	Staff
17	Edit Xhajanka	UMT	Staff

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UNIVERSITETI I MJEKËSISË, TIRANË

No.	Name and Surname	Institution	Position
18	Marsela Fagu	UMT	Staff
19	Neda Hysenaj	UMT	Staff
20	Sara Vasku	UMT	Student
21	Altea Verushi	UMT	Student
22	Eneda Maliqati	UMT	Student
23	Fiorela Gjani	UMT	Student
24	Sidorela Xhebexhia	UMT	Student
25	Letushe Ahmeti	UMT	Student
26	Ilina Dervishi	UMT	Student
27	Ada Frroku	UMT	Student
28	Ersia Hasanbelli	UMT	Student
29	Laura Alili	UMT	Student

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## 2. Agenda of Meeting



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FOR THE FOLLOWING PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND PROGRESS  
CONTINUATION OF E 4.2 INTERNATIONALIZATION OF  
CURRICULUM**

**UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE, TIRANA  
JUNE 4-5, 2025**

#### **MEETING VENUE**

**FACULTY OF DENTAL MEDICINE, DIBRA STREET, TIRANA  
LECTURE ROOM NR.2  
FIFTH FLOOR**

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# AGENDA

<b>Registration &amp; Coffee</b>	<b>10:00-10:30</b>	
<b>Greeting Speech</b> Press Release	<b>10:30-10:40</b>	Minister of Education and Sports of Albania Minister Ogerta Manastirliu
<b>Greeting Speech</b>	<b>10:40-10:50</b>	Leading Representative of UMT
<b>Greeting Speech</b>	<b>10:50-11:00</b>	Dean of the Faculty of Dental Medicine Prof.Asc Silvana Bara
<b>Greeting Speech</b>	<b>11:00-11:10</b>	Prof. Dr. Edit Xhajanka
History of the Faculty of Dental Medicine, University of Medicine, Tirana		Project Coordinator BIOSINT, UMT
<b>Presentation of the FMD, UMT</b>	<b>11:10- 11:30</b>	Dr. Neada Hysenaj Representative from UMT
Presentation of the Faculty of Dental Medicine, University of Medicine, Tirana. Presentation of the ongoing and planned activities, difficulties faced by the institution.		
<b>Presentation of UES</b>	<b>11:30-12:00</b>	Representative from UES
Presentation of the ongoing activities, difficulties for the own institution.		
<b>Presentation of USH</b>	<b>12:00-12:30</b>	Representative from USH
Presentation of the ongoing activities, difficulties for the own institution.		
<b>Visit at the FMD</b>	<b>12:30-13:00</b>	
Visit at the Faculty of Dental Medicine, Group Photo		

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# AGENDA

<b>Lunch Break</b>	<b>13:00- 14:00</b>	
<b>Presantation of SUM</b>	<b>14:00-14:30</b>	Representatives from SUM
Presentation of the ongoing activities, difficulties for the own institution.		
<b>Presantation of UNTZ</b>	<b>14:30-15:00</b>	Representatives from UNTZ
Presentation of the ongoing activities, difficulties for the own institution.		
<b>Presentation of UOM</b>	<b>15:00-15:30</b>	Representative from UOM
Presentation of the ongoing activities, difficulties for the own institution.		
<b>Conclusions</b>	<b>15:00-15:30</b>	University of Kragujevac.
Discussions		All together.
<b>City Tour</b>	<b>16:00</b>	
<b>Dinner</b>	<b>20:00</b>	

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**5 JUNE 2025**

<b>Registration &amp; Coffee</b>	<b>10:00-10:10</b>	
<b><u>The new virtual courses</u></b>	<b>10:10-10:50</b>	University of Kragujevac
The evaluation of the piloting phase of the new virtual courses.		
<b>The new virtual courses</b>	<b>10:50-11:30</b>	Representative from UES
The evaluation of the piloting phase of the new virtual courses.		
<b>Evaluation of Pilot Activities</b>	<b>11:30-12:20</b>	Representatives from <u>EU</u> Partner
The evaluation of the Buddy System		
<b>Evaluation of Pilot Activities</b>	<b>12:20-13:00</b>	Representatives from <u>EU</u> Partner
The evaluation of the Buddy System		
<b>Lunch Break</b>	<b>13:00-14:00</b>	
<b>Dissemination activities</b>	<b>14:00-14:30</b>	Representatives from UNISHK
<b>Dissemination activities</b>	<b>14:30-15:00</b>	Representatives from UMT
<b>Financial and administrative management</b>	<b>15:00 - 16:00</b>	Consortium and EB Meeting
Project Future activities. New possible topics for new projects.		
<b>Discussions and Conclusions</b>	<b>16:00-16:30</b>	University of Kragujevac. All together.

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### 3. Meeting Objectives

**Objectives of the BIOSINT Tirana Meeting (June 2025) were:**

1. **Review the Progress of Project Implementation:** Evaluate the completion status of tasks and deliverables across all work packages (WP1–WP5). Share institutional presentations highlighting achievements, challenges, and innovations (buddy systems, virtual classrooms, course implementation etc).
2. **Strengthen Academic and Strategic Collaboration:** Engage in structured academic discussions on piloted virtual interdisciplinary courses.
3. **Dissemination and Visibility Enhancement:** Promote public visibility through interviews and multimedia content.
4. **Administrative and Technical Coordination:** Discuss documentation gaps, exam planning for students, and certification procedures for both students and teachers. Address challenges in data submission and standardization across partner institutions. Prepare for the final reporting phase and ensure administrative compliance.
5. **Plan for Future Activities and Sustainability:** Outline next steps for consortium coordination, especially regarding the next meeting (planned for December 2025 in Foča). Discuss sustainability and exploitation plans.
6. **Strengthen Partnership and Engagement:** Foster a strong, cooperative spirit among Western Balkan and EU partners.

