



REPUBLIC OF ALBANIA
UNIVERSITY OF TIRANA
FACULTY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES

FFL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH STRATEGY

2022-2024

INTRODUCTION

Building upon a strong legacy of scientific research and embracing national and international best practices, the mission of the Faculty of Foreign Languages is to solidify the institution's identity not only as a hub for knowledge production and future professionals but also as an elite research institution. We aim to produce scientific outputs that are in demand and highly valued by the market while continuously enhancing the teaching quality and expertise of our staff and the student experience.

Expanding partnerships with Albanian and foreign universities in the realm of scientific research will significantly increase our participation in scientific projects, including those funded by EU programs and beyond.

DEVELOPMENTAL PRIORITIES OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH STRATEGY

- FFL will continue to cooperate with public institutions and the private sector to assess their interest in the services offered and to explore the application of research findings produced by the faculty.

- FFL will prioritize not only financial support for scientific research but also encourage wider participation in research activities, including involvement in specific projects and participation in national and international conferences organized by both lecturers and students. Additionally, efforts will be made to improve library services through digitization.

- FFL will have a structured plan for scientific research. This structured research, focused on specific topics, objectives, and expected results, will be guided by the research plans of the research groups within the departments, as well as by the individual engagement plans in scientific research for each member of the academic staff, in accordance with the current higher education law and the statute of the UT.

FFL MAIN OBJECTIVES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH STRATEGY.

Objective 1: Development of an interdisciplinary approach to research

This objective is essential for several reasons:

- a) Research is more effective when researchers with expertise from different fields collaborate on a joint research project.
- b) The more researchers collaborate, the greater the chances of success and problem solving.
- c) In the case of the Faculty of Foreign Languages, where fields of study intertwine with each other, such as linguistics, communication, culture, literature, cooperation between teaching and research groups is important to undertake comprehensive studies.

d) Collaboration with other national and international research teams makes research an easier process, by sharing information on similar situations with others and using their most successful techniques and experiences. This objective aims to give priority to the research activity at basic unit and Faculty level, but not excluding individual activity.

Activities

1.1. Establishing the institution research profiles and reorganizing of the doctoral program.

1.2. Preparing the research project package.

1.3. Drafting of the FFL's internal regulation, admission and supervision for doctoral researchers, based on the guidelines of UT and the Higher Education Law for the recruitment of scientific researchers.

1.4. Creating a database for research.

1.5. Developing research infrastructure.

1.6. Developing new research relationships with businesses and other national and international academic institutions.

1.7. Better integration of the Faculty of Foreign Languages in the European Research Area.

1.8. Using the research fund to support new research initiatives.

1.9. The drafting of projects for the orientation of the third cycle of studies, as well as other projects aimed at fostering growth and revitalization of scientific work within the institution, involves collaborations with other research institutions to realize final products with an applied character.

Expected Results:

1.2. Application package for the doctoral program and research project.

1.3. Establishment of the project office.

- 1.4. Creation of research database.
- 1.5. Provision of financial support for participation in international research activities.
- 1.6. Involvement of new PhD program candidates in the basic unit projects.
- 1.7. Internal regulation of the doctorate.

Objective 2: Conducting research to have an impact on society

Considering that scientific research has an important role on society, the Faculty of Foreign Languages has set as an objective to conduct research on issues that have special interest for society in the field of teaching foreign languages, linguistics and intercultural communication, techniques and methodologies of translation and interpretation.

Activities:

- 2.1. Cooperating with national institutions to identify problems that require solutions.
- 2.2. Identifying research projects that have an impact on the development of society.
- 2.3. Defining the research projects to be undertaken by FFL in the framework of the reorganization of doctoral study programs.
- 2.4. Establishing teaching - research groups.
- 2.5. Developing greater skills in project writing and application in national and international projects.
- 2.6. Applying for research support fund.

Expected Results:

- 2.1. Projects package
- 2.2. Research reports.
- 2.3. Publication of research results.

2.4. Presentation of research results to interested audiences.

2.5. Participation in calls for training or information days on national and international projects.

2.6. Development of trainings for writing projects within the institution.

2.7. Creation of sustainable financial resources for scientific research through planning and participating in projects with direct benefit for the institution as well as cooperation with the business field or with different sectors of culture and economy to have mutual benefits as well as the generation of funds through providing services with the third parties.

2.8. Creation of a database on project calls on FFL website.

Objective 3: Integrating research with teaching

The Faculty of Foreign Languages aims to:

- a) make lecturers active researchers and naturally transfer research results to teaching;
- b) teach students to practice research tasks;
- c) illustrate the lesson with scientific achievements of the field.

