



Co-funded by
the European Union

**REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE, TIRANA
FACULTY OF DENTAL MEDICINE**

**STRATEGY OF
INTERNATIONALIZATION
FOR THE FACULTY OF DENTAL MEDICINE
2024-2029**

**Approved by Deanship Decision
No. 5, 09.05.2024**

MAY 2024

Erasmus+ KA2 Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education
Strengthening capacities and digital competences in biomedical education through
internationalization at home BIOSINT
101082863-BIOSINT-ERASMUS-EDU-2022-CBHE



DISCLAIMER

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Co-funded by
the European Union



THE CONTENT:

- 1. INTRODUCTION, MISSION OF THE FACULTY OF DENTAL MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE**
- 2. WHAT IS INTERNATIONALISATION AT HOME**
- 3. WHY A STRATEGY FOR THE INTERNATIONALIZATION AT HOME FOR THE FACULTY OF DENTAL MEDICINE**
- 4. CURRENT SITUATION OF INTERNATIONALIZATION FOR THE FACULTY OF DENTAL MEDICINE FOR THE PERIOD 2020 – 2023**
- 5. SWOT ANALYSIS**
- 6. STRATEGY OF INTERNATIONALIZATION AT HOME**



DISCLAIMER

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Co-funded by
the European Union



1. INTRODUCTION

The strategic plan is in accordance with:

- The framework document approved by the participating institutions of the BIOSINT project
- Strategic Development Plan of the University of Medicine 2021-2024
- National Education Strategy 2021-2026
- Annual reports of UMT

The process of drafting the "Internationalization at home" strategy went through several stages:

1.1 Analysis of the situation. For the analysis of the situation, during the year 2023, questionnaires were carried out with the students of the Faculty of Dental Medicine, the academic staff and the dean, regarding the situation, motivation, obstacles with the internationalization process. Based on the results of questionnaires and annual reports of the Faculty and University of Medicine, a SWOT analysis was performed. Regarding this document, a workshop was held in Podgorica, June 27-28, 2023 (T2.3).

1.2 Defining strategic objectives, indicators, target values for the strategy of internationalization.

1.3 Drafting of the Internationalization Strategy. During the workshop in Podgorica, the first draft of the strategy framework and roadmap was created and revised and discussed at the second EU training organized by EU partners in Vrdnik, Serbia. The strategy framework has six strategic themes, in which we suggested appropriate activities, target values and indicators for each of the activities. This framework is supposed to be integrative and recognized by every participating institution of the Western Balkans involved in the project.

1.4 Inclusion of suggestions and finalization of the Strategic Plan document

1.5 Approval of the Strategic Internationalization Plan by the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Dental Medicine.



DISCLAIMER

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Co-funded by
the European Union



THE MISSION OF THE FACULTY OF DENTAL MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE

The Faculty of Dental Medicine, University of Medicine, Tirana mission consists of:

- ☐ Education of students in all three study cycles, in accordance with the highest professional standards;
- ☐ The best possible preparation of professionals, able to practice optimal patient care, aiming at the prevention and treatment of dental pathologies;
- ☐ Stimulation to advance scientific research.

The studies are organized as follows:

1. First cycle, Bachelor in "Dental Technician" and "Dental Hygienist", with a duration of 3 years, at the end of which, the student is awarded a Bachelor's Degree in "Dental Hygienist" and "Dental Technician".
2. Integrated cycle of the second level, with a duration of 5 years, at the end of which, the student is awarded the "Master of Science in Dentistry" Diploma.
3. Long-term specialization programs, of the third cycle of studies, in the field of Dental Medicine (duration 2-4 years). The specialization study programs are: "Dental Therapy", "Pedodontics" in the Department of Therapy, "Maxillofacial Surgery" in the Department of Surgery. In 2023, the Orthodontics program was opened for the first time, in the Prosthodontic Department.
4. Doctoral studies. Since 2010, 25 doctoral students have been registered in the Doctorate program, who have defended the scientific degree "Doctor". The doctoral students have completed their doctoral defenses in the jury, after undergoing the anti-plagiarism process. For 10 years, there have been no new doctoral studies at the University of Medicine. In 2023, the new doctoral program was opened, where 19 candidates were accepted.



DISCLAIMER

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Co-funded by
the European Union



2. WHAT IS INTERNATIONALISATION AT HOME

"Internationalization at home" refers to the integration of international and intercultural perspectives, experiences, and activities into the academic environment without the necessity of physical mobility abroad. In other words, it involves creating opportunities for students to engage with global issues, diverse cultures, and international experiences within their own academic environment.

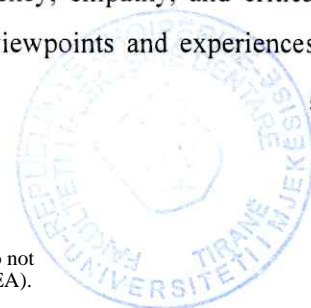
This approach recognizes that not all students have the opportunity or ability to participate in study abroad programs, yet it is still important for them to develop global competence and intercultural understanding. Therefore, internationalization at home focuses on bringing the world to the students, rather than sending students out into the world.