### 4. Meeting Notes

**Day 1 – Wednesday, June 4, 2025**

#### **I. Opening Ceremony**

The BIOSINT Meeting in Tirana officially opened with a welcoming ceremony held at the Faculty of Dental Medicine. The event gathered institutional representatives, academic staff, and students.

#### **Greeting Speech – Vice-Minister of Education and Sports of Albania**

The opening remarks were delivered by **Ms. Ana Kapaj**, Vice Minister of Education and Sports of Albania, representing Minister **Ogerta Manastirliu**. Ms. Kapaj emphasized the alignment of BIOSINT's objectives with the Albanian Government's strategic priorities in higher education. She reiterated the Ministry's firm support for efforts to foster internationalization at home (IaH), digital innovation, and European integration of biomedical education. The Vice-Minister

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recognized BIOSINT as a model of effective collaboration and an important contribution to the regional development of modern, inclusive, and globally competitive academic systems.

#### **Welcome Address – Dean of Faculty of Dental Medicine**

**Prof. Assoc. Silvana Bara**, Dean of the Faculty of Dental Medicine at UMT, warmly welcomed the participants and expressed pride in hosting the BIOSINT meeting. She emphasized the role of dental education in advancing biomedical innovation and applauded the creation of new learning infrastructures such as the virtual classroom developed within BIOSINT.

#### **Greetings from the Coordinator of the Albanian BIOSINT Team**

**Prof. Edit Xhajanka**, the national coordinator of the BIOSINT project for Albania, warmly welcomed all participants and extended her sincere greetings on behalf of the Albanian team. In her remarks, she emphasized the strategic importance of the meeting as a critical milestone in the project's implementation process. She highlighted the collective progress made since the project's inception and acknowledged the valuable contributions of each partner institution involved.

Prof. Xhajanka expressed her deep appreciation for the spirit of collaboration and mutual support that has characterized the consortium's work thus far. She praised the efforts undertaken across the Western Balkans and European partner universities in advancing the project's objectives, particularly in enhancing digital competencies and promoting internationalization at home in biomedical education.

Concluding her address, Prof. Xhajanka reiterated her confidence in the consortium's shared vision and commitment, stressing that continued cooperation and active engagement would ensure the long-term sustainability and impact of BIOSINT at institutional, national, and regional levels. She once again thanked all colleagues for their dedication and encouraged further dialogue and exchange during the meeting.

## **II. Media Coverage and Public Visibility**

As part of the meeting activities, **television interviews were recorded and broadcasted** by national and regional media: **RTSH** and **Euronews Albania**, to highlight the project's impact and communicate its objectives to a wider public. Key project representatives, including **Prof. Dr. Edit Xhajanka** explained the benefits that the Faculty of Dental Medicine, University of Medicine, Tirana has as a partner institution in the project. **Prof. Vladimir Jakovljevic**, BIOSINT Project Coordinator, explained the impact of the project among the institutions. **Prof. Nenad Markovic**, from the University of East Sarajevo, explained the importance of cooperation, the achievements, and the challenges faced until now.

TVSH Link: <https://youtube.com/watch?v=Rm2Iyr7k1Rk&si=YWQoTCG3I80ID0KM>

EURONEWS LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DKYmJCZUBAU>

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Social Media Link: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Ak4wXKTyA/>

UMT LINK: <http://umed.edu.al/takimi-ne-kuader-te-projektit-biosint-tirane-4-5-qershor-2025/>

FDM SOCIAL MEDIA LINK: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Bz63h2d7k/>

### III. Institutional Presentations and Project Status Updates

Following the opening ceremony, each university partner shared institutional updates and reported on progress made under BIOSINT activities.

#### **Presentation by the University of Medicine, Tirana: Prof. Edit Xhajanka, Dr. Neada Hysenaj**

**Prof. Xhajanka** explained the advantages and the benefits that the Faculty of Dental Medicine has had in the framework of the project: The 1. **Analysis of the Current State of Internationalization at Home**. Before developing any strategic actions, we carried out a comprehensive analysis in our Faculty. This was done through: Structured **surveys** of academic staff and students, A detailed **SWOT analysis** of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats. This joint effort provided a clear picture of our current position, helped identify challenges, and established a shared foundation for institutional improvement. 2. **Development of a Common Framework and Strategy**. Based on the analysis, a **common framework for internationalization at home** was created and endorsed by all partners. This served as the foundation for developing a **Strategy for Internationalization at Home** at each institution. The strategy, now **formally approved by all Deanship of the Faculty of Dental Medicine**. 3. **Curriculum Internationalization**. At the FDM, University of Medicine, Tirana, a total of **38 ECTS** have been internationalized through revised syllabuses in both Albanian and English, with international components and contemporary literature. 4. **New International Virtual Courses**. We are pleased to report that **three new internationalized virtual courses** are currently in the **piloting phase**. In the WP3, to support internationalization at home, we have developed and implemented several practical tools: **Guide for Incoming Students and Staff, Safety and Security Protocol, Buddy System**. 6. **Creation of the Virtual Classroom**. As part of BIOSINT's commitment to digital transformation and internationalization at home, a **modern virtual classroom** has been established at the Faculty of Dental Medicine, University of Medicine, Tirana.

