

ANNUAL REPORT

October 2024–30 September 2025



Annual Report

October 2024–30 September 2025

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A. Organization & Management

Introduction

Economics is the study of rational decision making, which includes individuals, businesses and societies and their choice implications. Established in 2008, the department aims to emphasize critical thinking, conceptualizing, solving problems, understanding, and analyzing data in decision-making. We are highly committed to prepare leading students equipped with skills and abilities to overcome challenges of the future and meet societies' needs.

Our graduate students are guided to deepen in the research, to absorb modern theoretical and quantitative methods to be applied in their future career. We as department care about our students from their first day at Epoka University till they employ in the labor market.

Sincerely,
Dr. Erinda Imeraj
Head of the Department of Economics

- **Vision and Mission**

Vision: The Department of Economics aims at the qualification of students with general knowledge alert to the challenges in economy, and able to work in the administration of local and foreign private companies.

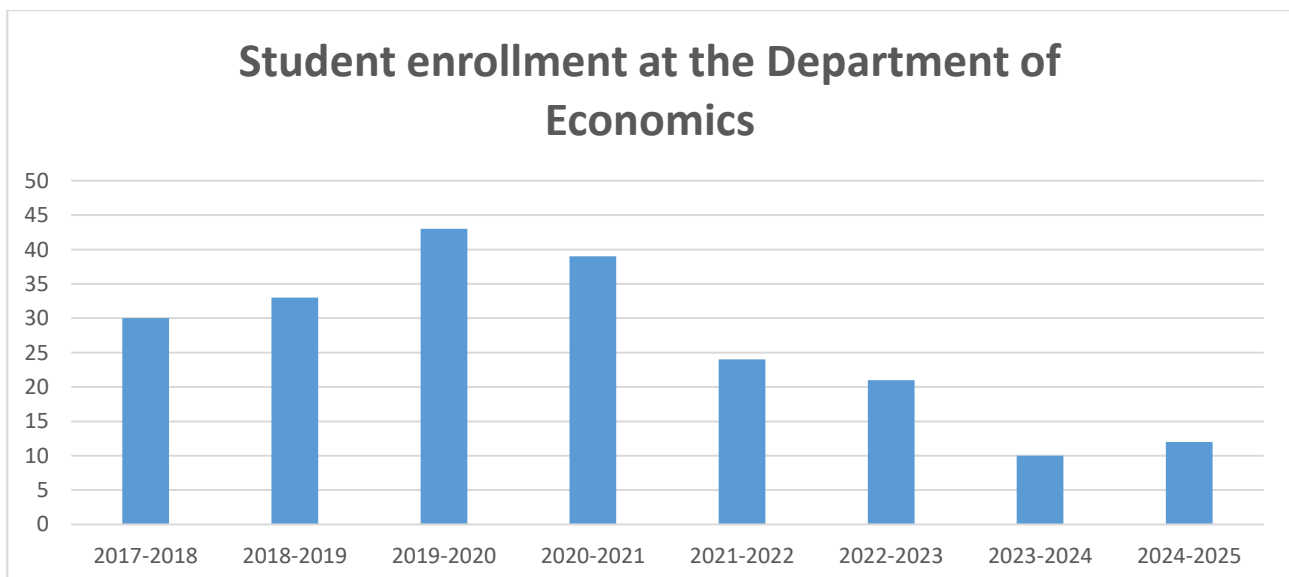
Mission: The mission of the Department of Economics consists of three interrelated components:

1. providing the highest quality instruction to our undergraduate and graduate students;
2. conducting leading-edge research in economics;
3. providing leadership and service to our professional communities.



- **About Us**

The degree conferred upon the completion of the undergraduate program is "Bachelor of Arts in Economics". The students graduated from this department will be able to serve in the public administration, in the private sector and in non-governmental organizations. The system of attendance is full time. Detailed information on the courses offered in the semester schedules is included in the academic plan. The list of departmental must elective and free-elective courses is provided in detail in the academic catalogue, including the theoretical lessons, recitation lessons, credits, equivalent credits according to ECTS credit system, and workload of each course. The list of courses offered each semester by our department and academic catalogue correlate together. The objective of this department is to fulfill the need for qualified members in this field, and to prepare skilled people to work in different sectors related to economics. In addition, the vast demands from high-school applicants have been an influent factor for the establishment department.



- **Program Accreditation**

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education has accredited Master of Sciences and Bachelor in Economics programs for six years, the maximum duration of accreditation ASCAL).

More information regarding the accreditation of programs in Economics department can be found in the following links:

Bachelor in Economics:

https://www.ascal.al/media/documents/rvj/PS_2647_568.pdf

Master of Sciences in Economics:

<http://epoka.edu.al/mat/aeqi/RVJ-Msc-Ekonomiks-Epoka.pdf>

PhD in Economics (Profile Economics, Profile Banking and Finance)

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B1LHffl8HomWQkpMOG8xdkZzNU0/view>

- **Strategic Planning**

In accordance with Law no. 80/2015 “On Higher Education and Scientific Research in Higher Education in the Republic of Albania” and within the framework of EPOKA University’s 2024–2028 Strategic Plan, the Department of Economics has developed its own Strategic Plan for the period 2024–2028. Established in 2008, the Department is committed to providing high-quality education that equips undergraduate and graduate students with critical thinking skills and prepares them to engage in public discourse across interdisciplinary fields. The Department currently offers two cycles of study: a Bachelor’s and a Master’s program in Economics.

1. Mission: The mission of the Department of Economics consists of three interrelated components: 1. providing the highest quality instruction to our undergraduate and graduate students; 2. conducting leading-edge research in economics; 3. providing leadership and service to our professional communities.

3. Vision: The Department of Economics aims to dedicate itself to excellence in economics education and research, preparing professionals to address economic challenges and contribute to local and global development.

4. Sources: This strategic plan foresees that the department will draw upon the human, financial, and material resources of the department and the University, investing in the improvement of its staff, and exploring grant funding and sponsorship for research and other activities.

5. Achievements: The Department of Economics has seen a number of significant achievements since its establishment in 2008. Over the years, it has continuously enhanced the quality of its academic offerings, faculty expertise, and student support services. The Bachelor in Economics study program was accredited in 2024, while the Master of Science in Economics received accreditation in 2023, affirming the department’s commitment to academic excellence and compliance with national standards. The department has also expanded its research output, strengthened its collaboration with industry and public institutions, and increased its engagement in international academic networks and mobility programs.

II. Priority Areas– Themes

Theme 1: Provide a high-quality environment for teaching and learning.

The Economics Department provides an outstanding education to a great many students, consistently ranking the graduates at the top of the EPOKA University ranking. At the same time, almost all the graduates from bachelor programs continue further master studies and a considerable number of them follow a master's degree abroad. The Department of Economics fosters a student-centered and research-informed learning environment through innovative teaching methods, up-to-date curriculum, and modern instructional technologies. Emphasizing practical skills, civic engagement, and global perspectives, the department ensures that students are well-prepared for the labor market and lifelong learning. Continuous improvement is supported through regular program reviews, faculty development, and quality assurance processes.

Specific goals for Theme 1

- **Goal 1.1:** Attract high-quality and diverse academic staff by improving working conditions, recruitment processes, and performance evaluation systems.
Aligned with: Strategic Plan 2024–2028, F.3 Human Resources; G.20 Continue to attract qualified national and international staff
- **Goal 1.2:** Increase academic staff participation in professional development through regular training focused on innovative and active-learning methodologies.
Aligned with: Strategic Plan 2024–2028, A. Teaching & Learning Goal G.4 Encourage faculty members to develop innovative and creative approaches to teaching.
- **Goal 1.3:** Expand the department's international presence by strengthening academic mobility, integrating international content in teaching, and forming global partnerships.
Aligned with: Strategic Plan 2024–2028, A. Teaching & Learning; Goal G.5; International Networking and Mobility.
- **Goal 1.4:** Enhance the teaching and research infrastructure by investing in modern instructional technologies and up-to-date laboratory environments.
Aligned with: Strategic Plan 2024–2028, F.4 Infrastructural Resources; G.22 Ensure the sustainable development of EPOKA's Campus.
- **Goal 1.5:** Align the curriculum with the United Nations SDGs to integrate global standards and promote sustainability, social responsibility, and ethical decision-making in economics
Aligned with: Strategic Plan 2024–2028, A. Teaching & Learning; Goal G.3 Improve the curriculum; Instrument I.
- **Goal 1.6:** Ensure curricula are student-centered, interdisciplinary, and aligned with labor market demands in economics, sustainability, and digital economy. *Aligned with: Strategic Plan 2024–2028, A. Teaching & Learning; Goal G.3 Improve the curriculum; Instruments I.3–I.5*

Measures in order to reach mentions goals under Theme 1

- **Measure 1.1:** Increase the faculty size by 2028, focusing on international recruitment.
- **Measure 1.2:** Organize a minimum of two departmental training workshops per year on active-learning and pedagogical innovation.
- **Measure 1.3:** Signing of agreements at the department and university level with other universities which will facilitate the staff and student mobility.
- **Measure 1.4:** Reviewing and mapping existing courses to the SDGs, identifying how each course addresses sustainability, social responsibility, and ethical decision-making.

Theme 2: Enroll, educate, graduate and provide placement assistance for a high-quality and diverse student body

The current academic performance of our Bachelor students is at a high level; however, the Department remains committed to further enhancing student achievement. This ambition is fully aligned with the broader strategic goals outlined in EPOKA University's 2024–2028 Strategic Plan. The Department of Economics has a strong tradition of engaging in student exchange programs, beginning in 2013. Continuing to diversify the student body, enhance retention and success, and increase opportunities for international and professional experiences remains a strategic priority. These efforts align with the university's goals of supporting student success, promoting global citizenship, and enhancing employability.

Specific goals for Theme 2

- **Goal 2.1:** Increase student enrollment and academic performance by offering relevant, labor-market-oriented, and multidisciplinary programs. *Aligned with: Strategic Plan 2024–2028, A. Teaching & Learning; Goals G.1 and G.2*
- **Goal 2.2:** Improve student retention and graduation rates through academic support and mentoring initiatives. *Aligned with: Strategic Plan 2024–2028, A. Teaching & Learning; Goal G.6 Increase student performance and satisfaction*
- **Goal 2.3:** Promote a diverse and inclusive student body through international partnerships and exchange programs. *Aligned with: Strategic Plan 2024–2028, A. Teaching & Learning; Goal G.5 and G.6*
- **Goal 2.4:** Equip students with career-ready skills to enhance their employability and internship opportunities. *Aligned with: Strategic Plan 2024–2028, A. Teaching & Learning; Goals G.2 and G.3.*
- **Goal 2.5:** Encourage early student planning for postgraduate education and lifelong learning. *Aligned with: Strategic Plan 2024–2028, A. Teaching & Learning and D. Training & Lifelong Learning; Goals G.3 Improve the curriculum and G.10 Expand training opportunities*

Measures in order to reach mentioned goals under Theme 2.

- **Measure 2.1:** Develop and implement labor-market-oriented, multidisciplinary programs.
- **Measure 2.2:** Increase the number of degrees awarded.
- **Measure 2.3:** Boost the percentage of students involved in international mobility or exchange programs by 10% annually.
- **Measure 2.4:** Ensure that all graduating students have completed an internship, or practical training.
- **Measure 2.5.** Advisory meetings with interested students on graduate studies.

