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*“GRaduates Advancement and Development of University capacities in Albania”*

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<b>Event title:</b>	Dissemination Event and Quality Control, Meeting.
<b>Event date:</b>	19-20 March, 2019
<b>Event Venue:</b>	University of Barcelona
<b>Event Address:</b>	“Avenida Diagonal 684”, Barcelona

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### MINUTES 8 - EVENT REPORT

#### Participants:

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Agriculture University of Tirana	AUT-UBT
University of Tirana	UT
University of Arts, Tirana	UART
Polytechnic University of Tirana	PUT
University of Medicine Tirana	UMT
European University of Tirana	UET
POLIS University	U-POLIS
Catholic University "Our Lady of Good Counsel"	UNIZKM
Albanian University	AU
Alma Mater Studiorum Università di Bologna	UNIBO
University of Siena	UNISI
Universitat de Barcelona	UB
ISCTE - Instituto Universitariò de Lisboa	ISCTE-IUL
Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Tirana	CCIT
Consorzio Inter-Universitario AlmaLaurea	ALMALAUREA
Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth	MESY

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## First day

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The meeting was opened by the rector's Delegate for International Programs and Mobility, Dr. Aurèlia Mañé, who welcomed and thanked all the participants to be present at University of Barcelona (UB). She emphasized the importance of the UB involvement in the Erasmus+ programs. These projects help to create connections and sharing professional experiences between the administrative and academic staff of the universities. The involvement of UB in the GRADUA project comes through similar engagements in such projects with Italian partners. Also, she suggested Albanian partners to collaborate in the future, for improvement of Higher Education Institutions (HEI) in their country.

Later, the local coordinator of UB after thanking everyone, started to make a short presentation how GRADUA project is being managed at UB by work packages. Also he mentioned the contribution of UB staff in the preparation and management of the project quality plan. According to the draft proposal, the meeting was planned to be organized during the same period with the annual Arab-Euro Conference on Higher Education (AECHE 3) in Barcelona, but since the conference was not held in Barcelona, but in another country, this did not enable the dissemination of the project to conference participants, especially companies from Barcelona. To accomplish this task, the UB coordinator committed to contact the head of the Barcelona Chamber of Commerce, to lobby for the inclusion of Barcelona companies in the GRADUA platform.

Then the meeting continued with the speech of the project coordinator. She valued the UB staff hospitality and support towards the organization of the meeting. She emphasized the importance of the engagement of all project partners in implementation of the quality control plan; meanwhile she explained the engagement and results of each project partner for each work package. Also, she introduced the external quality control expert Ms. Cacilda Maura, who was present in the meeting. In this way she could directly contact the partners to discuss about the quality issues of the project, in order to prepare the first quality control report.

The first session continued with the presentation of quality plans results by each partner of the GRADUA project. Meanwhile, the representative of the Chamber of Commerce of Tirana, Ms. Ornela Sula presented the engagement and involvement of the companies for the first period of the project implementation. She introduced also the companies' survey results to participants. Afterwards, Mr. Drini Imami (representative of the coordinator institution) presented the quality survey results distributed among consortium staff about the assessment of the project activities quality. According to results obtained, the positive engagement of coordinator institution staff was highlighted expecting further improvements in following periods.

In the second session, the project coordinator presented the state of art of the project implementation especially focusing more on financial issues, problems identified in documents submitted by all the partners to be reported in the interim report, the missing documents from some partners, such as the University of Art Tirana, University of Tirana, the Ministry of Education, etc. Additionally, she made some recommendation in regards to reporting by partners.

Another important issue discussed by the coordinator was the dissemination of the platform by each project partner. She highlighted the importance of partners' role in increasing the involvement of stakeholders (i.e., students and companies/firms) in the platform. Partners were advised to be more active in social media and project website by updating every dissemination activity in the framework of the project. According to the proposal she reminded the partners to engage in the organization of seminars to inform students and companies about the platform.

The final issue brought by the project coordinator was related with the sustainability of the project. After the meeting at the ministry of Education, where RASH was presented to the platform by Almalaurea staff they expressed their interest in hosting the project platform, requiring funds and equipments in order to do so. The request made by RASH was refused, due to no support find in HEI rules and EU rules regarding engagement of an associated partner. In these condition was discussed the possibility of AUT hosting the platform or opening an NGO with a board of directors made off each project partner representatives, in order to guarantee the continuity of the project. Despite AUT, also UT expressed its interest in hosting the platform. However, what was pointed out more was in relation with the role of the Ministry of Education as the leader of the sustainability work package to convince RASH about hosting the platform on its premises by waiving the above conditions. The Ministry representative guaranteed on following this issue and need more time to deal with RASH.

At the end of the meeting, the project coordinator made the final closing remarks to the participants.

## **Second day**

The second day of the meeting was opened from Mr. Luca Bertoglio as program manager of International Relations at UB. Mr. Bertoglio introduced projects managed by his institution during the last three years. These projects build collaborations with several African universities, by bringing new experiences for European focused projects. Additionally, he highlighted the possibility of engagement also with Albanian universities by describing different programs offered by UB.

Afterwards the meeting was directed towards bilateral meetings between partners, UB and the staff of International Relation office (including Marina Sola, the head of this office) and academic staff of the

faculty of Economics. During these meetings was discussed about research topics such as Albania's economic landscape, economic development, political and institutional economic perspectives, etc.