#### **Presentation of Dr. Neada Hysenaj**

**Dr. Neada Hysenaj** presented a comprehensive overview of the **Faculty of Dental Medicine**, its programs, infrastructure, internationalization strategy, and engagement in the BIOSINT project. She showcased the development of the virtual classroom and the engagement of students and staff. Dr. Neada presented the tasks and the deliverables achieved within each work package. WP2 is fully completed. In the WP3, 243 participants have been trained regarding the Internationalization at Home. Dr. Hysenaj highlighted the Buddy system introduced through BIOSINT as an innovative

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approach to supporting mobility and cultural exchange. She proposed the creation of a joint evaluation tool, i.e., a standardized questionnaire, to assess the implementation and effectiveness of the Buddy system across all partner institutions. Prof. Nenad Markovic, UES, suggested adapting a validated instrument from previous studies to allow benchmarking and cross-country comparison. Dr. Neada presented six presentations made within the framework of the BIOSINT project: two oral presentations with abstracts published in the proceedings book of an international conference in Turkey, and four oral presentations at the International Medical Conferences held in Tirana.

1. Edit Xhajanka, Neada Hysenaj et al. **Overview of the project: Strengthening capacities and digital competencies in biomedical education through internationalization at home, BIOSINT.** 30.11.2024. **BILSEL INTERNATIONAL KORYKOS SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHES AND INNOVATION CONGRESS.** 29-30 NOVEMBER, 2024. **TURKEY.**
2. Neada Hysenaj, Edit Xhajanka et al. **Internationalization of the Curricula: BIOSINT Project.** 30.11.2024. **BILSEL INTERNATIONAL KORYKOS SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHES AND INNOVATION CONGRESS.** 29-30 NOVEMBER, 2024. **TURKEY.**
3. Edit Xhajanka, Neada Hysenaj, Marsela Fagu et al. **BIOSINT PROJECT: “INTERNATIONALIZATION AT HOME” FOR THE FACULTY OF DENTAL MEDICINE.** National Conference of Medical Sciences 12, May 10-12, 2024.
4. Edit Xhajanka, Neada Hysenaj, Marsela Fagu et al. **STRENGTHENING CAPACITIES AND DIGITAL COMPETENCIES IN BIOMEDICAL EDUCATION THROUGH INTERNATIONALIZATION AT HOME, BIOSINT.** 7th International Congress of Medical Sciences, November 15-17, 2024, Tirana, Albania.
5. Neada Hysenaj, Edit Xhajanka, Marsela Fagu et al. **BIOSINT PROJECT: THE BUDDY SYSTEM.** 7th International Congress of Medical Sciences, November 15-17, 2024, Tirana, Albania.
6. Xhajanka, Hysenaj et al. **BIOSINT PROJECT: A STEP FORWARD IN THE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF BIOMEDICAL EDUCATION.** 9-11 May 2025, National Conference of Medical Sciences, Tirana, Albania.

Regarding the piloting of the three new virtual courses: The attendance for each course was as follows: *Medical Nutritional Therapy*: 15 students. Lecturers from UMT: Dr. Neada Hysenaj, Prof. Edit Xhajanka; *Personalized Medicine*: 16 students, Lecturers from UMT: Dr. Neada Hysenaj, Prof. Edit Xhajanka. *Health Management in Crisis*: 16 students, Lecturers from UMT: Dr. Neada Hysenaj, Prof. Edit Xhajanka. Regarding Deliverable 4.2, in total, 38 ECTS have been internationalized.

### **Presentation by the University of East Sarajevo (UES)**

**Prof. Nenad Marković** delivered a detailed presentation on the BIOSINT implementation at UES, with a focus on the institution's forthcoming **international accreditation by the World Federation for Medical Education (WFME)**, which aligns with BIOSINT's strategic objectives. He reported on the completion of English language training by five academic staff members who received certifications, and he demonstrated the dedicated BIOSINT section on UES's Faculty

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website. He presented the implemented Buddy system, success stories, and project-related materials. Prof. Marković also shared the percentage of completed deliverables and outlined the tasks that remain:

The summary related to the progress of work packages 1-5 are as below, the main part was similar to other partner universities:

#### **Summary –WP1 – Project management and quality architecture**

##### **MS4 Percent of realized activities in quality reporting**

100% – T1.1 Signing of Quality policy statement

100% – T1.2 Establishing of the project organizational structure

66,6% – T1.3 Organizing consortium meetings

100% – T1.4 Development of project management and quality strategies

66,6% – T1.5 Internal and external quality progress reporting

100% – T1.6 Organization of external monitoring visit

50% – T1.7 Organizing of reporting to EACEA

80% – T1.8 Evaluation of meetings via survey

50% – T1.9 Financial and administrative management

**79,2% TOTAL**

#### **Summary – WP1 Deliverables**

The deliverables under Work Package 1 reflect the core documentation and reporting responsibilities of the project's management and quality assurance processes.