Theme 3: Provide a high-quality environment for research and project development

To support Epoka University's strategic vision and national development priorities, the Department of Economics is committed to fostering a vibrant research culture. The department aims to enhance the quality and relevance of its research, increase participation in interdisciplinary and community-based projects, and create more opportunities for graduate students to engage in impactful research. This

includes expanding research funding, improving infrastructure, and strengthening international and institutional collaborations.

Specific goals for Theme 3

Goal 3.1: Strengthen the research capacity of the department by increasing participation in national and international research projects and conferences. *Aligned with: Strategic Plan 2024–2028, B. Research and Projects; Goals G.7 and G.8*

Goal 3.2: Create more opportunities for collaborative research published in high impact journals. *Aligned with: Strategic Plan 2024–2028, B. Research and Projects; Goals G.7 and G.9*

Goal 3.3: Support graduate students' involvement in research activities, especially those related to sustainable development and national economic priorities.

Aligned with: Strategic Plan 2024–2028, B. Research and Projects; Goals G.7 and G.8

Goal 3.4: Improve research infrastructure, including access to digital resources, databases, and software tools.

Goal 3.5: Increase the visibility and dissemination of departmental research through publications, conferences, and policy engagement. *Aligned with: Strategic Plan 2024–2028, B. Research and Projects; Goals G.7 and G.8*

Measures in order to reach mentioned goals under Theme 3.

- **Measure 3.1:** Increase the number of externally funded research and development projects by 15% by 2028.
- **Measure 3.2:** Publish at least two collaborative articles in high-impact journals each year.
- **Measure 3.3:** Involve graduate students annually in ongoing research or project-based learning.
- **Measure 3.4:** Upgrade access to research databases and software tools.
- **Measure 3.5:** Organize conferences in collaboration with other departments, as we aim to do on 16th and 17th May 2025 with “17th International Conference Economies of the Balkan and Eastern European Countries EBEEC 2025” in collaboration with the Department of Banking and Finance.

Theme 4: Provide an Environment Fostering a Culture of Innovation and Entrepreneurship

The Department of Economics at EPOKA University is committed to cultivating a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship that empowers students and faculty to translate academic knowledge into real-world solutions. The department will focus on creating an environment that stimulates entrepreneurial thinking, support start-up ideas, and foster collaboration with the business sector. This involves enhancing collaborations, providing practical learning opportunities, and fostering industry involvement.

Specific goals for Theme 4

- **Goal 4.1:** Promote entrepreneurial learning and enhance students' ability to transition successfully into the labor market. *Aligned with: Strategic Plan 2024–2028, A. Teaching & Learning; G.2*
- **Goal 4.2:** Integrate innovation and entrepreneurship into the curriculum through project-based initiatives. *Aligned with: Strategic Plan 2024–2028, A. Teaching & Learning; G.3 and F.6*

- **Goal 4.3:** Strengthen collaborations with industry, public institutions, and international partners to create entrepreneurial ecosystems. *Aligned with: Strategic Plan 2024–2028, F.7 International Networking and Mobility; G.34*
- **Goal 4.4:** Foster student participation in innovation challenges and startup competitions. *Aligned with: Strategic Plan 2024–2028, E. Student Development; G.13*

Measures in order to reach mentioned goals under Theme 4.

- **Measure 4.1:** Introduce entrepreneurship and career-readiness training in study programs.
- **Measure 4.2:** Include project-based innovation activities in courses.
- **Measure 4.3:** Establish new partnerships supporting entrepreneurship annually.
- **Measure 4.4:** Support student participation in innovation and startup activities each year.

Study programs offered by the Department

- ❖ Engaged Faculty
- ❖ Many Electives
- ❖ Problem Based Learning/Student-centered learning
- ❖ More Career Opportunities
- ❖ Internationalization
 - Education in English
 - Study abroad
 - Foreign lecturers
 - Foreign students
- ❖ Employability and Career Assistance:
 - Recent Graduates have continued their studies at:
 - ✓ Charles University (Prague, Czech Republic)
 - ✓ University of Lodz (Lodz, Poland)
 - ✓ Sydney Business School at University of Wollongong (Sidney, Australia)
 - ✓ Johannes Gutenberg University (Mainz, Germany)
 - ✓ University of Rome Tor Vergata (Rome, Italy)
 - ✓ University of London (London, UK)
 - ✓ University of Padova (Italy)
 - ✓ Master at Goethe University (Frankfurt, Germany)
 - ✓ Master at EU Business School (Germany)
 - ✓ London School of Economics (London, England)

- ✓ University of Edinburgh (in Edinburg, Scotland)
- ✓ University of Barcelona (in Barcelona, Spain)
- ✓ Bonn University (in Bonn, Germany)
- ✓ International Football Business Institute (in Brussels, Belgium)
- ✓ Epoka University (in Tirana, Albania)
- Internship opportunities and workplace companies for actual and graduated students:
 - ✓ World Vision Albania, Infosoft Office, Spitali Amerikan, Balfin Group, Pwc Albania, KPMG, General Directorate of Taxes, Credins Bank, Agna Group, Deloitte & Touché, Bank of Albania, General Directorate of Taxes, Vodafone Albania, NBG, TEB Bank, Raiffeisen Bank, Tirana Bank, NOA, Univers Reklama, Intesa Sanpaolo Bank, Tirana Business Park., INSTAT, Telekom Albania, Netherlands Embassy in Albania, Abkons, Union Bank, Alpha Bank, Megatek, Epoka University, etc.

BA in Economics

The Department of Economics aims at the qualification of new staff with general knowledge alert to the challenges in economy, and able to work in the administration of local and foreign private companies. The degree conferred upon the completion of the undergraduate program is Economist/ Bachelor of Arts in Economics with educational workload which is 120 credits or 180 ECTS credits for three years. The system of attendance is full time. Students enrolled for the first time in economics department on 2009-2010 academic year. As other universities in Albania, Epoka is an institution of higher education based on the Bologna system.

M.Sc. in Economics

The students graduated from economics department for Master of Science degree will be able to serve in the public administration, in the private sector and in non-governmental organizations. The system of attendance is full time. To earn the M.Sc degree, students must complete in total 120 ECTS credits from their coursework and a Master thesis. The program is taught in English and students enrolled for the first time on 2013-2014 academic year.

Ph.D. in Economics

The Ph.D. degree is awarded in recognition of the recipient's qualifications as a general economist and of the ability to make scholarly contributions in fields of specialization. The full-time PhD course lasts for a minimum of 6 terms (three years), up to a maximum of twelve terms (six years). Typically, the first year is devoted to the core courses in micro theory, macro theory, econometrics, seminars, and workshops in fields of your special interest. Formal work on the dissertation begins in the second year; students are

encouraged to get a head start on their thesis by research and writing in a second-year course or seminar. Students enrolled for the first time in economics department for Ph.D. degree on 2012-2013 academic year.

B. Resources

Department Staff

Full time Academic Staff



Head of Department
Dr. Erinda IMERAJ



Acting Head of Department
Dr. Arjona LAMI



Lecturer
Prof. Dr. G ng r TURAN



Lecturer
Prof. Dr. Abdurrahman IŐIK



Assistant Lecturer
MSc. Vasil LINO



Assistant Lecturer
MSc. Jonida RADA

Administrative Staff



Department Coordinator
Mrs. Elidiana MAZRREKU

Finance

Income and Expenditure Summary

- Bachelor in Economics*

-Income and various financing for **BA in Economics** Study Program during the 2024 -2025 academic year:

Income (in Euro)	2024 -2025
Tuition fees for and during studies	88,473.22 Euro
TOTAL	88,473.22 Euro

-Expenditures for **BA in Economics** Study Program during the 2024 -2025 academic year:

	2024 -2025		
Expenditures (in EURO)	Salaries	Expenditures	Investements
Tuition and other student fees	141,710 Euro	22,846 Euro	13,707 Euro
Total	141,710 Euro	22,846 Euro	13,707 Euro

- Master of Science in Economics*

-Income and various financing for **Msc in Economics** Study Program during the 2024 -2025 year:

Income (in Euro)	2024 -2025
Tuition fees for and during studies	22,605.30 Euro
TOTAL	22,605.30 Euro

-Expenditures for **Msc in Economics** Study Program during the 2024 -2025 academic year:

	2024 -2025		
Expenditures (in EURO)	Salaries	Expenditures	Investements
Tuition and other student fees	44,750 Euro	7,215 Euro	4,328 Euro
Total	44,750 Euro	7,215 Euro	4,328 Euro

IT Resources, Physical Infrastructure and Library Resources

Epoka University is located on the Tirana-Rinas Road, on the 12th kilometre. The campus extends over a total area of 67,000 m². The 2024-2025 academic year is being conducted regularly in the premises of three buildings with a total area of 17452 m².



Figure 1: Master Plan of the Campus



Figure 2: Location of the campus on the Tirana-Rinas Road



Figure 3: Entrance of Campus



Figure 4: E-building

This building has a modern infrastructure and a central heating and cooling system.



Figure 5: E-building_coridors

The classrooms are equipped with video projectors and white board that enable the comfortable conditions of the learning process.



Figure 6: Classrooms E-building



Figure 7: Classrooms E-building



Figure 8: Auditoriums E-building

On September 2013, the construction of A-Building the “Cultural Social Object of Epoka University” was completed. In addition to classes, there are plenty of recreational facilities for students such as cafeterias,

libraries, Wi-Fi, facilities for the Student Council and student clubs, sports facilities, etc. Below are shown current picture of the building.



Figure 9: A-building, Cultural Social Object of Epoka University



Figure 10: A-building, Cultural Social Object of Epoka University



Figure 11: Classes, A-building, Cultural Social Object of Epoka University



Figure 12: Classes, A-building, Cultural Social Object of Epoka University

On October 2021, the reconstruction of “D-Buiding” was completed. In addition to classrooms, offices and lab, there are plenty of recreational facilities for students such as cafeterias, Wi-Fi, leisure facilities etc.

In this building the classrooms are equipped with smart TV and white board that enable the comfortable conditions of the learning process. There are also 11 staff offices and a meeting room. Below are shown current picture of the building.



Figure 13: View of D-building

Figure 14: View of classes at D-building



Measurable indicators:

Table 7: Premises of the University

Faculty facilities/responsible for the study program	Number	Square (m²)
Auditoria/Classrooms for lectures	5	523.4
Classrooms for seminars	8	526.8
Premises for promotion activities	1	128
Classrooms for course/professional practice	1	39
Laboratories for courses	1	39
Informatics laboratories	2	218.7
Internet Room	2	218.7
Library Hall	1	400
Premises for photocopying, bookshop etc.	1	33.6
Student information office	2	71
Corridors/halls	14	1530.2
Sports premises	4	2100
Premises for service to third parties	1	56
Recreation premises such as cafeteria/fast food/ restaurant	2	537
Restrooms (WC) for academic personnel	16	83.6
Restrooms (WC) for students	35	196.2

Normatives m²/per one student	6701.2m²/1206 std = 5.56 m²/std	
Facilities for staff:	Number	Square (m²)
Office for Dean/Meeting rooms	3	140
Office for secretaries	1	22.5
Office for departments	1	31.5
Office for the academic staff of the department	3	35.5
Accounting Office	5	103.2
Office for IQAU	17	224.4
Office for the Coordination and Support of students	2	37
Office for IT	1	13
Toilet sanitary wares for academic staff	2	27.5
Normatives m²/per one person	807.6 m²/88 person = 9.18 m²/person	

During the academic year 2024-2025, Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences has made available:

- 8 Classes: (E B31, E B32, E-B33, E 211, E 311, E 312, D 201, D 202).
- 5 Auditoriums:(E-212, E-213, E 214, E-313, E 314) and one conference room (E-B01).
- 2 Computer Laboratory: Computer Laboratory 3, Computer Laboratory 5
- One Laboratory for courses: Projects Laboratory.

