



MAGNET

MANagerial and GoverNance Enhancement through Teaching
www.magnet-project.eu



BALKANETUP

BALKAn NETwork for University Pedagogy



Co-funded by the
European Union

Erasmus+ Programme
Capacity Building in Higher Education
(ERASMUS- EDU-2022-CBHE-STRAND-1)
Project 101083006

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1st International Conference of the Network of Teaching and Learning Centers in Greece

5-6 July 2023
Ramada Plaza Thraki, Alexandroupolis, Greece
www.ctlconference.org



DEMOCRITUS UNIVERSITY OF THRACE

The Greek and the Balkan Network of University Pedagogy

The MAGNET Coordinator, Professor Katerina Kedraka, in collaboration with the MAGNET partners, Professor Thanasis Karalis of the University of Patras and postdoctoral researcher and MAGNET partner Dr Christos Kaltsidis, presented the BALKANET, as part of the MAGNET project, in a detailed presentation entitled: "The Greek and the Balkan Network of University Pedagogy", in the framework of the 1st International Conference of the Network of Teaching and Learning Centers in Greece, which took place on July 5 and 6, 2023 and was organized by the Horizontal Action of CTLs in Greek universities. The Conference was attended by about 90 delegates from Greece and abroad, among them almost all the Coordinators of the CTLs of HEIs as well as members of the teaching staff and the academic community of the Universities of Greece.

The presentation is published in the

Proceedings: K. Kedraka, C. Kaltsidis, Th. Karalis (2023). The Greek and Balkan Network of University Pedagogy, (2023). In: Z. Gavrilidou, (Ed), (2023). Transforming Higher Education Teaching Practice: Selected papers of the 1st International Conference of the Network of Teaching and Learning Centers in Greece, Editions of the Network of Learning and Teaching Centers in Greek Universities.



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UNIVERSITY OF BANJA LUKA

Staff's Professional Development on University of Banja Luka

On the initiative of the Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy, prof. dr Srđan Dušanic and the support of the Rector of the University of Banja Luka, Prof. dr Radoslav Gajanin, during April and May 2023, the series of lectures and interactive workshops aimed at the professional development and professional development of the teaching staff's pedagogical competencies began. About 250 teachers and associates of the University of Banja Luka were involved, who had the opportunity to learn from experienced professors and experts from various fields in university pedagogy. They could further improve their professional competences on learning outcomes of teaching process, stimulating creative and critical thinking of students, interactive learning techniques, developing rhetorical skills in teaching, communicating with students, evaluating student achievements and using collaborative digital tools in teaching.

The University of Banja Luka and the Faculty of Philosophy, through the Erasmus+ project MAGNET, continue with activities to improve the teaching process and develop teaching capacities systematically, by creating similar professional training and events that raise the quality of education to a higher level, supporting establishment of BalkaNetUp and through the opening of the Office for Professional Development of Teaching and Non-teaching Staff of the University of Banja Luka, which operates within the Center for Lifelong Learning.

More info about the professional training program:

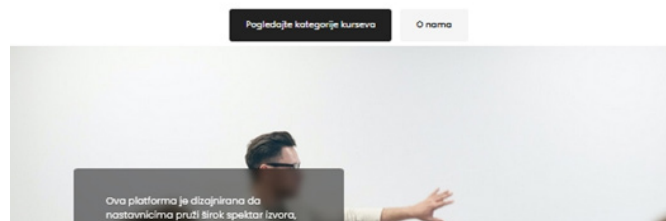
-  <https://www.unibl.org/sr-lat/vesti/2023/06/uspjesno-zavrsheno-profesionalno-usavrsavanje-nastavnog-osoblja>
-  <https://ff.unibl.org/sve-novosti/novost/932/profesionalno-usavrsavanje-definisiranje-ishoda-ucenja-na-nivou-predmeta-i-blok-casa>
-  <https://ff.unibl.org/sve-novosti/novost/936/poziv-za-ucescenja-na-drugoj-radionici-o-profesionalnom-usavrsavanju-nastavnog-osoblja>
-  <https://ff.unibl.org/sve-novosti/novost/942/poziv-za-ucescenja-na-trecoj-radionici-o-profesionalnom-usavrsavanju-nastavnog-osoblja>

UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO

University of Sarajevo adopted a new Statute including provisions for the establishment of the Office for professional development of teachers and non-academic staff (UNSA CTL) as planned in the MAGNET project. It is important to highlight also that the provisions that refer to the future Office will also carry out its activities through cooperation with other offices at the universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Europe engaged in improving the quality of the teaching process, and enabling our Office to engage in the network foreseen by the MAGNET.



