

---

## *UET Centre Strategy on Youth Engagement 2014-2020*

---

### UET CENTRE PROFILE

UET Centre is a civil society organization established in 2009 as an initiative of a group of researchers and lecturers at the European University of Tirana (UET). UET Centre intends to contribute towards the progress and democratization of the Albanian society through policy-oriented research projects, capacity building and joint programmes in these main areas:

- Good Governance and EU Integration
- Economy and Sustainable Development
- **Human Rights, Social Inclusion and Youth**
- Information Technology, Social Innovation and Entrepreneurship

### UET CENTRE KEY STRENGTHS

UET Centre has an extensive experience in project development, networking and stakeholders' engagement. It has proven to be **a committed a reliable partner** in successful project management in various national and international programmes of research, capacity-building and development such as:

- *International institutions as donors and partners:* European Commission; British Council/British Embassy; USA Embassy; NUFFIC/Netherlands Embassy; Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation; German Society for International Development GIZ; Open Society Foundation; World Vision; UNICEF; GFK; Konrad Adenauer Stiftung; etc.
- *Local (non)governmental organizations:* Agency for the Support of Civil Society; Ministry of Education and Science; Albanian Investment Development Agency; Business Albania; Chamber of Commerce; Agency for Research, Technology and Innovation; Albanian School of Public Administration; Municipality of Tirana; Regional Government; ABC Foundation;
- *Local and international higher education institutions:* LSE Research on South East Europe, UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies, CERI Sciences Po, European University Institute, Central European University, University of Graz, University of Salzburg, University of Sapienza, University of Limerick, University of Luneburg, etc.

UET Centre has **a pool of highly qualified researchers, scholars and project managers** and it also collaborates with the European University of Tirana for expertise as well as with the local and regional CSOs and network of higher education institutions, businesses and other stakeholders. It encourages a culture of knowledge-sharing, openness and horizontal linkages between HEIs, CSOs, research centres, governmental organizations and relevant stakeholders. As such UET Centre strongly supports researchers' mobility in the region and EU and staff circulation in the quadruple Helix: government, research, business and civil society sector.

UET Centre maintains its commitment to *impact the society at large in Albania*. To do so, the centre pays particular importance to **its strategic communication, visibility of actions, dissemination of information, knowledge-sharing and exchange of experiences and know-how**. UET Centre uses mainstream and new media instruments to promote projects to the public at large through MAPO Media and UET Press.

## UET CENTRE AS A YOUTH-CENTRED ORGANISATION

UET Centre main **activities focus on youth**, particularly youth from **marginalised communities** such as Roma youth as well as youth from remote and isolated areas in Albania and in the region; children in street situation; young professionals with limited access to labour market; young students with limited access to study opportunities. This pillar is incorporated within the one on human rights and social inclusion. Some key activities include:

- Minority rights training for Roma youth
- Empowerment of Roma youth through alternative media
- Youth empowerment through education and leadership
- Training of Roma youth to establish community radio – Kanxura
- Career counselling and support to marginalised youth
- Training for project writing to young professionals
- Training for grant application for young researchers in the social sciences
- Gender-based perspective on science education for youth
- Regional research project on children in street situation
- Policy paper on challenges of pre-university education
- Lecturers with youth on the principles and activities of OSCE and other organizations
- Entrepreneurship competences development for students

UET Centre **Human Resources policy is also centred on youth**. The UET Centre is led by a young female professional and there is also a young female member of the Board of Directors. In addition, UET Centre employs two young female as Project Assistant and engages two to four interns each year from the student community, mainly disadvantaged students who have received scholarships for social reasons and have an interest in working in civil society.

UET Centre **cooperates with the various student bodies** of the European University of Tirana and other higher education institutions and secondary schools in Albania such as Student Government; Network of Excellent Students (two of the members of the network have been working as intern at UET Centre); Student Clubs; APPA – Albanian Platform for Policy Advocacy led by youth (two of the members of APPA worked at UET Centre as Project Assistant).

UET Centre has an **ongoing partnership with the Institute of Romani Culture in Albania** – IRCA and have worked together for the establishment of the Roma Network of Volunteers and Roma Youth Peace Corps. In addition, UET Centre cooperates with **World Vision Albania** for youth research and capacity building activities.

## UET CENTRE AIMS ON YOUTH ENGAGEMENT 2014-2015

Drawing from its goal to *inform and assist community groups and empower citizens and marginalized groups to take an active role in policy development process* and its *main activities centred on youth*, UET Centre seeks to achieve the following:

- To empower youth for a better society and democratization and EU integration processes in Albania;
- To support youth to become stronger, more educated, with better opportunities in the labor market and going further;
- To support building safe and resilient youth communities in the mainstream and in the marginalized areas;
- To treat young people as active social actors with their own writes;
- To enhance cooperation with youth organizations and other institutions dealing with youth issues;
- To work with educational institutions for training and education of youth.

Activities to achieve the above:

- **Opportunities for skill development** and capacity building such as the development of academic, intellectual, civic, emotional, physical, employment, social, and cultural competence in line with Albanian national strategies and action plan on children and youth and education.
- **Opportunities for leadership** and decision-making of youth. Conduct research and activities that center on youth and inform policy on the relevance of youth perspective in policy making processes.
- **Youth and adult partnerships** which are positive and enabling.
- **Training and counselling for youth.**
- **Participatory research with youth** on areas of particular interests for youth as well as pressing social, economic and cultural issues.
- **Activism and outreach** as well as youth-led activities based on theory of change.