There are 2 internet rooms as it is reflected in the table above, but the University offers wireless internet all over its space. The capacities used are given in the table below.

Table 15: Classes of FEAS available during the 2024-2025 academic year

No.	Name of the Class	Surface (m ²)	Capacity
1	E B31	60	40
2	E B32	60	40
3	E-B33	60	40
4	E 211	64	36
5	E 311	63.46	40
6	E 312	81.32	60
7	D 201	72	42
8	D 202	66	42
total	8	526.78	340

Table 16: Auditoriums of FEAS available during the 2024-2025 academic year

No.	Name of Auditorium	Surface (m ²)	Capacity
1	E-212	51.32	72
2	E-213	81.72	72
3	E 214	154.32	150
4	E-313	81.72	70

5	E 314	154.32	134
total	5	523.4	498

The facilities are equipped with heating-cooling system and video projectors or smart TV. The capacity of the laboratories used is given in the table below.

Table 17: Laboratories of FEAS available during the 2024-2025 academic year

Name	Laboratories	Surface (m2)	Capacity
E B30	Computer Laboratory 3	123.7	47
D-005	Computer Laboratory 5	95.0	36
A-027	Projects Laboratory	39.0	25
Total	3	257.7	108



Figure 18: Computer Laboratory 3



Figure 20: Computer Laboratory 5



Figure 23: Projects Laboratory

Epoka University has a conference hall with a surface of 128 m² and a capacity of 99 persons. The conference hall is used more for social, cultural and various national and international conferences.

The hall is equipped with central heating-cooling system, video projector, sound system and two cabins for simultaneous translation. Also, in the premises of the “Cultural Social Object” building is a conference hall with a surface of about 400 m² and a capacity of 300 persons.



Figure 29: View from the Conference Hall 1



Figure 30 View from Conference Hall 2, under construction



Figure 31: View from the “D” Meeting Room



Figure 32: View from the “E-320” Meeting Room



Figure 33: View from the Diversity Meeting Room



Figure 34: View from the Eagle Meeting Room

ICTC Office Services:

The Information and Communication Technologies Coordinating Office (ICTCO) provides informatics services needed in the University. It plans the informatics infrastructure of the University, provides its security and ensures the continuation of its functions. ICTCO works on the project for effective, legal and extensive usage of the informatics services for students and personnel and provides the following services:

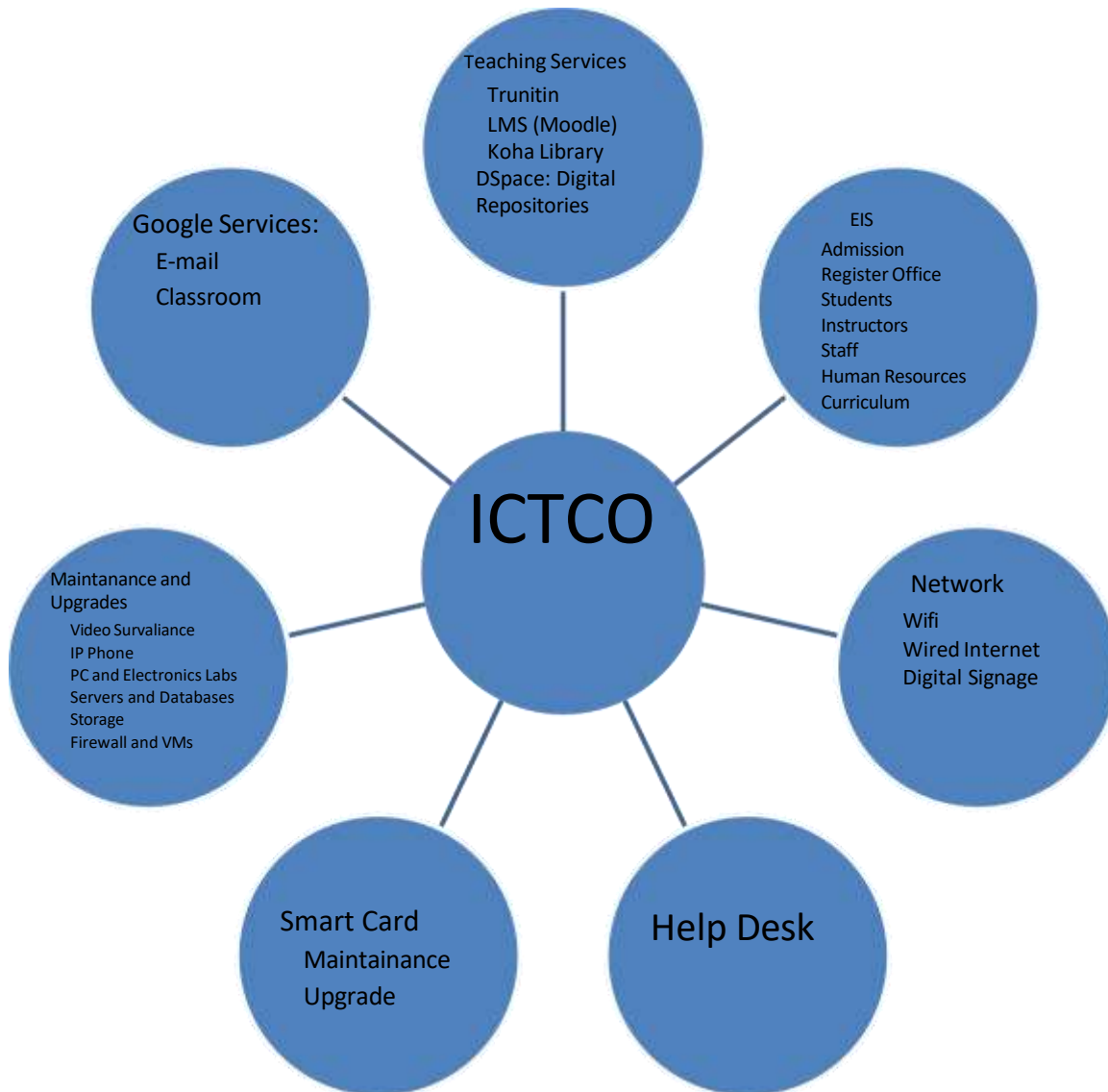


Chart 2: ICTCO Services

Teaching Services:

- **Turnitin** software helps users to understand and avoid plagiarism and develop their understanding of how to cite sources as part of an academic argument. ICTC office manages the users and trains the staff about how to use Turnitin.
- **Learning Management System (LMS)** – A service based on Moodle offered for students and instructors in order to access, coordinate and organize course materials online. Students and instructors can login to LMS using the provided official email account.

- **Library Automation System (Koha)** - Koha is an open-source Integrated Library System in use today by hundreds of libraries worldwide. Koha is web based, so there is no software to install on desktop computers. Users can check the books online and reserve them via web. Its features are more than enough to manage the Epoka Library effectively and efficiently.
- **DSpace**– The institutional repository of Epoka University: DSpace is an open source repository software package typically used for creating open access repositories for scholarly and/or published digital content. The proceedings of the conferences which are organized by Epoka University can be accessed from this repository. Epoka University is the only university who has digital repository in Albania (<http://repositories.webometrics.info/en/Europe/Albania>). We also give services to other international journals to publish their publications (<http://dspace.epoka.edu.al/handle/1/1378>) in our digital repository.

Google Services:

- **Webmail (Google account)** –Epoka University is using Google Apps for Education services and all students and academic and administrative staff are provided with an email address under epoka.edu.al domain which is a Google account. Beside official communication, which is done through this email address, this account can be used for authentication to other online systems offered by university.
- **Google Classroom** – A more interactive service offered by Google as part of Google Apps for education in order to access, coordinate and organize course materials on cloud. By using Google Classroom, course materials can be integrated with other Google services where assigned users can collaborate. Students and instructors can access this service using the provided account.

Education Information System (Curriculum) – a website containing information related to study programs, curriculum and course syllabuses.

Smart Card: All students and staff are provided with Smart Card identification cards. The Smart Card is put as an e-ID application at three buildings, two PC labs, one Electronics Lab, and campus gate entry turnstiles and barriers. The e-wallet application is active for staff but has not started yet for students.

Help Desk: ICTCO is also responsible for the maintenance of personnel and PC Lab computers in respect to software and hardware. Its staff monitors the personal computers within the frame of distribution of duty and authority and brings the issues to a conclusion. At the same time, ICTCO plans servers and cabling services of the University. Staff can open ticket via help.epoka.edu.al for their ICTCO related problems and follow the process from here. You can share your opinions on every subject related to information technologies and informatics with help@epoka.edu.al and you can also write your complaints and suggestions for a better campus life.

Software Opportunities

Epoka University has a subscription of Microsoft Program which is called Dream Spark. It supports technical education by providing access to Microsoft software for learning, teaching and research purposes. Epoka University also provides Office 365 accounts to all staffs and students which includes all office applications for free.

Network:

Wireless: Epoka University provides wireless internet connection to all Epoka members in the campus. As ICTCO, we ensure that the wireless signal is strong and covers everywhere in campus.

Wired: Besides wireless, there are three PC labs, one Civil Engineering lab, one Electronics lab, one PhD study room and a library where PCs serve students and staffs with wired internet. In the Epoka Library and one of the classrooms, there are plug and use stations next to each table where students and staff can use for wired internet and electricity for their laptops.

Digital Signage: There are four TVs in campus, which are used to inform Epoka members about latest news and announcements.

Epoka Interactive Systems (EIS)



Chart 3: Epoka Interactive Systems (EIS)

Recognizing the needs of campus community, Epoka has made a strategic decision to replace its aging, cumbersome, and vendor-supported student, instructors, and staff systems with a modern, nimble and effective internally built system that includes admissions, enrolment, registration, financial aid, student, instructor, and staff accounts, and advising in one platform.

EIS is developed by ICTCO at Epoka University. From the user interface, EIS is an online interactive system where users can log in using the provided official email account. It is a modular system organized by roles and respective units at the university and the information is stored in a centralized database. All users have access to their personal information, can update general details and CV and they can manage job related tasks and activities according to their role and job position.

- **Students:** Students in their profile can access their personal information and information related to their study program. Course registration is done through the system and after that, students can view the ongoing academic activity of the registered courses during the semester. They can check attendance, exam dates, interim grades and final grades. Also, in the system, they can access the program curriculum, transcript, grade calculation, weekly schedule, requests and notifications. The EIS prompts students when they are in the “warning zone” for financial or academic issues. It empowers students to create course plans to ensure timely graduation.
- **Instructors:** Academic staff including full-time and part-time lecturers can have access to their courses assigned in the current semester and can also view previously assigned courses. Lecturers can update the syllabus, complete student attendance, assign and finalize grades. Advisor lecturers can have access to academic information of the students assigned for advisory and they can approve student course registration.

- **Coordinators:** The opening of courses according to course appointment in each semester is done by department coordinators and approved by faculty coordinators. Coordinators can monitor the academic activity of the lecturers under respective department.
- **Admissions and Registrar’s Office:** Admissions Office enters all pre-registered student information and assigns scholarships. After the student has completed the registration, all the related information entered by Admissions office, is managed by Registrar’s office.
- **Finance:** Finance office can manage and follow up all student financial information related to tuition fees and scholarship.
- **Human Resources:** Human resources office can manage all staff information data and assigns roles and job position for each staff.
- **Curriculum:** a website containing information related to study programs, curriculum and course syllabus.

