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Podgorica, 25 November 2019

Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth of Albania
Rruga e Durrësit, nr. 23, Tirane, Shqipëri
To the attention of: Ms Besa Shahini
Ms Ingrid Jushi

Dear Sir/Madam,

As you are aware, we are currently implementing the project **“Reforming Doctoral Studies in Montenegro and Albania – Good Practices Paradigm - MARDS”** (598465-EPP-1-2018-1-ME-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP), that is co-financed by European Union through the Erasmus+ programme, Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education. The project includes 16 partner institutions from Montenegro, Albania, Croatia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Austria, as well as the Ministries and Chambers of Commerce from Montenegro and Albania. The Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth of Albania is one of the partners on the project since structural projects require active involvement of national ministries in all Erasmus + CBHE projects of this kind.

The main aim of the project is to reconstruct doctoral studies in line with Salzburg Principles, establish sustainable funding mechanisms in this area and to introduce two modern Pilot Doctoral Schools between two friendly neighbour countries, Montenegro and Albania, that will serve as an example of “good practices” for the WB Region.

At this point, we came to the most important phase of this project, which regards Accreditation process for opening of two PhD programmes: “Natural sciences and Technology for Sustainable Development” at the University of Montenegro, and “Economy and Tourism for Sustainable Development” at the University of Shkodra “Luigj Gurakuqi”.

We have been informed by our project partners from Albania, as well as by official contacts from European and Albanian Authorities responsible for Higher Education Reform, that currently in Albania introducing and accrediting PhD studies has been an issue in the last few years.

As the project flow and its success directly depend on introducing PhD Programme at the University of Shkodra, we kindly ask you to inform us about following issues:

1. Is it possible to accredit this Program in Albania?
2. If it is not possible at this moment, what are the prospects of it being possible in the near future?

REFORMING DOCTORAL STUDIES IN MONTENEGRO AND ALBANIA – GOOD PRACTICE PARADIGM

Grant: 598465-EPP-1-2018-1-ME-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP

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We are convinced that this program will significantly enhance PhD education in Northern Albania that is of interest for cross-border cooperation between Montenegro and Albania, as well as for EU integration processes of both countries.

We look forward to receiving an answer at your earliest convenience.

On behalf of MARDS Steering Committee,

Prof. dr Radovan Stojanovic
Project Coordinator

For more information you can contact us on: stox@ucg.ac.me, mards@ucg.ac.me.

Sincerely,

Prof. dr Radovan Stojanović
MARDS Coordinator

