



EPOKA UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR EUROPEAN STUDIES
STRATEGIC PLAN 2018-2022



Contents

| | |
|--|----------|
| I. INTRODUCTION | 2 |
| II. MISSION, VISION AND CORE VALUES | 2 |
| III. STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES | 4 |
| IV. IMPLEMENTATION | 5 |

I. INTRODUCTION

Epoka University Center for European Studies (CES) is a **multi-disciplinary** research program having as its main scope the improvement of the understanding of Global Issues and Interdisciplinary studies.

CES is founded on Epoka University's regional-renowned teaching reputation and research excellence. The Center seeks to encourage programs across disciplines that increase an understanding of the diversity of the societies and cultures that constitute Europe. It examines how traditional divisions within Europe such as the ones between North/South and West/East influence **the present membership in the European Union** and its future expansion and global positioning as well as how they exclude and will continue to exclude a number of countries and their peoples from European "space."

CES in Epoka: Past Achievements

- ▶ *Time of Establishment:2008*
- ▶ *a research-based unit which acts under the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences of Epoka University.*
- ▶ **6 International Conferences on European Studies** and co-organized **1 International Conference on Balkan Studies,**
- ▶ *numerous guest speakers on EU open forums and participated in various national events.*
- ▶ **Journal of European Social Research** (previously named as *Journal for European Studies*)

II. MISSION, VISION AND CORE VALUES

Vision

The main goals and strategies of CES includes enhancing communication among academia, students and civil society mainly in line with the priorities cited in three strategic documents:

- 1- **Epoka University's Strategic Plan 2018-2022**
- 2- **EU Western Balkans Strategy: A Credible Enlargement Perspective**
- 3- **EU Country Progress Reports**

Mission

The Center for European Studies becomes more important at a time that the **Western Balkan Region is closer to the opening of EU accession negotiations**. The context mainly demands means to communicate the need for more integration to the public.

CES is committed to build this **5 Year Strategic Plan** on the need to communicate and discuss the integration process to the following stakeholders:

- ▶ **Academics**
- ▶ **Students**
- ▶ **Civil Society Actors**
- ▶ **International Centers/ Foundations**

Values

- Excellence in Research
- Teaching with Integrity
- Cooperation and Partnership

III. STRATEGIC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Goal 1. *Promote Excellence in Interdisciplinary Research on EU studies. - Reference to G.7, O.19 of EPOKA University Framework Strategy*

The Center for European Studies aims to cover research that investigates processes of European integration and cooperation from a political, economic, social and cultural perspective. It is also interested to promote scholar work that analyzes the development of EU policies and institutions over time and various forms of cooperation and conflict that characterizes the union's relationship with states and regions. More specifically, the center strongly supports research works that study Albania's progress for the EU agenda and the challenges of the integration that are specific to the Western Balkans region.

Objective 1.1. *Cover research that investigates processes of European integration and cooperation from a political, economic, social and cultural perspective.*

Objective 1.2. *Promote scholar work that analyzes the development of EU policies and institutions over time and various forms of cooperation and conflict that characterizes the union's relationship with states and regions.*

Objective 1.3. *Establish inter-institutional research groups that conducts research in CES Research areas. - O.18*

Goal 2. *Teach and learn policies and institutions of European Union to students of three levels of study through contemporary and innovative approaches. – Reference to G.1 of EPOKA University Framework Strategy*

The Center for European Studies aims to transmit knowledge to students on the institutions and policies of European Union in order to raise awareness to the opportunities and challenges that the mechanisms of accession and membership brings to different levels and groups of society. Moreover, the process has increased the need in the region for comprehensive expertise in European affairs and will enable students to learn about the interplay of EU institutions with their national institutions.

Objective 2.1. *To inform and increase awareness on the EU integration opportunities and challenges to students at all levels.*

Objective 2.2. *Establish a M.Sc. or PhD program on EU studies.*

Goal 3. *Enhance Visibility, International Networking and Collaboration – Reference to O.11 of EPOKA University Framework Strategy*

The Center for European Studies aims to develop cooperation through all its activities or events for this academic year or in the future. In specific, CES is highly focused on partnerships through EU projects and

other regional ones. As a country still in transition, CES strengthens the need to learn from the experience and expertise of institutions and professionals located in EU countries.

