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Higher Education System in Western Balkans/Montenegro

Central European Joint Info Day 2019
October 15-16, 2019
Brno, Czech Republic



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General information about WB region

Country	Capital	Population	Currency	Language
Albania 	Tirana	2.8 million	Albanian	Lek (ALL)
Bosnia and Herzegovina 	Sarajevo	3.5 million	Bosnian Croatian Serbian	Convertible mark – KM (BAM)
Kosovo 	Prishtina	1.8 million	Albanian Serbian	EUR
Montenegro 	Podgorica	650.000	Montenegrin	EUR





Overview of the HE system in WB countries Albania

- The first cycle education programs -180 European credits (ECTS), 3 academic years duration;
- The second cycle education programs - 120 credits, 2 academic years duration;
- The doctorate education programs last at least 3 academic years and include 60 credits/year.

Joined Bologna Process
in 2003

40 HEIs
(14 public and 26 private HEIs)

36 accredited HEIs

The list of all public/private HEIs in Albania available at: <https://www.ascal.al/en/hei-list>



Overview of the HE system in WB countries Bosnia and Herzegovina

- **1st cycle** - Bachelor degree or equivalent, 3 or 4 years of full-time study, 180 and 240 ECTS (with exceptions of studies in medical sciences, which can comprise up to 360 ECTS)
- **2nd cycle** - Master degree or equivalent, 1 or 2 years, 60 and 120 ECTS, the first two cycles together account for 300 ECTS
- **3rd cycle** - Doctoral degree - lasts 3 years and comprises 180 ECTS

48 licensed HEIs
(10 public and 38 private HEIs)

30 accredited HEIs

**Joined Bologna Process
in 2003**

Specific:

- Relevant Ministries
- Government Agencies
- Legislation

The list of all licensed HEIs in BiH (including public and private universities/colleges) could be found at the web page of the Centre for Information and Recognition of Qualifications in HE in BiH, at: <http://www.cip.gov.ba/index.php/en/higher-education-institutions>.

The list of accredited HEIs in BiH: Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance, at the following link: www.heg.gov.ba/akreditacija_vsu.



Overview of the HE system in WB countries

Kosovo

- **First cycle** – three (3) to four (4) years of studies by which reaches 180, respectively 240 ECTS => Bachelor Diploma.
- **Second cycle** – one (1) to two (2) years of studies after completion of the first level by which the students reaches 60, respectively 120 ECTS => Master Diploma.
- **Third cycle** - doctoral studies with academic and independent research scientific character

Still not an official member
of the Bologna Process

9 public and 21 private HEIs

The list of all public and private HEIs in Kosovo available at: <http://www.akreditimi-ks.org/new/index.php/en/download/higher-eduacion-institutions>



Overview of Erasmus+ results in the field of Higher Education 2019: WB region

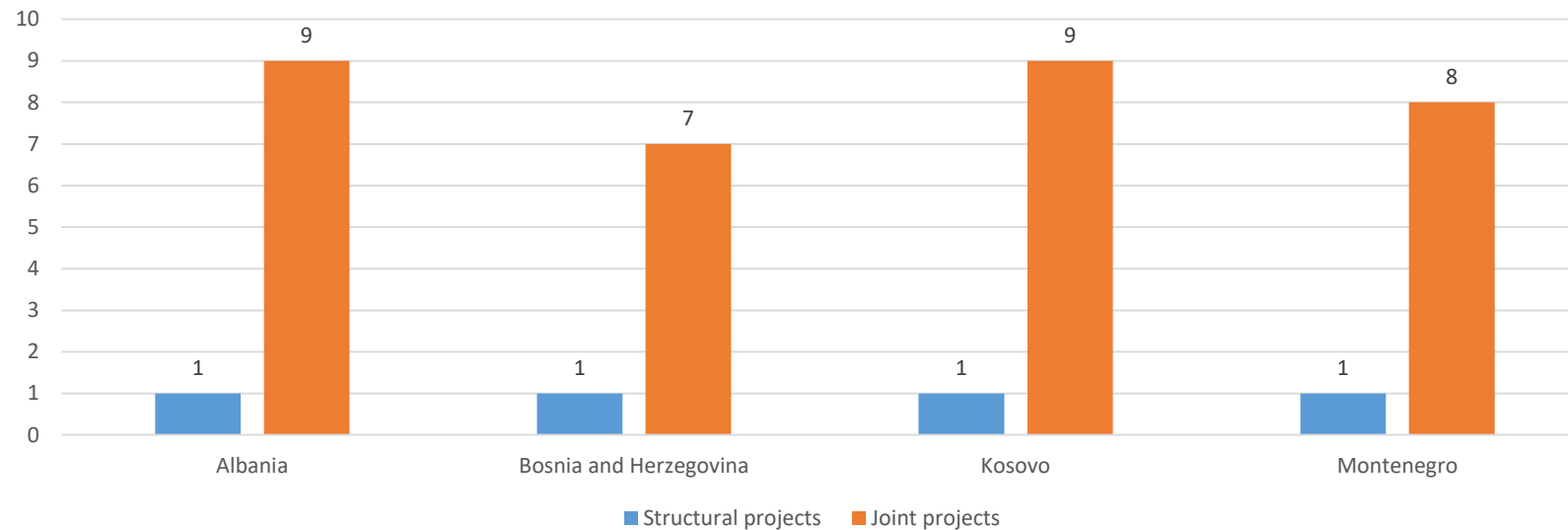
Capacity Building in Higher Education projects

