

2018-2019 Activity Performance

Economics Department



Behavioral Economics and the Good Life: Insights from Kahneman and the Terman Study

- **Date :** 25/10/2018
- **Target Audience:** *Current Epoka University students from all departments (Expected audience: 99 students)*
- **No. of Participants:** 90
- **Objectives and Expected Impact:** *Support students in making informed life choices and achieving success in life using insights from behavioral economics and longitudinal studies*
- **Specific Goals:**
 - *This activity supports the Economics Department's Strategic Plan 2017-2022 Theme 2 (Recruit, educate and graduate a high-quality and diverse undergraduate student body) by helping students make better life choices during their studies and thereby achieve improved long-term health and emotional and financial well-being. This may also improve Epoka's position in the market by showing current and prospective students that Epoka cares not only about academic achievement, but also holistic well-being by encouraging students to make wise life choices based on science.*
- **Impact evaluation:** *1. The activity attracted many students from other departments and likely helped raise awareness on wider dimensions of economics in many areas of life. 2. High Impact.*



Fun for Science: Play Games-Test Models

- **Date :** 16/11/2018
- **Target Audience:** *Current Epoka University students, especially those in Economics and Political Science and International Relations*
- **No. of Participants:** 20
- **Objectives and Expected Impact:** *Increase interest in and understanding of economic models, including the impact of rules regulating income, property, expenses, and taxation and how adjustments to these rules affect the Lorenz curve and Gini coefficient*
- **Specific Goals:**
 - *This activity supports the Economics Department's Strategic Plan 2017-2022 Themes 1 (Provide a high quality environment for teaching and learning) and 2 (Recruit, educate and graduate a high-quality and diverse undergraduate student body). The activity supports Theme 1 by providing data for staff research into simulations of economic models and Theme 2 by piquing student interest in economics and providing experience in the development and testing of economic hypotheses through games, which may support student success in their future academic and professional careers.*
- **Impact evaluation:** *1. The activity appears to have raised interest in economic models among students. The activity was implemented near the end of the academic year and fewer students participated than expected. 2. Moderate Impact.*



Cross section data analysis

- **Date :** 02/02/2019
- **Target Audience:** Students, staff or Company managers etc.
- **No. of Participants:** 25
- **Objectives and Expected Impact:** *Participants had the opportunity to learn about the exploratory factor analysis, uses and types of the factor analysis and the interpretation of the factor results in theory. On the second part of the training, they put the theory into practice by using the SPSS Program to better understand the variables, to diagnose and check the variables before factor analysis and to derive the conclusions based on the analysis.*
- **Specific Goals:**
 - *Goal 1.1. Attract high quality and diverse academic staff.*
 - *Goal 1.2. Increase the participation of academic staff in trainings in their areas of expertise.*
 - *Goal 1.3. Extend the reach of the department by expanding activities in teaching, learning, and research.*
- **Impact evaluation:** *High Impact.(Important for student awareness and competitive skills.)*



Research Workshop for PhD Students

- **Date :** 4/3/2019
- **Target Audience:** *Students, young researchers, experienced professor and researchers.*
- **No. of Participants:** 20
- **Objectives and Expected Impact:** *To provide the current doctor students and young researchers with feedback and support them to continue with their work.*



- **Specific Goals:**

- *Goal 4.1. Engage in interdisciplinary research, especially through the other departments and research centers of Epoka University.*
- *Goal 5.1. Encourage and support faculty to increase research productivity and quality.*
- *Goal 5.2. Attract and retain quality faculty and strengthen the reputation of the department.*

Impact evaluation: *1. Enriched the PhD program; 2. Participants' Feedbacks was highly satisfactory because of constructive and helpful discussions. 3. **High Impact.***



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3rd Annual Symposium: Taxation Pros and Cons

- **Date :** 3/27/2019
- **Target Audience:** *Faculty/NGOs etc*
- **No. of Participants:**250+
- **Objectives and Expected Impact:** *To recognize various taxation forms and develop a plan to better serve the country. Taxation is always an important topic in politics and business. Exports will bring forth best practices in various countries*