The goal of internationalization at home is to ensure that students are exposed to different perspectives, languages, and cultures, and that they develop the skills and attitudes necessary to develop in an interconnected and multicultural world. This can be achieved through various means such as curriculum integration, language learning, cultural events, virtual exchanges, and collaboration with international partners.

Evolution of Internationalization at Home: The concept of IaH has evolved in response to the growing recognition that not all students have the means or opportunity to engage in traditional study abroad experiences. As such, teachers and institutions have sought to bring the world to their campuses, inserting global perspectives in their curricula, co-curricular activities, and academic environment. The evolution of IaH reflects a shift towards inclusivity and accessibility in internationalization efforts.

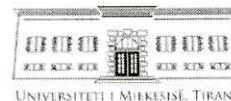
Implementation Strategies: The goal of IaH is to incorporate global and multicultural viewpoints into the local academic environment through a variety of implementation tactics. These tactics include virtual exchanges, faculty development programs, internationalization of curricula, language learning efforts, cultural events and activities, and institutional support systems. By using these strategies, educational institutions hope to enhance global competency, foster diversity and inclusivity on the academic environment, and advance intercultural understanding.

Effect on Students: Research indicates that involvement in IaH programs enhances students' intercultural, intellectual, and personal growth. Cultural competency, empathy, and critical thinking abilities are strengthened by exposure to a variety of viewpoints and experiences.





Co-funded by
the European Union



Participating in IaH activities also helps students feel like they belong and gets them ready for success in a world that is getting more varied and connected. Through the facilitation of cross-cultural contacts, IaH assists students in cultivating a global perspective and the proficiencies required to confront intricate global issues.

Impact on Institutions: IaH programs support the academic community's internationalization at the institutional level, enhancing higher education institutions' standing and ability to compete globally. Institutions can draw in and keep a diverse faculty and student body by cultivating a lively and welcoming campus culture. Furthermore, through fostering institutional relationships and collaborations, IaH projects enable chances for cross-cultural learning and knowledge sharing.

Challenges and Future Directions: IaH has a lot of potential, but it is not without difficulties. Obstacles to implementation could include: faculty resistance, resource constraints, and institutional inertia. Furthermore, continual assessment and evaluation are necessary to guarantee the viability and efficacy of IaH activities. To meet these obstacles and optimize the effects of internationalization initiatives in higher education, the field of internationalization of higher education will require ongoing study, cooperation, and innovation.

Conclusion: In conclusion, Internationalization at Home represents a paradigm shift in higher education towards inclusivity, accessibility, and global engagement. By bringing the world to their academic environment, institutions can provide all students with opportunities to develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to thrive in an interconnected world. As we navigate the complexities of the 21st century, the importance of embracing global perspectives at home has never been clearer.



DISCLAIMER

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Co-funded by
the European Union



3. WHY A STRATEGY FOR THE INTERNATIONALIZATION AT HOME FOR THE FACULTY OF DENTAL MEDICINE

Here are several reasons why internationalization is crucial for the Faculty of Dental Medicine, University of Medicine:

Global Competency Development: The students of the Faculty of Dental Medicine must possess knowledge and abilities that transcend the local context in today's globalized society. By exposing students to a range of viewpoints, internationalizing curricula fosters cultural awareness, adaptation, and successful cross-cultural communication.

Preparation for Global Careers: The global nature of the employment market means that employers are looking for applicants that have an international mindset. Internationalized curricula enable our students to effectively contribute to global enterprises by preparing them for a variety of workplaces.

Enhanced Educational Quality: Integrating international content enriches the academic experience, providing our students with a broader understanding of their courses. The inclusion of global perspectives enhances critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity.

Cultural and Linguistic Diversity: Internationalizing curricula promotes appreciation for cultural diversity and multilingualism. Students of the Faculty of Dental Medicine should learn to behave respectfully with individuals from different backgrounds, contributing to a more inclusive and tolerant society.

Global Citizenship and Social Responsibility: The Faculty of Dental Medicine should encourage students to become responsible global citizens. Internationalized curricula encourage a sense of social responsibility by addressing global challenges, such as sustainability, poverty, and inequality.

Competitive Advantage for Institutions: Our Faculty by offering internationalized curricula will attract a diverse group of students and lecturers. This diversity contributes to a vibrant academic community and enhances our institution's reputation on the global area.

Research and Innovation: International cooperation stimulates research and innovation. Exposure to different research methodologies, perspectives and challenges promotes a



DISCLAIMER

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Co-funded by
the European Union



stronger intellectual environment and increases the quality of academic research in the dental field.

Global Networking and Partnerships: The internationalized curriculum facilitates the development of global networks and partnerships. The cooperation of the Faculty of Dental Medicine with institutions, businesses and international organizations paves the way for joint research, student exchanges and shared resources.

