ResearchCULT
Enhancing Research Culture in Kosova HE

Assessment report on current state of research capacities in Kosovo universities

Second study

May 2023

Content

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Abbreviation

AAK - Accreditation Agency of Kosovo

ERA - European Research Area

HEIs – Higher Education Institutions

IBC-M - International Business College Mitrovica

IREDS - Institute for Research Education and Social Development

KESP - Kosovo Education Strategic Plan

MESTI - Ministry of Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation

NRP - National Research Program of Kosovo

SUR - Sapienza University of Roma

UASF – University of Applied Sciences Ferizaj

UHZ – University Haxhi Zeka Peja

UIBM – University Isa Boletini Mitrovice

UKZ – University Kadri Zeka Gjilan

UNWE - University of National and World Economy

UoZ - University of Zagreb

UP – University of Prishtina Hasan Prishtina

UUHP – University Ukshin Hoti Prizren

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Introduction

This assessment report is the second edition prepared in the framework of the project: "**Enhancing Research Culture in Higher Education in Kosovo – ResearchCult",** supported under the Erasmus + Capacity Building in Higher Education, financed by the European Union funds. The project is led by the International Business College Mitrovica (IBC-M) and beneficiary are all public universities in Kosovo. The other partner institutions are Sapienza University of Roma (SUR), Italy, University of Zagreb (UoZ), Croatia, and the University of National and World Economy (UNWE), Bulgaria, Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) of Kosovo, and the Institute for Research Education and Social Development (IREDS), Kosovo.

The main aim of this assessment report is to investigate about the present state of research practice in public universities in Kosovo, which are beneficiary partners in the ReserchCult project. Further, the report provides an in-depth analysis about the situation from different angles of perspective about research culture in the Higher Education institutions, including institutional structures for supporting research activity, as well as reflections on the research practice, including faced challenges from the researchers. More specifically, the assessment purpose was to focus on estimating baseline (October 2020) for a few important indicators, which were supported with the project, and assess progress in a couple of years later (April 2023).

The indicators mainly include:

- The present state of policy (legal and strategic) actions in research at national and university level, and needs to develop them further;
- Number and percentage of internationally indexed publications (as per Google scholar) at each university partner level;
- Level of readiness of researchers to engage in research activity;
- Identification of factors that hinder researchers to engage in research activity and publish their work internationally (for example: lack of know-how, lack of finances, level of institutional support, and other issues);

Background of Research in Kosovo universities

Legislative and policy regulation of research activity in Kosovo

Research activity in Kosovo is regulated at the level of policy and legislation both at the governmental and university levels.

The main legislation which regulate the research activity is the Law on Scientific Research Activity[1], the Law on Higher Education in the Republic of Kosovo[2], and the Law an on Scientific Innovation and Transfer of Knowledge and Technology[3], which are supported by a set of bylaws, which translate the legal dispositions into implementation approaches.

The Law No. 04/L-135 on Scientific Research Activity regulates the main framework for research, including governance structures and their responsibilities, research funding, definition of research institutions and their licensing procedure, scientific titles and criteria to obtain them, and so on. According to this law, universities belong to research institutions, which perform scientific activity systematically.

Additionally, the Law No. 06/L-049 on Scientific Innovation and Transfer of Knowledge and Technology recognizes universities and other HEIs in Kosovo as bearers of scientific innovation activity. This Law also requires HEIs (among other organizations) to register to relevant authorities as innovation performing organizations.

While, with the Higher Education Law, universities are defined with the mandate to also carry out research activity in various disciplines that they focus on. It particularly regulates research obligations of the academic staff to be employed in the universities and other HEIs, particularly on their path to academic promotion based on the scientific work they have to perform.

At university level, the mandate, mission and role of university to engage in the research activity is largely regulated with the university statutes. Besides that, the university statutes in all public universities in Kosovo have determined the governance responsibilities for research, namely at the

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[1] https://masht.rks-gov.net/uploads/2015/06/ligji-per-veprimtari-kerkimore-shkencore-2013-eng.pdf
[2] https://masht.rks-gov.net/uploads/2015/06/02-ligji-per-arsimin-e-larte-anglisht.pdf
[3] https://cps.rks-gov.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/LAW_NO._06_L-049__ON_SCIENTIFIC_INNOVATION_AND_TRANSFER_OF_KNOWLEDGE_AND_TECHNOLOGY.pdf

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level of vice-rectorship for research, including other mechanisms such as commissions for research, offices for research, and other university and academic research support structures.

In the framework of governmental policies for research universities are considered as main implementing partners of research policies. For example, in the National Research Program of Kosovo (NRP) 2023-2028[4], the universities are seen as key actors of exercising the research activity, therefore placing an important role in its implementation. Similarly, the Kosova Education Strategic Plan (KESP) 2022-2026[5] places universities and other HEIs in the main focus of implementing the research development measures of the national targets. These measures include enhancing research infrastructures and laboratories, research publications in internationally recognized scientific journals, participation of researcher sin international conferences, access to international e-libraries, and so on. KESP particularly makes reference to universities for developing and implementing research actions plans in order that universities put more systematic efforts to strengthen their mandate for research. It further strengthens the need for universities to establish research committees and policies, in order to ensure higher standards for research work. At the university level, university strategies stipulate research support measures at the level of strategic objectives, followed up with certain interventions during the strategic implementation period. The major gaps among these planned measures include inappropriate budgeting support with university annual budget, particularly the lack of sustainable research fund that universities allocate annually. With the support of the ResearchCult project, all public universities have been supported in establishing research offices (except the University of Prishtina who already had it established), nominating research office coordinators, as well as developing research strategic plans and financial planning for the planned research measures.

The definition of researchers in Kosovo is supported by the Law on Scientific Research Activity, which defines titles for scientists and for researchers. Scientific titles are defined such as:

1. Scientific advisor
2. Associate scientific associate

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[4] https://konsultimet.rks-gov.net/viewConsult.php?ConsultationID=41819
[5] https://masht.rks-gov.net/strategjia-e-arsimit2022-2026/

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3. Scientific associate

While research titles include:

1. Independent researcher
2. Researcher

For both titles as scientists and as researchers, promotional procedure is explained, and key criteria are defined in that regard.