2019	
Albania	10 (5 as applicant)
BiH	8 (1 as applicant)
Kosovo	10 (3 as applicant)
Montenegro	9 (3 as applicant)

Overview of Erasmus+ results in the field of Higher Education 2019: WB region

Capacity Building in Higher Education projects

Number of joint and structural projects in WB partner countries





Overview of Erasmus+ results in the field of Higher Education 2019: WB region

Jean Monnet projects

2019	
Albania	2
BiH	3
Kosovo	3
Montenegro	1



ICM – mobility of students and staff in higher education for WB region 2015-2018

IPA - Western Balkans selection results to date (2015-2017 calls)	Applications	Selected projects	Success rate	Grant Awarded (EUR)	Total Participants Awarded	Participants Incoming (to EU)	Participants outgoing (from EU)
Albania	388	276	71%	11213000	3436	2211	1225
BiH	498	327	66%	13565000	4137	2614	1523
Kosovo	261	169	65%	6178000	1988	1341	647
Montenegro	225	158	70%	3964000	1233	802	431
Total (Unique projects involving one or more countries in the region)	1280	912	71%	61615000	18970	12030	6940

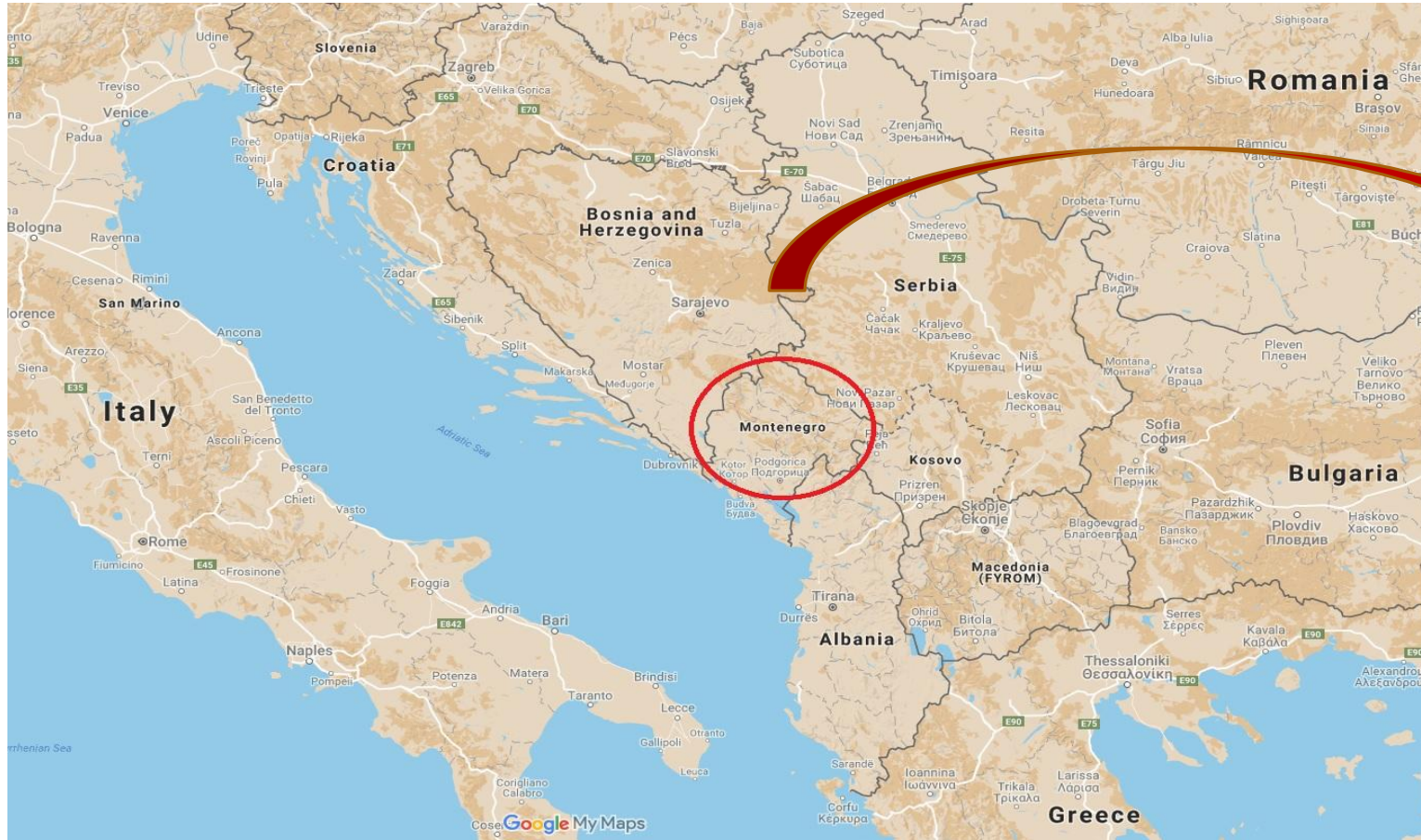
**2019 ICM results are not available yet*

