

ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT

A background image showing a group of young women playing volleyball on an outdoor court. A player in a white shirt is jumping high to hit the ball over the net, while others in black and white uniforms are positioned around the court.

DEAN OF STUDENTS

**2017-2018
ACADEMIC YEAR**

Table of Contents

Contents

Table of Contents	1
ABOUT DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE	4
STUDENTS CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES OFFICE.....	5
Welcome Ceremony.....	6
CLUBS FEST 2017	7
Spring Fest 2018	8
1. ACADEMICS CLUB	10
1.1 Rugova Trip	10
2. ARTAND CULTURE CLUB	12
2.1 Art and Culture club helped in organizing Welcome Ceremony	12
2.2 Art and Culture club helped in organizing Spring Fest 2018.....	12
3. CONFLICT RESOLUTION CLUB	13
3.1 Open Forum_Mr. Erion Skënderaj	13
3.2 Training_No Hate Speech.....	13
4. FINANCE CLUB.....	15
4.1 Training on Financa 5 Software	15
5. FUTURE ENGINEERS CLUB	16
5.1 Excursion Trip to Budapest	16
5.3 Open Lecture_Health and Safety on Construction Site	18
6. INNOVATORS CLUB	19
6.1. Key to Success 5.0	19
6.2 LEAP Summit Albania	20
6.3 Blockchain Western Balkans Workshop	22
6.4 The key to success 6.0.....	23
6.5 EpokaTalks	24
7.MARKETING ZONE.....	25
7.1 Brain Ring Competition	25
7.2 Brain Ring Competition Final	26

8. SENSITIVE SOCIETY CLUB	27
8.1 Charity Program- A Postcard Full of Love	27
8.2 Visits to Families in Need	27
8.4 Celebrating the Children's Day	29
8.7 Sensitive Society Club Helped at organization of Spring Fest.....	30
9.1 Sports and Games Day	32
9.2 Football Championship 2018	34
9.3 Epoka League 2018	35
9.4 Open Forum_ Lorik Cana	36
10. WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CLUB	37
10.1 Discussion Panel.....	37
10.2 Women's Leadership Club attend activity held by Vodafone Albania on Digital Women	38
10.3 It Wasn't My Fate	39
10.4 Student Conference and Mostar Trip 2018	40
11.1 Open Forum_Mr. Spiro Brumbulli Albanian System of Banks	41
CAREER PLANNING AND ALUMNI OFFICE	42
2.1 Information Session on Career Opportunities at Abkons	43
2.2 Digital Marketing and Internship Program at Local Web	44
2.3 Mentorship Program.....	45
2.4 "Epoka" students visit Coca Cola	46
2.6 Study abroad information session	47
2.7 Fifth Career Fair	48
2.8 Update Alumni records	49
2. 8.1 Statistics on Bachelor Alumni Status.....	49
2. 8.2 Bachelor Alumni Statistics according to the graduation year	49
2. 8.3 Statistics according to the study program	49
2.9 Meeting one to one with graduating students.....	55
2.10 Summer Internship	55
2.11 Career Training with Raiffeisen Bank.....	56

ABOUT DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE

The Dean of Students office is responsible for the planning, support, advocacy and coordination of various educational programs and resources for students. The office aims at ensuring that the welfare of the students is catered for physically, academically, emotionally, intellectually, socially and spiritually. All the activities and programs of the office of the Dean of Students are aimed at this wholesome development.

Goals and Objectives:

- To provide a confidential, safe, respectful and welcoming space where our students can openly and honestly voice their concerns
- To act as a supportive liaison between our students, faculty and staff
- To advocate on behalf of fairness, justice, open communication and expeditious resolution.
- To empower our students that they can be successful in meeting their intellectual, interpersonal and developmental goals.
- Organizes, coordinates, expands and manages relationships between students of Epoka University within and outside the Epoka University to third or similar counterparts, for connecting and strengthening bilateral and multilateral
- Guarantees students' life in Epoka University, the implementation of agreements with third parties focused on students
- Promote a healthy, safe campus community

STUDENTS CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES OFFICE

EPOKA University develops all the skills you need for the future. Student's clubs are established on academic bases and make possible and develop interpersonal relationships between students and also build leadership skills.

The social and cultural activities give students a better understanding of life and bring about cultural exchange between students from different parts of Albania, the Balkans and the beyond.

For these reason, a variety of social and cultural activities are available to the students of Epoka University. The programs are organized by Students Clubs & Activities Office, part of the Dean of Students Office.

Welcome Ceremony



EPOKA University organized on October 15, 2018 an official Welcome Ceremony for all freshman students at the beginning of 2018-2019 Academic Year. During the Welcoming Ceremony all students were welcomed by distinguished speakers from the university, Alumni and the freshman students too. Students were part of this ceremony today to celebrate the start of their studies at EPOKA University with traditional music dancers and many Albanian singers like: Selma Bekteshi, Jonias Papa & Enias Papa, Aroilda Ibrahim and Mishela Rapo. We thank them for the positive energy that gave today's ceremony and the beautiful atmosphere. Welcome Ceremony is the perfect opportunity to meet other students and staff of the university and its faculties!

CLUBS FEST 2017



On Tuesday, December 5th 2017, the Dean of Students Office of Epoka University organized the fourth Clubs Fest. This one-day activity gave students the opportunity to represent their clubs, ideas and welcome new members to be part of them.

Joining a student club opens the door to build new friendships, enhancing your academic life and exploring career opportunities. As an active member of a student organization, you will learn important leadership and management skills as you participate in a variety of programs. This may include planning campus-wide political, academic, cultural, arts, religious or social events, as well as working on various aspects of student publications, competing in athletic competitions or debate tournaments, attending leadership seminars and organizing community service projects.

The event included a variety of activities, where our talented students performed in front of a very enthusiastic audience.

Spring Fest 2018



On May 10, 2018, Epoka University organized the Spring Fest 2018, a yearly tradition now, which gives the students the opportunity to enjoy many activities and have a special day dedicated to their amusement.

This year collaborating with “Sensitive Society” and other clubs, Spring Fest came together with a good cause. It was symbolically with tickets, so with the money collected to help a sick toddler.

The students supported it strongly and were very willing to cooperate. The fest started with the opening ceremony, welcoming speeches and then continued with games and talents competition organized by “Art and Culture” Club.

Also there were the Henna tattoo and flower crowns stands which attracted lots of students during the day.

DJ Retno was one of the key performers, who was available all day and kept up the harmony of the fest.

Around 14:00 started the music festival with the singers: Xhon Jesku, Gent Deda, Xhesika Polo, Klint Collaku, Ermal Xhafa.

Around 16:30 the singers Yll Limani, Petro Xhori, Irkenc Hyka, Xheisara and Aldo Bardhi were the last performers.

All the singers created a lively and colorful atmosphere among the students



1. ACADEMICS CLUB

1.1 Rugova Trip

On May 19, Academics Club organized a one day trip to Rugova with Epoka students. The students travelled to the north of Albania to arrive in Peja, Kosovo. During the trip, the guide explained to the student's different famous landmarks and the historical meaning behind them. Once arriving in Peja, the students had the opportunity to try the famous Zipline in Rugova for a very adventurous experience. Also, the trip included the visit to Radaci Cave in Peja and the sightseeing of White Drin waterfall. Through this trip, the students enjoyed Kosovo's culture and beautiful landscape and its most prominent features in Peja. The aim of this trip was to give Epoka students a lasting experience in Kosovo, learn something new about the history of the North of Albania and become part of Academics Club future activities.





2. ARTAND CULTURE CLUB

2.1 Art and Culture club helped in organizing Welcome Ceremony

Art and culture club members took part in organizing Welcome Ceremony in the opening year 2017-2018. Their talented members created a very joyful atmosphere by singing different songs. Moreover, the talented dance group satisfied all the students and invited them to dance also. The decoration of the stage and all the atmosphere created were credit to art and culture members.

2.2Art and Culture club helped in organizing Spring Fest 2018

Art and culture club helped organizing spring fest 2018. Firstly, Epoka talent is a competition that is made every year in university and each year art and culture club comes with new ideas. This year the winner of Epoka talents was chosen live on Spring Fest.

Furthermore art and culture club helped in making decorations and flower crown for girls. Their brilliant and creative ideas made the Spring fest look wonderful.

