

The role of Albanian higher educational institutions for successful integration in the European Union – project VALEU-X

by Aleš Trunk | Špela Dermol | Ornela Vladi | Nada Trunk Širca | International School for Social and Business Studies, Slovenia | International School for Social and Business Studies, Slovenia | European University of Tirana, Albania | International School for Social and Business Studies & University of Primorska, Slovenia

Abstract Id: 54

Submitted: 06/10/2020

Event: PIconf2020 - Online Education without Social Distance: Challenges for Internationalisation and Culture of Peace

Topic: Education

Keywords: Internationalisation at Home, capacity building programme, Albanian HEI

VALEU-X offers HEIs in Albania a chance to explore, implement, and disseminate Internationalisation at Home practices to increase their students' and staff exposure to a European and international academic, economic, and societal context. A comprehensive capacity building programme will be developed and implemented to facilitate intensive know-how transfer between the consortium members to address the problems of a limited international perspective in university teaching modules, and ineffective use of ICT in formal higher education in Albanian HEIs. Project activities are planned based on solid expertise and best practices of European HEIs and intensive with Albanian HEIs to achieve the following concrete aims: (i) Introduce and promote learner-centred teaching and learning methodologies: Social collaborative learning approaches are proposed based on constructivist and connectivist learning methodologies to encourage learners' interaction and active knowledge construction for a long-lasting learning impact (Jonassen, 1996); (ii) Modernise teaching practices in Albanian HEIs with innovative technologies: Virtual Collaborative Learning (VCL) arrangements are proposed as an effective mean to improve students' professional competence, team competence, media competence, and intercultural awareness. It demonstrates a considerable potential to modernise formal higher education by integrating students in inclusive blended learning environments using networked social technologies (Tawileh, Bukvova, & Schoop, 2013); (iii) Augment internationalisation at home with "Virtual Mobility": Modern ICT-based international academic exchange approaches are proposed to overcome limited physical academic mobility between Albanian and European HEIs and provide Albanian students and academic staff with an international experience at their home university using affordable flexible technologies.