The **Consortium Agreement (D1.3)** and the **Project Management Handbook (D1.4)** have both been fully completed and delivered.

The **Interim and Final Report (D1.1)**, which are essential for tracking the project's performance and financial accountability to the European Commission, are currently at 50% completion.

Similarly, the **Internal and External Quality Reports (D1.2)** are at 66.6% completion.

In total, **79.15% of WP1 deliverables have been completed**, with full attention now required to complete the remaining reports for proper closure and audit-readiness.

#### **Summary – WP2: Research and Needs Analysis (Tasks & Deliverables)**

WP2 has been fully implemented and stands out as a successfully completed component of the BIOSINT project, with **100% completion across all tasks and deliverables**.

The work began with the **analysis of the current state of Internationalization at Home (IaH) in both EU countries (T2.1) and Western Balkan (WB) partner institutions (T2.2)**. These comprehensive assessments laid the groundwork for informed strategic planning.

Following the analysis phase, the consortium successfully completed the **development of a common framework for implementing IaH at WB universities (T2.3)**. This framework provides the structural basis for aligned practices across institutions.

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Additionally, the **organization of training sessions at EU partner institutions (T2.4)** was carried out as planned, ensuring knowledge transfer and capacity building for all participating staff and institutions.

All related deliverables have been finalized:

- The **IaH needs-based reports (D2.1)**
- The **Framework map and roadmap of IaH (D2.2)**
- The documentation of **EU trainings (D2.3)**

These outputs have directly contributed to achieving milestone MS6 (production of detailed reports) and MS7 (a transparent and well-structured framework map), which form the knowledge base for downstream implementation in WP3 and WP4.

### **Summary – WP3: Development of Appropriate System and Protocol for IaH (Tasks & Deliverables)**

Substantial progress has been achieved, with **83.3% of the tasks completed** and **100% of the deliverables finalized**.

The first five tasks were completed in full:

100% T3.1 Develop strategies for IaH at WB HEIs

100% T3.2 Organize starting training for students and staff

100% T3.3 Develop digital support system and protocol for international students and staff

100% T3.4 Institutional trainings for internal and external stakeholders

100% T3.5 Pilot newly developed services and documents

In progress T3.6 Evaluate of pilot activities

**83,3% TOTAL**

100% D3.1 Strategies for IaH at WB HEIs

100% D3.2 Institutional trainings

100% D3.3 Digital protocols for international students and staff

100% D3.4 Buddy systems

**100% TOTAL**

**MS8 Adopted strategies for IaH at WB HEIs –**

number of adopted strategies for IaH, average number of pages in one strategy

**MS9 Functional and tested digital services and protocols –**

number of digital services and protocols average in one WB HEIs

**MS10 – Well trained staff and students from biomedical HEIs –**

number of educated students, staff and external stakeholder per one biomedical WB HEI

**WP4 – Internationalization of Curriculum (IoC): Summary of Progress.** Significant progress has been made under Work Package 4, which focuses on embedding internationalization into the curriculum through a variety of structured tasks and deliverables. **Task-level Progress (T4):** Most

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of the planned tasks are completed. All preparatory and development tasks such as **T4.1 to T4.5** have achieved 100% completion. These included organizing workshops for teaching staff to foster intercultural competences, selecting and reviewing courses for IoC, establishing models of collaboration with international partners and developing new international virtual courses. Additionally, the technical infrastructure has been significantly strengthened through the development of online platforms and international virtual classrooms. **T4.6**, focused on piloting these new international virtual courses, is at 80% completion, indicating ongoing implementation. **T4.7**, the evaluation of pilot activities is in progress.

**Deliverables (D4):** All five deliverables under WP4 have reached full completion (100%). Existing courses have been internationalized. New international virtual courses have been developed. Digital equipment has been procured and set up to support online teaching. Virtual classrooms are now operational. This indicates that the structural and content-related goals of WP4 have largely been achieved, with evaluation mechanisms remaining as the final step

#### **WP4 – Internationalization of curriculum (IoC)**

100% T4.1 Organize workshops for teaching staff related to IoC and development of intercultural competences

100% T4.2 Select courses for IoC and review current practices

100% T4.3 Establish models for connection with international students and staff

100% T4.4 Develop new international virtual courses

100% T4.5 Strengthening of online teaching platform/ equipment – development international virtual classroom

80% T4.6 Piloting courses for IoC/ COIL for virtual international courses

In progress T4.7 Evaluation of pilot activities

**82,8% TOTAL**

100% D4.1 Trainings for teachers in IoC

100% D4.2 Internationalized existing courses

100% D4.3 New developed international virtual courses

100% D4.4 Equipment for digital online teaching platform

100% D4.5 Virtual classrooms

**100% TOTAL**

#### **WP5 – Impact and Dissemination: Progress Update**

Work Package 5 (WP5), which focuses on the **impact and dissemination** of BIOSINT project results, is currently **in progress**, with key foundational activities initiated and dissemination actions underway. Several important developments have been made: the website has been created. 4 newsletters from 6 have been published. One **manuscript out of two has been prepared** for publication in peer-reviewed journals, supporting the scientific dissemination of project outcomes. **Several info days** have been organized across partner institutions to raise awareness and engage

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stakeholders. **Media coverage** and outreach through various platforms have been initiated, contributing to public visibility. Partners have delivered **several presentations at international conferences**, ensuring international exposure and academic recognition. Anyway, this is the work package where tasks and deliverables are in progress, and part of them are planned to be realized in the near future, as most of them are scheduled in the last part of the project duration in order to disseminate the results.