3. CONFLICT RESOLUTION CLUB

3.1 Open Forum_Mr. Erion Skënderaj



An open forum with Albanian journalist Erion Skënderaj was organized by the Conflict Resolution Club on May 4, 2018. Mr. Skënderaj spoke of recent social and economic policies in Albania and their implications as of today. The forum also included a discussion with the club members and other students on necessary improvements to be done

3.2 Training_No Hate Speech



Conflict Resolution Club Epoka in collaboration with US Youth Council organized a two days training session at Epoka Campus during 13-14 January 2018. The focus group of the training was 20 young from Kamza High School. The participants were accompanied at the Conference Hall by US Youth Council members and Conflict Resolution Club members.

Firstly they did registration process of youngsters coming from Kamza and then a short presentation of Epoka University. The main points of this presentation included: admission, Erasmus+ possibilities, Faculties, Library, Master and PhD possibilities and Clubs and Activities inside the Campus.

After that, the participants had the chance to hear a presentation of the project and US Youth Council by the project manager Naga Habilaj and communication manager Ilda Methasani and made a pre-test to identify their knowledge, lack of knowledge and personal opinion regarding the topic. Mr. Luis Bekteshi held a presentation by over the campaign of No Hate Speech Movement, the reasons why it was developed, the challenges and the impact since its creation.

Participants saw a video to clarify hate speech cases and develop critical thinking over these issues. Then the participants still continued the discussion over hate speech. They gave their own opinions regarding this topic.

For one hour the members of Conflict Resolution Club of Epoka addressed the training. Firstly there was a short presentation of the club and club activities by Ms. Ajsela Toci. Then another presentation was hold from the President of the club Ms. Orjana Bani and Vice-president of the club Mr. Xheferson Cela. They presented the toolkits with 12 important skills that are needed to deal with conflicts and how to develop these skills on their own.

After these presentations, there were the group dynamics in order to deal with some case studies and to develop team working skills.

First of all there was a brain storming process, and then during the group dynamics, there was the process of analyzing the case studies and identification of hate speech. During this process they had the possibility to present their work with gestures and posters, and deliver their message. Each group worked on a poster that later was placed inside the school.

4. FINANCE CLUB

4.1 Training on Financa 5 Software



The Finance Club of Epoka University, in collaboration with the Department of Banking and Finance, started the six-week training “Financa 5” from April 1, 2017. Through this training, where more than 100 students and staff members of Epoka University participated, intends the qualification and preparation of the participants as potential actors in the labor market. In a really special form, this training connects the theoretical basis of Accounting with the practical skills of using the computer software “Financa5”.

“Financa 5” is well known software in the field of accounting. This program is broadly used for the financial administration of companies and makes the continuous economical data entry easier.

At the end of the training, certificates were awarded to all the participants.

5. FUTURE ENGINEERS CLUB

5.1 Excursion Trip to Budapest



The first trip of this year, organized by ***Future Engineers Club*** took place from *3rd to 6th of March*. FEC Members, Civil Engineering Students from 1st and 2nd year participated, as well as professors from Civil Engineering department. Differently from the excursions organized by the club last year, this one was abroad, in Budapest, one of the most visited capitals of Europe. The trip consisted of many activities as its aim other than social was also sightseeing. We started the first day with a visit at the Grand Park of Budapest situated in the north-east part of the city. The trees were covered with snow and the pond was filled with kids who were ice skating. The evenings in Budapest were absolutely very beautiful. We took a walk along the Danube river while enjoying the beautiful sights of the city at night. During the other days the group visited all Budapest's most famous attractions starting with *Buda Castle*, *Fisherman's Bastion*, *Matthias Church*, *The Heroes Square*, *Citadella* with a breath-taking view of the whole city, *The Hungarian National Museum and Gallery*, *The Shoes Memorial* along Danube which was in memorial of the Jewish people killed during the second world war and last but the most important place for its architecture and its greatness, *The Hungarian Parliament building*. This was the most beautiful building in Budapest. It was constructed during the 19-20th century. And we must also mention the famous bridges of Budapest which connect the Buda and the Pest part of the city. *Liberty Bridge (truss bridge)* and *Elisabeth Bridge (cable stayed bridge)*. Future Engineers Club would like to thank all students who were present in this activity for their contribution and support. At the same time, FEC is strongly suggesting all students to be part of different activities.

5.2 Workshop Designing a Column



Future Engineers Club constructed a model of a column. The aim of this model was to clearly determine and recognize all the parts of a column. The construction phase took one week. Firstly, we modeled the structure in AutoCAD software, which is a computer aided design developed by Autodesk. In the CAD modeling there were modeled the elements of a real scaled column which consists of:

- steel bars
- shear links
- form work
- concrete

The diameter of this column is 14cm and reaches a height of 60cm. There were used 6 steel bars with a diameter of 0.3cm to represent the steel bars of a regular column.

The next step was to link these bars. This link was made with a soft ware that surrounds the bars in a spiral way. In the final step the reinforcement is inserted into a cubic mold and it is filled with concrete.

After 3 days the column was removed from the cement.

5.3 Open Lecture_Health and Safety on Construction Site



On April 4th, 2018, the Department of Civil Engineering in collaboration with Future Engineers Club welcomed Mr. Paolo Topalli as a guest speaker to have an open lecture on the Health and Safety on Construction Site.

Mr. Paolo Topalli is currently working as a HSS Advisor at Technip Italy SA, TAP Project Albania and is graduated on Construction Engineering at Polytechnic University of Ancona, Italy on 2012.

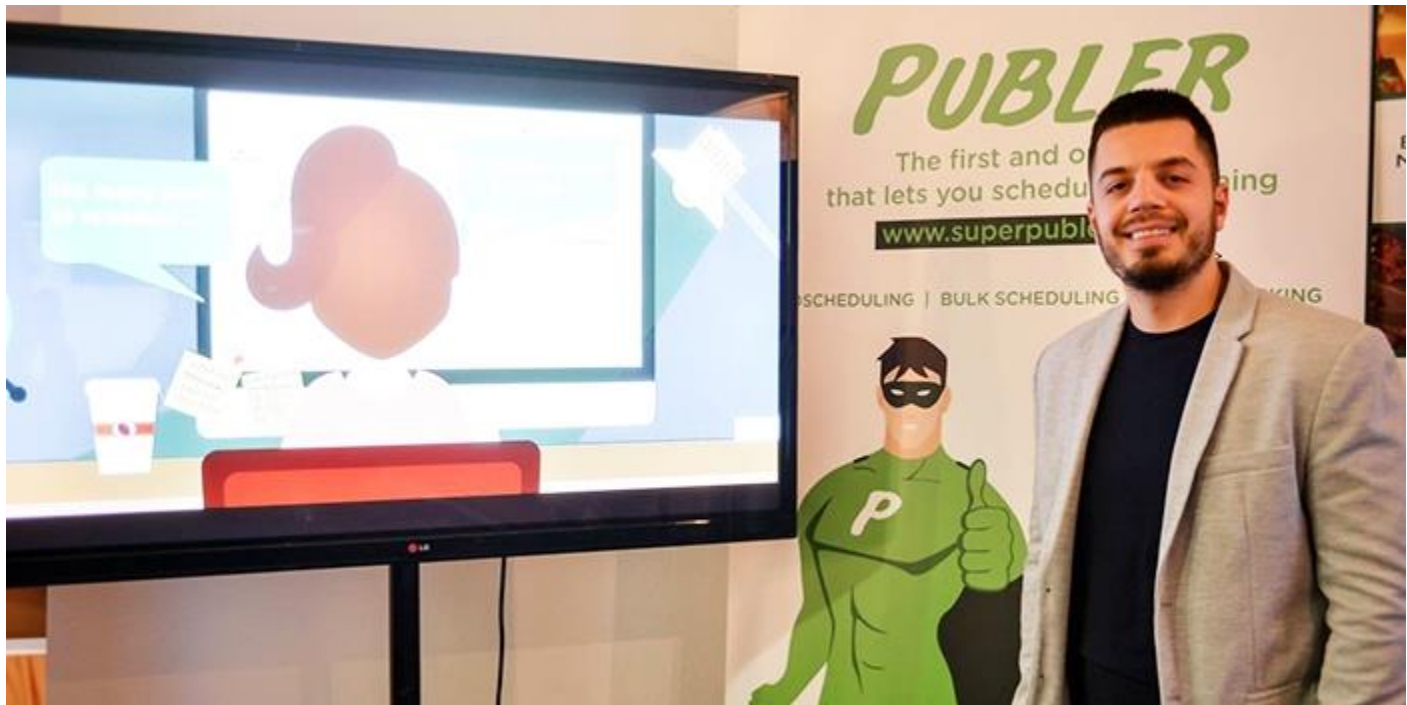
Health and Safety at Work is a dedicated sector now in Albania and addresses a wide range of issues and problems. Consequently, this new profile created by the dynamics of our modern society uses different means and techniques to achieve the objectives. Nowadays, complexity has reached such a level that it is not about regulations or procedures, but the need for a proper Health and Safety Management system is emerged and regulated by domestic legislation, EU norms, and best business practices.