➤ **Specific Goals:**

- *Goal 5.3. Incorporate the three main pillars, teaching, research and contribution to society by increasing the social activities that include academia, businesses/NGOs and governmental bodies.*
- *Goal 5.4. Orient thesis topics/research topics toward the concrete needs and gaps in the Albanian market and beyond.*
- **Impact evaluation:** 1. Invited guest were Mark Craford, President of The American Chambers; Selami Xhepa, Dean- European University Tirana, O. Shehu - Deloitte Albania/Kosovo. Discussion on Taxation went very well, and in a form of conclusion it wasn't the tax rate that it was a problem but it was the tax transparency that it was a problem.;2. Participants' Feedbacks was highly satisfactory;3. **Very High Impact.**



Student Conference on Economics, Finance, Business and Social Sciences, SCE-2019

- **Date :** 24/06/2019
- **Target Audience:.** *Current and prospective students, teachers and interested representatives from companies/institutions/NGOs.*
- **No. of Participants:** 30
- **Objectives and Expected Impact:.** *To encourage students and young researchers present their works and develop their skills. The conference serves as good contributor also for their career development.*
- **Specific Goals:**
 - *Goal 3.3. Offer research opportunities that feature applications to critical national needs, cross-disciplinary knowledge and global economic skills.*
 - *Goal 3.4. Increase our competitiveness for domestic graduate students.*
- **Impact evaluation:** *1. Important for student academic and presentation skills; 2. Increased number of Student publication; 3. High Impact.*





Possible themes: 1. Poverty and inequality. 2. What does economy mean to you?

- **Date :** *5/11/2019*
- **Target Audience:** *High school students*
- **No. of Participants:** *20*
- **Objectives and Expected Impact:** The target is to attract prospective new students.

- **Specific Goals:**
 - *Goal 4.1. Engage in interdisciplinary research, especially through the other departments and research centers of Epoka University.*
 - *Goal 5.1. Encourage and support faculty to increase research productivity and quality*
 - *Goal 5.2. Attract and retain quality faculty and strengthen the reputation of the department.*
- **Impact evaluation:** *No Impact*

“My Contribution to Society”

- **Date :** 6/7/2019
- **Target Audience:** *Masters Students*
- **No. of Participants:** 13
- **Objectives and Expected Impact:** *Student of Master of Sciences in Economics were actively involved in a total of 8 projects the focus of which were based on the Sustainable Development Goals 2030. The project duration was around 3-4 months, but some of them are going to continue their mission ensuring as such a significant impact in the next year/s.*



➤ **Specific Goals:**

- *Goal 4.2. Engage in multi-organizational and multi-national research.*
- *Goal 4.3. Encourage faculty, staff and students to be active in their professional communities.*
- *Goal 5.4. Orient thesis topics/research topics toward the concrete needs and gaps in the Albanian market and beyond..*

- **Impact evaluation:** *1. Improving some local socio-economic issues that needed to be addressed. 2. Participants' Feedbacks were highly satisfactory because of constructive and helpful discussions. 3. High Impact*



"Socio-economic Relationship of Albania and Italy"

- **Date :** 6/3/2019
- **Target Audience:** *Students/Staff/NGOs*
- **No. of Participants:** *More than 100*
- **Objectives and Expected Impact:** *The seminar focused on the importance of the bilateral relation characterized by a huge similarity in cultural legacy. Mr. Sergio Fontana spoke of the performance of association that represents the largest number of Italian companies. After Mr. Fontana, the professor Vincenzo Carbone emphasized the importance of academic cooperation in order to approach our societies. After the institutional greetings Mr.Dritan Bellaj has taken the floor speaking about his company.*
- **Specific Goals:**
 - *Goal 5.1. Encourage and support faculty to increase research productivity and quality.*
 - *Goal 5.3. Incorporate the three main pillars, teaching, research and contribution to society by increasing the social activities that include academia, businesses/NGOs and governmental bodies.*
 - *Goal 5.4. Orient thesis topics/research topics toward the concrete needs and gaps in the Albanian market and beyond.*
- **Impact evaluation:** *1. The activity attracted many economics/business students as they asked many questions regarding how Mr.Dritan Bellaj established his company and how the ease of trade has benefited the business.2. Very High Impact*