**IV. Site Visit to the Faculty of Dental Clinic, University Dental Clinic and Virtual Classroom.** Participants were invited to visit the Faculty of Dental Medicine and the University Dental Clinic, where they also observed the virtual classroom in use. This classroom represents one of BIOSINT's tangible achievements, integrating digital tools, remote teaching, and cross-border collaboration into the learning environment. The guests were introduced to the equipment and opportunities for joint teaching and student interaction.

#### **V. Presentations from Other Partner Universities**

Several other partners provided updates regarding their institutional activities and BIOSINT project implementation:

##### **Presentation from the University of Montenegro**

**Dr. Marija Abramović** from the **University of Montenegro (UoM)** joined remotely and presented the status of activities at UoM. She emphasized their engagement in the development of virtual classrooms and noted challenges related to documentation. In **WP4**, faculty members attended workshops in Shkodra focused on curriculum internationalization (IoC). Three existing courses—*Communication Skills in Medicine*, *Anatomy*, and *Ethics in Nursing*—were internationalized, totaling 20 ECTS. Additionally, UoM has approved the syllabi for three new virtual courses: *Medical Nutritional Therapy*, *Personalized Medicine*, and *Health Care Management in Crisis*. These were approved by the Faculty Council. The virtual classroom at the Faculty of Medicine has been fully renovated and equipped, and pilot activities are now underway. **Dr. Aleksandra Stanojević** addressed administrative clarifications regarding submitted attendance lists for the piloted courses.

**Presentation from the University of Shkodra – UNISHK, Mr. Erard Çurçija.** The course *Health Management in Crisis*, had teacher from UNISHK, Dr. Manaraj Marku, was attended by nine students who demonstrated sustained interest and active participation. Similarly, the course *Medical Nutritional Therapy* attracted six students and proved to be a valuable academic experience. *Personalized Medicine*, with lecturers from UNISHK Dr. Julian Kraja and PhD candidate Elsjona Qallija, with seven students in attendance. In recognition of the academic staff's contribution, it was suggested that certificates of appreciation also be issued to the instructors who

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delivered the online courses, in addition to those already granted to student participants. This acknowledgment would serve as motivation for faculty members to remain engaged in BIOSINT-related activities.

In terms of internationalization efforts, the University of Shkodra reported the signing and ongoing implementation of a collaboration agreement with Malteser Albania. This partnership has already facilitated significant practical training opportunities, including first aid sessions conducted by foreign experts: Dr. Gregorio Barberi from Italy (February 21, 2025), and Dr. Norbeet Scheffler along with Mr. Udo Blaseg from Germany (May 21–22, 2025). Additionally, the university shared the successful organization of a student mobility initiative to Medjugorje (Bosnia and Herzegovina), where 24 students provided on-site medical support to pilgrims, offering assistance in emergency cases.

### **Presentation from the University of Mostar – SUM**

The session was led by Prof. Danijel Pravdić, MD, PhD, accompanied by Marko Lucović and Mario Prskalo. The speech opened with a review of the Medical Studies in English program, which has been active since the academic year 2018/2019. The program is fully integrated and designed to prepare students for the USMLE and MCC medical licensing exams. It has received accreditation from both the Croatian Agency for Science and Higher Education and the Croatian Medical Chamber. A notable achievement is the upcoming mobility of two students from the English-language program to Penn State University in the United States, marking a milestone in the internationalization of the program. Regarding the buddy system (D3.4), SUM has completed the development and approval of protocols aimed at facilitating the integration of incoming international students. The system, which includes a digital platform, allows domestic students to support their international peers by offering assistance with administrative procedures, local orientation, and cultural guidance.

### **Presentation from the University of Tuzla – UNTZ, Dr. Elma Mujaković**

At the 2025 BIOSINT Meeting held in Tirana, the University of Tuzla (UNTZ) was represented by Dr. Dalila Kavgić and Dr. Elma Mujaković, who presented a comprehensive update on the institution's ongoing and planned activities within the BIOSINT Erasmus+ project. Their presentation reflected UNTZ's strong engagement across multiple work packages and highlighted both significant achievements and institutional challenges as the university continues its transition toward a more internationalized and digitally equipped academic environment. In the area of project management, UNTZ reported that all requirements related to financial and administrative coordination had been successfully fulfilled. The university successfully revised and aligned 30 ECTS worth of content across five specialized study programs—Health Care, Laboratory Diagnostics, Physiotherapy, Radiological Methods, and Sanitary Health Methods—ensuring compliance with BIOSINT's objectives for internationalized and modernized biomedical

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education. Curricular adjustments were finalized by February 2025. Looking ahead, UNTZ is preparing to offer a tailored English proficiency course for teaching staff to strengthen their capacity for English-medium instruction.