Besides that, for academic staff, who are also engaged in the research work, the titles are defined under the HE Law, as per below:

1. Full Professor
2. Associate Professor
3. Professor Assistant
4. Assistant
5. Lecturer
6. Lecturer assistant

These academic titles are determined in various HEIs in Kosovo. For universities, the first four titles are a minimum mandatory to have among their staff, while other titles may also be used, which are explained in the university statutes. For fulfilling promotional criteria in achieving these titles, research activity and research publications play a crucial role.

In addition, international definitions of research titles are also available. One example is the definition under the European Research Area, which are more guiding definitions in Europe. These research positions according to ERA definition[6] are classified in five levels, which include:

- R0 – Master holders, who are working in Universities or Institutes for research.
- R1- Doctoral candidates doing research under supervision,

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[6]
https://www.heraskosovo.org/publications/Concept_document_Mapping_of_the_Research_and_Innovation_System_in_Kosovo.pdf (p. 32)

- R2- PhD holder who have not yet established a significant level of independence. Researcher with an equivalent level of experience and competence.
- R3 – Researcher who have developed a level of independence
- R4- Researcher leading their research area or field.

Definitions of research in Kosovo as explained previously do not correspond with the ERA research positions, however a parallel approximation may be slightly considered among them. However, in Kosovo research positions per se are defined only in research institutes, particularly public research institutions established under the Government of Kosovo. In universities, the university staff holds only academic positions, while there is no research position allocated per se there. The scientific titles and research titles as according to the Research Law in Kosovo, are not included in the university statutes, therefore universities only refer to HE law academic titles to define and promote their academic staff as well as to guide through their internal policies for the research activity there.

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Methodology

The assessment is based on mixed methodology, including qualitative and quantitative approach, such as:

- Desk research of policies, legislation and reports;
- Online questionnaires with academic staff of universities;
- Assessment of publications and citations of the university academic staff/researchers in their registered profiles in the Google Scholar.

More specifically the methodology of the assessment focused on the baseline situation for a few indicators, which could be regularly measured during the project:

1. **The present state of policies (legal and strategic) at university level, and need to develop them further.**

   - Idea of measuring this indicator was to identify if Universities have a clear strategy about research, in a university level, availability of relevant human resources to develop and implement strategies, availability of research infrastructure to implement such a strategy, and so on. These issues were examined through desk research of strategies, statutes and regulations of universities and semi structural interview with vice-rectors for Research of Universities.

2. **Number and percentage of internationally indexed publication at each university partner level.**

   - The number of articles published and number of citations for those articles were retrieved from the Google Scholar, yet as the only international platform where such data can be found for Kosovo HEIs more systematically. The profiles of each academic staff were checked based on the Google Scholar search per each university.

3. **Level of readiness of researcher/academic staff to engage in research activity/publishing in the new journals.**

   - The aim here was to examine the readiness of the researchers to publish in the new scientific journals that will be developed with the ResearchCult project and other possibly developed journals in the future, and what they actually are doing that show

interest in engaging in research activities. In addition, in this topic was also examined the experience and knowledge of researchers about the available research supporting resources provided by their institution in support of publications and advancements in the field of research, as well as other national and international sources and their utilization. This was examined with an online questionnaire administered via Google form with academic staff of public universities.

4. **Identify crucial factors that hinder researchers to be engaged in research activities and publish their work internationally (for example, lack of know-how, lack of finance, level of institutional support and other.**
   - This is very important factor to know what kind of support researcher need to enhance the research activity and publications.
   - This was examined with an online questionnaire administered via Google form with academic staff of public universities.

5. **Explore what instruments and research support mechanism would better function for researchers, and what implementation modalities could be put in place.**
- This is important to get feedback in order to identify possible activities for the scope of research offices, etc. This was also examined with an online questionnaire administered via Google form with academic staff of public universities.

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Table 1. Source of data for estimating each indicator

No.	Indicator	Desk Research	Online questionnaires
1	The present state of policies (legal Strategic) action at national and university level, and need to develop further: also, in the faculty level.	X	
2	Number and percentage of internationally indexed publication at each university partner level.	X	
3	Level of readiness of researcher/academic staff to engage in research activity/publishing in the new journals,		X
4	Identify crucial factors that hinder researchers to be engaged in research activities and publish their work internationally (for example, lack of know-how, lack of finance, level of institutional support and other		X
5	Explore what instruments and research support mechanism would better function for researchers, and what implementation modalities could be put in place		X

Sample

The assessment sample for the survey consists of 157 respondents, who responded to the invitation for participation, all of them coming academic staff from 7 Public Universities and IBCM, data collected through google form survey.

The last sample, for the number of publications and citation's, consist of 739 academic staff found through google scholar profiles, comparing to the first assessment report conducted in autumn 2020, the google profiles were increased for more than 30% which means that the academic staff increased the awareness of being registered in such datasets.

Data were gathered from the during 17 to 28 of April 2023.

Table 2. *Age and work experience* **of participants in survey**

	Age	Experience in teaching
Mean	45.9	15.3
Minimum	29	0
Maximum	67	39

Based on the table 2 the mean age of the academic staff is M=45.9 and experience is M=15.3

Table 3. *Academic staff according to Gender responded in survey*

	Gender		Total
	Female	Male	
University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina"	20	25	45
University of Prizren "UKSHIN HOTI"	6	13	19
University of Gjilan "Kadri Zeka"	4	6	10
University of Peja "Haxhi Zeka"	4	6	10
University of Mitrovica "Isa Boletini"	9	10	19
University of Applied Sciences Ferizaj	6	13	19
University of Gjakova "Fehmi Agani"	11	4	15
IBCM	2	8	10
Total	62	85	147

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Based on the data in table 3, 42% of participants were women and 58% men, representing a slight gender imbalance of participants.

Findings and discussion

Based on the different data gathered, were realized different perspectives of the analysis to come to the final results, the main results were produced through quantitative and desk research approach for obtaining results.

Through the survey the aim was to search for the competences of academic staff for writing articles, for publishing, using financial instruments to support their research, cooperation for research and readiness to advance their research capacities, developing and publishing also in national journals with international standards, as well as the availability of support from universities for their research work.