Activities

3.1. Integrating in teaching the results of current research according to teaching subjects.

3.2. Research-oriented teaching, which will be realized through the understanding and application of research methodologies, skills and techniques in teaching disciplines.

3.3. Teaching based on research mentoring, which will be realized through mentoring of students for writing papers for students conference, writing diploma theses; evaluation of scientific works by lecturers.

3.4. Research-based teaching, which will be realized through small-scale research assignments in specific subjects; such as essay, case study, clinical analysis.

Expected Results

3.1. Inclusion of the FFL academic staff researches in the list of literature of teaching subjects.

3.2. Collection of research data through teaching and research activities.

3.3. Mentoring of writing diploma theses by lecturers.

Objective 4: Development of students research skills

The Faculty of Foreign Languages aims that future specialists to have the capacity to integrate research into their professional practice:

- due to the practical nature of the profession for which they are prepared;
- due to discovering and analyzing the problems they may encounter in their future work;
- due to being able to study and develop their professional practice continuously.

Activities

4.1. Research training of students

4.2. Research mentoring of students

4.3. Involving students in research groups.

4.4. Raising awareness and training students about the culture of entrepreneurship and supporting them in the creative process, the development of projects, be they professional, social, etc.

Expected Results

4.1. Package of research papers.

4.2. Preparation of the scientific research handbook for students.

4.3. Organization of the annual student conference.

4.4. Journal publication with students' works.

4.5. Equipment of students with research skills to conduct research of various kinds.

4.6. Encouragement of the most effective use of up-to-date literature that is provided by the fund for the purchase of books according to the requests presented by the basic units.

4.7. Digitization of the FFL library

4.8. Subscription to prestigious scientific journals.

Objective 5: Increasing the visibility of the Faculty of Foreign Languages' scientific research.

Currently, the Faculty of Foreign Languages publishes its scientific journal as well as counts a large number of publications by its members in prestigious foreign journals in foreign languages. FFL aims to increase the visibility of its research product by increasing the prestige of its scientific journal and the dissemination of scientific research results.

Activities:

5.1. Publishing the following scientific journal and ensuring its status as a national and international scientific journal;

5.2. Establishing a system to investigate and prevent plagiarism in any presented scientific research;

5.3. Drafting and implementing a Communication plan for Scientific Research within the FFL that identifies, recognizes and informs the successes of scientific research, making them accessible to the public.

5.4 Organizing of at least one international conference per year.

5.5. Expanding ties with strategic research partners through networking.

5.6. Monitoring and evaluating the fulfillment of research-scientific standards according to the quality code.

Expected results

5.1. Obtainment of the international portal ISSN number; registration in the EBSCO database

- 5.2. Creation of Plagiarism prevention system .
- 5.3. Organization of the Scientific Day of Researchers at FFL with the aim of informing about new or completed projects.
- 5.4. Creation of the Best Scientific Research award
- 5.5 A database of research projects and research partners.
- 5.6. Organization of the international conference every year.
- 5.7. Participation in international conferences.
- 5.8. Increasing institutional and individual membership in international professional associations.

Objective 6: Expanding national and international partnerships for development and research.

Activities:

- 6.1. Identifying and then developing partnerships related to FFL's research strengths and weakness.
- 6.2. We will target higher education institutions with a high -performance and research partners that connect and support our development and research strengths and can increase the value and impact of our research.

Expected Results

- 6.1. Increase the number of partnership agreements for development and research.
- 6.2. Increase the number of joint projects for development and research .

Objective 7: Increase student mobility and teaching staff exchange for research development.

Activities:

7.1. Promoting to students exchange opportunities offered by European Union Programs, such as Erasmus +, Joint Master Programs, Erasmus Mundus Partnerships, bilateral country programs or other international programs.

7.2. Providing opportunities for academic staff to participate in international activities that help raise international awareness and integrate global issues into the research context.

7.3. Increasing the number of international academic staff, visiting professors/visiting researchers.

7.4. Creating a database containing information on existing international staff, institutional links, funding sources and strategic opportunities.

Expected Results

7.1. Increase the number of exchange students.

7.2. Increase the number of teaching staff exchanges.

7.3. Creation of database on international exchanges.

7.4. Establishment of the international relation office and the function of international advisory .

OBJECTIVE 8: INCREASING THE QUALITY AND MONITORING OF SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

The institution periodically monitors and evaluates the programs it offers and guarantees the fulfillment of their objectives as well as the needs of students and society. These evaluations should lead to continuous improvement of the programs. The evaluation of study programs

and scientific research is carried out according to the standards-based method. In order to ensure quality, on the basis of monitoring and evaluation reports, the required improvement is carried out.