Preparing for a Developing Economy: As the global economy evolves, our students need skills that transcend local boundaries. Internationalization prepares them to work in economic change, contribute to innovation and participate in a world where economic activities are increasingly interconnected.

Adapting to technological advances: Technological advances enable global communication and collaboration. The internationalized curriculum prepares our students to use technology to learn, work and collaborate across borders.

Accomplishment of the institutional mission and vision: The Faculty of Dental Medicine includes global perspectives as part of the mission and vision. The internationalization of the curricula is in line with these institutional goals, demonstrating a commitment to provide an appropriate and forward-looking education.

Meeting Student Expectations: Our students continuously are looking for educational experiences that prepare them for a globalized world. The internationalized curriculum meets these expectations and contributes to their overall student satisfaction.



DISCLAIMER

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Co-funded by
the European Union



4. CURRENT SITUATION OF INTERNATIONALIZATION FOR THE FACULTY OF DENTAL MEDICINE FOR THE PERIOD 2020 – 2023

Quality Assurance at UMT is a continuous process within the framework of improving curricula, teaching methods, learning, assessment, promotion and further qualification of academic, administrative and support staff.

Students are organized in student councils. These councils operate on the basis of regulatory acts approved by them. In the main units of UMT, **Career Offices** function to support students in relation to the labor market, ensuring appropriate contacts with potential employers; in the development of annual activities to bring students close to graduation with potential employers (job fairs, etc.); in providing counseling and guidance regarding the orientation and development of students' professional careers.

The Faculty of Dental Medicine, University of Medicine and the University G. D'Annunzio' Chieti – Pescara have a strong collaboration in different projects in the field of education and research. As a result of this active cooperation between the two Universities and Faculties, it became possible the opening of the **two joint international Master programs** with the approval from the Ministry of Education and Sports on 26.10.2022: The professional master "Dental Hygiene and Non-Surgical Periodontal Therapy" and the Executive Master "Implanto - Prosthesis".

Risk factors for the activation of joint programs:

- The development of learning in the Italian language
- Lack of certificate and knowledge of the Italian language for student registration



DISCLAIMER

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Co-funded by
the European Union



MAIN SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR THE PERIOD 2020-2023 FOR THE FACULTY OF DENTAL MEDICINE

December 2020- National Conference of Medical Sciences 7 with national and international lecturers.

December 22-23, 2020- Scientific meeting of Albanian Orthodontists with national and international lecturers.

June 2021: National Conference of Medical Sciences 8 with national and international lecturers, such as from "Aldo Moro" University in Bari etc.

November 19-21, 2021: IV Scientific Meeting of Albanian Dentists as well as IX Conference of Medical Sciences attended by 50 professors, academics and professionals from "Aldo Moro" University, Bari, "Gabriele d'Annunzio" University, Chieti-Pescara and from other international and national universities.

December 2021: The Albanian Health Fund team held a lecture at the Faculty of Dental Medicine by Prof. Gary Russel on "Oral Manifestations of General Pathologies".

April 7 and 9, 2022: The Faculty of Dental Medicine, in collaboration with the "Operation Smile" Humanitarian Foundation, conducts free consultations and visits with patients with cleft lip and palate in the premises of the OMF Surgery Department at the French Hospital, as well as lectures for staff, specialists and dental students.

12-14 May 2022: Conference of Medical Sciences 10, with an active participation and major contribution of the Faculty of Dental Medicine. The main topic of this event was "Medicine and Dentistry in the post-Covid period".

June 9-11, 2022: 15th Albanian Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Conference and 5th Balkan Congress of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

September 8-11, 2022: In Bari, Italy, the IV International Congress with the theme "New technologies and experimental protocols in periodontology, oral surgery and orthognathodontics". This congress was organized by "Aldo Moro" Bari University, Polyclinic of Bari, in cooperation with the University of Medicine, Tirana, and with FDM, as well as with other well-known international universities.

18-20 November 2022: 5th International Congress of Medical Sciences.

5-7 May 2023 National Conference of Medical Sciences 11.

17-19 November 2023: 6th International Congress of Medical Sciences.



DISCLAIMER

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Co-funded by
the European Union



TRAININGS AND MOBILITIES OF ACADEMIC, ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF AND STUDENTS

BIOSINT, Kick Off Meeting, February 2023: 1 academic staff, 1 administrative staff

BIOSINT, Training in Leuven, Belgium, June 2023: 2 academic staff, 1 administrative staff

BIOSINT, Workshop in Podgorice, June 2023: 1 academic staff, 1 administrative staff, 1 student

BIOSINT, Training in Serbia, September 2023 online, 2 academic staff, 1 administrative staff, 5 students

BIOSINT, Training in Romania, October 2023: 1 academic staff, 1 administrative staff, 2 students

BIOSINT, Trajnim në Bosnie-Hercegovine, Prill 2024: 1 staf akademik, 1 staf administrativ, 2 studentë