CBHE priorities for WB region

Curriculum development	Improving management and operations of HEIs	Developing the Higher Education sector within society at large
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education; • Physical sciences; • Engineering and engineering trades; • Agriculture, forestry, fishery and veterinary; • Health; • Transport Services; • Environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance, strategic planning and management of HEIs (such as human resources and financial management) • Internationalization of HEIs (including recognition mechanisms and mobility, IR capacities) • Equity, access to and democratization of HE (including disadvantaged groups of people and regions) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-university sector at tertiary education (actions which target reforms in vocational and technical vocational education and training institutes and colleges which are offering tertiary education but are not universities) • University-enterprise cooperation (such as support for students' practical placement, entrepreneurship, employability of graduates, etc.) • Recognition of qualifications and Qualification Frameworks • Definition, implementation and monitoring of reform policies (including evidence-based policies, financing of education, governance, quality assurance of public and private higher education sector, introduction of transparency tools and standards and guidelines)



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**A small country with about
650.000 inhabitants**



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Tourism



Agriculture

Two predominant
priority sector at
the state level





Higher education system in Montenegro

- Higher education - implemented based on the principles of **Law on Higher Education**, adopted in June 2017, regulating the fundamentals of HE system according to Bologna Declaration principles
- Member of Bologna process as of 2003
- Elements of Bologna process in the Montenegrin HE legislation incorporated



Higher education system in Montenegro

Novelties

Agency for Control and Quality Assurance of Higher Education

- Quality assurance of higher education in Montenegro is carried out by the new established Agency for Control and Quality Assurance of Higher Education and the Higher Education Council.
- Quality assurance includes accreditation, self-evaluation and reaccreditation.

Law on Academic Integrity

- Montenegro stands out as the first country in the Balkan region to regulate academic integrity by a specific law.
- Adopted in March, 2019, the Law on Academic Integrity aims at preventing plagiarism and raising awareness on all forms of violation of academic integrity, as well as at promoting academic and democratic values in higher education.