How Health and Safety affects in the management of a construction site was at the core of the discussion with the students.

Finally, general conclusions and drawbacks were outlined. At the end, students of Civil Engineering Department were welcomed to ask questions and express their ideas about the discussed topics.

6. INNOVATORS CLUB

6.1. Key to Success 5.0



On November 8th, the Innovators student club had their first guest for the "The Key to Success" Seminars(2017-2018 academic year), Mr. Ervin Kalemi, CEO, Founder and Developer of Publer. Mr. Kalemi talked about his application Publer, the virtual superhero that manages social media, how he got the idea and what it took to develop it. He also shared some stories about his life, challenges he has faced and how he managed to overcome them. Even though he was working as a programmer in USA in one of the best startups nowadays, Mr. Kalemi decided to go after his dream, that of creating his own innovative business. Even though many people did not believe in his vision, this did not stop him from working day and night to create Publer.

He then answered many questions the students had and advised them about the “after university” life.

Mr. Kalemi was delighted and even nostalgic to be back to university, since according to him, this is one of the best periods in one's life and he advised us to make the best out of it.

6.2 LEAP Summit Albania



LEAP Summit Albania hosted 6 speakers who held motivational speeches based on their true life experience, making each participant go in retrospective with them in order to witness their struggles, crossroads, and their hard work which eventually led to their personal success. The speakers were well-known individuals which have succeeded in areas of business, politics, entrepreneurship etc.

The first speaker was CEO of American Hospital Mr. Klodian Allajbeu. He shared with the audience the struggles he had to overcome in order to build his hospital in Albania. Some advice that he shared with us was to be decent human beings and to always think at the end of the day “What did I achieve today? What did I do to improve myself?”

The second speaker was the councilor of Presevo Municipality, Mr. Almin Shaqiri. He shared with us the challenges that Albanians living in Kosovo, especially in Presevo, were facing daily due to nationality discrimination.

The next speaker was Mr. Adion Gorani who talked about his business WebHost and what he had to do to make it a successful business like it is nowadays. WebHost LTD nowadays is a leading domain name registrar and web hosting company. Today, WebHost has over 6,000 clients and manages over 7,000 domains.

Another speaker was Ermal Jauri, CEO of Europe Agency, who was giving advice on job opportunities that youngsters had nowadays. Even though according to him, young people today don't have courage to pursue their dreams as they should. As he said, "No door opens unless you knock on it."

The youngest guest was Kastriot Luma, Leader of Youth Assembly of Kosovo. He shared with us his experiences on volunteering organizations and how they developed him as a person.

The last but not least, was Prof. Erion Nako, Expert in TIK and Telecommunication and also the Management Information System professor in the previous year in Epoka university, talked about digital transformations and innovation, topics that affects our life daily. His knowledge fascinated the audience, since the information was given in a simple, straightforward and understandable way and sometimes even by including some humor which made the audience feel more relaxed.

6.3 Blockchain Western Balkans Workshop



On Wednesday, March 21, Innovators Club in collaboration with Blockchain Western Balkans community brought Blockchain Western Balkans workshop. Mr. Klajdi Turlla was the representative of community and talked about Bitcoin and Blockchain. His presentation consisted of three main parts:

- 1- Introduction to Bitcoin
- 2- From Bitcoin toward Blockchain
- 3- Application in actuality

In order to understand Bitcoin and Blockchain, one must understand that cryptocurrency is not related to the financial currency that banks use, since it isn't centralized. There are about 1000 different cryptocurrencies in the market. The first decentralized cryptocurrency is Bitcoin. There is no information about its creator/s, but the attributes go to a person known as Satoshi Nakamoto. The operation of these scattered currencies is based on a protocol known as Blockchain. Blockchain records data on digital transactions.

Since this technology is very secure and independent, it is "embraced" by highly developed countries. For example in the US there are a large number of users of cryptocurrencies. Countries that have welcomed this technology are European countries such as Denmark, Estonia and the Netherlands. Denmark is going through digital payments while in Estonia there is a broader approach. Blockchain in the Nordic country is being used in healthcare, banking systems and also in government. In the Netherlands there is a city called Arnhem where you can live without problems with Bitcoins, including buying everything starting from food till to accommodation.

6.4 The key to success 6.0



On March 28, the Innovators Club had invited Mr. Turjan Hyska, CEO of Falco and a TV producer, to "The key to Success 6.0" to talk about his experience in entrepreneurship and his path toward success. The meeting was held in the conference hall and it was attended by a lot of students, who showed great interest. Mr. Hyska talked about his first application "We tick" which was similar to Instagram in the aspect of photos, but had many other features which at that time Instagram didn't have. But there were some problems with the implementation of application, which caused it to fail and to break often. Months later Instagram updated new features which "We tick" application had, so it was pointless to continue with that app. Again Mr. Hyska didn't give up, but came up with a new idea and the newest application called "Falco" which attracted a lot of users in Tirana. Mr. Hyska talked about his plan to develop the application further with some new features that will attract a lot more users. He also talked about his program "Do you have an idea?" which promotes new entrepreneur ideas and aims to help anyone who has an interesting and creative idea. There was held a question and answer session in the end, where Mr. Hyska answered the questions the students had and encouraged them to continue trying and developing new ideas and to never give up.

6.5 EpokaTalks



On May 24th, 'EpokaTalks' was organized for the first time at Epoka University by 5 students of Innovators Club. They wanted to bring the motivational spirit of these kind of events at Epoka, since they strongly believe that connecting, listening and sharing with other peers directly affects everybody's personal development. There were ten speakers participating, which were divided into two sessions. The list of speakers and the respective topics were as above: 1. Kei Hysi- 'Love yourself first' 2. Kelvin Cobanaj- 'Keep Going...' 3. Klajdi Ballanca- 'Bit by bit the greatest work is done' 4. Teadora Suku- 'My Story' 5. Shejlda Domnori- 'My willpower formula' 6. Ditjona Lila- 'Cheers to Failure' 7. Tuqa Rahman- 'Identity Struggle' 8. Bleona Duka- 'This can't be done, can be done' 9. Franceska Picari- 'How to succeed in public speaking?' 10. Gestjan Mekshi- 'If you like your job, you like your life' Through 'EpokaTalks' students got to know more about each other's success, difficulties, efforts and personal experiences. The organizer staff: Kei Hysi, Panajota Baka, Judoris Merkaj, Fiorela Marra and Debora Abduramanaj, encourages everybody to be part of organizations like this, since it will give you a lesson that university will not. We appreciate so much the work that our students did and we wish them luck in every achievement they will have in the future.

7.MARKETING ZONE

7.1 Brain Ring Competition



Between the dates 16-20 April 2018, the student club Marketing Zone organized the first phase of the Brain Ring Competition. This year, the competition included only the high schools placed in Tirana. On behalf of the competition, 110 high school students from 12 different schools visited the Campus of Epoka University.

Brain Ring is a soviet game dating back at 1989. Brain Ring is very popular especially in some former soviet republics like Azerbaijan and Lithuania (in Lithuania this game is known as Protmušis). Nowadays Brain Ring has become an interesting competition format especially in Azerbaijan. The questions that are presented in Brain Ring require both knowledge and the ability to think logically. They might be related to various fields such as history, arts, business etc.

This unique format competition for Albania was held for the first time on May 12, 2015 among 12 high schools with only one phase. 96 students on teams each composed of six students visited Epoka University on May 12, 2015. The competition winners were the students of Harry Fultz Institute.

In the following year (2016) Brain Ring 2 took place at the premises of Epoka University. During March 29, 30, 31 and April 01, 04; at the semifinals held in the premises of Epoka University participated 120 high school students from 20 high schools. The competition winners were the students of Turgut Ozal College.