Activities:

- 8.1. Using of instruments and reporting of evaluation and research activities in the basic unit.
- 8.2. Evaluation of topics according to the fields of research study in the basic units.
- 8.3. The annual evaluation of the progress and research activities of the doctoral student.

Expected Results:

- 8.1. Annual report and statistical data of research activities based on the expectations and recommendations of the annual quality analysis in the basic unit.
- 8.2. Analysis of the questionnaires about the priority topics developed within the pre-determined areas.
- 8.3. Questionnaire Analysis of the student research progress .

IMPLEMENTATION, REPORTING, MONITORING, EVALUATION OF THE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH STRATEGY OF THE FACULTY OF FOREIGN LANGUAGES.

This strategy will follow all international standards of reporting, communication,, monitoring, , evaluation and follow-up of implementation. These standards guarantee the fulfillment of the mission and objectives foreseen within the vision of the development strategy of the Faculty of Foreign Languages.

Implementation and Evaluation

The implementation of the Scientific Research Strategy of FFL will extend over a period of

3 (three) years, in the period 2021-2024. The Dean of the Faculty will have a leading role in its implementation. The implementation will be carried out at the basic unit level by harmonizing all the components of the Action Plan, during the 3 (three) planned years.

Some aspects related to the assessment are:

- What are the priorities of the Strategy and Are the objectives and expected results/activities of the action plan harmonized with the priorities of the Scientific Research Strategy? - Have the objectives been achieved compared to the set goals? What are the reasons for not achieving the objectives?
- Will the planned activities and results lead to the achievement of the expected results and objectives?
- Can the objectives and results of the Action Plan be better achieved by implementing a different combination of activities?

The final evaluation of the progress of the Scientific Research Strategy will be internal and carried out by a collegial commission consisting of: the Dean of the Faculty of Foreign Languages, the Vice Dean for Research, Heads of Departments, and Coordinators of teaching-research groups according to basic units.

The evaluation will be conducted once a year, at the end of the relevant academic year

.

Table 1: Evaluation criteria: Ex-ante, Intermediate and Ex-post.

1st Criterion .Importance Will the intended intervention solve the problem? What needs does it meet?

Has the original need changed? Does the change require an adjustment compatible with the intervention? Did the intervention reach/affect the target group?

2nd Criterion. Effectiveness Is it likely that the planned activities lead to the achievement of the objectives? Is there a way to offer the program more cost effectively? Do the results

achieved so far guarantee that the objectives will be achieved? Which are the factors that influence the effectiveness of part x of the intervention? Have the objectives been implemented as planned? What were the reasons for the great success/failure of objective x?

3rd Criterion . Efficiency Are the implementation mechanism , structures and processes - well justified? How can the efficiency of the process be increased? What institutional procedures should be simplified in order to make implementation more efficient? Has activity x been carried out using the most cost-efficient approach? How good was the performance of the institution or the process? What lessons can be learned?

4th Criterion .Impact What is the expected impact of the intervention? What are the target groups of influence? Does the implementation intervention bring about some unwanted effects? What is the impact of activity versus expectations? Why is the impact lower/higher than expected?

5th Criterion .Sustainability Is the impact likely to be long-lasting? What elements will guarantee this? Do prerequisites exist for the sustainability of objectives ? What can be done to ensure that they exist? What factors are negatively affecting the sustainability of achievements? What are the chances that the results will last for a long time? What are the projected future costs of the program? What are the reasons for the low consistency of the results?

References and Bibliography

- MESY, "Law No. 80/2015 On higher education and scientific research in institutions of higher education in the Republic of Albania and the by-laws in its implementation,"

- MESY, Law No. 69/2012 on the pre-university education system in the Republic of Albania (updated) and by-laws in its implementation, MESY, 2019.

- MESY , 31.10.2019. Law No. 15/2017 On education and professional training in the Republic of Albania, 2017.

- Law No. 10 247, dated 4.3.2010 On the Albanian Framework of Qualifications, amended Law No. 23/2018 for some changes and additions to Law No. 10 247, dated 4.3.2010, "for the Albanian Framework of Qualifications".

- European Union, "Council Recommendation of 22 May 2018 on key competencies for lifelong learning (2018/C 189/01)," 2018
- European Commission, Albania 2020 Report - Communication on EU Enlargement Policy, 2020. MES Y, Pre-University Curriculum Framework of the Republic of Albania, 2014.
- European Commission, "Albania 2019 Report - Communication on EU Enlargement Policy," 2019.
- The Statute of the University of Tirana
- Regulation of the University of Tirana

DEAN

Prof. Dr Esmeralda KROMIDHA