Higher education in Montenegro

Strategic objectives for further higher education development - formulated in the Strategy for the Development of Higher Education 2016-2020

Strategy for the Development of Higher Education 2016-2020: objectives

Improving the quality of higher education and creating competitive staff	Harmonizing education with the labour market needs	Improving scientific and research work and increased level of participation in EU projects	Internationalization of higher education	Lifelong learning	Establishing a sustainable funding model
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Higher Education Institutions and Students

Higher Education Institutions

Public

Private

- University
- Faculty
- Art academy
- College

Students

Self
financed

State
financed

Public
university: 500€

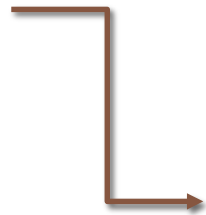
Private
university: 2000€

Higher Education Institutions

- Educational activities at higher education institutions carried out through academic and applied study programmes, as well as through various professional development and training programmes.

- **1** public HEI in Montenegro
- **3** private HEIs
- **1** independent public faculty
- **4** independent private faculties.

University Name	Public	Private	Number of faculties / institutes
University of Montenegro	*		19 faculties + 2 institutes
Mediterranean University		*	6 faculties
University of Donja Gorica		*	12 faculties
Adriatic University		*	7 faculties



University of Montenegro - the largest research university



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Types and levels of studies

- Study programs organized at three levels:

Undergraduate

Postgraduate

Doctoral



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Types and levels of studies

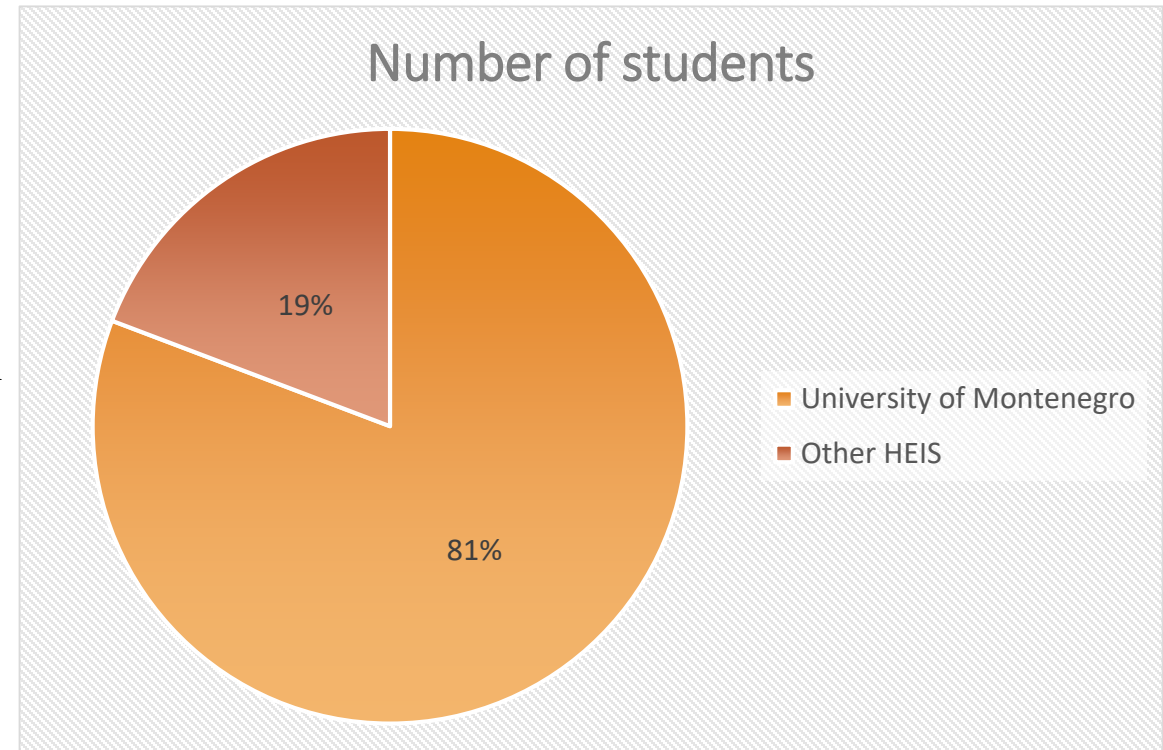
Study cycle		Duration	ECTS
Undergraduate (Bachelor)		3 years	180
Long cycle studies	Medical studies	6 years	360
	Dentistry and Pharmacy	5 years	300
	Architecture	5 years	300
Postgraduate			
	Master studies	2 years	120
Doctoral studies		3 years	180



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Students

The total number of students in Montenegro:





Financing

HEIs in Montenegro may be financed from:

- funds of the founder;
- tuition fees and other fees payable by students;
- intellectual and other services;
- donations,
- gifts and invitations;
- property income (lease);
- projects and contracts with international, state or private entities for promotion of teaching, research and consultancy activities; and
- other sources in accordance with the law.

