

ASPECTS OF EXPERIENCIES OF UNIVERSITY THIRD MISSION IN EUROPEAN UNION UNIVERSITIES AND SHKODRA UNIVERSITY “LUIGJ GURAKUQI”

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Abstract

Today, in the era of the knowledge economy, universities have been asked to transform themselves into actors players within it and to contribute to the different European Agenda (e.g. Lisbon, Agenda, 2000) and different studies aimed at turning the European economy into “the most dynamic knowledge – based economy in the world”. (Jose-Gines Mora & Stefano Boffo). The relationship between higher education and society is generally considered as the third mission of universities. According to different European researchers (Tuunainen, 2005 , Vorley dhe Nelles, 2008, Gorason, Maharajn & Schmoch, 2009 ect), the term “third mission” encompasses a wide range of activities involving the generation, use, application and exploitation of knowledge and other university capabilities out of the academic field that are separated from the teaching and research roles of higher education. There are many forms of higher education – business interaction. Third mission activities are usually related to research (technology transfer and innovation), teaching (lifelong learning /continuing education) or social /cultural engagement in the line with regional development goals. In this paper, there are treated European policies that aim stimulating knowledge transfer activities, policies for developing knowledge transfer at national level, coherence between the labor market and curricula etc. There are given some good practices of third mission of some European Union universities such as: University of Leon and Technical University of Valencia , Spain, Turku University, Finland as well as Sapienza University, Rome, Italy, Taking into account the idea that education is a good thing for the public, as well as, the fact that today we are at the stage of creating and strengthening a democratic state and society based on the values, knowledge and prosperity, we can say that higher education has been and remains a key priority for any society. In this paper there is given information on first steps of positive experiences of Shkodra “Luigj Gurakuqi” University on third mission of university and it is stressed its role in the context of regional economy and change of the U3M role in technology transfer, continuing education and social engagement. At the end of this paper there are given some conclusions.

Keyword: *higher education, third mission of universities, European policies on third mission, knowledge transfer, University of Shkodër.*