

# DEVELOPMENT OF STUDENTS' CAPACITIES FOR INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION IN ALBANIA – THE UET MODEL

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## Abstract

Scientific research is ranked as one of the top ten priorities of the Bologna Charter for the forthcoming decade. In this light, the development of scientific research is one of the principal objectives of higher education settings. This paper reviews the approach and concrete models towards the development of students' capacities for independent scientific research in the higher education in Albania in the framework of the Bologna Process. The paper argues in favour of the relevance of students' involvement in scientific research activities and highlights the importance of this dimension within the Bologna Process. The paper refers to the practices of the European University of Tirana in regards to the creation of institutional, administrative, academic and procedural spaces for the involvement of students in scientific research activities in the university and argues that these practices can be seen as a model that is a consolidated and effective model. The paper engages in a concise analysis of the legislative framework regarding the involvement of students in scientific research activities in higher education institutions in the public and private education sector in Albania given that the Bologna process in the Albanian context is implemented through a set of laws and regulations. The third part of the paper explores the possibilities offered to students to participate in scientific research activities at the European University of Tirana. A full analysis of the guiding principles, the main directions of development, criteria and standards for the development of students' capacities as well as the interrelation between research activities and teaching processes is conducted in this part of the paper. The paper also explores the results of the scientific research activities of the students at the European University of Tirana as well as forms, procedures and other practices at the disposal of each and every student for encouraging, planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating students' scientific research. The paper argues that the development of students' capacities to engage in scientific research activities within the framework of the overall scientific and research work at the European University of Tirana constitutes a consolidated and established model in the Albanian context.

**Key words:** *scientific research, bologna process, albanian legislation, institutions of higher education, academic staff, students' development*