



UNIVERSITETI
I SHKENCAVE TË APLIKUARA
FERIZAJ

INTERNATIONALIZATION ACTION PLAN
2022-2026

Ferizaj, 2022

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

EU	- European Union
FAS	- Faculty of Applied Sciences
FTAS	- Faculty of Technical Applied Sciences
HERAS	Higher Education, Research and Applied Science
MEST	- Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
HEC	- Higher Education Center
SWOT	- Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
UASF	- University of Applied Sciences in Feriza
KPI	- Key Performance Indicators

INTRODUCTION

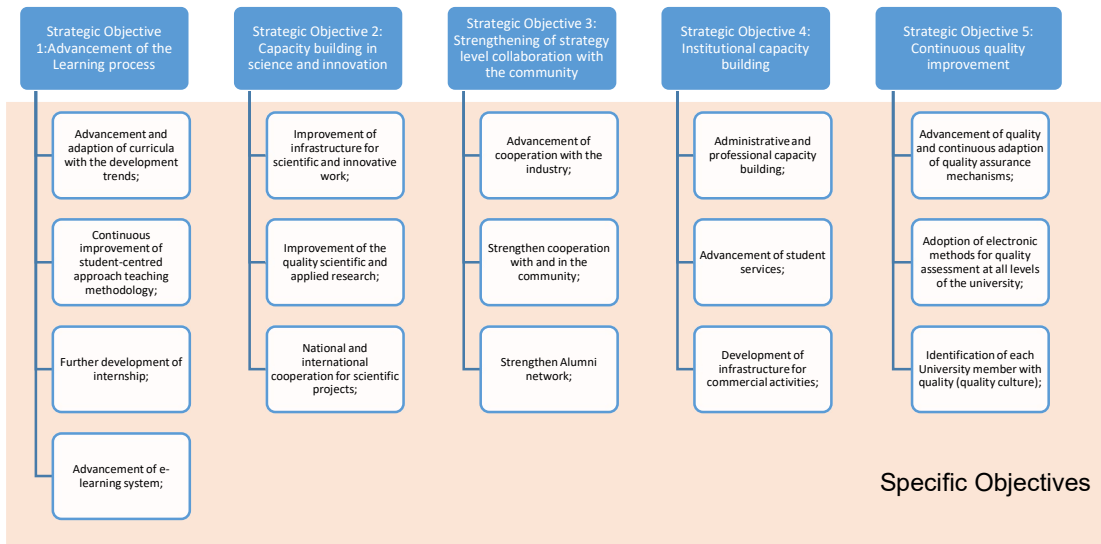
International experience is considered the most important benefit of internationalization, which is one of the key aspects of the institutional strategy of higher education institutions. This process helps institutions in their development and in particular is instrumental in the processes of construction and development of new academic institutions.

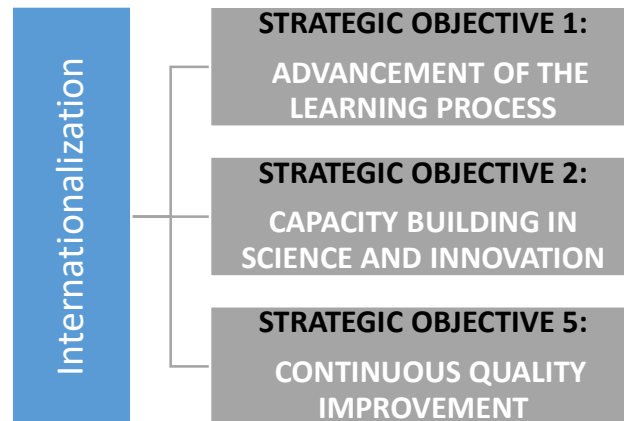
The University of Applied Sciences in Ferizaj (UShAF) is a relatively new institution of higher education in Kosovo. It was established by the Decision of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) dated July 6, 2015, ratified in the Parliament of the Republic of Kosovo, on July 16, 2015.

Five faculties currently operate within UShAF: 1) Faculty of Engineering and Informatics, 2) Faculty of Tourism and Environment, 3) Faculty of Architecture, Design and Wood Technology, 4) Faculty of Applied Arts and 5) Faculty of Management .

In 2022, UShAF has developed the Strategic Plan 2022-2026 in which five strategic objectives and six specific objectives have been identified.