In the framework of the MAS project at the University "Gabriele D'Annunzio" Chieti Pescara, September 2023: 8 members of the academic staff

Within the MAS project at the "Gabriele D'Annunzio" University Chieti Pescara December 2023: 6 academic staff members

In the framework of the cooperation agreement with the University of Geneva, in partnership with the University Clinic of Dental Medicine at the University of Geneva, offered the opportunity to follow the Master of Aesthetics for a period of one week. November 2022: 3 students

Based on the agreement between the Rutgers School of Dental Medicine and the Faculty of Dental Medicine, training was conducted at the Rutgers School of Dental Medicine, one of our staff members was Prof. Dr. Andrew Sullivan. September 2022: two weeks. 1 academic staff, 1 student

September 11-13, 2022, the "Jules Allemand Trophy" competition took place, the 18th edition, where for 5 years the Faculty of Dentistry has represented Albania in this international competition. There was a dignified representation by a 5th Year student and the supervision of an academic staff.

Under the support of the University of Chieti "Gabriele d'Annunzio" and Micerium, the International Competitions JAT 16 and 17 (Jules Allemand Trophy JAT) took place at the University of Chieti. September 19-21, 2021: Two students from FDM, UMT

Within the READ Project offered by AADF, which was won by FDM and University Dental Clinic staff in collaboration with Diaspora Researcher, specifically with Prof. Bruna Sinjari, from "Gabriele d'Annunzio" University Chieti Pescara. The mobility of Prof. Bruna Sinjari in FDM: November 12-19, 2022; March 21-27, 2023; 4-8 May 2023



DISCLAIMER

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Co-funded by
the European Union



MAIN PROJECTS

1) March 2017: The two-year **GIZ project** "On the implementation of German digital technology in dentistry". Within this cooperation, Prof. Florian Beuer donated many contemporary didactic books "All ceramics at a glance" to the FDM library and to the students.

2) The **READ project** in collaboration with scientific researchers of the Albanian Diaspora, entitled: "Evaluation and comparison of innovative CAD CAM prosthetic materials", for the period October 2022- May 2023.

3) Based on the Decision of the Board of Administration No. 01 Date 05.07.2022, the project funded by the **National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation (NASRI)**, entitled: "Comparison between total removable dentures constructed with the SR IVOCAP system and the traditional system".

Two projects financed by the **Ministry of Education and Sports of Albania**, based on Order No. 468, Date 02.08.2022, for "Financing/co-financing in joint projects within the internationalization of study programs for the academic year 2022-2023.

4) The research project entitled: "**Evaluation and comparison of metal-ceramic and all-ceramic prostheses supported on implants**"

5) The infrastructure project entitled: "**Application of digital technology in Dentistry**"

6) Partners in the "**BIOSINT**" project, entitled: "Strengthening capacities and digital competencies in biomedical education through internationalization at home", ERASMUS-EDU-2022-CBHE-STRAND-2, No. 101082863, whose main coordinator is the University of Kragujevac, Serbia, January 2023-January 2026.



DISCLAIMER

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Co-funded by
the European Union



EXCHANGE MOBILITIES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ERASMUS+ PROGRAM FOR THE UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE, TIRANA

The University of Medicine, Tirana cooperates with several foreign universities, within the Erasmus+ programs. The academic, administrative staff and students of the Faculty of Dental Medicine have carried out mobilities in international institutions with which UMT has agreements and partnerships within the Erasmus Plus programs. During the period 2020-2023, both outgoing and incoming mobilities were realized in the Faculty of Dental Medicine.

ACTIVE AGREEMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- Currently, UMT has 47 active agreements with international HEIs.

MEMBERSHIP OF UMT IN THE INTERNATIONAL NETWORK

Balkan Universities Association (BUA): The University of Medicine, Tirana, is a full member of the Balkan Universities Association (BUA). BUA is a university network, which consists of 66 member universities and includes the countries of the Balkans and Eastern Europe.

University Agency of Francophonie (AUF): University of Medicine, Tirana, is a member of this network as an observer member. The University Agency of Francophonie (AUF), created 50 years ago, unites over 800 universities from more than 100 countries of the world, university networks, research-scientific centers and represents one of the largest agencies of higher education institutions in world.

UNIADRION: The University of Medicine, Tirana, has joined UNIADRION, which represents an association of universities and research centers of the Adriatic-Ionian area, founded in 2000.



DISCLAIMER

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Co-funded by
the European Union



5. SWOT ANALYSIS

Table 1. SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE FACULTY OF DENTAL MEDICINE ABOUT INTERNATIONALIZATION AT HOME

SWOT analysis was developed for the Faculty of Dental Medicine, University of Medicine, based on: student, teacher and Dean surveys, every day work and annual report of the Faculty and the University of Medicine.