Dobrodošli na DigiEdu platformu za online učenje



Picture 1: Intro page of the DIGI.EDU site

The UNSA CTL will be built up comprising components for both online and in-class educational activities: DIGI.EDU and TRAIN (Training and Research for Academic Newcomers).

The TRAIN program includes eight two-day in class courses delivered since 2013, and DIGI.EDU is offering ten online courses with open access. We invite all our partners to explore these courses freely at <https://digi-edu.unsa.ba>. The content is in Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian language and after registration all users can enroll in the courses, complete self-paced education including the tests, and receive the certificate.



Picture 2: Promotion event for the DIGI.EDU

UNIVERSITY OF ARTS IN BELGRADE

A progress report from the University of Arts in Belgrade (UAB)



Belgrade, 29 September 2023

Originally, the project team of the Erasmus+ MAGNET project was especially dedicated to the establishment of the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL). Regarding this, during the summer months and in September, several meetings were held with the Rector and the management of UAB, in order to create the legal framework for the constitution of a new organizational unit at UAB. The presence of UAB project team members at the General Meeting in Tirana was of particular importance. Professor Gordana Karan and project officer Andjela Russo shared their experiences, as well as positive

practices of establishing CTLs in partner institutions.

The proposal for the establishment of the CTL was discussed and submitted to the bodies of UAB. The changes of the Statute have to be approved by the Statutory Committee, the Senate and the Council of the UAB. The completion of the whole procedure is expected in the beginning of November. In the meantime, the project team is strongly committed to the conception of the CTL activity plan, in accordance with the objectives of MAGNET project. Academic members of the project team – Prof. Gordana Karan and Prof. Ivana Drobni-

have been focused on the preparation of the first MOOC course, with literature and other materials.

Regarding communication and dissemination of the project, all information on the project's activities and progress was presented to the bodies of UAB. During September, the Deans Board and the Senate were informed in detail about the General Meeting in Tirana and the key steps that will be taken to establish the CTL. The information about the meeting in Tirana was published both in the Serbian and English version on UAB website, as well as on the social media Instagram and LinkedIn.

DEMOCRITUS UNIVERSITY OF THRACE

Promotion of MAGNET in the Conference of the University of West Attica



The Coordinator of the Centre for Teaching and Learning (CTL) of the University of Patras, Professor Thanassis Karalis, participated with an address at the conference organized by the University of West Attica, which aimed at promoting the activities of the Centre and recording the state of University Pedagogy in Greece. The Coordinator of the CTL of the Democritus University of Thrace, Professor Katerina Kedraka, participated in the conference as well. During their speech both of them referred to the MAGNET programme, the creation of BALKANETUP and the perspectives opened up by the cooperation of the Teaching and Learning Support Centers in the Western Balkans.

UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

Promotion of BALKANETUP at the University of Patras

A message from the Center of Teaching and Learning (CTL) of the University of Patras informed the entire academic community of the university (more than 5,000 recipients) about the importance of the kick-off meeting of the MAGNET project and the establishment of the BALKANETUP. As stated in the message, the MAGNET project is very important for the presence of the University of Patras, as 12 universities from 8 different Balkan countries participate in the BALKANETUP. The message notes that the purpose of the network is the development of University Pedagogy in the Western Balkan countries and the transfer of know-how for the establishment of Centers in the universities of these countries.





DEMOCRITUS UNIVERSITY OF THRACE

The MAGNET Coordinator, Professor Katerina Kedraka, participated in a round table entitled: "University Pedagogy and ICT in higher education" in the framework of the 13th Panhellenic and International Conference "ICT in Education", which took place on 29/9, 1 & 2/10/2023 in Kavala under the auspices of the International University -see <http://etpe23.cs.ihu.gr/>.