This year Marketing Zone organized Brain Ring 3. After the first phase; the final will be hold on May 4, 2018 at the Epoka University Library among the students of Qemal Stafa High School, Besnik Sykja High School, Turgut Ozal College, and Mehmet Akif-Girls.

7.2 Brain Ring Competition Final



Student club Marketing Zone organized the final of the Brain Ring competition on May,2 at the premises of Epoka University Campus. In the final that was held at the Library of Epoka University 30 students in 6 different teams from `Qemal Stafa` high school, `Turgut Ozal College`, `Besnik Sykja` high school, and `Mehmet Akif College` challenged each other in this unique format competition. At the end of 13 questions, the winner of Brain Ring 3 was `Turgut Ozal College`. `Besnik Sykja` high school team came second with only 1 point of difference.

For the winners EMR stationery provided coupon gift in the amount of 7.000 ALL for each team member. Furthermore, the winning team members will be awarded 20% scholarship for the programs Business Informatics, International Marketing and Logistics Management, and Business Administration in case they decide to pursue their studies at Epoka University.

In the final that lasted 70 minutes students were asked to give answers that incorporated their Business, and Marketing related topics knowledge with the critical thinking.

This competition was organized by the students of International Marketing and Logistics Management students. In these contexts, special credits go to Didjona Lila, Gerti Rrotani, Judoris Merkaj, and Zhaklin Bano.

8. SENSITIVE SOCIETY CLUB

8.1 Charity Program- A Postcard Full of Love



Sensitive Society” club has decided to join in helping the children of SOS village. Those children had prepared some postcards for Christmas and New Year, and club contributed to sell them. The motto of this activity was: Each one of you can help by buying at least one. In this way you make two people feel good. The one you send the postcard to and the child to whom this money will help.

8.2 Visits to Families in Need



On December 30, 2017 sensitive society club delivered food to some families in need of help. They are extremely poor and the environment where they live is in very bad conditions. They also have some family members who are paralyzed. Since this year is ending and there is a festive atmosphere about the New Year, we tried to conduct the positive energy to them too.

Even though it’s difficult to make them forget their problems, we

tried to make them feel a bit better and at least their table for the New Year dinner to be fuller. On 19 April 2018, some members of “Sensitive Society Club” with the money gathered from the planting of trees activity, visited some poor families in the suburbs of Tirana and distributed food. It is very hard to make them forget all the problems they deal with everyday, but at least for a short moment when they see that someone is helping them and showing care they smile at us happily and gratefully. Those moments make us very happy too and make us wanting to do more to help them. We know that we can’t help everyone, but each of us can help someone.

8.3 Planting Trees

On March 20, students of Epoka University planted their own tree. The idea of this event, organized by Sensitive Society Club, was that each or more than one student could buy a tree and plant it at an assigned place. The money collected from trees would be used to buy food and deliver it to poor families. Each tree had a specific number and the students wrote their name according to the number of the tree. Later the names would be printed in thick plastic paper and hung to the specific tree, in order for the names to resist rain and wind. In this way they left a mark of their presence and it will be a good memory in the future when they visit again the university and find their tree. A lot of students took part in this activity and they enjoyed it a lot.





8.4 Celebrating the Children's Day

On June 4th, in Epoka University were invited some orphan children by "Sensitive Society" Club to celebrate the children's day. There were organized some activities with music and games to entertain them. Students of Epoka University during the previous week donated clothes, toys and money for these children. The clothes and toys were packed and were given to the children, while with the money gathered food was bought and given to them. Students had a lot of fun by playing with them and entertaining them. This activity made them happy too when they saw the joy and delight in children's eyes. It was a beautiful day.



8.5 Book donation

Books are a uniquely portable magic. This was the reason why Sensitive Society Club opened a campaign in donating different books to many children. With the slogan of “Donate a book for a kid to grow” Sensitive Society made a great call by encouraging all students to make a very small act and to donate different books from their childhood. Students participated in this activity by donating appropriate books for children or/ with patriotic topics. For realizing this campaign some boxes were put on the entrance of canteen where students donated their childhood books. All books collected were a very beautiful present for children in need. The aim of this activity was to make students donate more and of course to encourage children to read more books.

8.7 Sensitive Society Club Helped at organization of Spring Fest

At 10 May 2017, Sensitive Society Club took part at the organization of Spring Fest 2018. This year Spring Fest was made for a special and sensible purpose. The aim of Spring Fest this year was to help one of our sanitary’s daughter. This was the reason why Sensitive Society, in collaboration with the dean of students, decided to make tickets with a very low cost. These tickets were bought by students and all the money earned, went for the curation of the little girl. Sensitive Society members were all very occupied in the organization of the Spring Fest. They created decoration for the university and students. Also, they took part in the organization of many activities like food fair, henna tattoo, blood donation, and discussions with distinguished guests, sport competitions, and a lot of funny games.

Members of Sensitive society in collaboration with the university invited five singers to become part of the Spring Fest. Singers brought a very good atmosphere and students, especially freshman, were very content to be part of the festival. It should be emphasized that Epoka University invented also a group of students in “Turgut Ozal” high school, who also donated a considerable sum in respect for the aim of the organization of spring fest.

Sensitive Society Club, expect of successfully organizing the greatest activity of the university, did a very good work in the promotion of the Spring Fest and in selling all tickets to students. Helping in organization of the Spring Fest by Sensitive Society Club was very appreciated by the dean of students, university and other students.





8.8 Blood Donation

One of the greatest and sensible activities made at Epoka University is the blood donation. Sensitive Society Club was present all three days by making calls for the donation of blood to all students. Members of Sensitive club created posters and banners everywhere on university for promoting this important activity. Almost all members of the club donated blood for people in need. The call of club members was so big that staff of university participated in this activity by donating blood too.

After taking care that all the students have heard for the activity, Sensitive Society Club helped nurses by securing the necessary conditions in order to realize this activity. Since the participation of the students was great, other club members took care of the row and making sure that every student, willing to donate blood, would be able to give his/her help to people in need. After this activity Sensitive Society Club was very content for the participation of students and grateful to all staff members of university that donated blood and helped them to archive another successful activity.

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9. SPORTS CLUB

9.1 Sports and Games Day

On January 18 2018 Sports Club organized the “Sports and Games Day” at Epoka University. The whole day was loaded with different exercises, where heaps of students from each department took an interest.

The fundamental reason for the Sports and Games day was to offer the students a day loaded with games and fun.

There were eleven recreations part of this movement amid the whole day. Right off the bat, the occasion began with ping pong and chess titles where understudies contended among themselves. At that point, the volleyball and football matches occurred among groups made out of understudies from various offices.

Other games that attracted interest were the treasury hunt, monopoly and jenga.

The Sports and Games Day ended up being a fruitful thought that accumulated numerous students and furnished them with an innovative day at Epoka University





9.2 Football Championship 2018



On February 1, 2018 the final of the "Epoka Football Championship" took place. In the finals were faced the Business Administration departments "Binf 17" and Arch "Arch 4", this match was very strong and full of emotions. The regular time ended with the result 3: 3 and in the minutes of the extra time the "Binf 17" team scored another 2 goals that gave victory to Binf 17 team with the final result 5: 3. At the end of the game, the coach of the team of the University of Z.KlejdiZenelaj handed the winning team to the trophy. This was the first trophy for this team.

EPOKA Sports Club organized the "Epoka Football Championship". This championship was developed between departments at EPOKA University where 22 teams participated.

9.3 Epoka League 2018



Epoka League: International Football Championship for high schools is a mini football tournament between high schools in Albania, Balkans, and broader. Sports are good for mind, body, and spirit. Furthermore, sports teams are good for learning accountability, dedication, and leadership; among many other traits. Putting it all together by endorsing sports activities is a winning one combination. So we chose football as the region's most popular sport to encourage young generations to practice physical activity.

The tournament took place in two phases: the preliminary phase between high schools in Albania and the finals that took place at the premises of Epoka University Campus.

9.4 Open Forum_ Lorik Cana



On May 18, 2018, the former captain of Albanian National Team of Football, Lorik Cana visited our University and had a friendly conversation with our students on his personal life related topics, his football carrier including the 14 years with Albanian National Team, and several clubs like Paris Saint-Germain, Olympique de Marseille, Sunderland, Lazio, Galatasaray, Nantes and his current occupation including Cana Foundation.

10. WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CLUB

10.1 Discussion Panel

Discussion Panel: Dr. Ahart and Dr. Demaliaj Speak at Epoka University on the Incidence and Prevention of Gender Based Violence



Discussion Panel: Dr. Ahart and Dr. Demaliaj Speak at Epoka University on the Incidence and Prevention of Gender Based Violence

Dr. Eliona Demaliaj and Dr. Ariel Ahart spoke today on issues of gender based violence in a panel discussion organized by the Epoka University Women's Leadership Club and the Mother and Child Hospital Foundation (FSNF).

The talk was opened by Qimile Zdrava, President of the Women's Leadership Club, who introduced the Club and welcomed the guests.

Dr. Demaliaj is the Director of the Obstetrics and Gynecology University Hospital "Queen Geraldine" and spoke on gender based violence (GBV) from a medical perspective, including rates of GBV, manifestations of GBV, and the impact of GBV on the health of women, including of mothers and babies.

Dr. Ahart, an expert in the field of GBV with extensive international experience in the US, Asia, and Europe, shared the global perspective on GBV, including dimensions of GBV, risk factors, and prevention.

Gerta Hagen, Executive Director of FSNF, served as moderator of the session and shared FSNF's efforts to combat GBV through the #CelebrateHer (#LumturiaeSaj) campaign focused on building positive relationships between the genders.

In the Q&A time following the panel discussion, students posed a number of questions to the panelists, including how one should respond if GBV has already occurred and what place there was, if any, for forgiveness for repentant perpetrators of GBV.

Semra Yerlikaya, Vice-Dean of Students at Epoka University, thanked contributors for their time and in sharing the issues of GBV with the audience.

The panel discussion was designed to facilitate wider discussion and encourage action towards improving relationships on campus and beyond.

10.2 Women's Leadership Club attend activity held by Vodafone Albania on Digital Women



Women's Leadership Club members attended today an activity organized by Vodafone Albania, in the framework of International Women's Day focusing on the role of women in technology. This activity was separated into three sessions.

The first session involved a *Webinar on Innovation Series: Digital Women*. Five young and passionate female entrepreneurs shared their personal experiences as leaders on their IT-oriented companies and promoted their start-ups through this live webinar. One of the most interesting

start-ups was *Gyana*, an app that helps businesses operate on the digital world by helping them connect to their customers in a digital aspect by providing to businesses data on their customers preferences, tastes and interests.

The second session involved a *Talk on FB analytics/Google analytics*. Two Vodafone employees of the Marketing and Branding Department presented to the audience their findings on Albania's average usage of social media, how Vodafone in partnership with Facebook targets online ads tailored to customer preferences and finally shared some tips on how to grow your Instagram page to attract a large number of followers.

The third and the last session was an info session focused on *Customer Experience Heroes*. Another two Vodafone employees shared their experience working with *Proper Pizza* as their client and the help they provided in establishing the pizzeria's brand and support in its growth in Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia.

After the activity was concluded, Vodafone Marketing Department invited the guests to an open discussion to share their opinion of Vodafone as a service provider, talking about their experiences as customers and satisfaction with the service

10.3 It Wasn't My Fate

On 7th March at Epoka Women's Leadership Club organized an open forum that is called "It wasn't my fate".

The open forum raised awareness on domestic violence and services available for victims of domestic violence in Albania.

The guests Anjeza Bojaxhiu, Lindita Lushaku and Marsela Allmuca, showed us a documentary done by them, which showed the sad reality of domestic violence in Albania.

After the end of video, there was a discussion about what were the factors that led to domestic violence and how it can be prevented.



10.4 Student Conference and Mostar Trip 2018

On May 10, students of Epoka University participated in the International Conference on Economic and Social Studies held in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The opening ceremony was held on Hotel Hills, Sarajevo. Minister of Communications and Transport, Mr. Ismir Jusko delivered an opening speech. The students presented several topics with a focus on Contemporary Trends in Tourism and Hospitality Industry in the Balkan Region, at the International Burch University. The papers were congratulated from experts of related fields.

Apart from the conference participation, students also had the opportunity to visit the city centre, try the traditional food and get to know the Bosnian culture better. Part of the trip included also the visit of the beautiful park Vrelo Bosne as well as the city of Mostar.



11. YOUNG ECONOMISTS' NETWORK

11.1 Open Forum_Mr. Spiro Brumbulli Albanian System of Banks



On 18th of January 2018, YEN(Young Economists Network Club) organised the first event for the academic year, an Open Forum with the special guest, Mr. Spiro Brumbulli, where he discussed about the Albanian System of Banks.

Mr. Brumbulli started the open forum talking about an overview on the banking sector followed by the economic growth in Albania. Moreover he discussed about the contribution of the banking sector as well as banking developments in the region. Mr. Spiro concluded his open lecture while talking about the goals to be achieved in the future.

After Mr. Brumbulli finished his speech, he was open to any question from the audience, students of Economics and Banking and Finance.

CAREER PLANNING AND ALUMNI OFFICE

Career Planning and Alumni Office Provides a career education, information, advice and guidance service for students. It provides a network among EPOKA Alumni to perpetuate their ties with the university and with one another, **updates alumni records**, organizes the "**Alumni Homecoming**". These social gathering give EPOKA Graduates the opportunity to come together, to network and to seek annual ways. This office establish and build relationships with a wide range of alumni, locally, regionally, nationally and internationally; maintain regular communication with alumni

Aims and objectives:

- 1- Includes carrying out necessary activities to create opportunities for the activation of the potentials of the students,
- 2- Introducing them to the standards and conditions they are likely to face in their quest to find a job
- 3- Provides students with the necessary information which may help them in their prospective careers
- 4- Introducing the graduated students to the labor market and familiarizing them with the work environment and offering them training opportunities.

Activities:

- 1- Information Session on Career Opportunities at Abkons
- 2- Digital Marketing and Internship Program at Local Web
- 3- Mentorship Program
- 4- "Epoka" students visit Coca Cola
- 5- Internship at some units at Epoka Campus
- 6- Study abroad information session
- 7- Fifth Career Fair
- 8- Update Alumni records
- 9- Meeting one to one with last year students
- 10- Summer Internship
- 11- Career Training with Raiffeisen Bank

2.1 Information Session on Career Opportunities at Abkons



On Wednesday, November 8 2017 the Career Planning and Alumni Office organized an information session held by Mr. Josif GJANI managing partner of Abkons and Olta Nora, Head of Human Resources Office.

The presentation began with a little background information on Abkons that is founded in 2006 as a Legal and Financial consulting company.

The focus of the session was in the career opportunities available at the Abkons. Ms Nora explained Internship Program in which students can conduct a three-month paid internship in programming and developing profile.

It was a great opportunity that was shared with students of Computer Engineering and Business Informatics program.

2.2 Digital Marketing and Internship Program at Local Web



On Tuesday, November 14, 2017 Career Planning and Alumni Office in collaboration with Local Web company organized an information session on “Digital Marketing and Internship Program at Local Web”. The event started with the presentation of the Human Resources Developer Team where they gave a brief information on and the achievements of the company.

They also noticed the importance of investments in online industry. 62% of local economy is oriented towards services and Albania is second country in the region after Serbia for the export of ICT services.

Epoka University has signed a memorandum of understanding with Local web where our students will be given the opportunity to benefit from the internship program Local web they offer. The purpose of internship program is to train the students on the challenges of the digital world and their future.

Internship program will consist of 12 hours in theory and 40 hours in practice

2.3 Mentorship Program



Under the supervision of Career Planning and Alumni Office, undergraduate Mentorship Program was successfully realized at Epoka University. Part of this program are 85 students help each other's in specific subjects. The Mentorship Program is designed to help students discover their interests, develop significant self-motivation, and become high performing individuals. We carefully pair each student 1to1 with a mentor who is bigger than mentee and works personally with the student until the end of current academic year.

Students benefit from our program regardless of when they join, whether they're first semester freshmen or second semester juniors. As students learn from successful older peers, they develop confidence, autonomy, and critical thinking skills. The **program mission** is to enrich and support the students in need to assist them in helping in specific subjects.

2.4 “Epoka” students visit Coca Cola



In framework of Introduction to Business subject, Career Planning and Alumni Office in collaboration with Business Administration Department organized a visit with four groups of students to one of the largest companies operating in our country, Coca-Cola.