Table 1. SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE FACULTY OF DENTAL MEDICINE REGARDING INTERNATIONALIZATION

| | Positive | Negative |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Internal environment | Strengths <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Motivation of staff and students - Implementation of the BIOSINT project - Existing agreements with other HEIs - Two joint master's degrees in the Italian language with the University G. D'Annunzio' Chieti – Pescara - Organization of Conferences/Congresses in cooperation with associations and other institutions with international participation - The academic staff is dedicated to the realization of academic activities with contemporary standards. | Weaknesses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lack of programs in English language -Lack of international students, apart from Albanians from neighboring countries -Lack of administrative staff, responsible for International Relations and Project Management - Lack of academic staff, responsible for International Relations and Project Management - Partially motivated staff for the development of English language teaching - Lack of sufficient engagement of students in the internationalization process - The small number of applications from staff and students for the realization of mobilities - Lack of a clear strategy for the internationalization process. |
| External environment | Opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Support through grants from the Ministry of Education and Sports of Albania and National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation (NASRI ALBANIA) -Erasmus Plus grants for staff and student mobility. | Threats <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Limited financial opportunities for academic staff mobility and scientific research and publications with impact factor. - Bureaucratic procedures related to the documentation related to the application and implementation processes of the projects. - Difficulty in matching study curricula with international institutions - Legal obstacles for independence in the generation of secondary income, etc., for their use in the function of teaching and scientific research. -Brain Drain -Pandemic risks such as Covid 19. |



DISCLAIMER

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Co-funded by
the European Union



6. STRATEGY OF INTERNATIONALIZATION AT HOME

1. STRATEGIC THEME 1. PROFESSIONAL LEARNING AND RECOGNITION.

The theme concerns staffs and students and it involves training, mentoring and professional learning opportunities related to internationalization engagements and achievements. It should lead to some form of institutional recognition, reward and/or accreditation, supported with esteem indicators.

Strategic objective 1.1. – Involve the decision makers for internationalization issues.

Involving decision makers in faculty for internationalization issues is essential for ensuring strategic alignment, policy development, faculty development, global research collaboration, curriculum integration, quality assurance, student support services, partnership development, and effective risk management. Their leadership and guidance are critical to the success of internationalization initiatives within the academic setting.

Operational objective 1.1.1. Provide appropriate policies for academic recognitions of internationalized engagement of staff.

This operational objective aims to establish policies that recognize and reward faculty members for their contributions to internationalization, creating a supportive and rewarding environment that encourages continued engagement.

Activity: Updating criteria for the selection and promotion of the academic staff who are engaged in the internationalization activities.

Indicator: Numbers of criteria related to engagement in internationalization.

Target values: One new criterion, at least for academic staff

Operational objective 1.1.2. Assigning the responsibilities for the internationalization activities

This operational objective aims to ensure effective coordination, management, and implementation of internationalization activities by assigning clear roles and responsibilities to key individuals and units within the institution.

Activity: Improve the functions of job posts involved in internationalization.





Co-funded by
the European Union



Indicator: Number of improved functions for academic/administrative staff

Target value:

- At least one job position with extended descriptions related to internationalization
- Expanding the functions and obligations of the Vice-Dean for international cooperation

Activity: Appointment of contact persons at the Faculty of Dental Medicine, regarding international programs, cooperation and research, mobility, etc.

Indicator:

- Number of contact persons related to internationalization, academic/administrative staff
- Number of contact persons related to internationalization, student

Target value: One contact person for academic/administrative staff regarding internationalization issues

Target value: One student contact person regarding internationalization issues

Activity: New job posts related to internationalization

Indicator: Number of working posts for academic and administrative staff designated to internationalization jobs

Target value:

One new post, at least, for academic and administrative staff

Activity: Establish a rulebook regarding the internationalization

Indicator: The established rulebook

Target value: One established rulebook related to internationalization

Activity: Create a reward system for students involved in internationalization

Indicator: -Certificate for internationalisation

-Bonus for future mobilities

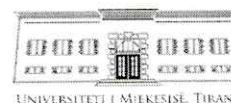
Target value: -5 or more certificates for internationalization

-5 or more students rewarded with a bonus for future mobility





Co-funded by
the European Union



Operational objective 1.1.3. Ensure that all students receive equal opportunities for participation in international activities.

This operational objective aims to create an inclusive and accessible framework for student participation in international activities, fostering equal opportunities for all students, regardless of background or circumstances.

Activity: Involving students in international activities

Indicator: Number of students involved in international activities

Target value: 15 students involved in internationalization per year

5 students involved in new curricula internationalization per year

Activity: Make relevant information about internationalization publicly available and transparent on the website of universities and faculties

Indicator: One section on webpage dedicated to internationalization

Target value: One section on webpage dedicated to internationalization

Activity: Ensure bilingual information for students

Indicator: Bilingual news relevant to internationalization on web page/social media post and information board

Target value: Bilingual news relevant to internationalization on web page/social media post and information board

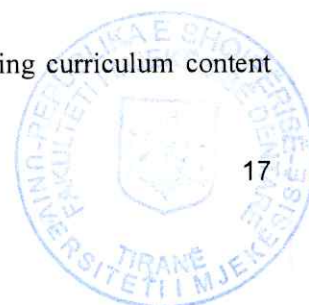
Activity: Utilize the insights from international students or students who conducted mobilities and their contact persons to guide others in communication techniques associated with internationalization

Indicator: Number of meetings/trainings

Target value: 2 annual meetings/trainings

Operational Objective 1.1.4. Provide training opportunities for staff to learn how to internationalize their teaching and the curriculum

It is important to guide staff through hands-on sessions to map existing curriculum content and identify opportunities for integrating global perspectives.





