

# ‘From National Innovation System towards the Triple Helix: The case of Albania’

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# Research Aims

- to analyze the national innovation system in Albania;
- to investigate the challenges of the development of the Triple Helix in Albania;
- to provide recommendations to bridge the gap between research, policy and business.

# Research Rationale

- HE Landscape in Albania is undergoing rapid and profound transformations:
  - Privatization and liberalization of the HE system;
  - Bologna process & ongoing changes in HE law;
  - EU accession;
  - knowledge-driven society.
  
- The position, role and relevance of the research in the social sciences and humanities in the development of the country

# Methodology Approach

## ➤ Qualitative methodology approach

- a. Analysis of secondary data – to analyze the Albanian National Innovation System
  - National strategies – National Strategy for Science Technology & Innovation;
  - Institutions responsible – Ministry of Education & Science; National Academy of Science
  
- b. Analysis and interpretation of primary data - focus groups – to gather insights and experiences from the stakeholders:
  - researchers; academics; policymakers; business; NGOs; donors.

# Triple Helix Projects

- ‘New Ideas for New Entrepreneurship’ – a project to link research in HEIs with the business community in Albania;
- ‘Social inclusion: research and policymaking in Albania’ – bringing together stakeholders to develop mechanisms of cooperation between HEIs and policy processes;
- Policy Dialogue Initiative of the Regional Research Promotion Programme to promote the role of the social sciences research in Albania

# Challenges - Research Sector in Albania

- post-communist transition - HEIs & research sector re-position itself; re-orientate its role vis a vis other actors; reset its priorities;
- limited public and private funding for research;
- relatively limited capacities (access to information, research expertise, project cycle management skills, networking skills);
- limited mobility of academic staff and students;
- limited access to the European Research Area; funds for research projects (FP7);

# Challenges - Research Sector in Albania

- Externalisation of research to the international experts:
  - one-size-fits all approach and takes the accumulated knowledge away from the country rather than developing know-how at the national level;
- the research sector in Albania (think tanks, CSOs; university) is donor-dependent – hidden donor agendas
  - lack sustainability to conduct research that reflect the priorities of the contemporary society in Albania;
- there is relatively limited cooperation between relevant stakeholders in the Triple Helix: government, business, universities;
- constraints with the management of research and project development in universities;

# Findings - Focus Groups

- Consolidation of the community of researchers in the social sciences;
- Development of human capital in the social sciences through training, professional development and mobility schemes;
- Access, availability and validity of official data;
- Knowledge sharing and culture of open communication;
- Management of research in HEIs;
- Funding opportunities;



# Moving towards the Triple Helix in Albania

- **Building and consolidating the community of researchers in Albania:**
  - communicate their interests;
  - build research agendas;
- **Development of human capital:**
  - Funding scheme for research, qualification and training;
  - Mobility schemes and exchange programmes;
  - Circulation in the other spheres of the Triple Helix;
  - Support for professional development.

# Moving towards the Triple Helix in Albania continue...

- **Management of research in university:**
  - establishing office for project development;
  - promoting networking and partnering with other stakeholders;
  - establishment of relations with media to communicate research to the wider public;
  - commercialization of research – use of PR & Marketing techniques
  
- **Establishing a digital map of the research in the social sciences for knowledge-sharing;**

# Moving towards the Triple Helix in Albania

- Focus on applicable and evidence based research:
  - Research that responds to the needs/current developments of the Albanian society;
- Transparency, accountability and publication of calls for proposals on the side of the government – demand/offer balance;
- Doctoral Schools within universities – research profiles and links with the policy making and private sector;

Thank you!

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