	EPOKA UNIVERSITY POLICY “ON THE COORDINATION BETWEEN RESEARCH CENTERS AND PhD STUDY PROGRAMS”				
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POLICY “ON THE COORDINATION BETWEEN RESEARCH CENTERS AND PhD STUDY PROGRAMS”

1. Purpose and Application

EPOKA University has achieved a continuous and sustainable increase in project and research output, impact and international recognition aligned to the strategic goals stipulated in **the Institutional Framework Strategy 2018-2022** by providing a high-qualified ecosystem for research and project development. This policy applies to all PhD study programs offered by the University.

2. Policy Statement

EPOKA University remains a pioneer in encouraging scientific research and projects, and accordingly has established a consolidated internal policy to promote and incentivize high-qualified scientific research and projects by providing institutional and financial support for its research centers, and for the research projects of PhD students.

3. Responsibilities

The coordination between research centers and PhD study programs will be administered by the respective Departments which offer the PhD study programs, Faculties, and Research Centers in collaboration with the Research and Projects Office.


4. Policy

4.1. Coordination of Research and Projects inside the University

EPOKA University has established three multi-disciplinary research centers: the **Center for European Studies (CES)**, whose main scope is the improvement of the understanding of global issues and interdisciplinary studies; the **Center of Research and Design in Applied Sciences (CoRDA)**, whose aim is to promote excellence in research and build a bridge between industry and academia, contributing to the built environment with expertise and academic research; and the **Yunus Center for Social Business and Sustainability (YCSBS)**, whose purpose is to build social business awareness to address pressing economic, social and environmental challenges through interdisciplinary research, knowledge-sharing and mentoring services.

CES is founded on EPOKA University’s regional-renowned teaching reputation and research excellence. CES seeks to encourage programs across disciplines that increase an understanding of

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the diversity of societies and cultures that constitute Europe. In the focus of its research is to examine the traditional divisions within and across Europe and how those divisions influence the present membership in the European Union and its future expansion; while dealing with the issues of exclusion and inclusion, and global positioning in the European “space.”

CoRDA intends to implement design strategies based on interdisciplinary principles, generating integrative design between the user and the designer; and develop projects in different fields of Applied Sciences. The center provides consulting services in different fields such as Urban and Building Physics, Universal Design, Structural Engineering, Construction Materials, Construction Management, Water Resources, and Environmental Engineering etc. Functioning as a research entity, the center aims to offer to the academia a platform for developing research projects and publishing the results of the related subjects in scientific research. One of the main objectives of CoRDA is to facilitate the engagement of students and graduates in the professional practice.

YCSBS serves as a research center to map the social business ecosystem, gather knowledge on social business, examine and test theories of social business, while also seeking to find predictors of success in social business and its ultimate impact in reducing poverty and other social, economic, or environmental problems. YCSBS further works to disseminate knowledge on social business with the academia, market, government, and civil society.


To develop a more effective project and research ecosystem, and to ensure a better coordination of the research and project activities, EPOKA University has established **the Research and Projects Office (RPO)**. RPO provides support for project application, conducts the research calls and coordinates the research funds of the university, and assists researchers in research evaluation and dissemination based on the provisions of the **Regulation of EPOKA University “On Scientific Research”**.

4.2. Principles on Coordination between Research Centers and PhD Study Programs

4.2.1. Institutional basis and recommendations

EPOKA University is a research-based teaching, and particularly with the PhD study programs, a project and research-oriented university. The organization of scientific research activities and projects, the rights and obligations of the competent authorities of the University and researchers as well as the publication activities of the University which are part of research activities are legally and institutionally conducted based on the provisions of **Regulation of EPOKA University “On Scientific Research”**.

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EPOKA University shall continue with its commitment towards research by consolidating the research centers with PhD study programs to provide a high-qualified ecosystem to achieve a high level of research output in compliance with the strategies recommended by:

-) The European Research Area (ERA) priorities for excellence in research.
-) The provisions of the Law no. 80/2015 “On Higher Education and Scientific Research in Higher Education Institutions in the Republic of Albania”.
-) National Strategy on Science, Technology, and Innovation.
-) Institutional Framework Strategy 2018-2022 of EPOKA University.
-) Strategic Plan of the RPO 2018-2022.
-) Strategic Plans of the CES, CORDA, and YCSBS.
-) Research Areas of the respective Departments.

4.2.2. Conduct of PhD study programs and the research projects of doctoral students

The conduct of PhD study programs and the research projects of doctoral students shall be ensured by the Departments, Faculties, Research centers, Rectorate, Academic Senate, and the Administrative Board of the University in accordance with the provisions of the **Regulation of EPOKA University “On PhD Study Programs”**, and the principles of the **Guideline of EPOKA University for Research Projects**.

4.2.3. Employment of PhD students in research centers as “project-developer and researcher”


The respective research center shall open a call for the “**project-developer and researcher**” position for PhD students in coordination with the respective Departments and Faculties aligned with the research areas of Departments and Research Centers.

The call for the employment of PhD students to the full-time “project-developer and researcher” position in the Research Centers shall be in line with the admission criteria and the allocation of required quotas for PhD study programs suggested by the respective Departments and Faculties, proposed by the Rectorate, and approved by the Academic Senate.

The employment of PhD students in the position of “project-developer and researcher” shall be followed-up by the Human Resources Office (HRO) in the framework of the **Regulation of EPOKA University “On Staff Recruitment”**.

The terms and conditions of the employment contract of PhD students shall be arranged by the HRO in collaboration with Institutional and Legal Affairs Office.

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4.2.4. Budgeting, financial support and the assessment of the project-research output of PhD students

The budget allocation and implementation of financial provisions concerning the financial support provided to PhD students shall be implemented by Departments, Faculties, Research Centers, the Rectorate, and the Administrative Board of the University in accordance with the provisions of the **Regulation of EPOKA University “On Scientific Research”** and the **Directive of EPOKA University “On the Promotion of Scientific Publications”**.

4.2.5. Dissemination of the research-project output of PhD students

The dissemination of the research-project output of PhD students shall be ensured and reported by RPO according to the provisions of the **Guideline of EPOKA University for Research Projects**.

5. Related Documents and Forms

All documents and forms related to this policy can be accessed from <http://epoka.edu.al/home-staff-doc-publications-6-404.html>, and <http://eis.epoka.edu.al/form/>

6. REVISION HISTORY

Revision No.	Revision Date	Revision Reason	Effective Date
00	-----	<i>Initial Release</i>	
01	-----	J xxxxxxxx	

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