Co-funded by
the European Union



Activity: Organization of trainings for staff to learn how to internationalize teaching and curriculum

Indicator: Number of meetings/trainings

Target value: 2 meetings/trainings per year

2. STRATEGIC THEME 2. INSTITUTIONAL STRATEGIZING

Strategizing internationalization involves developing a comprehensive plan to integrate global perspectives, initiatives, and activities into the core functions of the Faculty of Dental Medicine, UMT.

Strategic objective 2.1. – The faculty provides the framework, means, agreements and procedures for internationalization.

The strategic objective for the faculty's role in providing the framework, tools, agreements and procedures for internationalization is to create a comprehensive and sustainable global engagement strategy within the Faculty of Dental Medicine.

Operational objective 2.1.1. Establish cooperation agreements with international partners with comparable curricula.

This operational objective aims to establish effective cooperation agreements with international partners who offer comparable curricula, fostering academic collaboration, and enhancing the institution's global presence.

Activity: Increase the degree of use of signed agreements and/or established the new on cooperation with foreign universities

Indicator: Number of revised/reactivated/new agreements with foreign universities

Target value: 90% of signed contracts are actively in use, bi-annually

3 signed contracts (re) activated per year

Operational objective 2.1.2. Engagement and promotion of the Faculty of Dental Medicine staff and students for internationalization in joint international networks

Activity: Integrate the Faculty of Dental Medicine/ University of Medicine, Tirana into joint international network.





Co-funded by
the European Union



Indicator: Number of joint international networks registered

Target value: One new/re-activated registration in a joint international network

Activity: Integrate the staff and students of the Faculty of Dental Medicine/ University of Medicine, Tirana into joint international network.

Indicator: Number of staff and students registered

Target value: 5% of the number of the staff, registered in a joint international network

Operational objective 2.1.3. Monitor international levels of achievements with a set of indicators.

The operational objective to monitor international levels of achievements with a set of indicators involves establishing a systematic approach to track and evaluate the success and impact of internationalization efforts within the Faculty/University.

Activity: Adoption of a quality system indicators for monitoring of teaching and research achievements of international ranges

Indicator: Number of educational events regarding projects

Target value: 20% more related to educational events regarding projects

Activity: Evaluation of Teaching and research activity of international ranges

Indicator: Number of project applications

Number of Conferences of international ranges

Number of days implemented throw international activities

Target value: 20% more related to the above indicators

Activity: Evaluation of Teaching and research activity of international ranges

Indicator: Number of days/months implemented throw internationalactivities/ per staff-research

Target value: 5% more related to the above indicators



DISCLAIMER

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Operational Objective 2.1.4. Integration of knowledge from international lecturers

Integration of knowledge from international lecturers

The goal is to provide the opportunity for students of the Faculty of Dental Medicine to receive knowledge from lecturers from foreign universities.

Activity: Lectures/seminar/training from foreign lecturers

Indicator: Number of lecturers/trainings/seminars organized

Target value: 10% more related to the above indicator

3. STRATEGIC THEME 3. – CURRICULUM AND CO-CURRICULUM

The strategic theme is essential for preparing the students of the Faculty of Dental Medicine to thrive in a globalized world. It involves infusing global perspectives, cross-cultural understanding, and international experiences into academic programs. Implementing the internationalization of curricula requires a comprehensive and collaborative approach involving faculty, administrators, students, and external partners. It is a dynamic process that should be regularly assessed and refined to align with changing global contexts and educational needs.

Strategic objective 3.1. Internationalize existing and new curricula and co-curricula

As Leask (2009) (cited in Beelen & Leask, 2011, p. 8) states: “Internationalization of the curriculum is the incorporation of an intercultural and international dimension into the content of the curriculum, as well as, the teaching and learning processes and support services of a program of study. An internationalized curriculum will prepare students for success in an interconnected and culturally and linguistically diverse world.

Operational objective 3.1.1. International benchmarking of study programs and international networks.

International benchmarking in the field of dental medicine involves comparing various aspects of dental education, research, and clinical practice across different countries or



DISCLAIMER

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Co-funded by
the European Union



regions. This comparison will help the Faculty of Dental Medicine, UMT to identify strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement.

Activity: Connecting with and evaluating from the international benchmarking resources (IBR)

Indicator: Number of IBR with established connections and evaluations

Target: One IBR, bi-annually

Operational objective 3.1.2. Internationalize existing curricula.