"The Young Economists Network Club organizes visit to Bank of Albania"

- **Date :** 5/28/2019
- **Target Audience:** *Students*
- **No. of Participants:** 20
- **Objectives and Expected Impact:** *Everyone had the chance to learn about the history behind the many collections of monetary system coins that existed in the territories of Albania since the 5th century. An interesting aspect that captured the students' attention was seeing from up close the Treasury Room.*



➤ **Specific Goals:**

- *This activity supports the Economics Department's Strategic Plan 2017-2022 Theme 2 (Recruit, educate and graduate a high-quality and diverse undergraduate student body) by helping students make better life choices during their studies and thereby achieve improved long-term health and emotional and financial well-being. This may also improve Epoka's position in the market by showing current and prospective students that Epoka cares not only about academic achievement, but also holistic well-being by encouraging students to make wise life choices based on science.*
- **Impact evaluation:** *1. Students got to see the historical side of Albania's National Bank and also learn about the monetary system. 2. Interactive economic games and forming new connections valuable for their future career. 3. High impact*



"EU enlargement in the Western Balkans and the Integration Process of Albania"

- **Date :** 5/21/2019
- **Target Audience:** Students/Staff/Other representatives
- **No. of Participants:** 15
- **Objectives and Expected Impact:** *Students participated in an open lecture where Ms. Mona Xhexhaj representative of **European Movement Albania (EMA)** was invited to discuss with the students about the EU Enlargement in the Western Balkans and the Integration Process of Albania. She gave a deeper insight regarding the European Union enlargement policy in WBC, explained the process of Albanian integration in EU, its challenges and expected upcoming events.*



➤ **Specific Goals:**

- *Goal 5.1. Encourage and support faculty to increase research productivity and quality.*
- *Goal 5.3. Incorporate the three main pillars, teaching, research and contribution to society by increasing the social activities that include academia, businesses/NGOs and governmental bodies.*
- *Goal 5.4. Orient thesis topics/research topics toward the concrete needs and gaps in the Albanian market and beyond.*
- **Impact evaluation:** *1. Students got to see the historical side of Albania's National Bank and also learn about the monetary system. 2. Interactive economic games and forming new connections valuable for their future career.*
- **High impact**



"Open lecture on Working Capital Management and Financial Planning"

- **Date :** 11/22/2019
- **Target Audience:** Students/Staff/Other representatives
- **No. of Participants:** 40
- **Objectives and Expected Impact:** *Mr. Daniel Davidhi who has been working at Deloitte Albania for 8 years was invited to provide a deeper and practical knowledge on the working capital management which refers to a company's managerial accounting strategy focusing in management of inventories, cash, accounts payable and accounts receivable. The importance of working capital management stands in the fact that it is related and directly affects the profitability of a firm. He explained the working capital management policies and factors affecting it.*

➤ **Specific Goals:**

- *Goal 2.4. Equip our undergraduates with skills that will put them in high demand for internships.*
- *Goal 3.3. Offer research opportunities that feature applications to critical national needs, cross-disciplinary knowledge and global economic skills.*
- *Goal 5.3. Incorporate the three main pillars, teaching, research and contribution to society by increasing the social activities that include academia, businesses/NGOs and governmental bodies.*
- *Goal 5.4. Orient thesis topics/research topics toward the concrete needs and gaps in the Albanian market and beyond.*
- **Impact evaluation:** *1. Students got to see the historical side of Albania's National Bank and also learn about the monetary system. 2. Interactive economic games and forming new connections valuable for their future career.*
- **High impact**





Thank You!

October 2019