All users have access to their personalized reports according to their roles and respective units. Faculties and units are liberated from tedious manual tasks. EIS supplies them with new and most updated information that will empower them to make informed decisions based on data.

EIS can be continuously updated with new modules according to the university needs. EIS can be accessed via: <https://eis.epoka.edu.al> and users can log-in by their Epoka Mail account credentials.

Measurable indicators:

Table 15: Numbers on Tools and Equipment

Number of PCs for students	217
Number of PC furnished labs for students	9
Number of PCs for academic staff	88
Number of PCs for administration	53
Number of printers	19
Number of photocopying machines	19
Number of head projectors	1
Number of video-projectors	30
Number of scanners	19
Number of TV Screen	10

LIBRARY

The Epoka University Library, which is located on the first floor of A-Building in the Rinas Campus, was founded to support the education and research activities of the university by providing and organizing the needed documents.

With its 100-seating capacity, our library has 400 square meters area of use. Our University Library is composed of entrance, Library and reading hall. In the entrance, there is a check out desk and research center. The periodicals, including the exhibition of new arrivals, are also shelved in this section. The reading hall is equipped for students to study and to do research.

We collaborate with academic staff to help students and faculties with vital content by reducing costs and increasing opportunities for better and more practical study, providing independent researchers with free and low-cost access.

Our library collection is enriched by purchases and donations. The books to buy are chosen in accordance with the needs and requests of the students, administrative and academic staff. Under the Library Unit and Documentation, the library has a total of about 25000 printed books.

Digital Databases

Epoka University has full membership in JSTOR, a shared digital library created in 1995 that includes more than 12 million academic journal articles, books, and primary sources in 75 disciplines. JSTOR helps to explore a wide range of scientific content through a powerful research and teaching platform. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization.

JSTOR was founded to help libraries and academic publishers transition their activities from print to digital operations, to expand access to scholarly content around the world and to preserve it for future generations. **JSTORE is offered for free our students and academic staff.**

Every member of Epoka staff can access to JSTOR's collections by going to <http://www.jstor.org/> and searching or browsing for content

Using the Library

Our library works on the open shelf system enabling you to reach the books directly. The books in the open shelves are topically sorted in the book hall according to LC classification method. To find the book you are looking for, you should follow these steps:

1. Through the catalog search computers in the library; you can search author name, book name, and publisher, topic, or keyword areas.
2. To get the book, you can go to the shelves with the classification and location numbers of the books appearing on the screen as a result of your search.

Example of LC number for the book: "Exchange rates and international finance", Laurence S. Copeland / Financial Times, 2008

HG

3821

.C78

2008

The first part of the LC number "**HG**" represents the category of the book by its topic. In the LC system, the first letter **H** stands for **Social Science** class. Each subsequent letter indicates next level of sub categories of the main topic. In the given example **G** stands for **Finance**, **3821** indicates subcategories included between 3810-4000 (Foreign exchange, international finance, International monetary system), **C78** indicates the first letter of authors surname, **2008** indicates book publication year.

Regulations

Students of PHD, Associate Degree, Bachelor's Degree and Master Students and academic and administrative personnel are the members of the library. They can borrow library materials in accordance with the rules.

Researchers coming from outside the university are not lent books, they are only allowed to use them in accordance with the rules.

Readers in this group are requested to fill up the related form Lending Service.

Table 1: Circulation Rules

Resource	Patron	Loan period(days)	Maximum number of check-outs(items)
Book	Pre-undergraduate/Undergraduate students	15	3
	Graduate students	15	5
	Staff	20	5
Bound Journal	Graduate students Staff	5	2
Visual/Audio Resources	Pre-undergraduate/Undergraduate students	3	3
	Graduate students Staff		

Source: (<http://library.epoka.edu.al/cat-regulations-484.html>)

C. The Curriculum

Undergraduate Teaching

FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCES															
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS															
BACHELOR PROGRAM IN ECONOMICS-3 YEARS															
First YEAR															
First Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and studying hours					ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other		Total
ECO 101	Introduction to Economics I	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
BUS 103	Introduction to Business	B	Compulsory	2	1	0	3	2.5	32	16	0	70	7	125	5
LAW 105	Introduction to Law	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
BUS 107	Essentials of Organizational Behavior	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
BUS 101	Math. for Economics and Business I	A	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	3	32	32	0	61	0	125	5
ENG 109	Developing Reading and Writing Skills	D	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	3	32	32	0	61	0	125	5
Semestral Total				15	5	0	20	17.5	240	80	0	402	28	750	30
Second Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours					ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other		Total

ECO 102	Introduction to Economics II	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
BUS 112	Management and Organization	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
BUS 106	Principles of Programming	A	Compulsory	2	0	1	3	2.5	32	0	16	70	7	125	5
BUS 132	Introduction to Accounting	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	61	0	109	5
BUS 102	Math. for Economics and Business II	A	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	3	32	32	0	61	0	125	5
BUS 108	Business English	D	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	3	32	32	0	61	0	125	5
Semestral Total				15	4	1	20	17.5	240	64	16	393	21	734	30

Third Semester

COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and studying hours					ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other		Total
ECO 201	Microeconomics I	B	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	3	32	32	0	61	0	125	5
BUS 201	Statistics I	A	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	3	32	32	0	61	0	125	5
ECO 203	Macroeconomics I	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
BAF 222	Public Finance	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
XXX xxx	Elective I	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
XXX xxx	Elective II	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
Semestral Total				16	4	0	20	18	256	64	0	402	28	750	30

Elective Courses

COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and studying hours					ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other		Total
BUS 209	Innovation Management	C	Elective	3	0	0	0	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
BUS 121	Marketing I	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
BUS 235	Financial Accounting	C	Elective	2	2	0	4	3	32	32	0	61	0	125	5
BAF 233	Fundamentals of Corporate Finance	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
CEN 105	Linear Algebra	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
BINF 101	Fundamentals Of Information Systems	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
LAW 203	Business Law	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
FL 201	Turkish I	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
FL 207	French I	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
FL 203	German I	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
FL 205	Italian I	D	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5

Fourth Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours					ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other		Total
ECO 202	Microeconomics II	B	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	3	32	32	0	61	0	125	5
BUS 202	Statistics II	A	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	3	32	32	0	61	0	125	5
ECO 204	Macroeconomics II	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
ECO 252	Labor Economics	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
XXX xxx	Elective I	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
XXX xxx	Elective II	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
Semestral Total				16	4	0	20	18	256	64	0	402	28	750	30
Elective Courses															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and studying hours					ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other		Total
BAF 234	Financial Management	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
BAF 202	Introduction to FinTech	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
BUS 122	Marketing II	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
BUS 226	Management Information Systems	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
BUS 234	Sales Techniques and Management	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
BUS 204	Entrepreneurial Mindset	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
MTH 106	Discrete Mathematics	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
CEN 114	Introduction to Algorithms and Programming II	C	Elective	2	0	2	4	3	32	0	32	61	0	125	5
Third YEAR															
Fifth Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and studying hours					ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other		Total
ECO 311	Econometrics I	B	Compulsory	2	0	2	4	3	64	0	0	61	0	125	5
ECO 331	Monetary Theory and Policy I	B	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	3	64	0	0	61	0	125	5
ECO 321	International Economics I	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
ECO 309	Professional Practice	D	Compulsory	0	6	0	6	3	0	96	0	25	4	125	5
ECO 313	History of Economic Thought	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
XXX xxx	Elective I	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5

Semestral Total				13	8	2	23	18	272	96	0	357	25	750	30
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Elective Courses															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and studying hours					ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other		Total
BAF 331	Banking Operations and Services	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
ECO 343	Economics of Innovation	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
BAF 321	Financial Institutions and Markets	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
BUS 337	Total Quality Management	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
BUS 253	Consumer Behavior	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
BUS 335	Human Resource Management	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	70	7	125	5
BINF 311	Data Analytics and Visualization	C	Elective	2	0	2	3	3	64	0	0	61	0	125	5
BINF 251	Database Management Systems	C	Elective	2	0	2	3	3	64	0	0	61	0	125	5
CEN 352	Artificial Intelligence	C	Elective	2	0	2	4	3	64	0	0	61	0	125	5

Sixth Semester															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours					ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other		Total
ECO 324	Data Science for Economics	B	Compulsory	2	0	2	4	3	32	0	32	70	16	150	6
ECO 300/ ECO 304	Graduation Thesis/ Final Comprehensive Exam	E	Compulsory	3	4	0	7	5	48	64	0	30	8	150	6
ECO 322	International Economics II	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
ECO 312	Econometrics II	B	Compulsory	2	0	2	4	3	32	0	32	70	16	150	6
XXX xxx	Elective I	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
Semestral Total				13	4	4	21	17	208	64	64	330	84	750	30

Elective Courses															
COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and studying hours					ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other		Total
ECO 332	Monetary Theory and Policy II	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
ECO 334	Game Theory	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
ECO 342	Fiscal Policy	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
BUS 336	Managerial Accounting	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
BAF 306	Multinational Finance	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6

BAF 322	Loan Management and Credit Analysis	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
BAF 336	Bank Accounting and Reporting	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
BUS 354	Branding and Brand Management	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
BUS 324	Operations Research	C	Elective	2	2	0	4	3	32	0	0	80	6	118	6
BUS 352	International Marketing and Management of Multinational Enterprises	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6
CEN 380	Machine Learning	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	80	22	150	6

Graduate Teaching

FACULTY OF ECONOMICS AND ADMINISTRATIVE SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Attch.2. MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ECONOMICS - 2 YEARS

First Semester

COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and studying hours					ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other		Total
ENG 401	Academic Reading and Writing	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
ECO 403	Applied Microeconomics	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
ECO 423	Economics of Innovation	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
ECO 421	Development and Growth I	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
Semestral Total				12	0	0	12	12	192	0	0	400	158	750	30

Second Semester

COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours					ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other		Total
ECO 402	Time Series in Econometrics	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
ECO 404	Applied Macroeconomics	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
ECO 454	Labor Market Studies	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
XXX xxx	Elective	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
Semestral Total				12	0	0	12	12	192	0	0	400	158	750	30

Elective Courses

COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and studying hours					ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	

Code	Course Name	Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total	Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
ECO 422	Development and Growth II	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
ECO 452	International Monetary Policy	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
BUS 434	Auditing	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
BUS 414	Strategic Analyses on Business	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
BUS 432	Advertisement Management and Creativity	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
BAF 432	Bank Management	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
BAF 422	Risk Management and Insurance	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
ECO 446	Comparative Economic Systems	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
ECO 448	The Economics of Income Distribution	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
PIR 480	EU Integration and Transformation of Western Balkans	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5

Third Semester

COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Course and studying hours					ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.		Other
ECO 501	Research Methods in Economics and Finance	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
ECO 505	Managerial Economics	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
ECO 509	Advanced Monetary Theory and Policy	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
XXX xxx	Elective	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
Semestral Total				12	0	0	12	12	192	0	0	400	158	750	30

Elective Courses

COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka	Semestral Lecture and studying hours					ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Credits	Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.		Other
ECO 531	Contemporary Issues in Economic Development	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
ECO 561	Game Theory for Political Sciences	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5

ECO 511	Digital Economy	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
BAF 505	Banking System and Central Banking	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
BUS 517	Advanced Managerial Accounting	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
BUS 509	Leadership	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
BUS 515	Advanced Operations Management	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5
BUS 513	Strategic Marketing	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	100	39.5	187.5	7.5

Fourth Semester

COURSES		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Course and studying hours					ECTS	
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other		Total
ECO 500	Thesis	E	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	384	18	450	18
ECO 510	Professional Practice	D	Compulsory	0	15	0	15	7.5	0	240	0	60	0	300	12
Semestral Total				3	15	0	18	10.5	48	240	0	444	18	750	30

D. Teaching, Learning, Assessment & Research

Undergraduate Students' List of Theses

1. Name Surname: Ana Thomaj

Title of Thesis: The Impact of Agriculture Exports and Transportation on Carbon Emissions in the Western Balkans

Thesis supervisor: MSc. Jonida Rada

Thesis Summary: *Growing global food consumption and more interconnected global supply chains pose serious obstacles to sustainable economic growth, especially in light of CO2 emissions. Understanding the carbon footprint of cross-border agricultural commerce provides a crucial road ahead, therefore addressing this requires a careful analysis of the aspect of economy and environment on CO2 emissions from this trade. With an emphasis on the interaction of transportation modes, trade distances, and the makeup of exported agricultural commodities, this research examines the main causes of CO2 emissions within this industry. The study uses an economic framework to evaluate the*

effects of trade agreements, logistical efficiency, and competitive advantage on the volume and carbon intensity of agricultural exports. The impact of economic choices on overall emissions is given special consideration. For example, the decision to choose slower, more energy-efficient solutions for commodities against quicker, more carbon-intensive transportation for products.

