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Research Instruments

An Assessment of University-to-Society Collaborations in Albania

Tirana, September 2021





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An Assessment of University-to-Society Collaborations in Albania

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Table of Contents

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS.....	4
QUESTIONNAIRE FOR RESEARCHERS	20
FOCUS GROUP 1 – SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHERS	36
FOCUS GROUP 2 –PRIVATE SECTOR.....	39





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Questionnaire for Higher Education Institutions

Introduction

Dear USIA Project coordinators,

Please fill in the following questionnaire for your institution by providing complete information to the best of your knowledge. Note that you need to consult with all units of your higher education institution prior to filling in this form.

This questionnaire is sent to you in the framework of the USIA Project, which seeks to strengthen the capacities of Albania's universities and participating institutions in collaborating with other societal actors (including policymaking institutions, private sector, media, and civil society).

The purpose of this questionnaire is to collect quantitative data on the collaboration between the scientific research sector and the other stakeholders mentioned above. This questionnaire is one of the three instruments employed to investigate current practices of collaboration among these groups. The data collected through this questionnaire will be confidential and will be strictly used for the purpose of this research.

The USIA Project is funded by the European Union through the Erasmus+ Program for Capacity Building in Higher Education. This project is being implemented by 12 partners from Albania, Italy, Serbia, and Germany under the leadership of the Mediterranean University of Albania.

Should you be interested in the research results, please provide your email address at the end of this questionnaire.

Thank you,

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* *Operational note:* For the purpose of this research:

- The word ‘university’ implies all Higher Education Institutions.
- The word ‘business’ implies private sector: companies; SME; startups; joint ventures; business associations; business umbrella organizations;
- The phrase ‘collaboration, science and society’ implies collaboration between the academia and policymaking, business, media, and civil society actors.



1. Information on the individual filling the questionnaire for the institution

What is your role in the university where you work?

Please choose the option that fits your role:

University management (including: Rector/ President / Administrator)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Academic (including researcher / pedagogue / professor / assistant professor)	<input type="checkbox"/>
University staff working with business (including Office of Projects/ Transfer of Know-How/Alumni Office/ Erasmus+ Office/ Career Counseling Office / Business Development Manager, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (<i>Please specify</i>) ...	<input type="checkbox"/>

What university are you working for?

- Mediterranean University of Albania (UMSH)
- European University of Tirana (UET)
- Aleksander Moisiu University of Durrës (UAMD)
- Luigj Gurakuqi University of Shkodra (UNISHK)
- Tirana Professional College (KPT)
- Other, please specify _____

1 – Funding

How is research funded in your institution?

University research funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
National research funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business/Private sector research funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
International organizations operating in Albania providing grants for applicable research and/or policy-oriented research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research programmes of European Commission	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local donors in Albania / civil society organizations that provide funds for applicable research or policy-oriented research	<input type="checkbox"/>



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Other international research grants and programmes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (<i>Please specify</i>) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

If “other”, please specify (open-ended questions)

How is application for funding of research organized in your institution?

- The university has a central unit that coordinates other application and initiatives on fundraising for funding research.
- Each faculty has a unit that coordinates other application and initiatives on fundraising for funding research.
- There is no organized structure for the coordination of other application and initiatives on fundraising for funding research.
- Ad hoc, on case-by-case basis
- Other, please specify _____

If “other”, please specify (open-ended questions)

What is the biggest challenge in funding the research in your institution? (Choose 1)

- Research funds are limited.
- Researchers’ capacities to solicit funds are limited.
- The institutional capacities, such as structures, procedures, internal resources for soliciting funds, are either missing or limited.
- The interest in funding scientific research on the part of the researcher is low.
- Other, please specify _____

If “other”, please specify (open-ended questions)

2. Participation and Collaboration

Please, indicate whether your university participates in any of the following programmes of the European Union.





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Options: *Yes; No; Don't Know*

Lifelong Learning Programme (LLL)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Framework Programme for Research and Development (for example. FP6, FP7)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Erasmus Mundus Programme	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tempus Programme	<input type="checkbox"/>
Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP)	<input type="checkbox"/>
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	<input type="checkbox"/>
European Social Fund (ESF)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Erasmus+	<input type="checkbox"/>
H2020	<input type="checkbox"/>
COST Actions	
Creative Europe	
Europe for Citizens	
COSME	
InterregMed	<input type="checkbox"/>
BalkanMED	<input type="checkbox"/>
IPA	<input type="checkbox"/>

To what extent does your university collaborate with the businesses?