Objective 3.1. To promote knowledge transfer and share best practices mainly with EU institutions.

Objective 3.2. To develop sustainable academic partnership based on equality and mutual recognition.

IV. IMPLEMENTATION

Action Plan and Indicators

| Goals | Objectives | Instruments and actions | Measurable outcomes | Start | End | Budget (if needed) | | | | | Total Budget |
|--|--|--|--|-------|------|--------------------|------|------|------|------|--------------|
| | | | | | | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2018-2022 |
| G.1 Promote Excellence in Interdisciplinary Research on EU studies. | <i>O.1.1 Cover research that investigates processes of European integration and cooperation from a political, economic, social and cultural perspective.</i> | I.1 Research Groups and Research Areas | <p><u>Measure 1.1.1.</u> Launch each year one new research area with an interdisciplinary focus.</p> <p><u>Measure 1.1.2.</u> Establish research groups with academicians from at least two different disciplines</p> <p><u>Measure 1.1.3.</u> Organize yearly workshops</p> | 2019 | 2022 | - | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|------------------|--|------|------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | that study EU integration from an interdisciplinary perspective. <u>Measure 1.1.4.</u> Launch at least once a year the <u>call for articles</u> for the Journal of European of European Social Research with Interdisciplinary orientation. | | | | | | | | |
| | <i>O.1.2 Promote scholar work that analyzes the development of EU policies and institutions over time and various forms of cooperation and conflict that characterizes the union's relationship with states and regions.</i> | I.2 Publications | <u>Measure 1.2.1.</u> Increase the number of thesis at Epoka University that study the relationship of EU with the WB Region through stimulating mechanisms such as “ Best Thesis Award”. <u>Measure 1.2.2.</u> Increase the number of book publications under Center | 2019 | 2022 | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|----------------------------------|--|------|------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | <p>for European Studies that research and explains the Union’s enlargement strategy toward the region. <u>Measure 1.2.3.</u> Produce at least <u>one yearly report</u> that evaluates regional progress toward EU from a regional perspective.</p> | | | | | | | | |
| | <p><i>O.1.3 Establish inter-institutional research groups that conducts research in CES Research areas.</i></p> | <p>1.3. Project Applications</p> | <p><u>Measure 1.3.1.</u> Make at least <u>one application</u> to Jean Monnet Projects (EU region) <u>Measure 1.3.2.</u> Make at least one application as leading or partner to Visegrad Fund (Central and Eastern Europe Region) <u>Measure 1.3.3.</u> Make at least one application as leading or</p> | 2019 | 2022 | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|------|------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | partner in W.B. Fund Projects (Western Balkan Region) | | | | | | | | |
| G. 2 Teach and learn policies and institutions of European Union to students of three levels of study through contemporary and innovative approaches. | O.2.1. To inform and increase awareness on the EU integration opportunities and challenges to students at all levels. | 2.1. Open Forums | <u>Measure 2.2.1.</u> Increase by 25% the number of EU open lectures to students at all levels. <u>Measure 2.2.2.</u> Increase by 25% library resources on EU studies | 2019 | 2022 | | | | | | |
| | O.2.2: Establish a M.Sc. or PhD program on EU studies. | 2.2. Teaching | | - | - | | | | | | |
| G.3. Enhance Visibility, International Networking and Collaboration. | O.3.1. To promote knowledge transfer and share best practices mainly with EU institutions. | 3.1. Agreements | <u>Measure 3.1.1</u> Organize at least one activity per year in collaboration with an international institution. | 2019 | 2022 | | | | | | |
| | O.3.2. To develop sustainable | 3.2. International Project Applications | <u>Measure. 3.2.1.</u> Establishing sustainable | 2019 | 2022 | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | <i>academic partnership based on equality and mutual recognition.</i> | | networking with national institutions focused on EU research and activities. <u>Measure 3.2.2.</u> Make at least one application for exchange agreements or capacity building projects under Erasmus Plus program. | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|