2. Name Surname: Era Gjinaj

Title of Thesis: Cryptocurrency between Innovation and Uncertainty: Financial Stability, Monetary Policy and Economic Crime

Thesis supervisor: Prof Dr. GÜNGÖR TURAN

Thesis Summary: *One of the most significant innovations of the modern era is cryptocurrency, which is integrated into the architecture of many businesses, governmental organizations, and even national economies. As a result of its quick expansion, an increasing number of new cryptocurrency projects are emerging, some exhibiting significant initial coin value rises. Many people invest in crypto or have started to hear about crypto. However, they do not apprehend the world of cryptocurrencies. One of the easiest and safest payment methods that might be used in the future is this one. In recent years, banks and other financial institutions have found it essential to combine the results of earlier cryptocurrency research. The purpose of cryptocurrencies, like the well-known Bitcoin, was to guarantee transaction security and anonymity while addressing the shortcomings of existing centrally controlled and conventional financial structures. Furthermore, a thorough review of the literature on the difficulties and uses of digital currencies is carried out. A summary of the development of digital money from digital cash to cryptocurrencies is provided, along with an emphasis on the strategies employed to improve user privacy. Additionally emphasized are the safety flaws in the current cryptocurrency systems that jeopardize the confidentiality of Bitcoin users. Lastly, several patterns and studies are noted that require more investigation.*

3. Name Surname: Fiona Rako

Title of Thesis: Conditional Effects of Public Health Expenditure on Economic Growth: Evidence from OECD Countries

Thesis supervisor: Dr. Arjona Lami

Thesis Summary: *There is a general agreement among experts which shows that public health expenditure functions as a fundamental tool which supports population well-being and drives long-term economic expansion. Traditional theories show that health expenditure improves human capital and productivity, but empirical studies present conflicting results about the growth effects of health spending because they depend on macroeconomic conditions of a country. This research analyzes the conditional relationship between public health spending and economic expansion across 38 OECD nations from 2000 to 2023. The research uses a simplified threshold framework to analyze fixed effects panel regression models that incorporate binary interaction terms based on per capita consumption levels. This study found that public health expenditure generates significant economic growth only in nations with consumption levels above the median but*

shows no effect in countries with lower consumption levels. The research also shows that economic growth is positively influenced by both employment-to-population ratio and service sector share but negatively affected by trade openness because of external shock exposure. The study contributes by providing new evidence about the health-growth relationship during the post-pandemic period and demonstrates that economic preparedness determines the success of health care funding through public finance.

4. Name Surname: Ina Nurce

Title of Thesis: Impact of Tourism in a country's GDP, Case Study of Albania

Thesis supervisor: MSc. Jonida Rada

Thesis Summary: *This study's objective is to analyse how the international tourism affects Albania's economic performance, considering other factor such as FDI and trade openness as well. Since Albania is increasingly developing in the tourism sector and is being chosen as a tourist destination by tourists around the world, the analysis done for this country presents a relevant opportunity to examine the possible contribution that tourism may have as a key driver in the economic development of the country. The study is conducted according to annual data for a 30-year period (1994-2023), for the reference country, Albania, considering GDP per capita as a representative of economic growth, and other independent variables, international arrivals as a number, and FDI and trade as a % of GDP. The data are retrieved from reliable sources, namely the World Bank and INSTAT. To calculate the relationship between the considered variables, this study makes use of a multiple regression analysis using the Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) method. Before calculating the regression model, the necessary tests were performed to ensure that the OLS assumptions were not violated. The tests performed include Variance Inflation Factor (VIF) to assess multicollinearity, Breusch-Pagan (BP) to check heteroscedasticity, Regression Equation Specification Error Test (RESET), to test for model misspecification and Augmented Dickey-Fuller Test to check if the stationarity of the variables. To ensure the validity of the regression results, robust standard error was applied when necessary. ii The empirical results show that the impact that international number of tourist arrivals have on GDP per capita is a strong positive and statistically significant one. In fact, it results to be the variable with the greatest impact. The two other variables (FDI net inflows and trade) indicate positive relationships with GDP per capita as well, even though they consist of a slightly lower significance levels. These results demonstrate that tourism is a fundamental component for Albania's economic growth. The results of this study are useful for the discussions related to tourism and economic development for Albania, offering useful insights for policymakers, highlighting how important the sustainable tourism development is and how essential attracting investments together with trade facilitation are, in supporting long-term economic growth.*

5. Name Surname: Kidi Sinani

Title of Thesis: Volatility and Long-Run Dynamics of U.S. Housing Prices: A Time Series Perspective

Thesis supervisor: MSc. Eglja Mansi

Thesis Summary: *The stability of the U.S. economy is closely intertwined with the housing market, which serves as both a barometer of financial health and a proxy for consumer sentiment. The evaluation of macroeconomic trends and the development of effective strategies requires a complete comprehension of housing price dynamics. The research examines the relationship between the U.S. Housing Price Index (HPI) and macroeconomic indicators such as interest rates and unemployment and consumer price inflation (CPI) and M2 money supply and housing starts through time-series econometric analysis. The analysis utilizes monthly data spanning from January 2000 through December 2023 while performing thorough statistical procedures that include unit root testing and multicollinearity diagnostics and heteroskedasticity and normality assessments. The analysis uses logarithmic differencing to achieve stationarity before running an Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) regression to determine short-term effects. The research implements GARCH and Vector Error Correction Models (VECM) to analyze both short-term volatility patterns and long-term dynamics. The research shows that money supply expansion and rising housing construction activity drive up housing prices but higher interest rates together with unemployment rates decrease the HPI. The study confirms theoretical expectations and existing empirical evidence about how monetary conditions and labor market performance influence housing price movements. The research adds to existing knowledge about housing market behavior through its empirical findings which guide both policy development and investment choices for maintaining macro-financial stability.*

Title of Thesis: The Impact of Monetary Policy on the Economic Growth of Albania

Thesis supervisor: Dr. Jonida Rada

Thesis Summary: *This research analysis the impact of monetary policy in the economic growth of Albania. Monetary policy is one of the two main policies followed within country with the main authority the Central Bank. Through its mechanisms it maintains a stable growth by developing the market and reaching the targeted levels of the indicators that lead to the increase of GDP. This study focuses on the GDP growth, inflation rate, exchange rate, broad money, remittances and balance of payments, covering a period of 30 years (spanning from 1994-2023). The study uses annually collected data taken by the World Development Indicators and the analysis is conducted by using the OLS regression model. In order to find the relationship between the variables, their distribution, and whether they are stationary, several tests have examined the dataset (VIF, Normality tests, Breusch-Pagan Test, ADF). The main aim is to understand the role of monetary policy in the economic growth and how it impacts the variables. The regression model indicates that there is a positive relationship between GDP growth and exchange rate, whereas the other variables show a negative correlation with the economic growth. The variables that show the highest significance level are inflation and broad money, which means that the main focus of the monetary policy should be concentrated upon them. The research gives an insight on the impact of each variable and suggests the policymakers to focus to the most significant variables and also consider the other variables.*

Graduate Students' List of Theses

1. Name Surname: Marinela Çopa

Title of Thesis: Testing the Validity of Kuznets' Curve Hypothesis: A Heterogeneous Panel Estimation for the Western Balkans

Thesis supervisor: Prof Dr. Güngör Turan

Thesis Summary: *This research aims to test the Kuznets Curve hypothesis about the relationship between economic development and income inequality for the Western Balkan countries by employing a heterogeneous panel data technique. The main objective of this study is to answer the research question as to whether a significant inverse U-shaped relationship is observed between economic development and income inequality in these transition economies. The analysis employs advanced panel estimate methods like Mean Group, Augmented Mean Group and Common Correlated Effects Mean Group, which were calculated using the STATA program. For the regression analysis, the period from 2008 to 2023 is selected and focuses on five countries in the region: Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia. The econometric model includes seven independent variables: GDP per capita, trade openness, employment in agriculture, employment in industry, employment in the services, inflation, and domestic credit to the private sector. The findings support the Kuznets Curve hypothesis by demonstrating that GDP per capita exhibits an inverted U-shaped correlation with income inequality. Additionally, while employment in industry, services, and the availability of domestic credit are associated with reduced inequality, work in agriculture and inflation show a positive correlation with inequality. It is interesting to note that trade openness did not consistently lead to the results predicted by theory, and the outputs varied in character depending on the estimator used. iii Given the employment of robust, heterogeneity-sensitive estimation techniques in a transitional regional context with a minimum quantity of empirical research conducted, these results can be a little more informative to the literature and increase the important influence of the policy for the purpose of inclusive economic growth in the Western Balkans.*

2. Name Surname: Gledis Berhami

Title of Thesis: The Sustainable Market Adaptation in Medical Tourism and Hospitality: A Comparative Case Study of Pre-Accession Countries of Albania and North Macedonia

Thesis supervisor: Prof Dr. Güngör Turan

Thesis Summary: *This master thesis is an analysis of the market structure, sustainability, challenges, and opportunities in the tourism and hospitality market, focusing on medical tourism in EU pre-accession countries Albania and North Macedonia. Tourism and medical tourism are important parts of economic development, although both countries are dealing with several serious barriers to EU compliance at the structural, regulatory, and environmental levels. This research aims to assess the development, competitiveness,*

and opportunities of these sectors using the EU integration trajectory. Using an integrative research review methodology that combines academic literature, national and international policies, macroeconomic indicators, EU progress reports and surveys with stakeholders, we assess the relative economic contribution of tourism and medical tourism to GDP, employment and investment, as well as the level of market competitiveness, using concentration ratios and the Herfindahl-Hirschman index. The results suggest that while in both nations, tourism does add value, including medical tourism, the countries are faced with common sustainability challenges: lack of capacity building, underlying regulatory issues, and low awareness of sustainable tourism practices. After examining the results of the interview, it is clear that there is still a need to raise awareness for sustainability and how to implement it in medical tourism. The results suggest that only half of the participants are aware of the regulations and are taking responsibility in performing sustainable actions even though they can distinguish some of the most important actions to be taken. We argue that sustainable tourism and medical tourism contribute not just to the economy, but also to the larger EU accession process. It proposes aligning the national frameworks with the European Union Green Deal, building the institutions and capabilities, investing in green and digital infrastructure, increasing transparency, and developing regional cooperation to ensure future competitiveness while meeting EU legislation.