The results of the survey show that the research in Higher Educational Institutions in Kosovo has been challenging. Additionally, there have been some positive developments in the research field and investigations in the recent years. Such positive developments are linked with framing the research office and the work policies of this office, with increasing the level of dynamics and changes of the offices, the experience of the staff related to the research office, the regulation, and administrative preparations in local and central institutions.

Institutional requirements for publishing papers, specifically the management requirements for publishing according to results it seems is not that it is not any change from the previous report, there was just 47.5% of academic staff that declared that publishing is highly required in the first report and now in the second report it is 48.7%.

Academic staff reported that 75.3% of them know that there is a regulation for support for research from the first report, it was increased around 10%, and 66.2 % of them had financial support for publications also in this measure it was increased for 10%.

All respondents mention that the Regulation for Academic Promotion is applicable, and this is one of the main reasons for increasing the level of the research in their institutions.

Table 4. *Academic titles of participants in survey*						
	Your actual academic title					Total
	Assistant	Lecturer	Assistant Professor	Associated Professor	Regular Professor	
University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina"	9	0	13	9	14	45
University of Prizren "UKSHIN HOTI"	1	0	7	11	0	19
University of Gjilan "Kadri Zeka"	0	0	7	5	1	13
University of Peja "Haxhi Zeka"	2	0	4	2	2	10
University of Mitrovica "Isa Boletini"	5	0	3	8	3	19
University of Applied Sciences Ferizaj	0	5	7	7	0	19
University of Gjakova "Fehmi Agani"	4	0	6	4	0	14
IBCM	0	7	0	1	2	10
Total	21	12	47	47	22	153

Table 5. *Level of education of participants in survey*						
	Level of education of Academic					Total
	Bsc	Master	PhD Cand	PhD	Post doc	
University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina"	0	0	3	36	5	44
University of Prizren "UKSHIN HOTI"	0	0	1	17	1	19
University of Gjilan "Kadri Zeka"	1	1	2	13	0	17
University of Peja "Haxhi Zeka"	0	0	2	7	1	10
University of Mitrovica "Isa Boletini"	0	0	3	12	2	17
University of Applied Sciences Ferizaj	0	0	5	14	0	19
University of Gjakova "Fehmi Agani"	0	1	4	9	1	15
IBCM	0	1	2	7	0	10
Total	1	3	22	115	10	151

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Based on the data the most frequent title in the Universities, is the scientific degree of PhD, followed by the PhD candidate, that promises that the academic staff in the HEI's is in the process of advancements.

Number and percentage of internationally indexed publication, at university level

Based on the data gathered through the google scholar profiles of academic staff, were analyzed below the data, it is important to emphasize that around 50% of regular academic staff has a profile in google scholar with affiliation to the university they belong.

Table 6. *Descriptive Statistics; Publication during 2020 and comparison with 2021 and 2022*						
University		N	Minimum	Maximum	Sum	Mean
University of Gjakova "Fehmi Agani"	Published papers in total	40	0	90	582	14.55
	Published papers during 2022	40	0	7	60	1.5
	Published papers during 2021	40	0	6	63	1.57
	Published papers during 2020	40	0	4	18	0.45
University of Gjilan "Kadri Zeka"	Published papers in total	22	4	52	375	17.04
	Published papers during 2022	22	0	6	19	0.86
	Published papers during 2021	22	0	8	29	1.32
	Published papers during 2020	22	0	2	8	0.36
University of Mitrovica "Isa Boletini"	Published papers in total	60	1	76	1303	21.71
	Published papers during 2022	60	0	6	52	0.86
	Published papers during 2021	60	0	6	71	1.18
	Published papers during 2020	60	0	6	34	0.56
University of Peja "Haxhi Zeka"	Published papers in total	45	4	112	1389	30.86
	Published papers during 2022	45	0	9	90	2
	Published papers during 2021	45	0	9	91	2.02
	Published papers during 2020	45	0	8	56	1.24
University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina"	Published papers in total	443	1	215	12369	27.98
	Published papers during 2022	443	0	40	683	1.55
	Published papers during 2021	443	0	23	705	1.59
	Published papers during 2020	443	0	20	610	1.38
University of Prizren "UKSHIN HOTI"	Published papers in total	90	1	281	1537	17.07
	Published papers during 2022	90	0	20	119	1.32
	Published papers during 2021	90	0	35	133	1.47
	Published papers during 2020	90	0	11	82	0.91
University of Applied	Published papers in total	26	0	52	405	15.5
	Published papers during 2022	26	0	14	48	1.84

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Sciences Ferizaj	Published papers during 2021	26	0	13	59	2.26
	Published papers during 2020	26	0	12	47	1.8
IBCM	Published papers in total	13	1	39	192	14.7
	Published papers during 2022	13	0	5	16	1.23
	Published papers during 2021	13	0	6	23	1.77
	Published papers during 2020	13	0	4	8	0.61

Based on the results found through the google scholar profiles, the academic staff of included universities did some improvements in publication, some of them fulfilling the criteria set by Accreditation Agency of Kosovo that each academic staff must publish at least one research paper per year. According to these requirements, actually Universities Kadri Zeka, and Isa Boletini during 2022 didn't fulfill the criteria having all staff at least one paper per year, always based on the data collected through the google scholar profiles.

We have to say that comparing the years there was some improvements in publishing, especially year 2021 was better with the number of publications, taking into consideration the average number of publications per academic staff in respective universities (see table no.7 below).