University Pedagogy was presented at the round table as a relatively new field in the higher education community, which is closely intertwined with the training of university teachers and with the improvement of the quality of teaching and learning in the academia. The topic of the discussion is a timely one as in Greece a network of Centers for Teaching and Learning (CTLs) is being institutionally developed in HEIs across the country in order to support the University's mission in cultivating learning and education through high quality and high-quality forms of teaching.

In this context, the Balkan Network of University Pedagogy, established and starting its operation in the framework of the three-year project MANagerial and GoverNance Enhancement through Teaching (MAGNET) ERASMUS-EDU-2022-CBHE-STRAND-1 (101083006), was presented. The importance of University Pedagogy was presented through the MAGNET Project, which is co-funded by the European Union and the coordinating institution is the Democritus University of Thrace. 12 Universities from 8 countries of the Western Balkans are participating. It aims to develop the field of University Pedagogy, to establish CTLs for lecturers in HEIs, and to develop the BALKANETUP network, which aspires to broaden cooperation and achieve coupling with more higher education institutions in the Balkan region.

"ALEKSANDËR MOISIU" UNIVERSITY OF DURRËS

"Aleksandër Moisiu" University of Durrës, as one of the partners of the MAGNET Project, has participated in all developed activities.

After the first meeting in Alexandropoulos, we began preparing the CTL Regulation. To make it as inclusive as possible, meetings were held with representatives from the Assemblies of each of our university's 5 faculties.

In these meetings, the main objectives of the Magnet project were explained, with a particular focus on the establishment of the CTL. Feedback and suggestions were gathered, and a draft of the Regulation was prepared, which reflects the key objectives of the project.

To improve the Teaching Staff Survey, the team conducted meetings with teaching staff representatives, to whom the purpose of the survey was explained – addressing the needs and wants of higher education.

After the second meeting in Tirana in collaboration with LOGOS colleagues we fulfilled the National Report of Teaching & Learning Enhancement in Higher Education.

The first and the second meeting, are reflecting in our social media (Instagram. UAMD Webpage, Facebook).



UNIVERSITY OF DONJA GORICA

Innovative model of studies and improvement of teaching process within MAGNET at

University of Donja Gorica (UDG) develops a very unique model of education and has a very clear research orientation, as well as a strategic orientation towards the development of entrepreneurial characteristic of its studies.



The primary aim of studying at UDG (based on the study model according to "Professor's equation" $S = z \cdot i^2$) is to enable student - through acquiring knowledge and intensity of life during studies (where the latter, according to Professor's equation, is more important and enables conversion of knowledge gained into abilities) – to be able to follow the global processes in the world around him/her, to notice changes or change tendencies, as well as potential problems and conflicts that go together with these changes, and to be able to accept the responsibility of solving such problems, either through creating products and services in their own companies (during the educational process we put an emphasis on this) or as an "expert on uncertainty", who will offer his/her expertise to employers on the global market.

Managing the vision of University development over the last several years resulted in change and improvement of teaching process and curricula and participation in MAGNET project. These changes reflected the tendency to apply all comments and recommendations by IEP into the teaching process at UDG, in accordance to existing internal capacities, external conditions, and, most importantly, the development vision of UDG. UDG is an entrepreneurial innovative university whose model of studies is based on Rector's concept – Professor's equation- $S=z \cdot i^2$, by which the theoretical and philosophical character of studies at UDG is expressed.

The process of organization and improvement of teaching at UDG, through the activities done both at university and faculty level within the MAGNET project started. From February 2023 around 15 trainings and workshops discussions with the aim of improving the quality of studies and teaching process at UDG were organized. The round-tables and trainings discussions are intended for all students, professors, associates and employees at UDG, all those who are directly or indirectly involved in the teaching process at the University. The total number of attendants in round-table discussions is 200 students, associates and professors. The main aim of the training and round tables were to



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discuss "“Class as a work of art” with following topics:

- Innovative pedagogy;
- Analysis and implementation new teaching methods
- The review of the curricula of UDG study programmes and innovations in teaching
- Operationalization of idea – Why class should be an work of arts
- Innovative pedagogy, presentation of online tools and digital platform as good practice - ASU repository.



INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS COLLEGE MITROVICA



The International Business College Mitrovica (IBC-M) participated in the first meeting held on 31.08.2023 – 02.09.2023 as part of the MAGNET – Managerial and Governance Enhancement through Teaching project, on the frame of Erasmus+ Programme – Capacity Building in Higher Education institutions. Prof. Shaip Gashi and Prof. Muharrem Salihaj represented the IBCM. The project aimed to increase accessibility, participation, and retention of the academic institutions to the training in order to improve the quality of teaching. The meeting session was led by the Partner in charge – LOGOS, University College Albania. Initially, the strategic plan of the Partners' contribution to the Frame of Principles of the BALKANETUP was discussed and launched. The mission of the BALKANETUP (Balkan Network for University Pedagogy) is to promote and support the implementation of modern, innovative, transformative, and student-centered instructional strategies in higher education institutes across the Western Balkans. The meeting continued with a round of presentations from each of the partners and their work packages related to the progress and achievement of the first stages of project implementation. IBCM was fully committed and engaged in the meeting agenda with their representatives. At the same time, Prof. Shaip Gashi did the presentation for IBCM introducing the IBCM activities with a special focus on the progress and masses undertaken to implement this project.

- <https://www.ibcmitrovica.eu/magnet-project-activities-september-2023/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/Ibcmitrovica/posts/713790110793105>

LOGOS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE TIRANA

Report on some of the activities held by LOGOS University College for the MAGNET Project

1. University College LOGOS participates in the inception meeting of the MAGNET project

University College LOGOS participates in the inception meeting of project No. 101083006, ERASMUS+ KA-2, on Capacity Building in Higher Education, MAGNET (Managerial and Governance Empowerment through Teaching and Learning) which was held on 16 - 17 February 2023 at Democritus University of Thrace in Alexandroupoli, Greece. Dean of Faculty of Humanities and Linguistic Communication, Assoc. Prof. Konstantinos GIAKOURIS and Dr. Valbona Nathanaili, member of the Department of Pedagogy and Psychology, as representatives of LOGOS were involved in the process of reflection and organization of the project activity.

ERASMUS+ KA-2 Project, on Capacity Building in Higher Education, MAGNET aims to raise awareness and build structures for the development of university pedagogy. University pedagogy, developed mainly through the operation of Centers for Teaching and Learning (CTL), is the main pillar for the actualization of European Higher Education Area. MAGNET project aims to develop a network for University Pedagogy in the Western Balkans through knowledge transfer from countries with functional Teaching and Learning Centers to all countries and partner institutions. The main objectives include transfer of knowledge and experiences, creation of CTLs, generation of educational materials (MOOC) and a sustainable Balkan network for University Pedagogy (Balkan Network for University Pedagogy - BalkanNetUP).

University College LOGOS collaborates in all aspects of the project led by the Democritus University of Thrace, and leads Work Package IV related to Quality Assurance. Involvement of LOGOS in European projects is included in the strategic plan for the internationalization of the institution.

2. First General Management meeting of the ERASMUS+ project titled "MAGNET."

LOGOS University College, Tirana, Albania, 31 August - 2 September 2023

The first general meeting of the ERASMUS+ "MAGNET" project was held from August 31 - September 2, 2023 in the premises of "LOGOS" University College.

On its first day, was held KA-2 for capacity building in higher education. The event took place in the hall of the amphitheater, in the presence of the leading figures of the university, the academic and administrative staff, and the collaborators of this project. The event was followed by the opening of the "Magnet" project, co-financed by the European Union, won in the framework of the ERASMUS+ call. In this project, University College LOGOS cooperates in all aspects of the project led by the Democratic University of Thrace, and leads the IV Work Package related to Quality Assurance.

The next day continued with the presentation of the work of project collaborators and the tasks to be completed in the coming months.