Activity: Select and internationalize curricula from current/common courses

Indicator: Number of ECTS from current curricula which are internationalized.

Number of changed syllabi/courses from current curricula which are internationalized

Target value: Up to 30 ECTS are internationalized

Target value: 1-3 internationalized syllabi/courses

Having on mind the fact that BIOSINT involves HEI in biomedical sciences, this gives an opportunity to choose courses that are same/similar in different study programs and do the joint internationalization, which is going to be approved by different universities and will facilitate future cooperation in terms of student/staff mobility. The process will start with proper selection of courses, which focus on the cultural elements, educational systems, structure of health in different countries, but also have both global perspective and future-looking perceptions, the ones related to research in medicine, bioinformatics, statistics. One of the criteria should also be the complexity of the course, and for the start of the internationalization process it is needed to begin from least demanding ones.

Operational objective 3.1.3. Internationalize new curricula.

In the BIOSINT project we will focus on developing and forming joint plan for 1-3 new virtual elective courses that can be applicable on every study program. Since the process of accreditation of curricula itself is different in each WB country, the target value for this activity will be 1-3 new course applications. This process is very complex and will have certain risks, with the first one being language barrier, with teachers and students. It is required to educate staff to perform lectures in English language. Also language barrier in



Co-funded by
the European Union



students, lack of motivation for IaH and overload with regular/current curricula can have negative impact on number of home students willing to enroll in these new courses. Finally the process of accreditation itself can be very complex, so this indicator can represent the main challenge in this project.

Activity: Develop new internationalized curricula for virtual courses (ICVC)

Indicator: Number of developed curricula for new internationalized virtual courses

Number of IT tools* used during new ICVC

Number of students enrolled in new ICVC

Target value: 1- 3 accredited, new, internationalized virtual courses

1-3 per each accredited, new, internationalized virtual courses

Minimum 5 students per each new ICVC/ per HEI

4. STRATEGIC THEME 4. ENGAGEMENT AND INFLUENCE

The strategic theme aims to engage students and staff in the planning and delivery of IaH. Recommendations from EU partners are that faculty and staff should increase their knowledge and skills regarding internationalization and intercultural communication. Therefore careful planning of the types/formats and content of development actions and programs should be one of the vital parts of the overall institutional operational objectives.

Strategic objective 4.1. Offer international experience for students and involve all staff members in internalization

Since the concept and implementation of IaH is broad and complex it is recommended that both internal and external stakeholders should be partners and involved in process. The first and the most important role goes to academic staff. Second major part of involved participants are students which are also target group of the process. External stakeholders include international partners, guest professors, alumni.

Operational objective 4.1.1. Operational objective 4.1.1. Learning track on intercultural competences





Co-funded by
the European Union



This operational objective aims to create a structured and comprehensive learning pathway on intercultural competence, ensuring that students of the Faculty of Dental Medicine acquire essential skills to navigate diverse and globalized environments.

Activity: Design and implementation of intercultural activities for students and staff

Indicator: Number of engaged students and staff

Target value: 10% or more of engaged students and staff

Operational objective 4.1.2. Increase in English course offer and provide language attestation for teachers.

The development of courses in English can be considered as one of the first steps to increase the number of students interested in mobility in our institution. For this reason, it is necessary to have advanced knowledge of the English language on the part of the staff first, then on the part of the students.

Activity: Organization of academic and administrative staff training for an advanced level of English language skills

Indicator: Number of employees who have received a certificate of advanced level of English language skills

Target value: Increase of at least 10%

Operational objective 4.1.3. Establishing a substantial pool of international students/adopting plans for foreign student enrollment.

This objective can be achieved through internationalized curricula, courses/subjects in English, reliable student recruitment agents that several universities use, through well-prepared and presented offers at international education fairs, more harmonized study programs that can attract students. This is one of the most difficult targets to achieve for the Faculty of Dental Medicine.

Activity: Increasing the number of international student mobility/partnership contracts with reliable student recruitment agents in international higher education

Activity: Increasing the number of international students

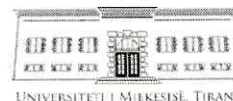
Indicator: Number of incoming/registered students

Target value: 0.3% incoming students from the total number of registered students per year





Co-funded by
the European Union



5. STRATEGIC THEME 5. SUPPORT SERVICES

This theme fosters the strengthening of administrative, financial and technical resources allocated to the strategic planning and implementation of IaH. It also assigns responsibilities, giving the visibility to the end-users of institutional IaH efforts.

Strategic objective 5.1. Increase financial, human and organizational resources for internationalization activities

The increase of financial, human and organizational resources for the internationalization of the Faculty of Dental Medicine requires a general commitment and close cooperation with various partners. By following these strategies, the university can strengthen its capacities and create a rich academic and professional environment that promotes the global development of dentistry.