Table 7. *Descriptive Statistics: Comparison of citation in total and last four years.*						
University		*N*	*Minimum*	*Maximum*	*Sum*	*Mean*
University of Gjakova "Fehmi Agani"	Number of Citation in total	40	0	200	1211	30.27
	Number of Citation in 2022	40	0	47	263	6.57
	Number of Citation in 2021	40	0	32	199	4.97
	Number of Citation in 2020	40	0	18	94	2.35
	Number of Citation in 2019	40	0	25	127	3.17
University of Gjilan "Kadri Zeka"	Number of Citation in total	22	0	368	1204	54.7
	Number of Citation in 2022	22	0	124	295	13.4
	Number of Citation in 2021	22	0	101	259	11.7
	Number of Citation in 2020	22	0	41	139	6.3
	Number of Citation in 2019	22	0	22	121	5.5
University of Mitrovica "Isa Boletini"	Number of Citation in total	60	0	1773	4474	74.55
	Number of Citation in 2022	60	0	230	710	11.83
	Number of Citation in 2021	60	0	271	736	12.26
	Number of Citation in 2020	60	0	198	397	6.61
	Number of Citation in 2019	60	0	204	455	7.58
University of Peja "Haxhi Zeka"	Number of Citation in total	45	0	272	2797	62.15
	Number of Citation in 2022	45	0	58	666	14.8
	Number of Citation in 2021	45	0	74	582	12.98
	Number of Citation in 2020	45	0	19	200	4.4
	Number of Citation in 2019	45	0	22	214	4.75
University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina"	Number of Citation in total	443	0	84743	202227	457.52
	Number of Citation in 2022	443	0	18101	38668	87.68
	Number of Citation in 2021	443	0	18302	36737	83.3
	Number of Citation in 2020	443	0	16179	28223	63.85
	Number of Citation in 2019	443	0	11978	22999	52.03
	Number of Citation in total	90	0	1028	4956	55.06

University of Prizren "UKSHIN HOTI"	Number of Citation in 2022	90	0	233	873	9.7
	Number of Citation in 2021	90	0	198	735	8.25
	Number of Citation in 2020	90	0	78	442	4.91
	Number of Citation in 2019	90	0	75	451	5.06
University of Applied Sciences Ferizaj	Number of Citation in total	26	0	207	1347	51.8
	Number of Citation in 2022	26	0	43	366	14.07
	Number of Citation in 2021	26	0	36	304	11.69
	Number of Citation in 2020	26	0	50	156	6
	Number of Citation in 2019	26	0	65	153	5.88
IBCM	Number of Citation in total	13	0	12997	13768	1059.07
	Number of Citation in 2022	13	0	1322	1499	115.3
	Number of Citation in 2021	13	0	1453	1611	123.9
	Number of Citation in 2020	13	0	1229	1338	102.9
	Number of Citation in 2019	13	0	1204	1286	98.9

Capacities and opportunities to engage in research work and using financial instruments for research

Academic staff through the survey self-reported for publishing a papers: 94.2 % of them published, just 89 % declared that they published also in journals with impact factor. When were asked about publishing books, just 64.3% of them published a book or chapter and comparing to previous report it was increased around 20%.

When Academic staff were asked about opportunities for publishing in international journals, 87.7 % declared above average that they have opportunities, also more than 90% are well informed about the relevant journals for their field.

When asked about capacity in writing more than 95% of academic staff think that they have above average capacity in writing papers with high standards.

Table 8. *Writing competences and statistical analysis*

|		%				
		Very little	Little	Average	Much	Very Much
I am familiar with the academic writing of scientific articles	M 1	.6	1.8	27.6	44.2	25.8
	M2	.6	0	24	45.5	29.9
I am familiar with the processing of inferential statistical analysis:	M1	8.8	17.5	44.2	18.0	11.5
	M2	9.7	14.9	46.1	17.6	17.7

Based on the results most of the academic staff 99.4 % respond that has average or more than average competencies to write an scientific papers, 81.4 % of them respond that they are familiar doing statistics for their scientific articles, but when were asked about using statistical software's there were just 33.1 of them that declared that knows much ore very much the SPSS, 8. 4% of them know STATA, just around 4.5 % MPLUS same for AMOS. Academic staff reported that just 3.9 % were familiar using them NVIVO as a software that is used for analyzing qualitative research results. Also after three years they didn't improve their skills in Statistics.
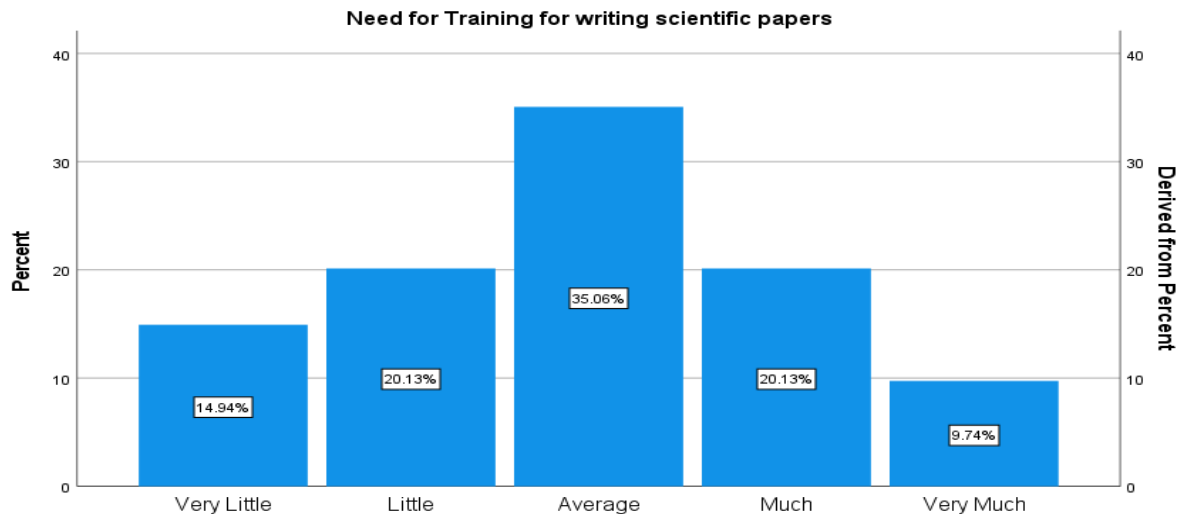
Academic staff were asked also about the competences in developing a questionnaire: 78.6% of them declared that they developed at least one questionnaire during their experience, 74.% of them developed also an interview and 59.7 % of them know about the procedures of norming and standardizing the instruments that they can use for the research purposes. It is not any significant change from the first report.

Based on the data reported form Academic staff, they have attended in their studies the modules that cover research they declared that 83.8 % of them attended a class of Research methods, just 53.9 % of them attended a class of Academic Writing and 70.8% of them attended a class of Statistics, just 43.5 of them attended a class where Statistical software's were thought. It is not any significant change from the first report.