3. Improving Management and Governance of Higher Education Institutions for better teaching

Internationalization of the institution is one of the main goals of University College "LOGOS". In this context, on March 3, 2023, Amphitheater Hall "Magnet" project (co-funded by the European Union, won in the framework of the ERASMUS+ KA-2 call for capacity building in higher education) was introduced to the heads of the university, academic and administrative staff. In this project, University College "LOGOS" cooperates in every stage of the project led by Democritus University of Thrace, but leads the Work Package IV related to Quality Assurance.

MAGNET" project (Managerial and Governance Empowerment through Teaching and Learning) focuses on the establishment of structures for the development of university pedagogy and modernization of teaching methods through know-how transfer from countries with functional Centers for Teaching and Learning to all countries of partner institutions, as well as aims to create a network of higher education institutions in the Balkans, BalkaNetUP (Balkan Network for University Pedagogy). University College "LOGOS" cooperates in every stage of the project led by Democritus University of Thrace, but leads the Work Package IV related to Quality Assurance.

This project consists on the cooperation of 12 universities from eight countries: Greece, Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, Serbia, Bulgaria, North Macedonia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Prof. Assoc. Konstantinos Giakouris, Dean of Faculty of Humanities and Linguistic Communication and Project Coordinator and Dr. Valbona Nathanaili, lecturer in Department of Pedagogy-Psychology introduced their colleagues with the work packages of each project, the importance of inclusion, as well as the positive impact that engagement of "LOGOS" in international projects, either as a partner or network leader, has in achieving institutional objectives.





UNIVERSITY OF PRISHTINA



Learning Cycles in University Pedagogy

The kick-off meeting of the MAGNET (Managerial and Governance Enhancement through Teaching) took place in the city of Alexandroupoli, Greece from 16th to 18th February 2023. UP was represented by professor Naser Zabeli. This meeting was also linked with the Conference of Democritus University of Thrace's Center of Teaching and Learning (CTL) titled "Learning Cycles in University Pedagogy" held on 18th of February.

MAGNET is a consortium of 12 HEI partner institutions from 8 WB countries. University Pedagogy, mostly enhanced through the operation of Centers for Teaching and Learning (CTL), is a main pillar for the implementation of the European Higher Education Area. MAGNET aims to develop a network for University Pedagogy in the Western Balkans states, through know-how transfer from countries that have CTLs under operation to all partner countries. Main objectives include the know-how transfer, the establishment of CTLs, the production of educational material and the creation of a sustainable network BALKANETUP (Balkan Network for University Pedagogy). This meeting's main contribution was also the launching of BALAKANETUP, which is of major interest for the MAGNET project.

The University of Prishtina participated in the first meeting held on 31.08.2023 – 02.09.2023 as part of the MAGNET – Managerial and Governance Enhancement through Teaching project, on the frame of Erasmus+ Programme - Capacity Building in Higher Education institutions. IBCM was represented by Prof.dr. Naser Zabeli and Profas. Dr. Adhurim Rasimi. Muharrem Salihaj. The project aims to increase accessibility, participation and retention of the academic institutions to the training in order to increase the quality of teaching. The meeting session was led by partner in charge - LOGOS University College from Albania. Initially, it was discussed and launched the strategic plan of Partners' contribution on the Frame of Principles of the BALKANETUP. The meeting continued with a round of presentations from each of the partners and their work-package related to the progress and achievement of the first stages for project implementation. During September 2023, representatives from the University of Prishtina and International Business College Mitrovica held meetings and worked together to draft the Kosovo National Report for the MAGNET Project.



- <https://www.facebook.com/100003428670014/posts/pfbid038FFjKjBL91pA9Tfj25i4Bqpq33nUBEtKwKwN-Zyff-5Jrwwh4acEvXtePNUZYj42il/?mibextid=cr9u03>

The Medical University of Plovdiv – part of the innovative MAGNET project

MAGNET project (Managerial And Governance Enhancement through Teaching) is an agreement between the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) and 12 higher education institutions of Western Balkan countries with a focus on university pedagogy – the pedagogical and didactic knowledge, skills, and understandings that academic educators need to improve their way of teaching and the student learning process. The coordinator of the Project is the Democritus University of Thrace in Greece.

At the Medical University of Plovdiv, the Project is implemented by a team led by Prof. Dr. Ani Belcheva, MD, Deputy Rector for Academic Activities of the University and Project Coordinator for Bulgaria.