The largest part of direct funding by the state is addressed to:



Private higher education institutions

They can also receive financial support from the budget of Montenegro. The support is mainly provided for the students who attend the study programs that are on public-interest and that are not carried out at a public institution.

Comprehensive **student help package by the Ministry of Education**, which consists of scholarships for the best students and student loans.

Of the total number of students at the University of Montenegro, 21% of students are financed from the budget, if they have the status of budget students, while others pay tuition from their own funds and have the status of self-financing students.



Internationalization of HEIs

- Cooperation with numerous universities worldwide, based on the bilateral agreements signed.
- Areas of cooperation:

Student and staff exchange

Participation in joint scientific and research projects

Exchange of scientific literature and experiences in the teaching process and scientific work



University of Montenegro as the leading HEI is member a number of university associations having representatives in the working bodies and participating in the initiatives of those networks.

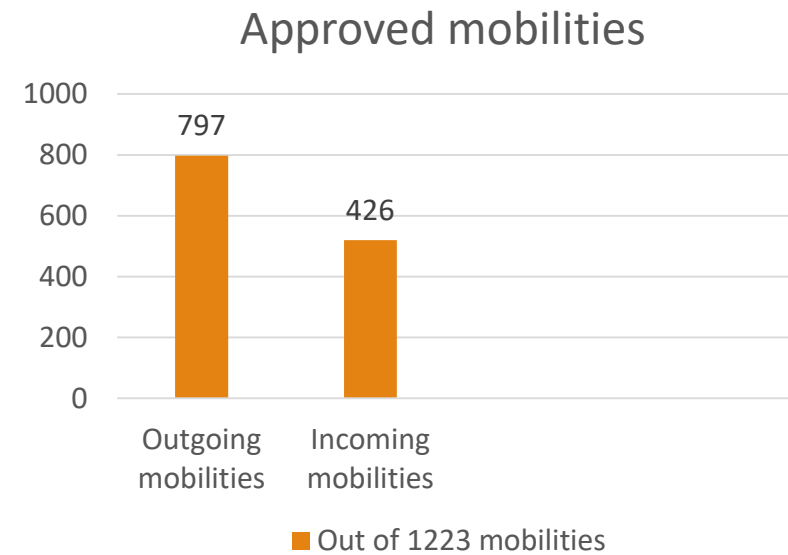
Here we include:

- European University Association,
- Mediterranean Universities Union,
- Centre for Mediterranean Universities,
- Balkans Universities Association.



Mobility programs

- **Academic mobility** - one of the strategic objectives of the Montenegrin Higher Education and Research System
- **Mobility programmes** - popular among students` population. So far, all HEIs in Montenegro benefited from Erasmus Mundus partnership schemes, as well as ICM action.
- In the previous four ICM calls, **227 projects** have been approved, envisaging **1223 mobilities, not including the data of the previous selection**





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Mobility programs in University of Montenegro