Graph 1. *Needs for trainings for writing scientific paper* M1

1.1. *Needs for trainings for writing scientific paper M2*
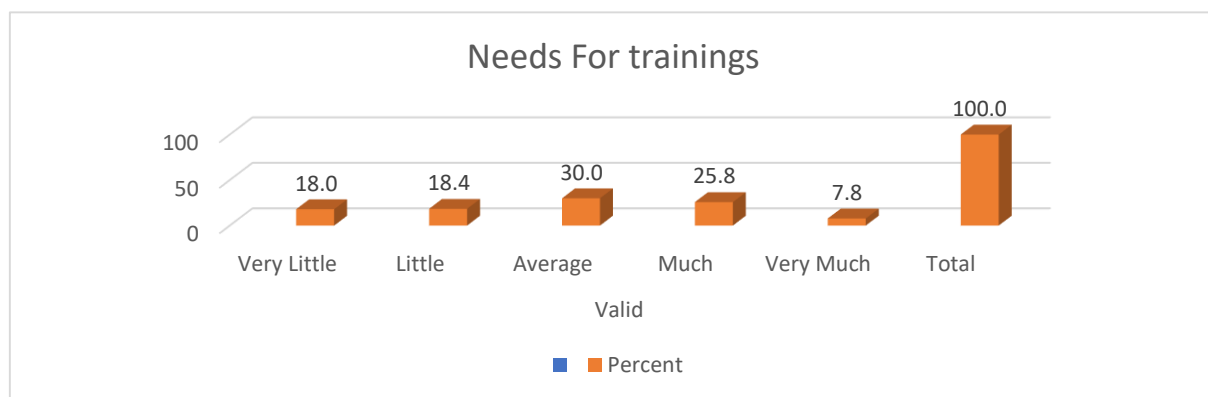
**Need for Training for writing scientific papers**

According to the graph we can see that around 65% need more training in writing research scientific papers.

Academic staff were asked also about the financial support for publication, where 66.2% reported that they had financial support for their research work but when were asked about personal support for a research, 57.1% reported that they never get any founds for research, so this means that the founds are in their disposal but 57.1% never get any found for research from their institutions.

Level of readiness of researcher/academic staff to engage in research activity/publishing in the Journals developed in Kosovo

One of the important indicators in the study that has been search is, does academic staff on the Universities support and feel that it is a need to develop also scientific journals in Kosovo with international standards. According to the second survey results 90.9 % instead of the first styudy 93.5% of academic staff support the idea for developing new journals for the specific research fields in Kosovo (see the graph no.9 below). Moreover, the surveyed academic staff is dedicated to publishing in the national journals with international standards, and they reported that 91.6% of them would publish, as displayed in the graph no 10, and they still interested to publish even now.

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Graph 2. *Do you think it is necessary to have a Scientific Journal in Kosovo in your field of research with international standards and indexing?*

Grapf 2.1. Do you think it is necessary to have a Scientific Journal in Kosovo in your field of research with international standards and indexing?M2

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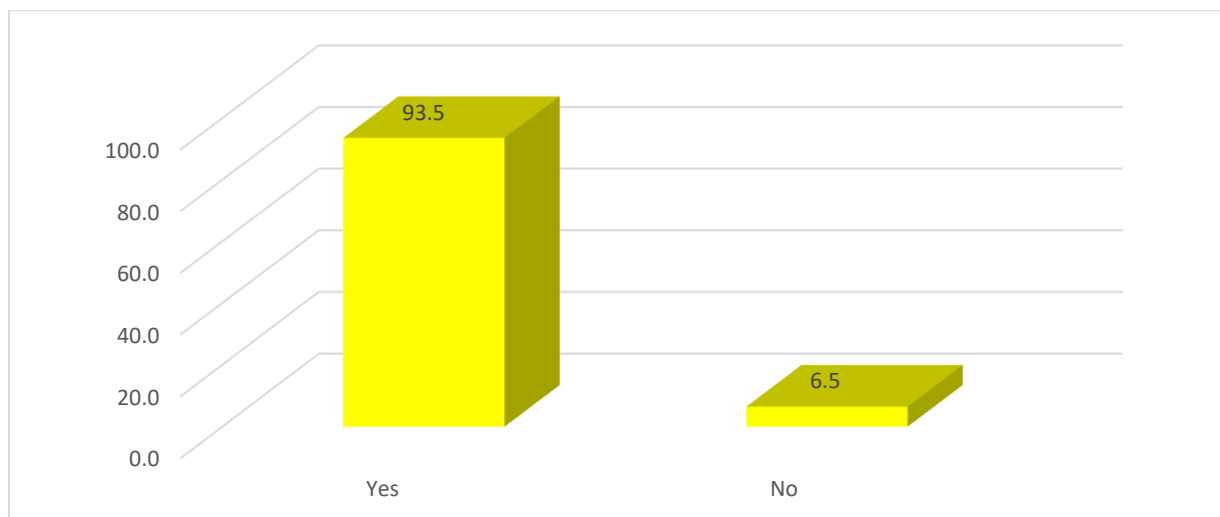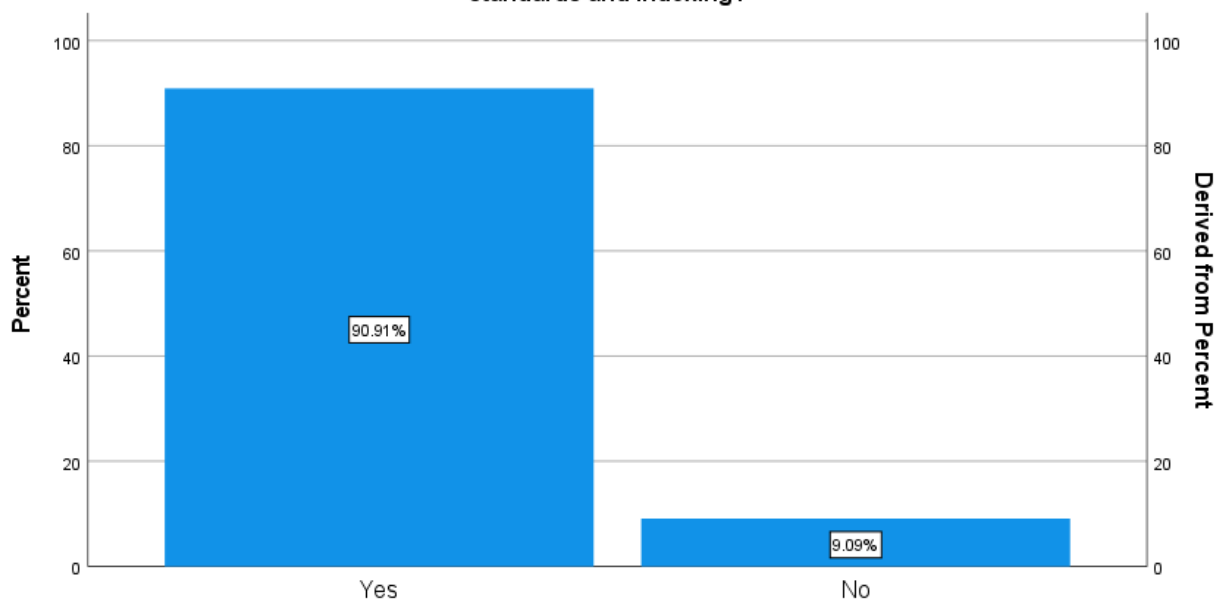
Graph 3. *Would you publish your work in those journals with international standards? M1*