Please rate from 1 = "Not at all" to 7 = "A lot"

Collaboration in research and development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Funding of academic staff mobility	<input type="checkbox"/>
Funding of students' mobility	<input type="checkbox"/>
Commercialization of results of research and development (know-how transfer)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Curricula development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lifelong Learning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Innovation of products and services	<input type="checkbox"/>
Students' internship	
Labor market boards	
Other (<i>please specify</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>





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How is this collaboration funded?

Company funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donor funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
University funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
Co-funding by university and company	<input type="checkbox"/>
European Union project funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

What are the results of this collaboration?

Please specify	_____
----------------	-------

What are the benefits of this collaboration for your university?

Please specify	_____
----------------	-------

Based on what you have learned to date, what should be considered to make this collaboration more successful? What are the main elements of a successful collaboration?

Please specify	_____
----------------	-------

Taking into account the strategy employed by your university, to what extent are the following elements developed?

Please rate using a scale of 1 – 7, where 1 = “Not developed” to 7 = “Very developed”.

Senior management in commitment to University-Business collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Documented mission/vision involving University-Business collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
A strategy on University-Business collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internal promotion of University-Business collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
External promotion of University-Business collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allocation of resources (including funds) to support University-Business collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provision of incentives for academics to encourage University-Business collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inclusion of “business collaboration” as part of the performance evaluation of academic work.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please specify _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please indicate to what extent does your university collaborate with policymaking institutions (central or local government).





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Please rate from 1 = “Not at all” to 7 = “A lot”

Collaboration in research work	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collaboration in consultation of important national-level documents and plans	
Promotion of results of research and development (transfer of know-how)	<input type="checkbox"/>
The process of designing new curricula	<input type="checkbox"/>
The process of creating new study programs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lifelong learning	
Boards of various topics	
Other (please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>

How is this collaboration funded?

Public institution funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
University funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
European Union project funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other donor funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
Co-funding by several parties (Please, provide details)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (please specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

What are the main results of this collaboration?

Please specify	_____
----------------	-------

What are the benefits of this collaboration for your university?

Please specify	_____
----------------	-------

Based on what you have learned to date, what should be considered to make this collaboration more successful? What are the main elements of a successful collaboration?

Please specify	_____
----------------	-------

Taking into account the strategy employed by your university, to what extent are the following elements developed?

Please rate using a scale of 1 – 7, where 1 = “Not developed” to 7 = “Very developed”.

Senior management in commitment to University-Policymaker collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Documented mission/vision involving University-Policymaker collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
A strategy on University-Policymaker collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>





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Internal promotion of University-Policymaker collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
External promotion of University-Policymaker collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allocation of resources (including funds) to support University-Policymaker collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provision of incentives for academics to encourage University-Policymaker collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inclusion of “policymaker collaboration” as part of the performance evaluation of academic work.	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please indicate to what extent does your university collaborate with civil society organizations.

Please rate from 1 = “Not at all” to 7 = “A lot”

Collaboration in research work where the research itself has a primary role	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collaboration in various projects where research is of secondary role	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promotion of results of research and development (transfer of know-how)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advocacy and/or lobbying for various issues of shared interest	<input type="checkbox"/>
The process of designing new curricula	<input type="checkbox"/>
The process of creating new study programs	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lifelong learning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (<i>please specify</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>

How is this collaboration funded?

Civil society organization funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
University funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
European Union project funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other donor funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
Co-funding by several parties (Please, provide details)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (<i>please specify</i>) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

What are the main results of this collaboration?

Please specify	_____
----------------	-------

What are the benefits of this collaboration for your university?

Please specify	_____
----------------	-------





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Based on what you have learned to date, what should be considered to make this collaboration more successful? What are the main elements of a successful collaboration?

Please specify	
----------------	--

Taking into account the strategy employed by your university, to what extent are the following elements developed?

Please rate using a scale of 1 – 7, where 1 = “Not developed” to 7 = “Very developed”.

Senior management in commitment to University-Civil Society Organization collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Documented mission/vision involving University-Civil Society Organization collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
A strategy on University-Civil Society Organization collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internal promotion of University-Civil Society Organization collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
External promotion of University-Civil Society Organization collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allocation of resources (including funds) to support University-Civil Society Organization collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provision of incentives for academics to encourage University-Civil Society Organization collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inclusion of “Civil Society Organization collaboration” as part of the performance evaluation of academic work.	<input type="checkbox"/>

J Please indicate to what extent does your university collaborate with the various media?