The main objective of this Project is to create a consortium of higher education institutions sharing the new paradigm for improving university pedagogy.

Within the framework of the MAGNET project, educators of all 12 participating partners from 8 countries in the Western Balkans region will be able to collaborate at intra-national, regional, and inter-regional levels. This partnership is expected to lead to the creation of a network of Centers for Teaching and Learning.

The main objectives of the Project include the creation of centers for teaching and learning, the transfer of know-how, the distribution of educational materials, and the creation of a sustainable network BalkaNetUP (Balkan Network for University Pedagogy). The functioning of this network will help the improvement of university pedagogy, an essential pillar for the implementation of the European Higher Education Area. The creation of a sustainable Balkan network for university pedagogy is an innovative idea to share innovative comprehensive methods and tools for teaching and learning in higher education institutions of the Western Balkan countries. The transfer of know-how will take place from countries that have active Centers for Teaching and Learning to other partner countries.

Project activities to achieve the goals include: research and analysis of teaching staff needs for all participating higher education institutions, creation of centers for teaching and learning, launch of the Balkan Network for University Pedagogy for communication and sharing of all results of

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the MAGNET project, development of training courses based on the analysis of needs, joint work of the partners through webinars, face-to-face meetings, seminars and conferences, etc.





SOUTH EAST EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY

MAGNET Project First General Management Meeting in Tirana

Press Release September 11, 2023

Our partner, "LOGOS" University College, hosted the First General Meeting of the ERASMUS+ "MAGNET" project, co-financed by the EU. This project involves 12 universities from eight Balkan countries, including SEEU.

Key Highlights from the meeting:

Strong commitment to developing high-quality MOOC modules.

Emphasis on the significance of the partnership with BALKANET for regional education.

Priority on inviting new collaborators to the BALKANET platform.

Focus on establishing Centres for Teaching and Learning at universities.

Thank you to all participants for your active involvement, and let's continue making progress together! #SEEU #MAGNETProject #Education #Collaboration #BALKANET

Link: https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0g67N-cRrn26DbbA8eHe16tRHNzAfVr6umQ2Tpxb3pq18ZrgxnZxnjVbx315dw8CHdl&id=100063118907460&mibextid=Nif5oz



MAGNET PROJECT - Professional Development Session

Press Release October 10, 2023

The Language Center at South East European University organized a profound professional development seminar on Global Learning in EFL Classrooms in line with the objectives of the MAGNET project, which focuses on the creation of the Center for Teaching and Learning (CLT). The goal of this seminar was to enhance the expertise of educators

in the field of English as a Foreign Language (EFL) instruction. The session, which concentrated on the intentional integration of global learning, was a resounding success and marked another milestone in our commitment to fostering globally competent students and responsible global citizens. The seminar, facilitated by the esteemed external expert Vesna Dimitrievska, who hails from Indiana University, provided educators with a unique opportunity to explore innovative approaches to EFL instruction. Ms. Dimitrievska's wealth of experience and valuable insights into global learning strategies ensured that participants gained helpful knowledge and skills. Global learning, the core theme of the session, delved into the significance of developing global competencies among

students. The event emphasized the critical role that educators play in preparing students to navigate an increasingly interconnected world. Through collaborative discussions and practical demonstrations, attendees learned how to intentionally infuse global perspectives

into their teaching methodologies. The ultimate goal is to empower students to become informed, empathetic, and active global citizens who are well-equipped to make meaningful contributions to our ever-changing global society.

Key takeaways from the seminar include:

- Strategies for integrating global content into EFL curricula.
- Tools and resources to foster cross-cultural understanding in the classroom.
- Effective approaches for promoting critical thinking, empathy, and cultural sensitivity.
- Practical techniques for assessing and measuring global learning outcomes.

Link:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0g67NcRrn26DbbA8eHe16tRHNzAfVr6umQ2Tpxb3pq18ZrgxnZxnjVbx315dw8CHdl&id=100063118907460&mibextid=Nif5oz

Learn more about the MAGNET project:

<https://mvdsl.seeu.edu.mk/projects/magnet>