Would you publish your work in those journals with international standards?

91.9 — Yes
8.1 — No

Would you publish your work in those journals with international standards?

91.56% — Yes
8.44% — No
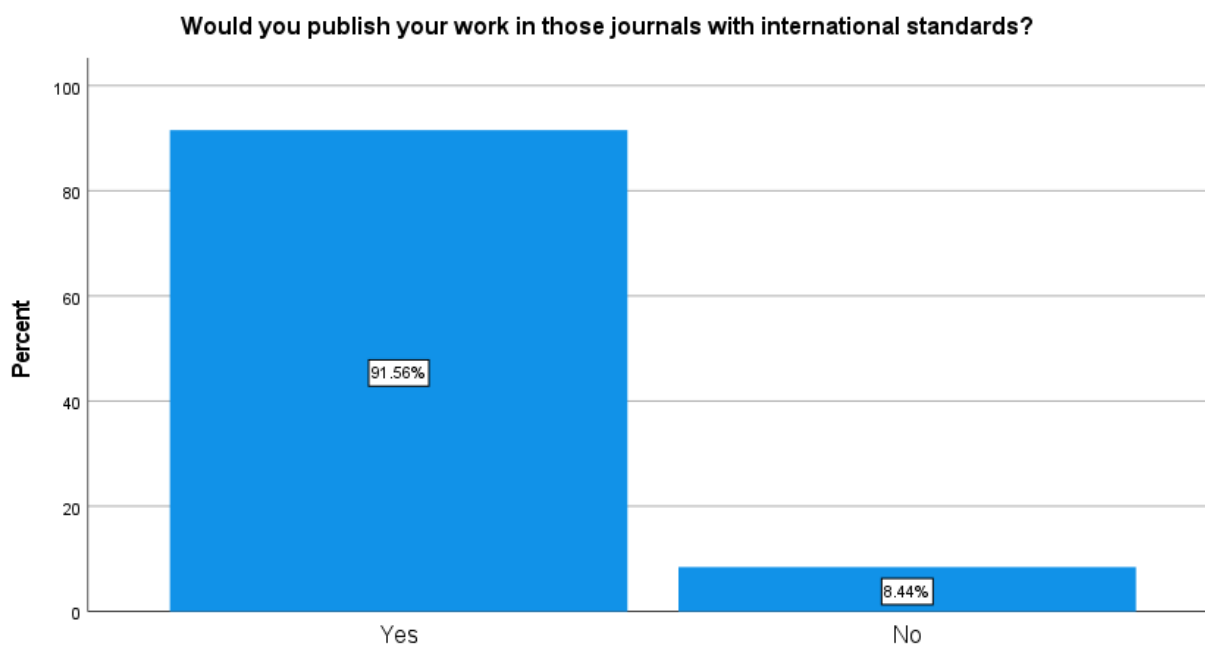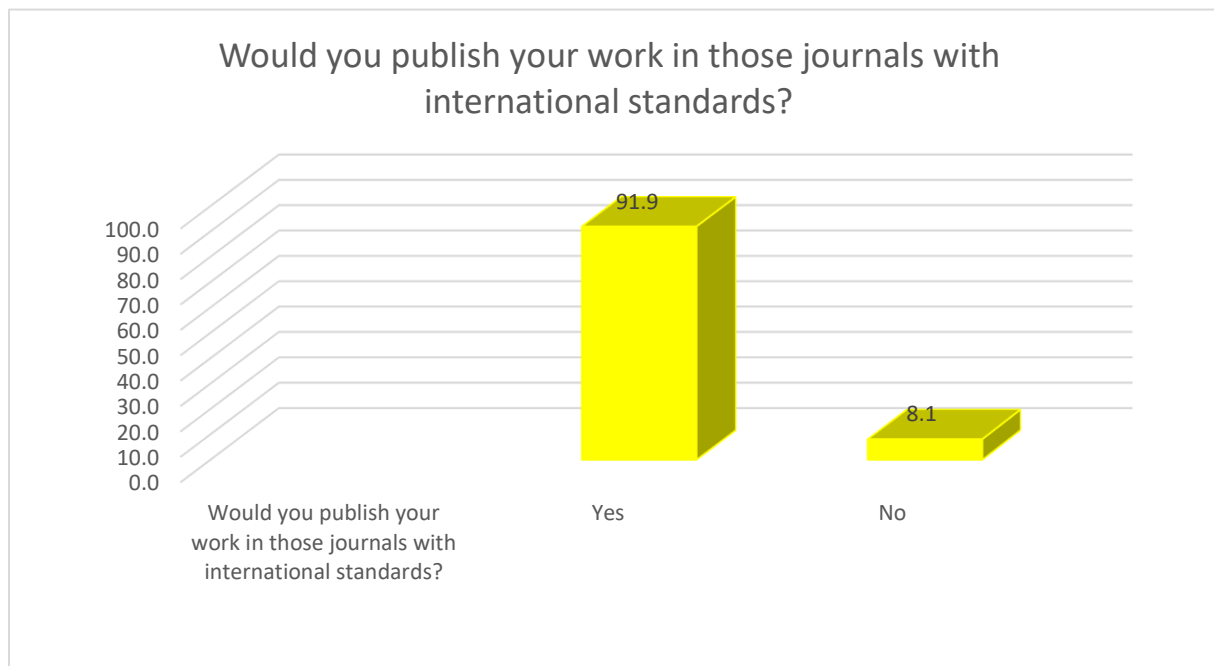
Graph 3.1. *Would you publish your work in those journals with international standards? M2*

Based on the results we can conclude that readiness and need for national journals with international scientific standard is a must.

