Kick-off Meeting of the Erasmus+ Project

"Advancing quality higher education in Western Balkans through facilitating AI Integration in Teaching, Learning and Research" – EDUFAIR

Europe House, Tirana, 27ᵗʰ January 10:00 – 12:00

Background

The use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in teaching, learning, and research has the potential to enhance the quality of higher education, increase efficiency, and better prepare students for the job market as well as increase the inclusiveness of education through digital technologies. However, the use of AI also poses ethical challenges. Therefore, it is important to ensure that the integration of AI in higher education is done in an ethical and responsible manner, with clear guidelines and policies in place to mitigate these risks. In this light, the EDUFAIR project, an Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education cofounded by the European Union, is designed to modernize and enhance higher education institutions in Albania and Kosovo.

The overall aim of the EDUFAIR Project is to advance quality higher education in the Western Balkans by facilitating the integration of Artificial Intelligence in teaching, learning, and research, enhancing digital competencies, and fostering inclusive educational practices. Key objectives of the project include: (i) Strengthening AI integration in higher education through tailored digital strategies and ethical guidelines; (ii) Enhancing digital competencies of faculty, staff, and students to foster innovation and employability; (iii) Promoting dialogue and collaboration among diverse stakeholders for inclusive and sustainable educational practices.

The project fosters collaboration between universities, policymakers, civil society, and businesses to develop and implement AI-driven strategies for teaching, learning, and research. It aims to bridge the gap between education and the labor market, ensuring graduates are equipped with the skills required for the digital age. EDUFAIR also contributes to regional development by integrating digital tools and technologies, creating a robust, knowledge-based society, and aligning with the EU's Digital Education Action Plan.

We are pleased to invite you to the Kick-Off Meeting of the EDUFAIR Project, which will take place in Tirana, Albania. This meeting will officially launch the project and provide an opportunity to present its objectives, expected outcomes, and planned activities. The kick-off meeting will focus on fostering collaboration between academia, policymakers, civil society, and AI experts to integrate AI into higher education. The event will feature expert presentations, a panel discussion, and a platform for exchanging ideas and experiences.

We look forward to your participation and valuable contributions to this important and evolving topic.

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AGENDA

09:45-10:00   *Registration and welcome*

10:00 - 10:20	**Welcome and Opening Remarks** Prof. Dr. Luan Karçanaj, Rector, Professional College of Tirana Prof. Dr. Benita Stavre, Full-time Lecturer, Dep. of Foreign Languages, Faculty of Education and Philology, University F. S. Noli of Korça Prof. Assoc. Dr. Jonida Mehmetaj, Head of the Law Department, Faculty of Human Sciences, University Ismail Qemali of Vlora Bernard Segarra, Programme Officer-Operations Section, Sustainable Economic and Social Development, Delegation of the European Union to Albania (Tbc) Moderation by Diana Biba, Administrator, Professional College of Tirana
10:20 – 10:30	**Keynote Address by Luanda Domi, Responsible AI Governor for Kosovo at the Global Council for Responsible AI (tbc)**
10:30 – 10:40	Presentation **"AI in Higher Education: Bridging Innovation and Ethics"** Dr. Erjon Curraj, SCiDEV Center *An exploration of current debates and approaches how AI can revolutionize higher education while addressing ethical challenges and fostering inclusivity.*
10:40 – 11:20	**Panel Discussion on AI Integration in Higher Education** Speakers: • Representative from National Agency for Information Society (AKSHI) • Xhiljola Bixheku, General Director of Agency for Quality Assurance for Higher Education (ASCAL) • Prof. Dr. Elida Meçe, Dean, Faculty of Information Technology, Polytechnic University of Tirana • Ergys Malo, Founder, NEURA.AL - AI Tool for Albanian Text and Speech • Migel Qeraxhi, Qendresa Qytetare

	The panel will offer diverse perspectives and practical ideas to advance AI integration in Albania's higher education sector. *How can public institutions support AI adoption in education?* *What are the benefits and ethical challenges of using AI?* *How can startups collaborate with universities?* *What barriers exist, and how can inclusivity be ensured?*
11:20 – 11:45	**Interactive Session: From Theory to Reality** *Participants are invited to share insights, pose questions, and discuss strategies to ensure ethical integration of AI-driven initiatives in higher education*
11:45 – 11:55	**Concluding Remarks and Next Steps** Prof. Dr. Nevila Xhindi, Senior Expert, CCIS
11:55 – 12:00	*Family Photo*
12:00 – 12:30	**Reception and Informal Networking**
12:30 – 15:00	**Internal Project Meeting** Only EDUFAIR project partners EDUFAIR Project • Project Management • Project Communication • Project Quality Assurance • Work Plan for Year 1