

Teaching EU in higher education: the today's and tomorrow's of Albania's society.

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ALBANIA

This paper will deal with the question:

- What can higher education do to safeguard these fundamental values and human rights that unite us, but which are currently under pressure?

When we talk about values:

- Who is the target group? Are we thinking about individuals or the states
- As professor and researcher I think that European Union is itself and foremost, a community of shared values
- Our task is to ensure that we continue to teach them, to empower, even as our societies face problems.
- We provide our society with a vital resource: new ideas

- The EU faces a series of profound challenges which arrive from different directions and feed each other
- In an age of fragmentation no organization lives and breathes that the Jean Monnet Community

Jean Monnet in Albania

2012 at the European University of Tirana

- We recognized that education is part of a bigger response, and therefore has a vital contribution to make to the Albanian society trying to enter EU, by promoting
 - social inclusion,
 - combating prejudice and
 - fostering civic, social competencies,
- helping young people to become responsible.

What is a Jean Monnet Chair?

- A Jean Monnet Chair is a teaching post with a specialisation in European Union studies for university professors or senior lectures.
- Only one professor may hold the Chair and must provide the minimum of 90 teaching hours per academic year.

Which activities are supported under this action?

- A Jean Monnet Chair can carry out one or more of the following activities:
- deepen teaching in European integration studies embodied in an official curriculum of a higher education institution
- conduct, monitor and supervise research on EU subjects, also for other educational levels such as teacher training and compulsory education
- provide in-depth teaching on European integration matters for future professionals in fields which are in increasing demand on the labour market
- encourage, advise and mentor the young generation of teachers and researchers in European integration subject areas

The overall aim of the Chair is to develop theoretical and practical knowledge and expertise on EU and regional development amongst students, academics, civil society and local government in order to enhance the Albanian capacities to benefit from EU structural funds in lieu of the EU accession.

Specific aims:

1. To stimulate excellence in teaching through renewing and expanding the academic curricula and introducing innovative and interactive teaching methods for UET students of different disciplines and students from other HEIs in the area of EU and regional development.
2. To foster research and critical analysis in the field of EU and regional development among students, young and senior scholars so as to prepare academic studies that have the potential to inform regional strategy and policy-making in Albania in lieu of the EU accession.
3. To enhance knowledge, reflection and professional capacities among Albanian stakeholders (central/local government, NGOs and other regional actors) on EU regional development policy in order for them to be better prepared to compete for and benefit from the EU structural funds in lieu of the EU accession.

Albania toward EU regional development JMC project

- Who
- How
- What

Albania need education to lead the way, and
higher education to act catalyst.