Although internationalization is a strategic objective, as a process it is an integral part of Strategic Objective 2: Raising capacities in science and innovation, which indirectly contributes to other strategic objectives such as Strategic Objective 1: Advancement of the learning process and Strategic Objective 5: Continuous quality improvement.





The internationalization action plan is linked to the 2022-2026 Strategic Plan and is focused on achieving the strategic objectives of the university through planned activities as well as evaluating the achievement through Key Performance Indicators (KPI) and targets for each KPI.

Like the Strategic Plan, the Internationalization Action Plan of USHAF will be reviewed every year. The action plan review process will follow after the Strategic Plan is reviewed and then approved. The internationalization action plan 2022-2026 as well as any revision thereof will be approved by the University Senate.

INTERNATIONALIZATION MISSION

Through internationalization, taking advantage of the best international experiences, the university aims to increase the quality of teaching and learning, promote research collaboration and promote cross-cultural communication of staff and students.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF INTERNATIONALIZATION

In order to achieve the strategic objectives of the UASF Strategic Plan 2022-2026, the university has adopted the following strategic internationalization objectives:

- **Internationalization strategic objective 1:**

Advancing the teaching and learning process with the experiences of international universities.

The advancement of the teaching process, and in particular of learning, is also a strategic objective of the University, therefore, the contribution of the international cooperation of the University will contribute to the development of new curricula and the revision of existing curricula by comparing them with the curricula of international

universities. This process will also contribute to the development of the mobility of the staff and especially of the students, both incoming and outgoing students.

Advancement of teaching and learning process with the experiences of international universities.

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The mobility of academic staff, both outgoing and incoming, will contribute to the development of new experiences and approaches that are applied by colleagues from international universities, where University teachers will be able to advance their teaching methodologies, but also to influence other teachers at the University.

The participation of students in mobilities through a process of integration and coexistence with a new multinational academic environment contributes to the development of a kind of international spirit in students and in particular in graduates whose international experience increases the possibility of employment, both in the local labor market, as well as in the international one.

Finally, the involvement of various international actors and figures in the teaching process in the capacity of a visiting teacher, brings the international experience and perspective to a larger student audience and ultimately contributes to the advancement of the teaching process. A major role in this process can be played by Albanian professionals who work in exile and who will share their experience and challenges with students.

Internationalization strategic objective 1: Advancing the teaching and learning process with the experiences of international universities.					
INDICATORS	Targets				
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Student satisfaction with the level of comparability of programs with those of international universities	60%	65%	70%	70%	75%
The number of mobilities of UASF students to international universities	3	3	4	4	5
The number of mobilities of students of international universities in UASF		1	1	2	2

The number of mobilities of UASF academic staff to international universities	4	4	5	5	6
The number of academic staff mobilities of international universities in UASF	2	2	3	3	4
The number of international guest lecturers at the university	1	2	2	3	3
Exchange of experiences with the diaspora		1	1	2	2

- Internationalization strategic objective 2**

Fostering collaborations with international research and knowledge transfer projects

Improving the quality of the research work of the academic staff of the university, internationalization plays an important role. One of the forms of internationalization is the participation of academic staff in international scientific conferences. Through this form, the academic staff is not only in the course of the development of science. Also, participation in international scientific conferences can create the possibility of developing new contacts with other researchers that can result in joint research projects, both with other international universities as well as with industrial partners, both local and international.

Such cooperation between the university, industry and international universities can contribute to the development of new experiences in terms of transferring knowledge and new technologies from the university to the industry.

An important element in the advancement of research through internationalization is also the participation of academic staff in post-doctorate studies at international universities.

Internationalization strategic objective 2: Fostering collaborations with international research and knowledge transfer projects					
Indicators	Targets				
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Number of staff participating in various international conferences	2	2	5	8	8
The number of scientific and applied research projects realized in cooperation between international universities	1	1	2	2	3

Establishment of the Knowledge Transfer Center (Knowledge Transfer Center)		1			
The number of post-doctoral studies in international universities	1	1	2	2	3

- **Internationalization strategic objective 3:**

Increasing the visibility of the university in the international arena

For a new university like UASF, it is important for the university to be recognized by various international actors. Therefore, the university sees as very important its visibility as an important factor of internationalization by showing the world what is UASF. One of the elements that contributes to the international visibility of the university is the publication in prestigious international journals within the Scopus and Web of Science platforms by being affiliated/identified with UASF.

Participating in international conferences with scientific papers/presentations or even organizing international conferences at the university is a very important factor that helps the visibility of the university in the international aspect.