96 agreements

signed with
universities from

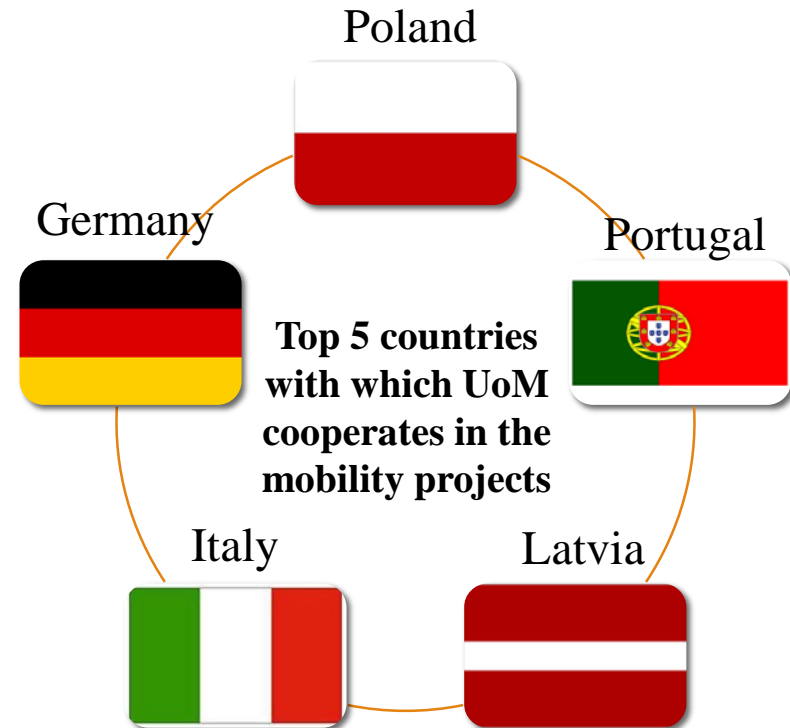
32 countries



**592 realized
mobilities**

314 staff mobilities

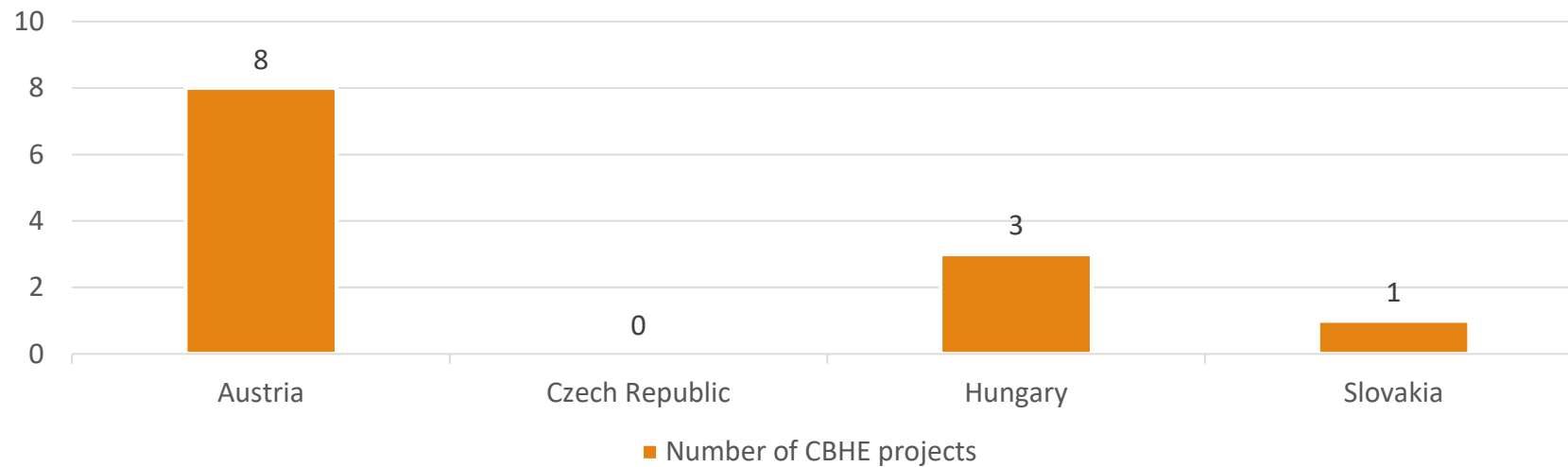
278 student mobilities



Cooperation of HEIs from Montenegro with HEIs from Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia

CBHE projects

Number of CBHE projects



CBHE priorities for Montenegro

Curriculum development	Improving management and operations of HEIs	Developing the Higher Education sector within society at large
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education;• Languages;• Social and behavioral science;• Business and administration;• Law;• Environment,• Information and Communication Technologies;• Engineering and engineering trades;• Agriculture, forestry, fisheries and veterinary;• Health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Governance, strategic planning and management of HEIs;• University services;• Internationalization of HEI;• Quality assurance processes and mechanisms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Development of school and vocational education at post secondary non-tertiary level;• University-enterprise cooperation.