During this study visits students were able to understand how the company works and to be able to obtain more information on labor market. After a short company presentation on the coca cola history, students visited the coca cola production process starting from bottling, packing and storing them.

2.5 Internship at some units at Epoka Campus



The internship program at some main administrative offices at Epoka University now it is a yearly pctivity. Among 73 applications 17 students were chosen to this program. Internship lasted until the end of spring semester.

This program will give the chance to Epoka students to gain the experience to the real work place and will help students develop basic workplace skills like managing time, taking initiative and communicating in a professional manner.

2.6 Study abroad information session



On May 30, 2018, Career Planning and Alumni Office in Collaboration with Education Business Link Albania (EBLA) organized the information Session on Studding Abroad. The event started with Mr. Petrit CELA, President of EBLA, who explained the Vision and Mission of EBLA. Then Mrs. EntelaCela Maybrook, the Executive Director of EBLA explained in detail the criteria and procedures that students should follow on studding abroad.

2.7 Fifth Career Fair



For the fifth consecutive year Epoka University organized the Career Fair, whose aim is to offer employment and internship opportunities to our students and graduates.

60 companies were present in the event on Thursday, May 3rd, 2018, welcoming students in their stands and conducting interviews to match candidates with the most suitable positions available.

The opening ceremony started with the speech of the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Law. Prof. Dr. Lisjen Bashkurti, welcoming and thanking all the companies for their cooperation. Afterwards, the Head of Human Resources, Ms. Anisa Keri of Raiffeisen Bank, took the floor and addressed the audience regarding the productive collaboration with Epoka University so far. At the end, another speech was held by the successful alumni Besjana Laci who is currently working at the department of taxes in Deloitte.

During the fair, graduates and students visited the stands to locate the companies whose profiles correspond to their education field, be interviewed or submit their CV's, for a potential recruitment.

This was a great experience for students, providing thus more information on the market opportunities and learn how to better present themselves through short interviews and discussions.

2.8 Update Alumni records

Our office gives a high priority to our university graduates, because in this dynamic world network is so important for everyone, and we want to strength this network. For one month, the specialist of Career Planning and Alumni Office contacted all our graduates, by phone, via mail or from the social networks. After contacting them we have updated all information that is important for us, and we saw that 89.8 % of our alumni have a job or are continuing their master studies or PhD.

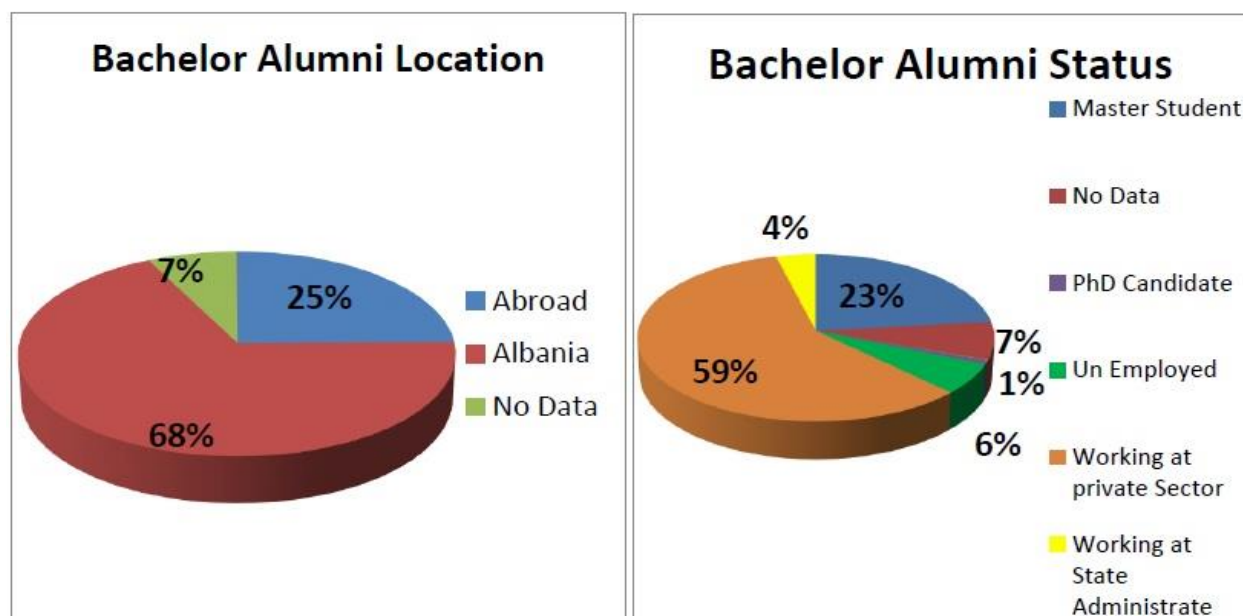
2. 8.1 Statistics on Bachelor Alumni Status

2. 8.2 Bachelor Alumni Statistics according to the graduation year

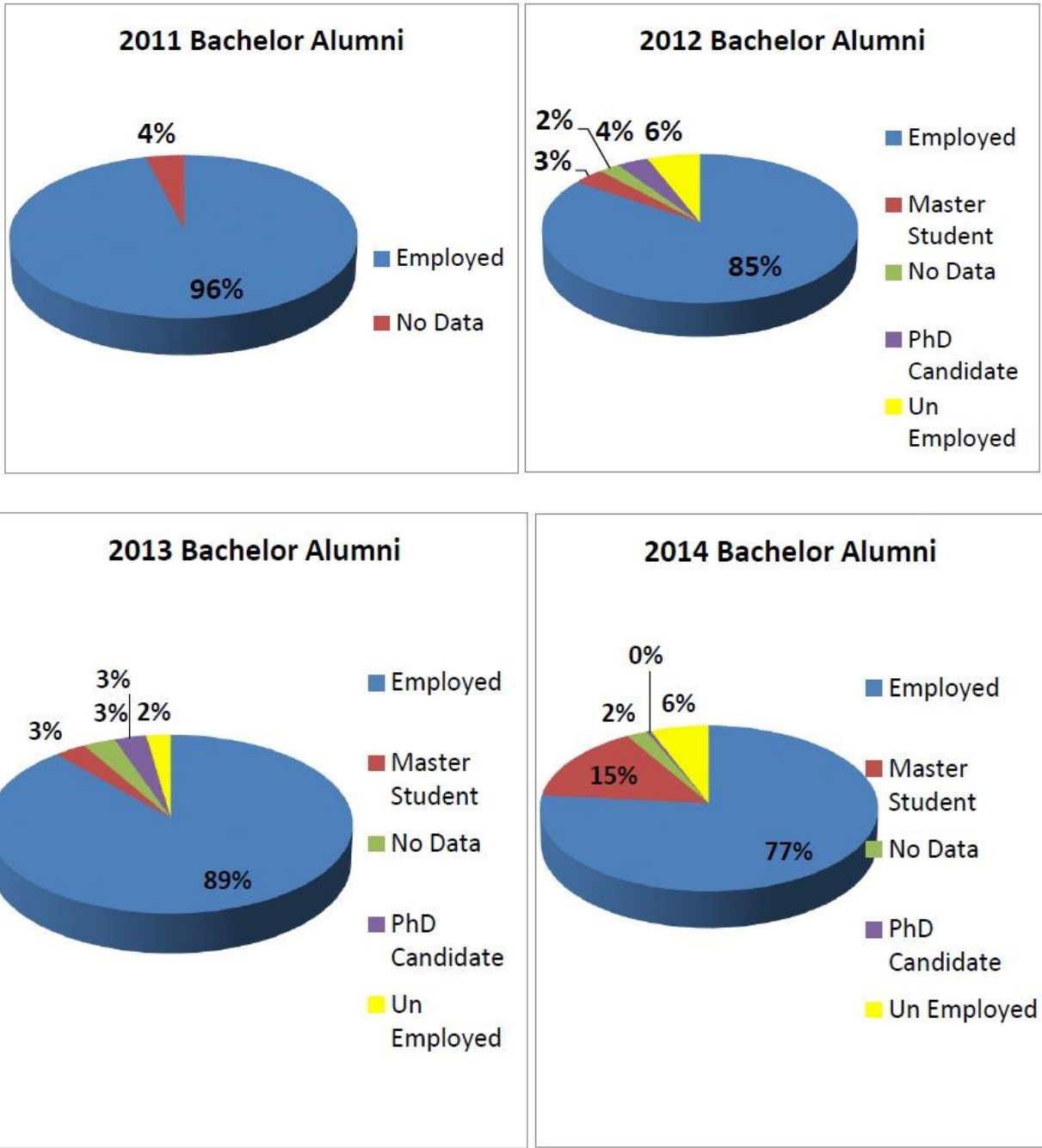
2. 8.3 Statistics according to the study program