Table 9. Are you using EBSCO which ResearchCult provided to you?				
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	79	50.3	51.3
	No	75	47.8	48.7
	Total	154	98.1	100.0
Missing	System	3	1.9	
Total		157	100.0	

Table. 10. Are you using the Anti-Plagiarism system that was purchased with the ResearchCult project?				
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	Yes	80	51.0	51.9
	No	74	47.1	48.1
	Total	154	98.1	100.0
Missing	System	3	1.9	
Total		157	100.0	

Table 11. Do you find the ResearchCult project supportive of your research work over the past three years?				
		Frequency	Percent	Valid Percent
Valid	No	34	21.7	22.1
	Little	27	17.2	17.5
	Average	57	36.3	37.0
	Much	28	17.8	18.2
	Very Much	8	5.1	5.2
	Total	154	98.1	100.0
Missing	System	3	1.9	
	Total	157	100.0	

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Based on the feedback from academic staff it seems that the found quite useful EBSCO and Antiplagiarism system for their scientific work, also only 22.1 percent didn't find ResearchCult project supportive for the lifetime of the project.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The assessment shows important reflections regarding both progress by also challenges regarding the research activity among universities. The following main conclusions and recommendations respectively can be drawn from the assessment:

— All universities have established the research offices, and allocated research coordination structures. This is noted as a first step to stabilize research support structures, however, the prioritization of universities systematically under the second university pillar, the research, still needs higher attention strategically and practically.

— All universities have established strategic research plans, and have earmarked budget for the proposed measures. Nevertheless, the allocation of respective budget in the university annual budget is far from what the research plans indicate. This urges the need for the establishment of a consolidated university research fund, with respective financing instruments for researchers.

— The new endorsed National Research Program (NRP) by the Government stipulates numerous substantial measures for the research activities where universities can utilize, although it lacks an adequate implementation plan and structure, as well as proper financial allocation, in order to guide universities and researchers how to access the funds. A follow up action by the Government on setting up an action plan for the NRP is imperative, including clear financing schemes.

— Although a pushing demand has been placed among researchers in recent year to engage in scientific publications, researchers still lack sufficient supporting financial instruments on their regular research work.

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— Capacities to carry out scientific research activity and pursue research publications is still on high demand level, as concluded by the survey with academic staff. The training practice carried about by the ResearchCult project in this regard was highly valued, and was highly recommended to include higher number of researchers and academic staff throughout universities;

— Researchers and academic staff lack adequate research infrastructure to properly conduct research work. This includes also access to electronic research databases, as well as access to checking the research quality, such as plagiarism check. Although the ResearchCult project supported such access for more than two years, which already started to create a culture among the academic staff to check their research work, longer term provision of such access is a mandatory measure for the quality of research in universities. All universities planned in their research plans to purchase such services with university own funds, this was only marginally implemented during 2023 in some universities.

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Annexes

Research culture questionnaire for HEI's staff

Dear participant, thank you for accepting to be part of this research.

This survey is conducted under the Erasmus + project "Enhancing Research Culture in Higher Education in Kosovo (ResearchCult)", part of which are all public universities in Kosovo.

This questionnaire will collect your attitudes and experiences about your own research and investigative experience. Before responding to the statements, please specify demographic information below. Keep in mind that the information collected through this questionnaire will be used only for research purposes, and also information will be taken from a huge number of respondents, and this research is interesting to derive main conclusions. Please, read each statement carefully and feel free to give your real opinions on the matter. Be sure that you answer each question below.

Thank you for your contribution to the study.

1. Gender:
    a. Male 2
    b. Female 1

2. Age: _____

3. Level of education:

    a. Bachelor 1
    b. Master 2
    c. PhD. Cand.
    d. PhD.
    e. Post doc.

4. What is your actual academic title?

    a. Assistant

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b. Lecturer
c. Assistant Professor
d. Associate Professor
e. Regular Professor

5. I am working at:

a. University of Prishtina
b. University of Prizren
c. University of Gjilan
d. University of Peja
e. Univesity of Mitrovica
f. University of Ferizaj
g. University of Gjakova
h. IBC-M

6. Write your faculty and Department: _____

7. Your experience in teaching (in years): _____

8. I am familiar with academic writing:

1. Very little   2. Little   3. Average   4 Much   5. Very much

10. I am familiar with descriptive statistics:

1. Very little   2. Little   3. Average   4 Much   5. Very much

11. I am familiar with inferential statistics:

1. Very little   2. Little   3. Average   4 Much   5. Very much

12. How much do you have knowledge on using the following statistical / analytical softwares?

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	Not at all	Little	Average	Much	Very much
SPSS	1	2	3	4	5
STATA	1	2	3	4	5
MPLUS	1	2	3	4	5
AMOS	1	2	3	4	5
NVIVO	1	2	3	4	5
R	1	2	3	4	5
SAS	1	2	3	4	5
Other statistical / analytical software: write:_____	1	2	3	4	5

17. What do you use for doing statistics in your papers:_____

18. Have you ever created any survey questionnaire that you used for implementing a research?

    a. Yes

    b. No

19. Have you ever created any interviews questionnaire that you used for implementing a research?

    a. Yes

    b. No

20 Are you familiar with the procedures of standardization and norming of survey questionnaires?

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a. Yes

b. No

21. If Yes. How many questionnaires you standardized and/or normed:_____

22. Have you attended during your studies research methods courses?

a. Yes

b. No

23. Have you attended during your studies Academic writing courses?

a. Yes

b. No

24. Have you attended during your studies Statistic Courses?

a. Yes

b. No

25. Have you attended any course about statistical software about processing and analyzing data (quantitative and qualitative softwares)?