Another factor that contributes to the internationalization of the university is the membership of the university in international organizations or forums, but also of the laboratory, which the university plans to develop, in international networks of reference laboratories. Until 2022, the university is a member of the European Association of Institutions in Higher Education (EURASHE).

Internationalization strategic objective 3: Increasing the visibility of the university in the international arena.					
Indicators	Targets				
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Number of papers published in journals indexed in Web of Sciences and Scopus	20	25	30	30	40
Organization of international conferences	-	1	1	1	1
Membership in international university associations		1		1	1
Laboratory networking in the field of research			1	1	1

- **Internationalization strategic objective 4:**

Increasing university's capacities through experiences of international universities

A process of internationalization of the university would be easier if the university works on creating opportunities and increasing its capacities which contribute as supporting pillars of this process. An important element is the signing of new agreements with international universities, through which the possibility of developing inter-institutional cooperation is created.

Increasing the capacities of the university, for which international cooperation is facilitated, is also the participation of the administrative and academic staff in international trainings and workshops for increasing the capacities of the university.

Also, the participation of the quality assurance staff in international quality assurance conferences and forums is a major contribution to increasing the university's capacity in terms of internationalization.

The projects of increasing the capacities of higher education institutions within the ERASMUS+ KA2 program are one of the direct ways of raising the capacities and creating opportunities for the university in its internationalization. Until 2002, the university was and is part of four ERASMUS+ capacity building projects.

An important element in raising the university's capacities in terms of internationalization is the ability of the university's academic staff to design international projects, which the university plans to develop.

Internationalization strategic objective 4: Increasing the university's capacities with the experiences of international universities					
Indicators	Targets				
	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Signing agreements with international academic institutions	1	1	1	2	2
Number of staff participating in various international trainings/workshops	2	2	2	4	4
Number of quality assurance staff attending international quality assurance conferences	1	3	3	3	3
The number of new international projects in cooperation with local / international universities for capacity building (KA2) of the Erasmus+ program.	1	2	2	3	3
Trajnime në hartim e projekteve ndërkombëtare		1		1	

ACTIVITIES

Internationalization strategic objective 1: Advancing the teaching and learning process with the experiences of international universities	Viti 2022	Viti 2023	Viti 2024	Viti 2025	Viti 2026	Responsibility	Expected Results
Activities							
1.1. 1.1. Review of curricula comparing them with the curricula of international universities		X	X	X	X	Vice Rector for Learning, Science and Student Affairs	Curricula comparable to international universities
1.2. Mobility of UASF academic staff in international universities	X	X	X	X	X	Deans/Vice Rector for International Cooperation and Quality Assurance	Outgoing Mobility of academic staff
1.3. Mobility of academic staff of international universities in UASF	X	X	X	X	X	Deans/Vice Rector for International Cooperation and Quality Assurance	Incoming Mobility of academic staff
1.4. Mobility of UASF students to international universities	X	X	X	X	X	Deans/Vice Rector for International Cooperation and Quality Assurance	Outgoing Mobility of students
1.5. Mobility of students of international universities in UASF		X	X	X	X	Deans/Vice Rector for International Cooperation and Quality Assurance	Incoming Mobility of students
1.6. Lectures by international teachers at the university	X	X	X	X	X	Deans/Teachers of subjects	International experience through lectures

Plani i Veprimit të Ndërkombëtarizimit 2022-2026

Internationalization strategic objective 2: Fostering collaborations with international research and knowledge transfer projects	Viti 2022	Viti 2023	Viti 2024	Viti 2025	Viti 2026	Respononsibility	Expected results
Activities							
2.1. Participation in international scientific conferences of the academic staff	X	X	X	X	X	Vice Rector for Teaching, Science and Student Affairs	Participation in conferences
2.2. Development of scientific research projects in cooperation with local industry and international partners	X	X	X	X	X	Vice-Rector for Cooperation with Industry, Practical Work and Commercial Activity/ Vice-Rector for Learning, Science and Student Affairs	Drafted project proposals and project applications
2.3. Establishment of the Knowledge Transfer Center (Knolwedge Transfer Center)		X				Vice Rector for Cooperation with Industry, Practical Work and Commercial Activity	Establishment of the center
2.4. Realization of post-doctoral studies in cooperation with international universities	X	X	X	X	X	Vice Rector for Teaching, Science and Student Affairs	Post-doctoral studies completed