For detailed information please see the charts below:

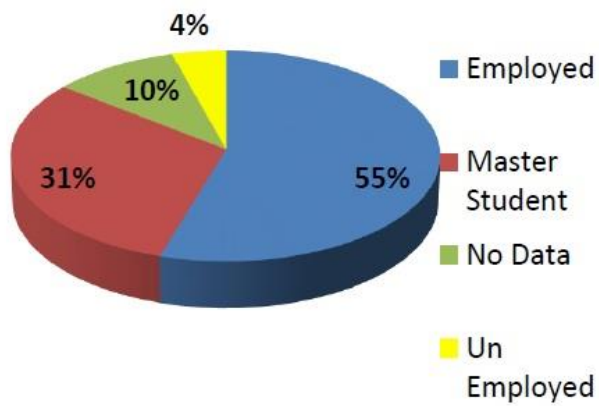
Statistics on Bachelor Alumni Status



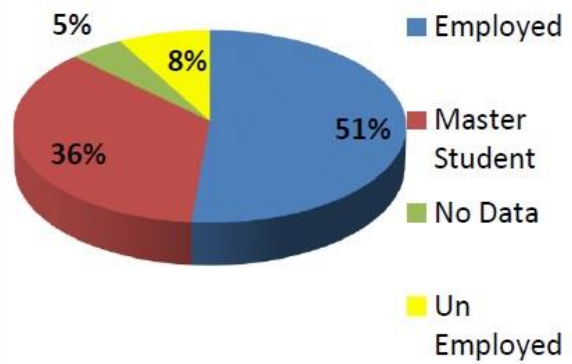
Bachelor Alumni Statistics according to the graduation year



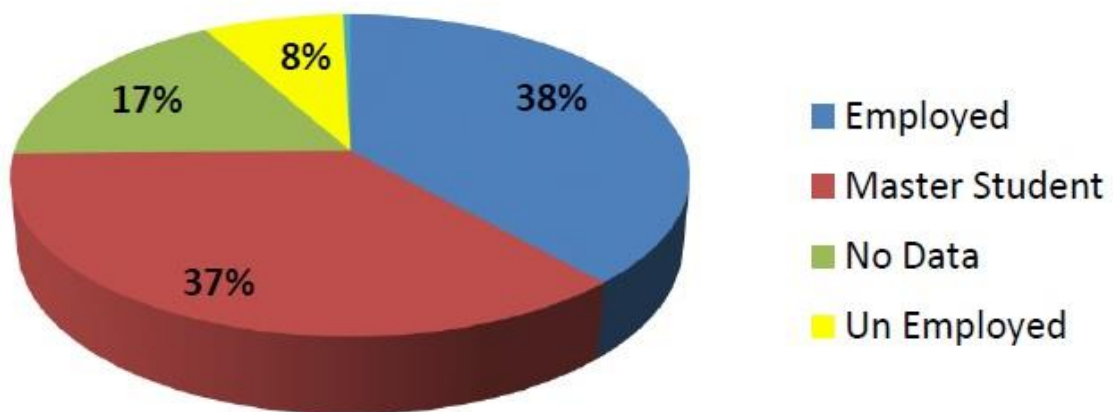
2015 Bachelor Alumni



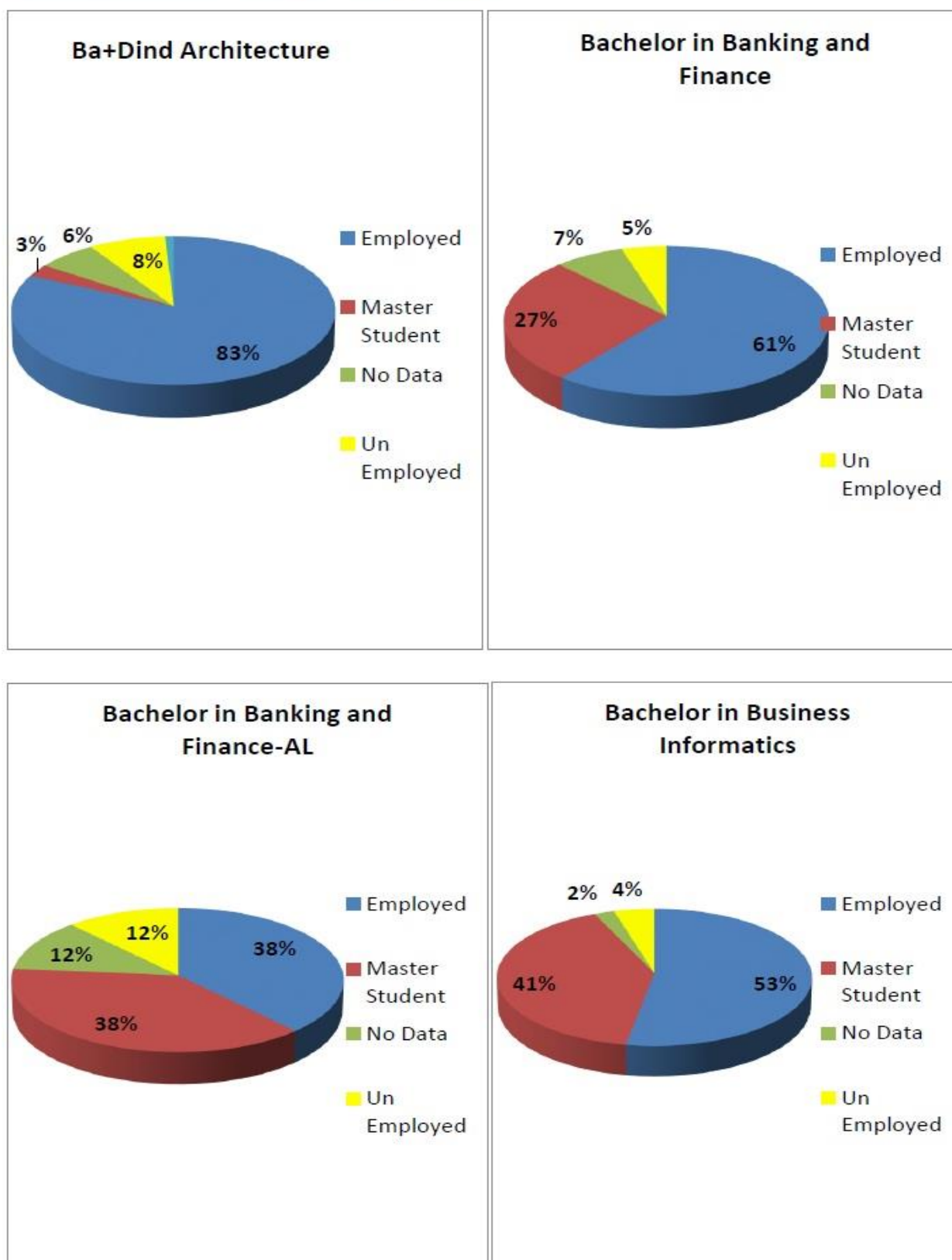
2016 Bachelor Alumni



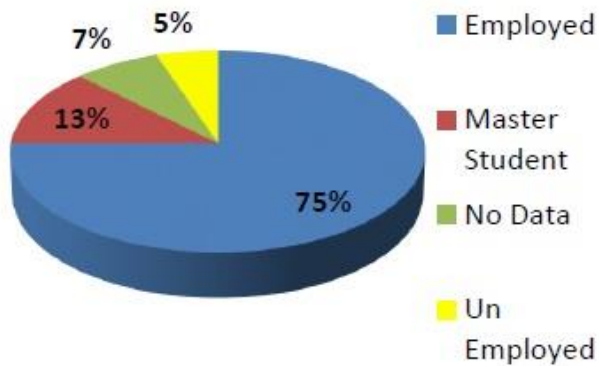
2017 Bachelor Alumni



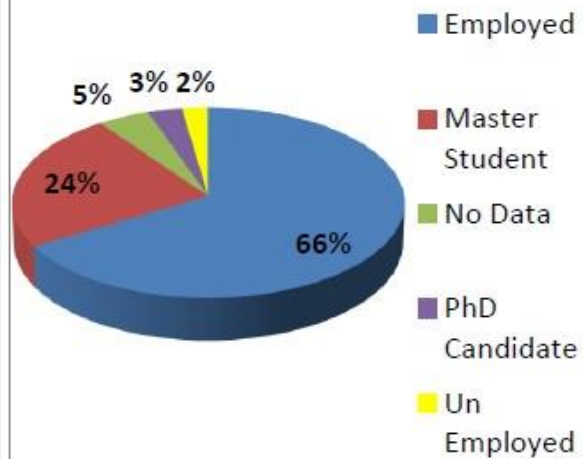
Statistics According to the study program



