

SHORT TERM SCIENTIFIC MISSION (STSM) SCIENTIFIC REPORT

This report is submitted for approval by the STSM applicant to the STSM coordinator

Action number: CA 18236

STSM title: Redefining Education through New Methods for an Entrepreneurial and Internationalization Approach of Universities after Covid19

STSM start and end date: 21.02.2022 to 25.02.2022

Grantee name: Klodiana GORICA

PURPOSE OF THE STSM:

The aim of this STSM is to increase competencies and knowledge for teaching methods in an entrepreneurial and internationalization approach to the University of Tirana as a result of gaining experience from developed countries such as Valencia.

All the world is facing Covid and the effect of this pandemic situation. As the result of this situation, Universities moved from traditional teaching to online and new methods.

There are several reasons that accompany the need to update and improve methods based on the experience of developed countries:

- Albania comes from a history of a former communist country where innovation and entrepreneurship have not been common practice. So, the best practice coming from developed countries should be account as a basic methodology.
- The overall role that HEIs are playing in international and national social and economic development is changing the mindset of HEIs positioning.
- Another reason to move in other teaching methods is the quality and the interection with other actors such as investors, strategic partners, business and community and also international colleges and Universities, which become more possible through digitalization and bring innovation and entrepreneurship to UT.
- The University of Tirana is a public Higher Education Institution, the oldest in the history of Albanian as well as with the greatest need to move towards innovation and entrepreneurship through digitalization. One of the main priorities of UT is internationalization. And the improvement teaching and communicating methodology should consider part of its strategy on the entrepreneurial way moving ahead.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK CARRIED OUT DURING THE STSMS

School closures due to COVID-19 have brought significant disruptions to education across Europe. Emerging evidence from some of the region's highest-income countries indicate that the pandemic is giving rise to learning losses and increases in inequality. (Robin Donnelly, Harry A. Patrinos, James Gresham). The COVID-19 pandemic has meant "a year of crisis and uncertainty"—with students, families, and staff members experiencing high levels of stress, trauma, and anxiety driven by the pandemic. (*Danielle Boucher, Jenna Buckle, Keridan Doyle, Leah Ewall-Wice, and Connie Jangro*)

Analyses of needs: The identification of the need to implement this STSM comes as a result of the need to acquire competencies in improving teaching and the use of relevant methodologies from best practice. The cooperation with the University of Valencia through this STSM, will enable an active discussion between the professors of the universities to enable the transfer of knowledge from this university to the University of Tirana, in order to bring good practices for teaching and learning strategies after covid 19. In this way the benefits will be even greater, passing from individual to institutional benefit that will be enabled through the relationships and the concrete network created by this cooperation.

Methodology: Include the preliminary part of study: before the visit to Valencia University, I intend to realize and agree with the Host University :

- a. identification of the needs
- b. the structure of the paper,
- c. discussion of methodology,
- d. structuring a focus group with the staff (teaching and managing staff) for University of Valencias.

Methodology will be focus mainly in 2 pillars during STSM:

- A. The realization of the focus group-based methodology, which will be carried out with structured questions to be addressed to the two main groups:
 - the staff that has been in contact with the need to perpetuate online methods during the process for these 2 years.
 - management and administrative staff as head of department, or at higher levels to understand perception and a general analysis of the affirmative and negative consequences in the middle.
- B. Compiling a desk research based on:
 - recent *literature review* related to impact of covid on teaching approach on the way of internationalization and entrepreneurial mindset.
 - Based on literature review, and especially from perception and analyses of focus group data, a *model* will be developed. In this proposed model will be followed up by:
 - ✚ two principles: internationalisation and entrepreneurial mindset (as are aimed by University of Tirana)
 - ✚ including all elements and tools that are consider important during Covid 19 teaching period, and that will consider even for the future. So, will be include those elemets who are consider as positive even for the future of our universities.
 - Analyses of focus group summarised perception

A general analyses of the situation will be possible and realized through individual meetings and focus groups held at the University of Valencia during the stay. After that will be realized:

- a. data analysis
- b. conclusion, suggestions and results.

An online distribution of work in advance will enable us to conduct field study and efficient use of STSM days at the University of Valencia. For this reason, a preliminary and parallel communication will be developed with the host professor at the University of Valencia. These preliminary discussions are necessary to develop a well-represented questionnaire of needs.

Coming back at home university will allow to compare some topics which comes from host university case with home university. Some general analyses of conclusions, discussion of recommendations will be done and reflet in the report.

This STSM will ultimately produce a platform and positive synergy which not only orients the results and recommendations for all universities but also establishes cooperation and collaboration relationships in specific directions identified during the visit to the host university.

DESCRIPTION OF THE MAIN RESULTS OBTAINED

The obtained results will be oriented in several directions:

- Theoretical,
- practical
- strategical
- methodological

The results aim to improve:

- the theoretical approaches,
- the descriptions of the theory of teaching,
- the need and approach to an entrepreneurial university which is on the way of internationalization as its main strategy,
- the ways and impact of digitalization of teaching and learning and also to find other forms of digital techniques.
- Digitalization as a strategic tool even for internationalization and approach to going more entrepreneurial university. Digitalization, as an efficient strategy that oriented not only education but also the orientation of businesses towards entrepreneurial strategies closer to the market, has multiplied its effects in use. In addition to improving teaching methods, by obtaining feedback from students, that technology can be better used in the service of learning. Digitalization will serve to further build more constructive models for our common universities: the University of Tirana and Valencia.
- In the context of the internationalization of the University of Tirana, further outputs can be oriented:

- Innovative technology-based university model
- construction of efficient networks of stakeholders directly connected to the university
- beneficiaries due to digitalization.

In this way, we will bring closer the main acts, to move from the connection: university, student, actress, to a more business-oriented approach. So digitalisation will serve:

1. on improving teaching methods and how they can orient towards a university with entrepreneurship and innovation
2. digitalization will orient a new model of university based on business and student, through the use of technology,
3. the increase of benefits of the university with different strategic partners.

FUTURE COLLABORATIONS (if applicable)

Being an active part of the University of Tirana, Albania for more than 20 years, we feel the need to improve the curricula, to affect the teaching methods, and more than ever the need to use new and other teaching interactive platforms with students and other actors.

Further collaborations are as follows:

- a. the realization of a joint research paper with the host university professor (member of cost CA 18236) or others if it is possible;
- b. discussing the possibility to present the publication in an international conference. With this aim, the COST Action CA 18235 will increase an spread the presence in international scientific events.
- c. taking steps for another study in the form of a joint chapter
- d. discussing for possible common activities
- e. construction of a virtual seminar with actors within this cost action but also other guests with the main issues produced by this research and treated possibly for future studies and discussions.