a. Yes

b. No

PLEASE specify:

_____
_____
_____

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_____

_____

_____

26. Do you have articles published?

    a. Yes

    b. No

    26.1 If Yes How many _____

27. Do you have books/chapters published?

    a. Yes

    b. No

    27.1 If Yes How many _____

28. Do you have articles published in journals with impact factor?

    a. Yes

    b. No

Number of articles you have published with impact factor _____

Number of articles you have published without impact factor _____

29. How many possibilities you have as researcher to publish internationally?

    1.Very little   2. Little   3. Average   4 Much   5. Very much

30. Do you have information which are the relevant journals for your field to publish?

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1. Very little   2. Little   3. Average   4 Much   5. Very much

31. How difficult is for you and researchers at your institution to find relevant journals of your field to publish your research work?

1. Very little   2. Little   3. Average   4 Much   5. Very much

32. To what extent do you have experience in writing research articles?

1 Very little   2. Little   3. Average   4 Much   5. Very much

33. To what extend do you feel you have capacities to write good research articles?

1. Very little   2 Little   3 Average   4 Much   5. Very much

34. Do you have access in the research databases/platforms (e-library, journals, etc)?

1. Very little   2. Little   3. Average   4 Much   5. Very much

35. I know what plagiarism is.

1	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*
Strongly disagree	*disagree*	*neutral*	*agree*	*strongly agree*

36. How often you use the antiplagiarism software?

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1. Very little   2. Little   3. Average   4 Much   5. Very much

Which one do you use: please write it: _____

36. I can easily cooperate with other experts in field of research.

1 Very little   2. Little   3. Average   4 Much   5. Very much

37. Do you need any training for writing skills in research articles?

1. Very little   2. Little   3. Average   4 Much   5. Very much

38. I have difficulties in writing research papers:

Introduction	Not at all	Very little	Little	Average	Much	Very much
Aim of the research	Not at all	Very little	Little	Average	Much	Very much
Hypothesis	Not at all	Very little	Little	Average	Much	Very much
Research question	Not at all	Very little	Little	Average	Much	Very much
Methodology	Not at all	Very little	Little	Average	Much	Very much
Results	Not at all	Very little	Little	Average	Much	Very much
Discussion	Not at all	Very little	Little	Average	Much	Very much

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39. I feel confident in navigating on other investigators' findings and conclusions.

1. *Very little*   2. *Little*   3. *Average*   4 *Much*   5. *Very much*

40. Did you publish any paper with qualitative research methods?

a. Yes

b. No

c. I do not know.

41. Did you publish any paper with mixed research methods?

a. Yes

b. No

c. I do not know

42. Did you publish any paper with experimental research methods?

a. Yes

b. No

43. How much are you required by your institution to work on research projects?

1. *Very little*   2. *Little*   3. *Average*   4 *Much*   5. *Very much*

44. How much are you required by your institution to work on research publications?

1. *Very little*   2. *Little*   3. *Average*   4 *Much*   5. *Very much*

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_____

45. Are you part of any research team/network?

    a.Local: YES/NO
    b.International: YES/NO

46. Do you have publications jointly with international researchers?

    a. Yes

    b. No

46.1. If yes, how many? _____

46.2. If no, explain why not:

_____
_____
_____

Questions below are about research support and policy in your work place

47. Are there research work regulations in your institution?

    a. Yes

    b. No

    c. I do not know

48. Is there any financial support for research work in your institution?

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a. Yes

b. No

If YES, please specify what kind of support is available?

_____

_____

_____

If NO, please specify why not?

_____

_____

_____

49. Is there any form of institutional support for conducting research work?

a. Yes

b. No

c. I do not know

Please specify:

_____

_____

_____

50. Have you ever received any financial support from your institution to conduct research work?

1. *Never*   2. *Once*   3. *Sometimes*   *4 Often*   5. *Always (I ask for)*

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50.1 If never, please specify why:

_____
_____
_____
_____

51. Please list some of the main obstacles for conducting research in your institution that you mainly face:

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

52. Please write down the number of difficulties for you when you work in research papers (from 1 minimum to 10 maximum):

a. Finding the research title _____

b. Writing the abstract _____

c. Writing the introduction _____

d. Reviewing the relevant literature _____

e. Writing the research question _____

f. Writing the hypothesis _____

g. Writing the methodology _____

h. Working on results _____

i. Writing the discussion _____

j. Writing the references _____

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53. I am confident in following APA (American Psychological Association) research working styles.

1. Very little   2. Little   3. Average   4 Much   5. Very much

54. Are you engaged as mentor/supervisor in supervising diploma thesis in your institution?

   a. Yes

   b. No

   54.1 If yes, what type of thesis you supervise?

                                        a.   Bachelor
                                        b.   Master
                                        c.   PhD
   54.2How many thesis in average you supervise per year?
      Please write the number:_____

  55. Could you list some of the obstacles / difficulties you find in mentoring/supervising thesis?
Please write:
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

  56. Do you know financial instruments for research which are available in Kosovo?

a. Yes

b. No

If yes, list the ones you know:

_____
_____
_____

57. Do you know financial instruments for research which are available internationally?

a. Yes

b. No

If yes, list the ones you know:

_____
_____
_____

58. Have you ever applied to access these funds with any research project?

Yes / No

If yes, how many times? Please write_____

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How many times you got awarded (if you applied with any)? Please write_____

What were the reasons for not being awarded to the ones you did not get support?

Please list the reasons:

_____
_____
_____

59. Do you think that it is needed to have scientific journals in Kosovo in your field of research with international standards and internationally indexed?
    a. Yes
    b. No

60. Will you publish your work in those journals with international standards?
    a. Yes
    b. No

61. Number of citation you have: _____

Do you have anything to add, or any comments?

_____
_____
_____
_____

Katalogimi në botim – (CIP)

Biblioteka Kombëtare e Kosovës "Pjetër Bogdani"