3. Name Surname: Enxhi Xhihani

Title of Thesis: Sustainable Market Adaptation in Higher Education: A Comparative Case Study of EU Pre-Accession Countries of Albania and North Macedonia

Thesis supervisor: Prof Dr. GÜNGÖR TURAN

Thesis Summary: *This master's thesis analyses the competitive and environmental market relations of the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) sector in Albania and North Macedonia. It assesses the economic actions, market structures, and legal order surrounding HEIs regarding EU competition policy. The comparative study indicates that Albania and North Macedonia have truly advanced in meeting the EU competition benchmarks, which warrants consumer protection and competition legislation changes. The high market concentration, which faces both weak laws and limited administrative capacity, creates hurdles for a robust education system. Some primaries, like the willingness of HEIs to accept EU Green Agenda Streams and the absence of green campus concepts, stand in the way of achieving a sustainable curriculum. This research mainly aims to signal to those in power, like the government, the needed actions to improve the market conditions, allowing foreign investment and greater innovation within the sector. In this research, challenges and opportunities that arise in the sector of education sector are to be pronounced. Recommendations are made for consideration of cooperation between some public and private sector operatives in Albania and North Macedonia, improvement of regulation, and the establishment of innovative and sustainable educational systems that could include green market and green economy needs.*

4. Name Surname: Xhejda Tusha

Title of Thesis: Unraveling the Nexus between Migration Dynamics and Economic

Growth in the Western Balkans- A Panel Data Analysis

Thesis supervisor: Dr. Chrysanthi Balomenou

Thesis Summary: *The aim of this paper investigates the relationship between migration and economic growth for Western Balkans. The methodology used is using panel data for years from 2006 until 2022. Western Balkan countries include Albania, Serbia, North Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo and Montenegro. There will be five independent variables including, Government national income, Net migration, unemployment, fertility rate. In this paper there are microeconomic and macroeconomic variables. The data is taken from WDI (World Data Indicators). For the test and methodology, we used E Views program to run all the tests such are Unit Root Test, Hausman Test, White Test for Heteroscedasticity, Serial correlation, Multicollinearity Test, Panel Granger Causality Test etc. After conducting the tests and final estimation output, the study shows that all of them are significant after the unit root test. On the contrary, after final estimation, three of the variables were found to be significant, GNI and Net Migration, with a positive impact on GDP, and Fertility Rate with a negative impact. Furthermore, Unemployment was found to be statistically significant and was justified by specific literature for each case. Unemployment happens to have a negative relationship. This paper aims to contribute into the literature of migration and economic growth in Western Balkan countries.*

5. Name Surname: Gresi Lika

Title of Thesis: Effectiveness of Monetary and Fiscal Policy on GDP Growth: An Empirical Investigation for Albania

Thesis supervisor: Dr. Chrysanthi Balomenou

Thesis Summary: *This study investigates how fiscal and monetary policy affects GDP growth in Albania between 1998 and 2023 using time series data. The World Bank Indicators provided the data for the time series analysis conducted using the software EViews. An Autoregressive Distributed Lag (ARDL) model establishes the short- and long-run relationships between variables, where the ARDL is composed of broad money, real interest rate, inflation, gross capital formation, and final government consumption as independent variables, with GDP growth as the dependent variable. Thereafter, a series of diagnostic tests are conducted for heteroscedasticity, serial correlation, normality, Q statistic, Granger causality, unit roots, and the stability of the model. The output of the final regression results shows that our model has a long-run relationship; specifically, CAPF (capital formation) has a positive relationship with GDP growth, while BM (broad money) and GCexp (government consumption expenditure) have a negative effect on the dependent variable. In the short run, CAPF continues to stimulate GDP growth, while inflation has a significant negative relationship with it. This study fills an important gap in the literature by providing an updated empirical assessment for Albania a small, open, transition economy using recent data and a robust ARDL methodology. Based on the literature, our study suggests that investments should be promoted and that more focus should be placed on monetary and fiscal policy as two important instruments for GDP.*

6. Name Surname: Sara Cami

Title of Thesis: Circular Economy in Tourism and Hospitality in Durres, Albania

Thesis supervisor: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alba Kruja

Thesis Summary: *This thesis investigates the application of circular economy principles in the tourism and hospitality sector of Durres, Albania. The circular economy offers a new sustainable alternative to the traditional linear model by promoting reuse, recycling, and resource efficiency. Through a mixed-method approach combining quantitative surveys and qualitative insights from hotel managers and owners, this study investigates the level of awareness, implementation, and challenges related to circular practices among hotels. The study revealed that due to limited knowledge, financial barriers, and a lack of governmental support frameworks are the main barriers that hotels in Durres face while implementing sustainability practices. This thesis comes up with recommendations for hotel operators, policymakers, and stakeholders who aim to promote greener hospitality in Albania, such as a clearer regulatory framework with information, considering giving financial initiatives, prioritizing new innovative technologies, staff trainings, and having educational campaigns.*

List of Incoming & Outgoing Students

A student exchange program is a program where students from a certain university study abroad at one of their institution's partners. Students can gain additional knowledge by being a participant in the student- exchange. By attending a different university, they can experience life in another country, find out about potential graduate school opportunities, and overall, develop a sense of personal growth.

For the Academic Year 2024-2025, the list of students that were part of exchange program is as follows:

NO.	INCOMING STUDENTS	SENT UNIVERSITY	PROGRAM AT EPOKA	METHOD
1.	Lisa Pallocci	University of International Studies of Rome	MSC ECO	ERASMUS+
2.	Rozenn Corlay	University of Lille	BA ECO	ERASMUS+
3.	Erbolot Makhmutaliev	Università Degli Studi di Cassino e del Lazio Meridionale	BA ECO	ERASMUS+
4.	Nurul Hayat Khan	Università Degli Studi di Cassino e del Lazio Meridionale	MSC ECO	ERASMUS+

NO.	OUTGOING STUDENTS	PROGRAM AT EPOKA	HOST UNIVERSITY	METHOD
1.	Joni Saka	BA ECO	University of Lille, France	ERASMUS+

2.	Klotilda Dulla	BA ECO	University of Lille, France	ERASMUS+
3.	Lorin Shkreta	BA ECO	University of Lille, France	ERASMUS+
4.	Dior Kajmaku	BA ECO	University of Lille, France	ERASMUS+

Research Areas and Research Groups

1. Applied Microeconomics and Game Theory

This research area is concerned with theory economic behavior and decision-making process of individuals, households, firms in the markets in practice. It studies how the economy is affected by such behavior given various economic constraints and institutions.

Faculty focused on this research area: Dr. Arjona Çela, M.Sc. Jonida Rada

2. Macroeconomics Theory and Application including Financial and Monetary Economics

This research area investigates to explain the behavior of aggregate economic variables (e.g., income, employment, inflation, etc.), and how economic policy interacts with this behavior. The aim is to both understand such aggregates in the short run (cyclical fluctuations) and in the long run (economic growth). Additionally, this research area seeks to analyze the links between monetary policy, macroprudential policy, and financial stability in the long run.

Faculty focused in this research area: Prof. Dr. Güngör Turan, Prof. Dr. Abdurrahman IŞIK, Dr. Erinda Imeraj

3. International Economics and Financial Institutions

The core competence of this research area is to develop studies and research on the cross-country analysis of economic integration experiences, specifically including WB countries, CEE, and EU. In the analysis of international trade and FDI, beyond the regional perspective, we discuss the global aspects related to international trade, competitiveness, exchange rates, challenges, and opportunities. A special focus is given to internationalization of innovation and R&D, circular economy, etc.

Faculty focused in this research area: Dr. Erinda Imeraj, Dr. Arjona Çela

4. Development Economics and Growth including Environmental, Resource and Energy Economics

This area is concerned with policy and principles for sustainable economic development in lower- and middle-income countries and for improving the well-being of marginalized individuals, families, and communities in all countries. This field focuses on economic policies and outcomes that are typical of developing countries and interventions that may improve the well-being of the

inhabitants of such countries. This research area includes other relevant topics that impact people lives such as education, health, and environmental issues.

Faculty focused in this research area: Prof. Dr. Güngör Turan, Prof. Dr. Abdurrahman IŞIK, Dr. Arjona Çela

5. Labor Economics and Social Work

This research area studies how labor markets work including labor supply decision of individuals and labor demand decision of firm in the labor market. Moreover, this research area investigates macro and micro labor market studies including the theory of contemporary labor-management relations in the workplace, the economics of collective bargaining and trade unionism, performance-based wage systems and measuring labor productivity, on the job-training and return to education, job seeking and recruitment behaviors of firms by using search-and-matching models in the labor markets, and unemployment.

Faculty focused in this research area: Prof. Dr. Güngör Turan, Dr. Erinda Imeraj, M.Sc. Jonida Rada

6. Economics of Technology and Innovation

This area conducts research on economic incentives leading to responsible technological change. This research area also investigates the impact of technology and innovation on firms' productivity (micro level) and economic growth (macro level) using quantitative analysis.

Faculty focused in this research area: Prof. Dr. Güngör Turan, Prof. Dr. Abdurrahman IŞIK

7. Econometrics and Empirical Economics

This research area studies econometric theory and methodologies as well as specific empirical studies in economics and finance. The research area includes building econometric models and analyses of data as well as purely theoretical questions concerning mathematical-statistical methods of estimation and prediction both in applied economics and finance.

Faculty focused in this research area: Prof. Dr. Güngör Turan, Prof. Dr. Abdurrahman IŞIK

8. Circularity and Sustainability

This research area focuses on developing innovative solutions to promote a circular economy, where resources are reused, recycled, and repurposed to minimize waste and environmental impact. It explores sustainable production and consumption patterns, emphasizing closed-loop systems that extend the lifecycle of materials. Key topics include renewable energy, waste management, sustainable supply chains, and eco-design. By integrating economic, environmental, and social dimensions, the research aims to support sustainable development and foster resilience in industries and communities.