Cooperation of HEIs from Montenegro with HEIs from Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia

CBHE projects

Country	Project title	Partner HEI	Project year
Austria	1. Reconnecting universities and enterprises to unleash regional innovation and entrepreneurial activity	- FH JOANNEUM GESELLSCHAFT MBH - WORLD UNIVERSITY SERVICE- OSTERREICHISCHES KOMITEE VEREIN	2019
	2. Enhancing and Validating service related competences in Versatile learning environments in Western Balkan Universities	Die Berater Unternehmensberatungs Gesellschaft MBH	2018
	3. Reforming doctoral studies in Montenegro and Albania – good practice paradigm	-Universität Wien -Association of Professionals in Doctoral Education	2018
	4. Strengthening of master curricula in water resources management for the Western Balkans HEIs and stakeholders	-Universität fuer Bodenkultur Wien	2018
	5. Ready for Business – Integrating and validating practical entrepreneurship skills in engineering and ICT studies	-DIE BERATER UNTERNEHMENSBERATUNGS GESELLSCHAFT MBH	2016
	6. Strengthening Capacities for Tourism Changes in WB – Building Competences for Quality Management of Heritage and Cultural Tourism	-FH JOANNEUM GESELLSCHAFT M.B.H -FH JOANNEUM GESELLSCHAFT M.B.H. -WORLD UNIVERSITY SERVICE- OSTERREICHISCHES KOMITEE VEREIN	2016



Cooperation of HEIs from Montenegro with HEIs from Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia

CBHE projects

Country	Project title	Partner HEI	Project year
Austria	7. Enhancement of study programs in Public Health Law, Health Management, Health Economics and Health Informatics in Montenegro	-UMIT- PRIVATE UNIVERSITAT FUER GESUNDHEITSWISSENSCHAFTEN, MEDIZINISCHEINFORMATIK UND TECHNIK GMBH	2016
	8. Electrical Energy Markets and Engineering Education	-Technische Universitaet Wien - TUW	2018
Hungary	1. Keep Educating Yourself	-Eotvos Jozsef Foiskola	2018
	2. Improving the Traffic Safety in the Western Balkan Countries through Curriculum Innovation and Development of Undergraduate and Master Studies	-Obudai Egyetem	2018
	3. Enhancement of study programs in Public Health Law, Health Management, Health Economics and Health Informatics in Montenegro	-DEBRECENI EGYETEM	2016
Slovakia	1. Reforming doctoral studies in Montenegro and Albania – good practice paradigm	-Univerzita Mateja Bela v Banjskoj Bystrici	2018



Cooperation of HEIs from Montenegro with HEIs from Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia

Erasmus+ ICM projects

University of Montenegro

- 3 inter-institutional agreements signed with Slovakia
- 1 inter-institutional agreements signed with Czech Republic
- 1 inter-institutional agreements signed with Hungary
- 1 inter-institutional agreement signed with Austria

University of Donja Gorica

- 2 signed inter-institutional agreement with Hungary (University of Debrecen and Budapest University of Technology and Economics)
- 1 signed inter-institutional agreement with Austria (University Salzburg)
- No signed inter-institutional agreements with HEIs from Czech Republic or Slovakia

Mediterranean University

- 1 signed inter-institutional agreement with Slovakia
- No signed inter-institutional agreements with HEIs from Austria, Hungary or Czech Republic

Possibilities for further cooperation

- Consider regional WB priorities
- Consider MNE national priorities

Capacity Building in Higher Education

- Strengthen cooperation with up-to-date partners
- Open at any time for new partners

International Credit Mobility



Cooperation of HEIs from Montenegro with HEIs from Austria, Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia

Montenegrin HEIs fields of interest for cooperation

University of Montenegro	University of Donja Gorica
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Particular interest for fostering cooperation in the framework of ICM and CBHE from the following fields: tourism and hospitality, trade, mechanical engineering, architecture.• Potential universities: Salzburg University of Applied Sciences, University of Innsbruck, University of Economics in Prague, University of South Bohemia, University of Pecs, Eszterházy Károly University, University of Presov, Economic University in Bratislava, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Particular interest for fostering cooperation in the framework of traineeship mobilities with HEIs from respective countries from the following fields: health management, IT, business management, international economy, business finance, polytechnics, tourism.



Some challenges ahead of Montenegrin HEIs

- All internationalization aspects;
- Developing study programmes in English language;
- Joint programmes;
- Boosting cooperation with enterprises;
- Increasing incoming mobility;
- Considering traineeship opportunities;
- Governance reform;
- Recognition;
- Potential areas: economy, management in health care, international finance and business, IT, engineering studies, architecture, philosophy, political sciences etc.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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