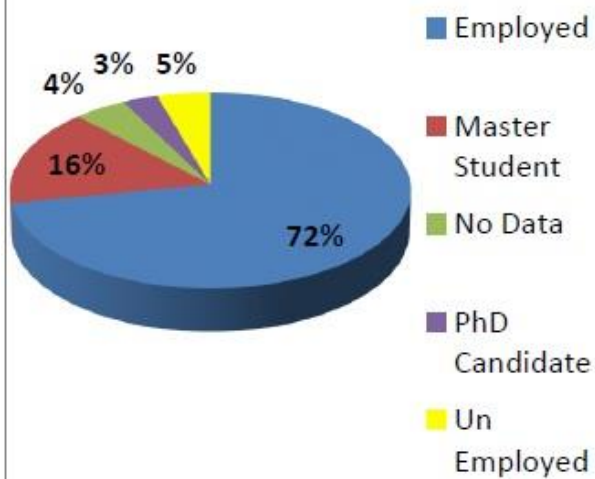
Bachelor in Business Administration



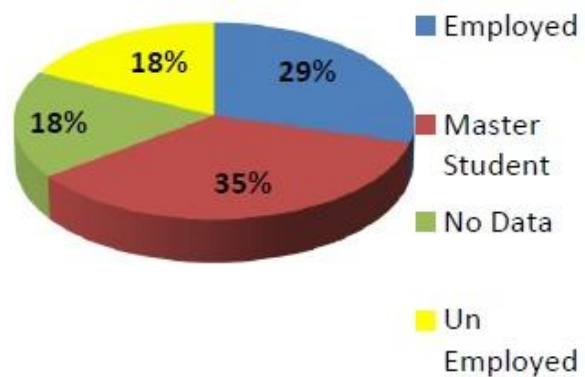
Bachelor in Civil Engineering



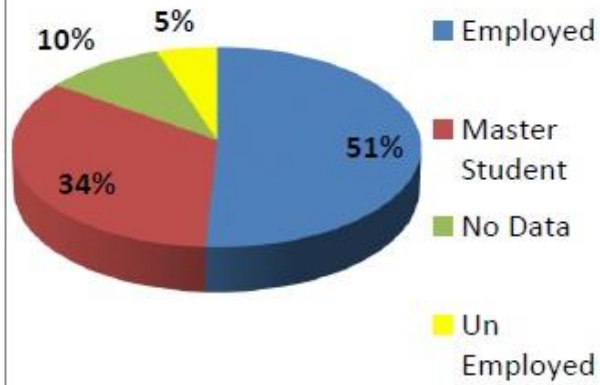
Bachelor in Computer Engineering



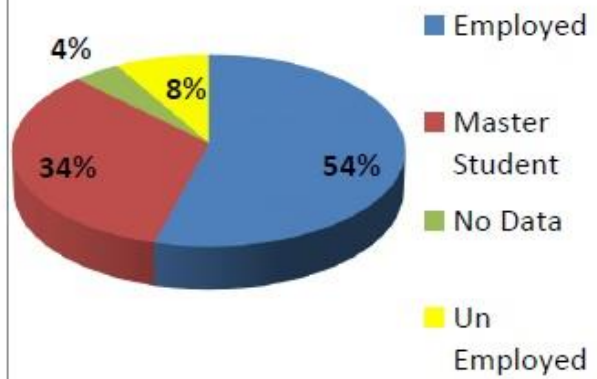
Bachelor in Electronic and Digital Communication



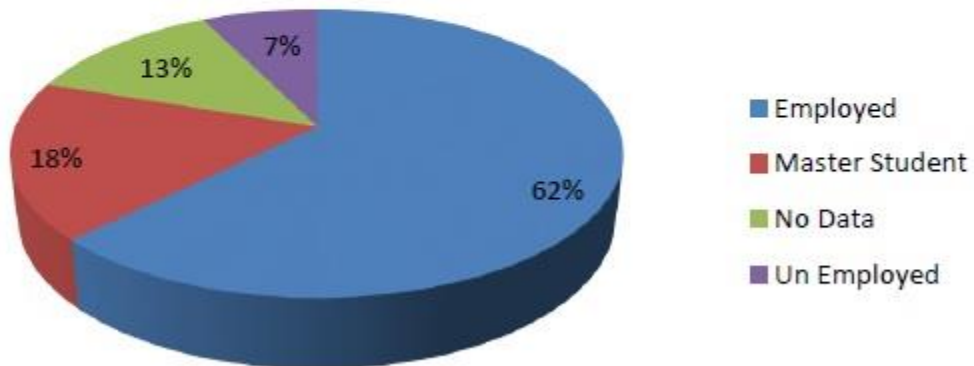
Bachelor in Economics



Bachelor in International Marketing and Logistics



Bachelor in Political Science and International Relations



2.9 Meeting one to one with graduating students

For the second consecutive year we have organized meeting face to face with graduating students. In this meeting was discussed about student's personal career goals, and the opportunity that Epoka University gives to their students in job accommodation, what should take care when applying for job, how important is first impact while applying for job. We also talked about the many opportunities that our students have to continue a master's degree abroad, and what they should take care in application for master. Students filled a form with their personal data as mobile number, personal email and some questions about their plans after graduation.

After these continued meetings, we are sure that our students will not have any uncertainty about their future.

2.10 Summer Internship



By cooperating with public institutions and private national and international companies, Epoka University helps its students during summer vacations to obtain internships in successful companies according to their department. In this way students will not be equipped with theoretical knowledge, but also will be introduced to prestigious companies in Albania. These Programs at Epoka University are an attempt to expose students to real working life applications so that when they graduate from our university they will not have any difficulties in getting used

to the working conditions of the market they will be in. The internship is a crucial opportunity to refine many of the working groups' initial perceptions by relating them to concrete reality. Internship programs offer benefits to all the participants by providing any opportunities to practice communication with foreigners' initiative, team working, coordination and self-confidence. We believe that all these qualities are basic and essential factors for a competitive working market.

Internship application form was filled in online in the Career Planning and Alumni web page <http://cpao.epoka.edu.al/internship/web/>. Student were able to select 3 companies by priority. Internship started from July 2, where it was given the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the policies of the companies. Internships take place in the period from July to September 2018. In totally we have arranged 137 students to have internship.

Please find below application number list for each department.

No	Department	No of students
1	Banking and Finance	49
2	Business Informatics	13
3	Business administration	6
4	Economics	17
5	International Marketing and Logistic	5
6	Political science and international relations	8
7	Architecture	13
8	Computer Engineering	12
9	Electronic and Digital Communication	11
10	Civil Engineering	3

2.11 Career Training with Raiffeisen Bank



On April 20, 2018 the Career Planning and Alumni Office organized the “Career Training” for Epoka students. This training was delivered by Mrs. Anisa KERI and Mrs. Enkeleda TUPA from the department of Human Resource of Raiffeisen Bank.

The training began with some information about Raiffeisen Bank. Later on the training focused on interviewing process, from the vacancy announcement to the final recruitment. Special attention was given to the preparation of CV and motivation letter, for which precise tips were given according to the information these documents should contain.

After that, Mrs. Keri, explained the students how to make a positive job interview by sharing experiences and common interview situations. She showed how to present oneself in the best way when attending different types of interviews, and how to make the best first impression in order to create a halo effect. She advised the students to be careful with what the body language expresses, to be enthusiastic, positive, speak clearly and with confidence, and always be prepared before attending an interview.

Further on, she instructed how to be part of Raiffeisen Bank, by showing the steps every applicant should follow.