Faculty focused in this research area: Prof. Dr. Abdurrahman IŞIK, Dr. Erinda Imeraj, Dr. Arjona Çela

List of Publications

Staff Journal Publication:

Pub. Date	Title	Author	Publication
(2025)	Do Agricultural Exports Mitigate the Impacts of Carbon Emissions in Türkiye?	Turan, G.	https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/european-review/article/do-agricultural-exportsmitigate-the-impacts-of-carbon-emissionsinturkiye/1BEF608849FFA604DB53EB8E6026697C About this journal https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/european-review About the index https://www.cambridge.org/core/journal/european-review
(2025)	Advancing Sustainable Development with Enhancing the Quality of the Environment: The Role of Human Resources Through Education Expansion and Technological Innovation in Türkiye	Turan, G.	https://doi.org/10.1007/s13132-025-02666-0 About this journal https://link.springer.com/journal/13132 About the index https://www.scopus.com/sourceid/19500157803#tabs=0

(2025)	The Relationship between Economic Growth, Exports, Transport, Tourism, and Financial Development: Dynamic Panel Data Estimations for the Western Balkans	Turan, G. & Abdiu, H.	<p>https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/abs/pii/B9780443137761002130?via%3Di%3Dhub About the book In: Apergis, N. (Ed.), Encyclopedia of Monetary Policy, Financial Markets and Banking, vol. 4. Elsevier, pp. 79-97. Academic Press ISBN: 9780443137761</p> <p>About the index https://www.elsevier.com/about/policies/copyright/permissions Copyright © 2025</p> <p>Elsevier Inc. All rights are reserved, including those for text and data mining, AI training, and similar technologies. Sense ranking A, Elsevier.</p>
(2025)	The Moderating Effects of the Banking and Financial Sector in Achieving Sustainable Development through Economic Growth, Energy Consumption, and Decarbonization: Dynamic Panel Estimate for the Western Balkans	Turan, G. & Toto, V.	<p>https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/abs/pii/B9780443137761003172?via%3Di%3Dhub About the book In: Apergis, N. (Ed.), Encyclopedia of Monetary Policy, Financial Markets and Banking, vol. 4. Elsevier, Academic Press, pp. 679 –690. ISBN: 9780443137761</p> <p>Book index https://www.elsevier.com/about/policies/copyright/permissions Copyright © 2025</p> <p>Elsevier Inc. All rights are reserved, including those for text and data mining, AI training, and similar technologies. Sense ranking A, Elsevier.</p>

Staff Conferences:

(2025)	The Structure of the Microfinance Market and Its Adoption to the EU Accession: A Comparative Empirical Study for Western Balkans	Turan, G., Işık, A., Banda, I.	DOI: 10.31410/ERAZ.2024.61 ERAZ Conference
(2024)	The Moderating Effects of The Banking and Financial Sector in Achieving Sustainable Development Through Economic Growth, Energy Consumption, and Decarbonization: Dynamic Panel Estimation for the Western Balkans	Turan, G., Toto, V.	18th South-Eastern European Economic Research Workshop, Bank of Albania, Tirana, Albania

Participation of Academic Staff in Academic Events

- Vice-Rector Mulleti and Prof. Turan participated at the 2025 Erasmus+ International Staff Week organized by UNINT**

During May 05-09, 2025, Dr. Niuton Mulleti, Vice-Rector for Academic Affairs and Lecturer at the Department of Political



Science and International Relations, and Prof. G ng r Turan, Professor at the Department of Economics, participated at the 2025 Erasmus+ International Staff Week organised by the University of International Studies in Rome (UNINT) in Italy in the framework of the ongoing Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility Agreement between EPOKA University and UNINT.

On this occasion, on May 07, 2025, Prof. Turan delivered a seminar titled “Testing the Validity of the EKC Hypothesis and Moderating Effects of Renewable Energy on Environmental Sustainability: A Dynamic Panel Estimation for the Western Balkans”, whereas Dr. Mulleti delivered a seminar on May 08, 2025, titled “Perspectives of the Western Balkan Countries on the Further Eastward Enlargement of the European Union”.

During their stay at UNINT, on May 06, 2025, Dr. Mulleti and Prof. Turan met with Prof. Mariagrazia Russo, Rector, Prof. Luciano Nieddu, Pro-Rector for International Relations, and Prof. Antonella Ercolani, Pro-Rector for the Third Mission/Social Impact at UNINT. In this context, on behalf of the Rector Prof. Ahmet  ztař, Vice-Rector Mulleti conveyed to the senior management of UNINT the most sincere appreciation on the very fruitful cooperation established between the two universities with a particular focus on the exchange of students as well as faculty and staff under the Erasmus+ programme, and the work carried out on the offering a Double Degree program between UNINT and EPOKA. Discussions focused on the ways to further intensify bilateral cooperation by inquiring the opportunity to also offer Double Degree programs in other disciplines of mutual interest.

During the International Staff Week, Dr. Mulleti and Prof. Turan also met with esteemed colleagues from the numerous participating universities and inquired on potential collaboration opportunities with the respective institutions. Special attention was also paid to meeting with UNINT students who had expressed their interest to be hosted by EPOKA as incoming exchange students under the Erasmus+ programme by building upon the excellent cooperation established between EPOKA and UNINT.

2. Dr. Arjona Lami Presents Research at Rii Forum 2025 in Barcelona

We are proud to share that Dr. Arjona Lami (Çela) participated in the 7th Research & Innovation Forum (Rii Forum), held from 23 to 26 April 2025 at the Open University of Catalonia (UOC) in Barcelona, Spain. Rii Forum is a leading interdisciplinary conference that brings together researchers, academics, and practitioners to explore the role of technology, innovation, and education in building competitive, sustainable, and resilient societies. The 2025 edition focused on “Competitiveness, Sustainable Growth, and Innovation,” offered a vibrant platform for knowledge exchange and international collaboration. Dr. Arjona Lami contributed to the forum by presenting the research paper titled “From Waste to Wealth: An Exploration of Young Adults’ Perception and Practices of Circular Economy in Their Everyday Consumption Behavior in Albania”, together with Epoka University student, Ariadni Harri. Their work offers valuable insights into how youth in Albania understand and engage with circular economy principles, such as recycling, reusing, and sustainable consumption, and highlights the social, cultural, and structural factors that influence their behaviors.



3. Epoka University Hosts PhD Workshop on Circular Economy

On January 16, 2025, Epoka University hosted a PhD Workshop on Circular Economy, bringing together PhD students and researchers from across Albania to explore sustainability, circular business models, and interdisciplinary research.

The workshop, organized in collaboration with [READ and AADF Albania](#), was part of the "Towards an Education for Circular Economy" project, focusing on the impact of Circular Economy teaching practices on sustainability and environmental protection.

The event featured expert presentations and discussions:

- Assoc. Dr. Alba Kruja – *Welcome & Introduction to the Workshop*
- Prof. Vera Ndrecaj (Cardiff School of Management) – *"Circular Economy Business Modelling and Entrepreneurship."*
- Dr. Fatbardha Morina – *"How to Design a PhD Thesis Including Principles of Sustainability, Economic Valuation, and Environmental Social Responsibility."*



- Dr. Arjona Lami – *“How to Generate and Structure Impactful Research Ideas: Tips for Writing and Publishing Academic Papers.”*

PhD students also presented their research:

- Kriselda Gurra – *“Sustainability in the Circular Economy: Issues of Resource Conservation on Value Creation and Waste Management.”*
- Egl Mansi – *“E-Governance and Digital Transformation in Public Administration: A Case Study of Albania.”*



The workshop provided a valuable platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration, supporting the development of sustainable practices and advancing research in Circular Economy.

This event was a key initiative in advancing the "Towards an Education for Circular Economy" project and furthering the goal of integrating Circular Economy principles into education for sustainability and environmental protection.

In the framework of the Erasmus+ Teaching Mobility program at Tuscia University in Italy, Prof.

4. Sharing Knowledge Across Borders: Erasmus+ Teaching Mobility Experience of Prof. Dr. GÜNGÖR TURAN at Tuscia University

Dr. GÜNGÖR TURAN delivered a seminar this week to PhD students titled *“Testing the Validity of the EKC Hypothesis and the Mitigating Effects of Renewable Energy Consumption on Environmental Sustainability: Panel Estimation for the Western Balkans.”*

He expressed sincere gratitude to Tuscia University for their warm reception and to Epoka University for providing this wonderful opportunity to engage in academic exchange. Special thanks were extended to Prof. Chiara Grazini from the Department of Economics for her invaluable support and to Mr. Carlo Contardo, Head of the Mobility and International Cooperation Office, for his exceptional organization and assistance throughout the experience.

Through programs like Erasmus+, Prof. Dr. G ng r Turan emphasized the importance of fostering meaningful connections, enhancing academic collaboration, and sharing knowledge across institutions.

5. Highlighting Our Contribution at the 18th South-Eastern European Economic Research Workshop

Prof. Dr. [G ng r Turan](#) and [Vangjel Toto](#) presented their research paper, "The Moderating Effects of the Banking and Financial Sector in Achieving Sustainable Development Through Economic Growth, Energy Consumption, and Decarbonization: Dynamic Panel Estimation for The Western Balkans," at the 18th South-Eastern European Economic Research Workshop, held on 19-20 November 2024 in Tirana, Albania.



✍ This event, organized by the Bank of Albania, brought together researchers and professionals to explore critical topics influencing economic and sustainable development in the region. It was an incredible opportunity to contribute to the ongoing dialogue on how the financial sector can support sustainability goals through policy and practice.

🙏 Prof. Dr. Gungor Turan extends sincere gratitude to co-author, Vangjel Toto, and all participants for the insightful discussions and feedback. The connections they made and the ideas they exchanged at this workshop will undoubtedly enrich their future research endeavors.

📺 Stay tuned for more updates as we continue exploring the intersections of sustainable development, economic growth, and decarbonization within the Western Balkans!

6. FEAS Stakeholder Forum Concludes, highlighting Graduate Employability

The Stakeholder Forum of the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences (FEAS) convened for its final meeting at EPOKA University, marking a significant milestone in its ongoing commitment to enhancing graduate employability through the Erasmus+ CBHE Project, Sustainable University-Enterprise Cooperation for Improving Graduate Employability (SUCCESS).

This forum, comprised of seven esteemed members representing business entities, financial institutions, alumni, and students, serves as a vital external advisory board.

The meeting commenced with an insightful presentation by Prof. Gungor Turan, who provided an overview of current enrollment trends. Engaging participants in a rich discussion, he emphasized the need for the university's decision-making bodies to adapt strategies that reflect evolving student preferences. A key topic of conversation was the increasing influx of international students, particularly from the Balkan region. Forum members underscored the importance of enhancing marketing efforts and participating in international education fairs to attract this demographic.

In the pursuit of excellence, the group also discussed the critical need for stronger collaboration with industry partners to ensure that graduates are effectively recruited immediately upon completion of their studies. Various strategies were proposed to help the university stand out as the leading institution in the country, emphasizing innovative approaches that differentiate its programs from those of other universities.

As the meeting ended, all participants expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to contribute to this advisory body, highlighting the positive impact of collaborative efforts on the university's trajectory. With mandates set to renew this year, the forum looks forward to continued engagement and support for the university's mission in fostering sustainable university-enterprise cooperation.



This meeting not only capped off a fruitful series of discussions but also reinforced the importance of stakeholder collaboration in shaping the future of higher education and enhancing employability outcomes for graduates.

E. Support, Resources & Representation

1. More reasons to study Economics!

Starting from 2025–2026, students who enroll in Economics at Epoka University can specialize through elective courses in one of the following areas:

- 1 Economics with Data Science
- 2 Business Economics
- 3 Financial Economics

Not just Economics!

Whether you're into data, business, or finance, we've got the track for you.

👉 Apply now:

admissions@epoka.edu.al

☎ Contact us: +355 69 6111 230

📞 Call/WhatsApp

📄 Learn more: <https://lnkd.in/djZFUDj6>

💰 Tuition fees:

<https://lnkd.in/d2grrjw7>



2. Open Lecture on Research Methods by Dr. Sonila Çela from Data Centrum

The Department of Economics at Epoka University had the pleasure of hosting an open lecture on January 22 as part of the *Research Methods* course in the Master of Science in Economics program. The lecture featured **Dr. Sonila Çela**, a distinguished expert from **Data Centrum**, one of Albania's leading market research institutes.



During the lecture, Dr. Sonila Çela shared valuable insights into the practical applications of research methodologies in the field of market research. She discussed key techniques for data collection, analysis, and interpretation, emphasizing the importance of research in driving informed business and policy decisions. Students had the opportunity to engage in discussions, ask

questions, and gain a deeper understanding of how research methods are applied in real-world scenarios.

The event provided an excellent platform for students to connect academic theories with industry practices, enhancing their knowledge and preparing them for future research endeavors.

We thank Dr. Çela and Data Centrum for their collaboration and look forward to future engagements that bridge academia and industry.