## Day 2 – Thursday, June 5, 2025

### I. Presentation from the University of Kragujevac, Prof. Vladimir Jakovljević

The second day began with a session opened by **Prof. Vladimir Jakovljević** from the **University of Kragujevac (UNIKG)**. He presented an analytical overview of the **virtual courses** piloted across the partner universities. His presentation included:

- Total number of students enrolled per course
- Attendance statistics per university
- Names of teaching professors from each institution
- Lessons learned during the pilot phase

Prof. Vladimir, from the University of Medical Sciences, Kragujevac, provided an in-depth presentation during the BIOSINT Tirana meeting, summarizing the planning, delivery, and evaluation of a major educational innovation: the piloting of three interdisciplinary, digitally-delivered courses carried out between April and June 2025. This effort, supported under the Erasmus+ Capacity Building project BIOSINT, forms part of a broader strategy to enhance internationalization at home (IaH) and develop digital competencies across biomedical higher education in the Western Balkans. These courses—*Medical Nutritional Therapy*, *Personalized Medicine*, and *Health Management in Crisis*—were developed collaboratively and piloted across partner institutions. They were designed to meet the dual goals of curriculum modernization and capacity building through the integration of digital pedagogies, cross-border teaching teams, and culturally inclusive content. Each course was offered in a virtual format, combining lectures with interactive components, case-based learning, and team projects involving students from multiple countries.

Each of the three courses attracted over **100 students**, with some attending more than one course. The high levels of participation demonstrated a strong student interest in interdisciplinary and internationally co-taught programs.

**Course 1: Medical Nutritional Therapy.** The *Medical Nutritional Therapy* course was delivered by a multidisciplinary team of lecturers from four BIOSINT partner universities. From the University of Kragujevac, the teaching staff included **Vladimir Jakovljevic**, **Danijela Jovanovic**, **Aleksandra Stojanovic**, and **Katarina Mihajlovic**. The University of Medicine, Tirana: **Neada Hysenaj** and **Edit Xhajanka**, **Milos Maksimovic** from the University of East Sarajevo, **Natasa**

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**Popovic** from the University of Montenegro. A total of more than **149 students** participated in the *Medical Nutritional Therapy* course, with representation from all BIOSINT partner institutions. The **University of East Sarajevo (UES)** had the largest number of participants, with over **70 students** enrolled. The **University of Mostar (SUM)** followed with **32 students**, demonstrating strong institutional engagement. From the **University of Tuzla (UNTZ)**, **16 students** took part, while **15 students** joined from the **University of Medicine, Tirana (UMT)**. The **University of Shkodra (USH)** **6 students**, and both the **University of Montenegro (UOM)** and **University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Timisoara (UMF)**, each with **5 students**. This broad engagement reflects the project's success in promoting internationalized learning opportunities across a diverse student body in the Western Balkans. Lectures covered a wide range of content, beginning with foundational topics such as the physiology of macro- and micronutrients and progressing to more advanced themes like nutritional screening, malnutrition in special populations, and the impact of the microbiome and nutrigenetics on clinical outcomes. Particular emphasis was placed on applying nutritional science to real clinical contexts. Principles of Medical Nutritional Therapy. Addressing periodontal diseases, dental caries, and oral mucosal conditions. Role of anti-inflammatory and antioxidant diets. The course introduced key diagnostic tools such as nutritional risk assessments and patient-specific dietary planning strategies. It also explored recent research on genetic variability in nutrient metabolism, underscoring the importance of personalized dietary approaches. Students gained experience interpreting case scenarios, and discussions reflected the diverse clinical realities across the participating countries. This diversity was a pedagogical asset, as it enabled a comparative lens on nutrition-related public health issues.

**Course 2: Personalized Medicine.** The list of lecturers with their affiliations: Dejan Bokonjic – UES, Claudia Borza – UMF, Sturza Adrian – UMF, Oana Maria Duicu – UMF, STANCIU-LELCU THEIA – UMF, GHENCIOU LAURA – UMF, Maria-Daniela Danila – UMF, HANCU IASMINA – UMF, GIUCHICI SILVIA – UMF, FURDUI-LINTAADINA – UMF, MOZOS IOANA – UMF, MARIS MIHAELA – UMF, BURIMAN DARIUS – UMF, MUNTEAN DANINA – UMF, LOLESCU BOGDAN – UMF, Neada Hysenaj – UMT (University of Medicine Tirana), Edit Xhajanka – UMT, Julian Kraja – USH (University of Shkodra), Elsjona Qallija – USH. The students who attended these lectures: UMT: 16 students, UMF: 5 students, USHK: 7 students, SUM: 17 students, UOM: 5 students, UES 70+ students, UNTZ: 16 students.

The *Personalized Medicine* course began on April 9 and followed a schedule. This course examined how technological advances—particularly in genetics, biomarker development, and big data—are transforming healthcare. Core modules introduced the concept of biomarker-based diagnostics, patient-centered treatment planning, and the ethical and social implications of personalization in healthcare. The course presented multiple clinical domains where personalized approaches are making a significant impact, including the management of chronic inflammatory diseases, pulmonary disorders, pain syndromes, overview of oral and gut microbiomes.

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Influence of microbiome diversity on oral diseases. Lectures also addressed communication strategies for discussing genetic risk with patients and considered public health perspectives on data-driven interventions. One of the distinctive features of this course was the **multidisciplinary teaching team**, composed of professors and clinicians from multiple countries.