Internationalization strategic objective 3: Increasing the visibility of the university in the international arena	Viti 2022	Viti 2023	Viti 2024	Viti 2025	Viti 2026	Responsibility	Expected results
Activities							
3.1. Publications in prestigious international journals within the Scopus and Web of Science platforms	X	X	X	X	X	Vice Rector for Teaching, Science and Student Affairs	Publications in prestigious international journals within the Scopus and Web of Science platforms
3.2. Organization of conferences, symposiums, seminars, tables, forums, at the local and international level		X	X	X	X	Vice Rector for Teaching, Science and Student Affairs/Deans	Organization of international conferences
3.3. Participation in conferences, symposiums, seminars, tables, forums, at regional and international level	X	X	X	X	X	Vice-Rector for Teaching, Science and Student Affairs/ Vice-Rector for International Cooperation and Quality Assurance / Deans	Participation in international conferences
3.4. Membership in international university organizations and associations		X		X	X	Vice Rector for International Cooperation and Quality Assurance	Membership in international organizations
3.5. Networking in the university laboratory in international laboratory networks			X	X	X	Vice Rector for Cooperation with Industry, Practical Work and Commercial Activity	Membership in the university laboratory in international laboratory networks

Internationalization strategic objective 4: Raising the university's capacities with the experiences of international universities	Viti 2022	Viti 2023	Viti 2024	Viti 2025	Viti 2026	Responsibility	Expected results
Activities							
4.1. Signing new agreements with international universities	X	X	X	X	X	Vice Rector for International Cooperation and Quality Assurance	Signing of international agreements
4.2. Participation in international trainings/workshops for administrative and academic staff	X	X	X	X	X	Vice Rector for International Cooperation and Quality Assurance/General Secretary	Participation in international trainings/works hops
4.3. Participation of quality assurance staff in international quality assurance conferences	X	X	X	X	X	Rector/Vice Rector for International Cooperation and Quality Assurance /Quality assurance officer/coordinartor	Participation in quality assurance conferences
4.4. Participation in capacity building projects within the ERASMU+ KA2 program as a partner	X	X	X	X	X	Deans/Vice Rector for International Cooperation and Quality Assurance	Aplication in projects within the ERASMU+ KA2
4.5. Organization of workshops with academic staff in the design of international projects		X		X		Vice Rector for International Cooperation and Quality Assurance	Participation of academic staff in training

BUDGET

Objectiv	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Internationalization strategic objective 1: Advancing the teaching and learning process with the experiences of international universities	4,000	5,000	10,000	15,000	18,000
Review of curricula comparing them with the curricula of international universities			4,000	8,000	10,000
Mobility of UShAF academic staff in international universities	3,000	3,000	4,000	4,000	5,000
Mobility of academic staff of international universities in UASF					
Mobility of UShAF students to international universities					
Mobility of students of international universities in UASF					
Lectures by international teachers at the university	1,000	2,000	2,000	3,000	3,000
Internationalization strategic objective 2: Fostering collaborations with international research and knowledge transfer projects	7,600	9,600	16,000	18,400	21,400
Participation in international scientific conferences of the academic staff	1,600	1,600	4,000	6,400	6,400
Development of scientific research projects in cooperation with local industry and international partners	3,000	3,000	6,000	6,000	9,000
Establishment of the Knowledge Transfer Center (Knolwedge Transfer Center)		2,000			
Realization of post-doctoral studies in cooperation with international universities ¹	3,000	3,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Internationalization strategic objective 3: Increasing the visibility of the university in the international arena	11,000	35,500	19,500	23,000	26,000
Publications in prestigious international journals within the Scopus and Web of Science platforms	6,000	7,500	9,000	9,000	12,000
Organization of conferences, symposiums, seminars, tables, forums, at the local and international level		5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Participation in conferences, symposiums, seminars, tables, forums, at regional and international level	5,000	20,000	2,500	3,000	3,000
Membership in international university organizations and associations		3,000		3,000	3,000
University laboratory networking in international laboratory networks			3,000	3,000	3,000
Internationalization strategic objective 3: Increasing the visibility of the university in the international arena	3,500	6,500	6,500	6,500	6,500
Signing new agreements with international universities					
Participation in international trainings/workshops for administrative and academic staff					
Participation of quality assurance staff in international quality assurance conferences	1,500	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500
Participation in capacity building projects within the ERASMU+ KA2 program as a partner					
Organization of workshops with academic staff in the design of international projects	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Total	26,100	56,600	52,000	62,900	71,900