3. Looking Back at a Creative Workshop!

On 19 November 2024, we had the pleasure of hosting an inspiring Cartoon Workshop led by Dr. Erkan Demirbas and moderated by Prof. Abdurrahman Isik. The session brought together colleagues from various disciplines to explore the use of analogy-based storytelling to simplify complex academic concepts.

The workshop featured creative approaches like explaining monetary policy with a battery-powered boomerang, illustrating standard deviation through quirky examples, and even using fairy tales to unpack advanced topics like Ordinary Least Squares (OLS) and the 2007 financial crisis.

Participants engaged in hands-on activities, learning how to craft their own stories to make challenging topics more relatable. The session also introduced the exciting idea of establishing a Cartoon Creation Centre within our Faculty, an initiative that received enthusiastic support.

We are grateful to everyone who made this event such a success. Stay tuned for more innovative events!



List of Students' Internships

Nr.	Name Surname	Company
1	Aisa Oshafi	Anxhelo Br 2007
2	Geralda Bejleri	EK Dental Clinic
3	Fiona Rako	Holly&Endi Auditing
4	Megi Alizaj	Reone real estate
5	Sindi Poka	Aleks Kola
6	Esra Shabani	Shoqeri Kursim Krediti Petrele
7	Era Gjinaj	GJINAJ-2019
8	Renisa Meta	Tali Flower Shop
9	Ana Thomaj	Alzeta shpk
10	Ina Nurçe	Polytechnic University of Tirana, Faculty of Civil Engineering
11	Josina Nazeraj	Your Market Selio
12	Monika Mehmeti	Delight Hotel
13	Evli Cini	EMD
14	Kidi Sinani	Forvis Mazars
15	Sonja Lila	Hodo Hasani accounting office
16	Leandro Meto	GBK SHPK
17	Arvi Arapi	FINSTUDIO ER&LED
18	Gazmend Shtaro	Elektroitalia Shtaro Shpk
19	Bergina Shena	Eral Construction Company

Participation in Academic Events

Research Projects

- Prof. Dr. Güngör Turan Publishes Research on Advancing Sustainable Development with Enhancing the Quality of the Environment: The Role of Human Resources Through Education Expansion and Technological Innovation in Türkiye**

EPOKA University proudly congratulates Prof. Dr. Güngör Turan, distinguished faculty member of the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, on the successful publication of his latest research article titled “*Advancing Sustainable Development with Enhancing the Quality of the Environment: The Role of Human Resources Through Education Expansion and Technological Innovation in Türkiye*” in the prestigious **Journal of the Knowledge Economy**, published by Springer on **April 12, 2025**.

This impactful study explores a highly relevant and timely subject—the role of human resource development and technological innovation in fostering sustainable economic growth and reducing carbon emissions, particularly within the context of Türkiye’s evolving knowledge economy. Drawing on annual data from 1990 to 2019 and applying the bounds test ARDL approach, the paper investigates how secondary education enrollment, patent activity, and renewable energy consumption influence environmental outcomes.

Key findings reveal that:

Expanded education and technological innovation are critical drivers for long-term sustainable development.

Renewable energy consumption plays a significant role in reducing carbon emissions.

A strategic integration of knowledge-based assets is vital to crafting effective sustainability policies.

This research contributes meaningful empirical evidence to the ongoing discourse on sustainable development, while also addressing a key gap in existing literature—specifically, how knowledge economy pillars such as education and innovation impact environmental sustainability in Türkiye.

Prof. Dr. Turan’s work not only enriches the global academic community but also underscores EPOKA University’s commitment to advancing impactful, solution-driven research that bridges theory with real-world policy implications.

The full article is available through Springer at the following link: [Read the article here](#)

Once again, we congratulate Prof. Dr. Güngör Turan for this significant achievement and for his continuous dedication to academic excellence and research that matters.



2. Professor Güngör Turan Publishes Study on the Role of Agricultural Exports in Reducing Carbon Emissions in European Review Journal

Epoka University professor G ng r Turan has published a new research article in *European Review*, a journal by [Cambridge University Press](https://www.cambridge.org/core). The study, titled *Do Agricultural Exports Mitigate the Impacts of Carbon Emissions in T rkiye?*, investigates the role of agricultural exports in environmental sustainability and decarbonization. The full article is available at <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1062798725000092>.

The research analyzes T rkiye's agricultural export growth from 1990 to 2015, assessing its impact on carbon emissions using the autoregressive distributed lag (ARDL) bounds testing approach. Findings indicate that a 1% rise in agricultural exports leads to a 0.08% reduction in carbon emissions, highlighting the long-term environmental benefits of trade liberalization. The study also confirms that renewable energy consumption significantly reduces emissions, with a 1% increase in renewable energy use lowering emissions by 0.26%.



Professor Turan emphasizes that sustainable agricultural practices, such as precision farming, efficient irrigation, and conservation techniques, play a crucial role in mitigating environmental degradation. The study calls for policymakers to integrate agricultural exports into national sustainability strategies, aligning with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

With extensive expertise in labor economics, environmental economics, and sustainable development, Professor Turan has been a faculty member at Epoka University since 2007. His research contributes to policy discussions on agriculture, energy, and economic sustainability.

This publication reinforces Epoka University's commitment to impactful research and global academic contributions in the field of economics and sustainability.

Special congratulations to Prof. Dr. G ng r Turan for his outstanding work on this important publication!

3. Exciting News: The Latest Publication is Out! ✨

The Department of Economics is pleased to announce the publication of a chapter by Prof. Dr. G ng r Turan and Vangjel Toto, titled *"The Moderating Effects of the Banking and Financial*

Sector in Achieving Sustainable Development through Economic Growth, Energy Consumption, and Decarbonization: Dynamic Panel Estimate for the Western Balkans." This chapter has been published in the prestigious *Encyclopedia of Monetary Policy, Financial Markets, and Banking* and is part of Elsevier's Reference Collection in Social Sciences.



The research explores the crucial role of the financial sector in promoting sustainable development, with a particular focus on the dynamic relationships between energy consumption, economic growth, and decarbonization within the Western Balkans. In addition, it will inspire further dialogue and innovation in sustainable development policies. The link of the publication: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/B9780443137761003172?via%3Dihub>

Special congratulations are extended to Prof. Dr. Güngör Turan for his exceptional contribution in bringing this important publication to fruition!

4. “Young Adults’ Pathway to Digital Entrepreneurship: From Ideas to Innovation”, authored by Arjona Cela, Egla Mansi, and Fatbardha Morina

The collaborative research of EPOKA University professors has achieved a remarkable milestone!

The paper titled **“Young Adults’ Pathway to Digital Entrepreneurship: From Ideas to Innovation”**, authored by **Arjona Çela, Egla Mansi, and Fatbardha Morina**, has been published in the prestigious **European Journal of Innovation Management**.



This high-impact journal, indexed in the Web of Science SSCI, Journal Citation Reports, and Scopus, boasts an impressive 5-year impact factor of 5.8.

The study reveals that innovativeness, attitude towards entrepreneurship, subjective norms, perceived behavioral control, and self-efficacy significantly influence digital entrepreneurial intentions among Albanian students. It also highlights a strong preference for digital entrepreneurship and uses machine learning to analyze student preferences. This research offers novel insights into Albania's entrepreneurial landscape by applying the Theory of Planned Behavior (TPB) in a unique context, testing innovativeness' direct impact, and bridging academia and industry to support student entrepreneurship.

Read the full paper [here](#) and explore the innovative pathways shaping the future.

Student Best Success Stories

1. Epoka University Students Represent Albania at IDEA Debate Exchange 2025 in Warsaw as Winners of the National “Debating Economics” Competition

The Department of Economics at Epoka University proudly announces the remarkable success of its students, Ami Hoxha and Redi Halidini, who emerged as the winners of this year’s “Debating Economics” competition, organized by Junior Achievement Albania (JAA). Following their outstanding victory, the Epoka debate team was invited to represent Albania at the prestigious IDEA Debate Exchange 2025, an international program organized by the International Debate Education Association (IDEA). The event took place in Warsaw, Poland, from August 18 to 23, 2025, bringing together talented students and young leaders from across Europe for an immersive training and networking experience. Following their success at the National University Debate Competition, Epoka’s winning team earned an exclusive opportunity to take part in the IDEA Debate Exchange 2025. This program offered students interactive training sessions, workshops, networking opportunities, and peer-exchange platforms, designed to enhance their skills in public speaking, critical thinking, and debate leadership. The program was organized over four intensive days, offering a rich mix of training activities and collaborative learning opportunities:



- Deep Dive Sessions — engaging discussions and planning on how to leverage opportunities from the European Solidarity Corps to support debate organizations;

- Youth Project Exploration — participants explored ways to get involved in youth-led initiatives while also learning about the legal and bureaucratic frameworks that govern debate-related activities;
- Workshops on Expanding Debate Culture — practical strategies on how to bring structured debates into schools, share knowledge with wider communities, and overcome common barriers faced by debate clubs;
- Debate on a Wide Scale — an interactive session where participants shared experiences and learned best practices for scaling debate initiatives nationally and internationally;
- Debate in the Age of AI — a forward-looking workshop exploring how artificial intelligence is reshaping debate preparation, training methods, and persuasive communication techniques;
- Networking and Collaboration — connecting with young debaters and trainers from across Europe to exchange diverse perspectives and build lasting partnerships.

Through these sessions, participants not only strengthened their debating and leadership skills but also gained valuable insights from fellow attendees who shared experiences, challenges, and innovative approaches to fostering a vibrant culture of discussion and dialogue.

A Tradition of Excellence, A Future of Leadership

The Department of Economics at Epoka University has long been a driving force behind student success, both nationally and internationally. Over the years, our students have consistently excelled in debate competitions, research forums, and youth-led initiatives, building a strong reputation for academic and extracurricular achievements. This year's victory at "Debating Economics" represents yet another milestone in this tradition of excellence. By combining academic rigor with practical experiences and active participation in international programs, the department continues to equip students with the knowledge, confidence, and leadership skills needed to succeed in an increasingly competitive and dynamic world.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the Epoka debate team for this exceptional achievement and wish them continued success as they showcase Epoka University's excellence at the IDEA Debate Exchange 2025.

2. The Young Economist Triumphs at National Debating Economics Competition

We are proud to announce that our team-Ami Hoxha and Redi Halidini -has secured first place in the National Debating Economics Competition, part of Junior Achievement Albania's Debating Economics initiative. Facing rigorous eliminations and a final on the resolution "This House Believes that the biggest threat to cybersecurity is not technology, but human behavior," Ami and Redi demonstrated exceptional mastery of economic reasoning, empirical analysis, and persuasive discourse to earn the debate cup.



This competition underscores the importance of Debating Economics in cultivating advanced analytical skills, enhancing public-speaking confidence, and preparing future economists to address complex policy and market challenges. We extend our deepest gratitude to our mentors, Arjola Metaliaj and Eglã Mansi), whose strategic guidance and rigorous coaching were instrumental in our success. We also thank Junior Achievement Albania, the certified adjudicators, and all supporting coaches and volunteers for their commitment to academic excellence.

Prospective participants who wish to refine their economic arguments, engage with real-world issues, and join a community of rigorous thinkers are invited to DM us to learn how to become a member of The Young Economist debate team.

Office Holders

The department would like to thank the following for their valuable contribution to teaching, administration and management over the past year:

- Academic staff
- Administrative staff
- Students
- CPAO
- Finance Office
- Rector's Office
- Events' Organizers and Participants
- All other units of Epoka University

Acknowledgements

In addition to the Office Holders listed above, the department would like to thank all the department academic and administrative staff for their valuable contribution through the academic year.

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