**Course 3: Health Management in Crisis.** The lecturers: **Goran Stevanovic** (UES), **Maranaj Marku** (USH), **Sabina Djonlagic** (UNTZ), **Danijel Pravdić** (SUM), **Neada Hysenaj** (UMT), **Edit Xhajanka** (UMT) bring interdisciplinary expertise, supporting collaborative education and training across the region. The student participating number per institution is as follows: **UMT**: 16 students, **UMF**: 5 students, **USHK** (University of Shkodra): 9 students, **SUM**: 21 students, **UOM**: 5 students, **UES**: 70+ students, **UNTZ**: 11 students.

The *Health Management in Crisis* course, was held from April 10 (Thursdays). It tackled the structural, ethical, and operational aspects of healthcare systems under crisis conditions—be they pandemics, natural disasters, or conflict-related disruptions. Topics included leadership in emergencies, public health decision-making, human resource mobilization, and crisis communication. Of particular note was the session on dental care delivery in crisis, which reflected BIOSINT's commitment to embedding relevance across all biomedical disciplines. The course made extensive use of real-world case studies—including analyses of COVID-19 responses—and emphasized the importance of preparedness and system resilience. Students were encouraged to reflect on their national contexts and contribute to comparative discussions on emergency protocols and ethical dilemmas.

Across all three courses, students reported a high level of satisfaction with the course design, content, and international dimension. Students valued the intercultural collaboration and noted that the courses gave them a taste of mobility-like experiences from within their home institutions—an essential goal of the Internationalization at Home model.

### **Presentation from Dr. Aleksandra Stojanovic**

Dr. Aleksandra discussed about the Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVIs). As part of our ongoing monitoring of project implementation, we reviewed the progress of activities in relation to the Objectively Verifiable Indicators (OVIs). In terms of visibility and dissemination, the project will produce 12 media presentations, 6 newsletters, and organize 6 info-days, 6 round tables, and 6 workshops. Engagement with external stakeholders is a priority, with at least 12 targeted meetings to be conducted with different external stakeholder groups. In addition, 6 success stories are to be published, showcasing best practices and impactful results.

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## Discussion on WP5 and Article Dissemination

**Dr. Aleksandra Stojanovic** led a focused discussion on **Work Package 5 (WP5)**, specifically identifying **pending tasks** and documentation from several institutions. She emphasized the importance of timely submission of:

- Attendance records
- Presentations
- Teacher evaluation reports

Following this, **Dr. Neada Hysenaj** initiated a discussion regarding the **first BIOSINT article**.

The group deliberated on:

- Target journals and publication impact
- Budget implications related to publication fees
- Timeline for resubmission and review

A discussion was made in order to identify which journal the article should be submitted. It was agreed that the journal should be indexed either in Scopus or ESCI database, and the participant agreed to submit the first article in the Sustainability Journal, MDPI.

It was agreed that Dr. Hysenaj would **resend the draft article** to all partners, request feedback within a short deadline, and proceed with submission shortly thereafter.

A **second article** is also expected. This publication will focus on the **Buddy system**, integrating both a **literature review and original data analysis** from all partners to assess its implementation, success, and potential replicability. Dr. Neada will make a search on the questionnaires used previously in the literature.

## II. Administrative and Technical Management

### Issues in the Piloting Phase

**Mr. Djordje Djukic (UNIKG)** presented a summary of the **issues affecting the piloting** of the virtual courses. He noted:

- Some institutions had not submitted attendance lists
- Some other institutions had technical issues
- Some institutions had sent complete attendance lists.

The consortium reached consensus on the following:

- All certificates for **students and teachers** will be **issued electronically**
- Students who attended the courses will take an **exam** consisting of approx.. 15 questions (one per lecture)
- Only those who pass the exam will receive certificates, increasing the value of participation
- Teachers who delivered lectures will also receive **electronic teaching certificates**

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### III. Financial and Consortium Meeting

A **Consortium and Executive Board (EB) meeting** was held, addressing:

- Financial reporting and tracking of BIOSINT funds
- Evaluation of expenditures and procurement documentation
- Strategic administrative planning and coordination mechanisms

### IV. Planning of Upcoming Meeting

The consortium discussed the scheduling of the **next BIOSINT consortium meeting**, tentatively to be held in **Foča**, hosted by **UES**. The most likely period is the **second or third week of December 2025**. Dr. Aleksandra will send a **link** or similar scheduling tool to ask partners about their choice of dates.

The participants could see the digital prosthetic laboratory, which has been funded in the framework of a project funded by the Ministry of Education and Sports of Albania, and it has contemporary and modern equipment for the construction of prosthetic restorations.

### V. Closing Remarks

The meeting was officially concluded with a **closing speech by Prof. Edit Xhajanka**, national coordinator of the BIOSINT project in Albania. She expressed sincere gratitude to: All attending members, The **Dean and staff** of the Faculty of Dental Medicine, the **student volunteers and organizers** who contributed to the success of the event.

Prof. Xhajanka reaffirmed the strategic importance of BIOSINT in modernizing biomedical education and reiterated Albania's willingness to collaborate on **future Erasmus+ initiatives** and international projects aimed at enhancing quality, mobility, and digital competencies in higher education.

## 5. Meeting Evaluation

The participants were asked to fill out an online questionnaire to evaluate the meeting after the meeting. A total of 18 respondents participated in the feedback survey. The gender distribution reveals that 55.6% were male and 44.4% were female, indicating a relatively balanced but slightly male-dominated participation. Participants were asked to evaluate various aspects of the event across several dimensions. The overall satisfaction levels were notably high, with the majority of responses marked as "Very Satisfied" across all categories.

