

## Editorial

Dear reader,

Many things have happened this spring, in fact so many that we needed to skip the spring edition of our newsletter for lack of time. However, we therefore have many news we would like to share with you!

In March we officially started our mentoring partnership with the Junge Uni Innsbruck in the frame of the EU project **Sis Catalyst**. The partnership enables us to reflect on the implementation of our **Children's University in Bosnia and Herzegovina** and, together with the opportunities of the **European Children's University Network**, gives us new ideas on potential topics and concepts for new Children's Universities initiatives in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In May we kicked-off the new courses selected within **PATTERNS Lectures** to be implemented in the academic year 2014/2015. The **kick-off meeting** for PATTERNS Lectures 2014/2015 took place at the HUB Vienna from 7 - 9 May 2014. It gathered sixteen lecturers, who introduced 12 new courses that will be offered at higher education institutions in seven different countries in Central and South-Eastern Europe during the academic year 2014/2015, as well as four PATTERNS Lectures Advisors and the PATTERNS Lectures team. The aim of the three-day event was to build a long-lasting network and to offer a forum for the fruitful exchange of ideas and expectations by giving and receiving feedback in various work settings and in many informal talks.

Over the last two months we have also had the pleasure of hosting two large project meetings with an overall number of approx. 100 guests from Armenia, Belarus, Georgia and Ukraine on the topics of internationalization of higher education institutions, and on the development of PhD education and the Salzburg principles. The meetings were held within the two EU projects **VERITAS** and **PICASA**. One more meeting is to come up in July within the project "**GOVERN** - Fostering Autonomy and Accountability: Development of State-of-the-art Higher Education Management System for Efficient Changes in Line with Bologna Principles" where we will organize a training for top university management from Armenian higher education institutions. We are already very much looking forward to welcoming our partners from Armenia, to interesting and inspiring discussions and the opportunity to show our guests the beauties of Graz and the Styrian region!

We have also held a series of workshops, inter alia within the project **Higher KOS**, on the topics of Learning Outcomes, student-centered learning, and project management with a focus on the complexity of the application process in EU projects.

Last but not least we would like to draw your attention to the international conference "**THE LONG SHOTS OF SARAJEVO**": **Events - Narratives - Memories of 1914**, which will take place at the University of Sarajevo from 24 - 28 June 2014, with the support of WUS Austria. For more information about the program check out the **official website** or join the event on Facebook. We are looking forward to seeing many of you in Sarajevo!

The article below promotes one of our EU projects - **PhD in Food Science & Technology & Creating Capacities for PhD Reform at the University of Pristina/Kosovo** - which is coordinated by WUS Austria and is currently in its final stage. The abstract below is taken from the final publication and it provides a short summary of our work in Kosovo and an overview of the project's objectives.

The final event of the project was successfully implemented from 12 - 13 June in Prishtina gathering all relevant institutions from Kosovo. For additional information regarding the event please visit the **project** or WUS Austria website.

We hope you enjoy reading!

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## Thematic Article

### PhD in Food Science & Technology & Creating Capacities for PhD Reform at the University of Prishtina/Kosovo

WUS Austria has been present in Kosovo since 1997 and has supported the University of Prishtina throughout the time of conflict in 1999 and in the aftermath. Since then, we have also been working with the newly established private and public universities in Kosovo. WUS Austria, is proud of being a partner of the Kosovar Ministry of Science, Education and Technology (MEST) in capacity building measures, supporting the National Academic Recognition Information Centre - NARIC office and to be able to provide contribution to the strengthening of the Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA) as the key player in the process of assuring quality in higher education sector.

WUS Austria has developed its activities in Kosovo over the years in order to respond to the current local needs. In the first decade of 2000 it provided a wide ranging support to the development of HE sector, especially of the University of Prishtina, with the funding from the Austrian Development Cooperation (ADC). This included development of new and modification of existing university courses and master programs. The missing capacities in teaching and research were filled by inviting emigrated scholars from Kosovo who were teaching abroad, which also contributed to brain gain. Student case study competitions, which included trainings and a job fair, offered the opportunity to students to improve their soft skills and to get in direct contact with the local and international employers.

In cooperation with EU and regional partners, WUS Austria contributed to the development of structure and infrastructure at UP (Academic Development Office, R&D and Competence Observation centers). We have established QA structures and have started to introduce quality culture at UP and other HE institutions in Kosovo.

We are still present in Kosovo and cooperate with the HE institutions as well as relevant stakeholders. Our biggest running project, funded by ADC, is "Higher KOS - Promoting institutional development in higher education and research in Kosovo".

WUS Austria is very proud to have been coordinator of the Tempus project PhD@UP which, with the joint efforts of the whole consortium and especially of the University of Prishtina, successfully fulfilled its two main objectives: (1) A new PhD program in Food Science and Technology was developed and implemented by professors from UP and partner EU institutions and enabled international student mobility, and (2) it introduced different PhD models and developed recommendations for the improvement of the PhD structure at UP.

WUS Austria is proud to have contributed to the development of the Kosovar society and we are happy to continue our work and efforts in Kosovo in order to create a knowledge-based society in which universities have a strong role and are drivers for innovation and sustainable economic development.

Almir Kovacevic, Executive Director, WUS Austria

Foreword from the publication: ["Creating Capacities for PhD Reform at the University of Prishtina"](#), 2014

## Recent News & Events

11.06.2014

### **DEVSCORE: workshop on Learning Outcomes in Podgorica**



*Podgorica.* Within the framework of the project DEVSCORE - Development of Learning Outcomes Approach. A way to better comparability, recognition and employability at the labour market a workshop was held on Learning Outcomes. [read more](#)

05.06.2014

### **Tempus project PICASA - Training Seminar on Internationalization**



*Graz.* May 28-30, 2014, WUS Austria organized a training seminar in the frame of the Tempus PICASA project. The aim of this project is to promote the recognition of Eastern Neighboring Area HE systems - namely in Armenian, Georgia, Belarus and Ukraine - through fostering the international dimension of the HEIs on the institutional level and within their study programs. [read more](#)

05.06.2014

### **Higher KOS: workshop on management of application processes**



*Prishtina.* Within the framework of the project Higher KOS - Promoting Institutional Development in Higher Education and Research in Kosovo a workshop took place from 26.-29. May 2014 on the topic of project application management. The workshop series included contributions from the consortium partners of the project - [ZSI](#), [OeAD](#) and WUS Austria as lead partner of the consortium. The topics inter alia included time and resource management in application processes, stakeholder analysis, risk analysis, financial resources and budgeting, and "gender" as an example of cross-cutting topics.

[read more](#)

26.05.2014

### **QUADRIGA: project meeting in Kazakhstan**



*Almaty/Astana.* A project meeting was held in the framework of the Tempus project QUADRIGA in Kazakhstan, including also project partners from Austria, Germany, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The overarching topic of the meeting was "Learning Outcomes in the context of the National Qualifications Framework: planning, achievement, measurement". [read more](#)

13.05.2014

### **PATTERNS Lectures 2014/2015: Kick-off Meeting, May 2014, Vienna**



*Vienna.* The kick-off meeting for the 2014/2015 PATTERNS Lectures took place at the HUB Vienna from 7 to 9 May 2014.

It gathered sixteen lecturers, who introduced 12 new courses that will be offered at higher education institutions in seven different countries in Central and South-Eastern Europe during the 2014/2015 academic year, as well as four PATTERNS Lectures Advisors and the PATTERNS Lectures

team.

[read more](#)