Operational objective 5.1.1. Provide the support programs

By focusing on this objective, the institution aims to create a dynamic and inclusive environment that encourages and supports student mobility, fostering a global mindset among its student body. The actions outlined are designed to create a comprehensive framework for increasing the number of applications and enhancing the overall quality of student mobility programs.

Activity: Implement cooperation / increase the number of applications, for student mobility

Indicator: Number of student mobility

Target value: 1% or more students in outgoing mobility per year

Operational objective 5.1.2. Increase motivation for internationalization activities, buddy and mentoring programs

This operational objective aims to create a vibrant and supportive community that actively encourages student engagement in internationalization activities. The combination of buddy and mentoring programs, along with motivational initiatives, helps enhance the overall student experience and fosters a culture of curiosity, openness, and global awareness.



Co-funded by
the European Union



Activity: Train and educate more actively teachers and students on participation in international cooperation programs.

Indicator: Number of workshops and/or training meetings, organized

Target value: Two workshops and/or trainings every year

Operational objective 5.1.3. Enhance information environment about internationalization

This operational objective aims to create a robust set of marketing collateral that effectively communicates the benefits, details, and application processes of various internationalization programs. The strategy includes a mix of print and digital materials, ensuring accessibility, engagement, and clarity for diverse audiences.

Activity: Production of leaflets, brochures, instructions and multimedia material on various internationalization programs

Indicator: Number of different print forms and media communication channel of promotional material

Target value: A minimum of three forms of different promotional materials and media channels

Operational objective 5.1.4. Creation of the buddy system

This operational objective aims to create a structured and supportive buddy system that enhances the overall student experience by providing valuable support, fostering connections, and contributing to a positive and inclusive campus environment.

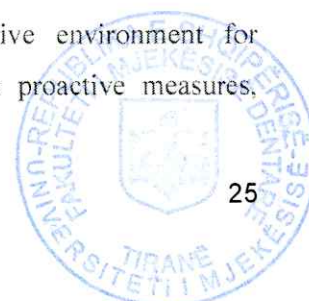
Activity: The creation of the Buddy system

Indicator: The creation of the Buddy system

Target value: One Buddy system

Operational objective 5.1.5. Creating a solid support system (Safe & Security)

This operational objective aims to create a secure and supportive environment for international students, ensuring their safety and well-being through proactive measures, effective communication, and collaboration with local authorities.





Co-funded by
the European Union



Creating a solid support system for international students for their safety and security (S&S) is an important foundation of internationalization. Support systems will be created through faculty web page in the form of detailed manual what to do during indoor accident, S&S event types, how to be prepared, establishing emergency action plan at the level of faculty, quarantine challenges, life in cultural diversity environment etc.

The proposed protocol for international students and staff will contain information about country, region, academic institution, academic study and administration, campus life, health, safety and disabilities, student support, accommodation on campus, services, policies and regulations.

6. STRATEGIC THEME 6. INTERNATIONALIZED UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

Promoting the internationalization of the university experience is essential to ensure that students and staff make the most of international opportunities and to enhance the global impact and reputation of the Faculty of Dental Medicine.

Strategic objective 6.1. Collaborate with external partners regarding sustainability, multiculturalism and capacity building of internationalization.

By fostering strong collaborations with external partners in the areas of sustainability, multiculturalism, and capacity building, the Faculty of Dental Medicine aims to create a more globally engaged and inclusive learning environment. This strategic approach leverages the expertise and resources of external organizations to enhance the overall impact of internationalization efforts.

Operational objective 6.1.1. Use comparative advantages of West Balkan region: cultural heritage, natural resources, lower cost of living

This operational objective aims to strategically capitalize on the comparative advantages of the West Balkan region, contributing to the internationalization efforts of the Faculty of Dental Medicine, by attracting students, fostering research collaborations, and providing a unique and enriching educational experience.

Activity: Connect and co-operate with local stakeholders which promote cultural heritage and natural resources of the community





Co-funded by
the European Union



Indicator: Number of organized events dedicated to promotion of cultural and natural values of local community

Target value: One event per year

Operational objective 6.1.2. Organize new social events, specially dedicated to the internationalized topics, engaging alumni people, students and public

This operational objective aims to create a vibrant and inclusive community by organizing diverse social events that celebrate global perspectives, involve alumni, engage students of the Faculty of Dental Medicine, and contribute to the cultural richness of the institution.

Activity: Connect and co-operate with external stakeholders for campaigning of IaH

Indicator: Number of organized events dedicated to promotion of IaH

Target value: One event per year

Operational objective 6.1.3. Increase publicity and visibility to support sustainability

This operational objective aims to enhance the visibility of the Faculty of Dental Medicine by promoting initiatives through various channels, fostering a culture of environmental responsibility, and engaging the broader community.

Activity: Connect and co-operate with media marketing stakeholders for IaH sustainability assistance

Indicator: Number of media marketing event

Target value: A marketing event related to internationalization at home



DISCLAIMER

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.