Planning & Organization, Scope of Information, Usefulness of Information, and Meeting Format received unanimously positive feedback, with all 18 respondents rating them as "Very Satisfied". Presentation Quality received slightly more mixed but still strong feedback: 16 respondents were

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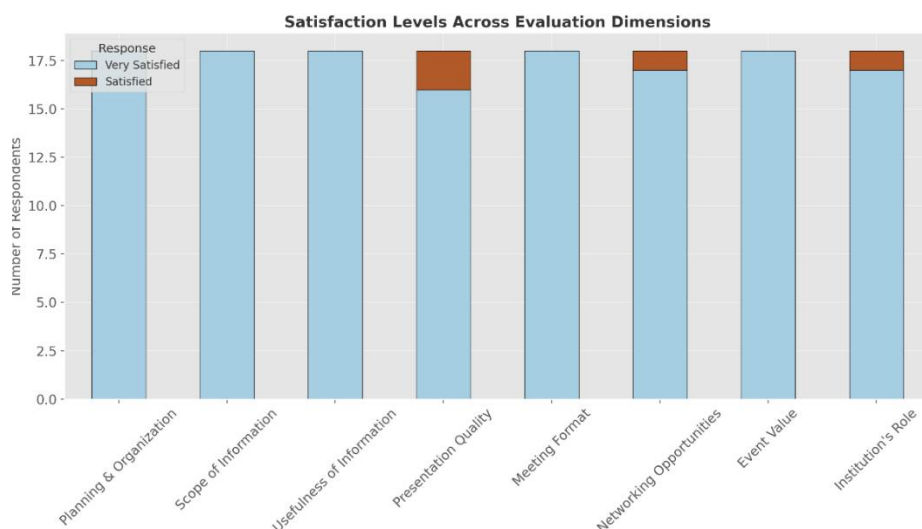
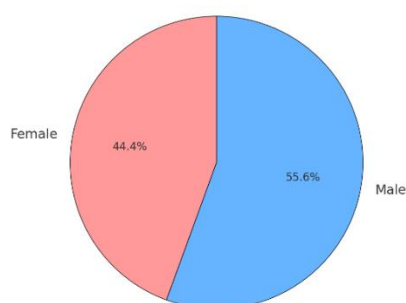


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"Very Satisfied", while 2 marked "Satisfied", indicating a minor variation in perception. In the dimensions of Networking Opportunities, Event Value, and the Institution's Role, the majority again expressed being "Very Satisfied" (approximately 17 out of 18), with a small number (1 respondent in each case) indicating they were "Satisfied". This distribution suggests an overwhelmingly positive evaluation, with only a few minor differences in opinion. The event appears to have been well-received, especially in terms of organization, informational content, and overall value, reflecting successful planning and execution.

Gender Distribution of Respondents



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## ANNEX II\_ PHOTOS OF THE MEETING



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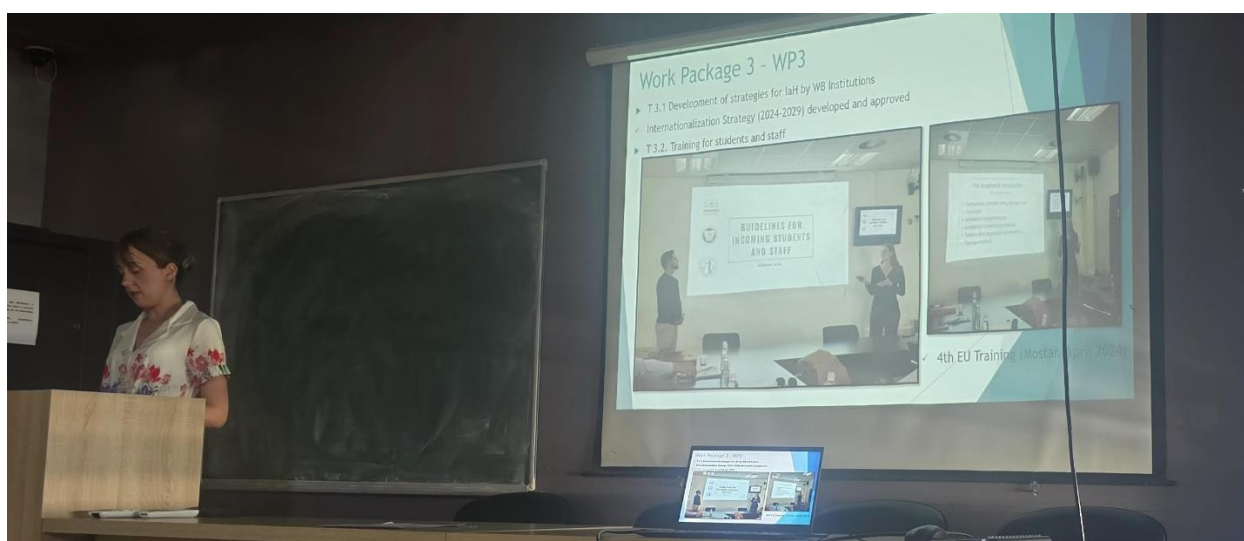
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