Please rate from 1 = “Not at all” to 7 = “A lot”

Collaboration in conducting dedicated research work that helps media report on a specific issue in a more profound manner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Promotion of research results of your university staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Contribution in various articles/reports that media has included in its editorial plan	
Advocacy and/or lobbying for various issues of shared interest	
Other (<i>please specify</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>

How is this collaboration funded?

Collaboration without funding	
Media funds	<input type="checkbox"/>





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University funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
European Union project funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other donor funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
Co-funding by several parties (Please, provide details)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (<i>please specify</i>) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

What are the main results of this collaboration?

Please specify	_____
----------------	-------

What are the benefits of this collaboration for your university?

Please specify	_____
----------------	-------

Based on what you have learned to date, what should be considered to make this collaboration more successful? What are the main elements of a successful collaboration?

Please specify	_____
----------------	-------

Taking into account the strategy employed by your university, to what extent are the following elements developed?

Please rate using a scale of 1 – 7, where 1 = “Not developed” to 7 = “Very developed”.

Senior management in commitment to University-Media collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Documented mission/vision involving University-Media collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
A strategy on University-Media collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internal promotion of University-Media collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
External promotion of University-Media collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allocation of resources (including funds) to support University-Media collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Provision of incentives for academics to encourage University-Media collaboration.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inclusion of “Media collaboration” as part of the performance evaluation of academic work.	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Barriers and Facilities

To what extent do the following elements facilitate collaboration with the business?

Please rate using a scale of 1 = “Not important at all” to 7 = “Very important”.





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Possibility of access to financial resources to work with the business	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business partner's flexibility	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business interest in accessing scientific knowledge	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to research and development of business sector	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employment of university students and staff by the businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
Short geographical distance of university from business partner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Existence of mutual trust	<input type="checkbox"/>
Existence of mutual commitment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Goal sharing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shared understanding of interest on the part of stakeholders (e.g., universities, business, individuals, students)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preliminary links with business partner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collaboration as an effective means to address challenges and social issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please specify _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

To what extent do the following elements facilitate collaboration with the policymaking institutions?

Please rate using a scale of 1 = "Not important at all" to 7 = "Very important".

Interest of institutions in accessing scientific know-how	<input type="checkbox"/>
Possibility to access financial resources to work with policymaking institutions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will to contribute to the process of developing key strategic/legislation documents	
Engagement of university staff in institutions after conclusion of academic career	<input type="checkbox"/>
Short geographical distance of university from institution	<input type="checkbox"/>
Existence of mutual trust	<input type="checkbox"/>
Existence of mutual commitment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Goal sharing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shared understanding of interest on the part of stakeholders (e.g., universities, business, individuals, students)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preliminary links with business partner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collaboration as an effective means to address challenges and social issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

To what extent do the following elements facilitate collaboration with the civil society organizations?





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Please rate using a scale of 1 = “Not important at all” to 7 = “Very important”.

Possibility to access financial resources to work with civil society organizations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flexibility of partner organization	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interest of organizations in accessing scientific know-how	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limited capabilities of organization to conduct independent scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employment of university staff in civil society organizations during and after work at university	<input type="checkbox"/>
Short geographic distance of university from partner organization	<input type="checkbox"/>
Existence of mutual trust	<input type="checkbox"/>
Existence of mutual commitment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Goal sharing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shared understanding of interest on the part of stakeholders (e.g., universities, business, individuals, students)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preliminary links with business partner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collaboration as an effective means to address challenges and social issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

To what extent do the following elements facilitate collaboration with the media?

Please rate using a scale of 1 = “Not important at all” to 7 = “Very important”.

Opportunity to promote academic work to a broader and versatile audience	<input type="checkbox"/>
Great number of active media	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interest of media in accessing scientific know-how	<input type="checkbox"/>
Various formats of technology used by media (press, portal, social media, video, image, graphics, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preliminary links with one or several media	<input type="checkbox"/>
Existence of mutual trust	<input type="checkbox"/>
Existence of mutual commitment on specific issues of public interest	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shared understanding of interest on the part of audience	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

To what extent do you think the following barriers will affect your university-business collaboration?



Please rate using a scale of 1-10, where 1 = “Not at all” and 7 = “Very important”.

The business does not have the knowledge on university research activities/supply	<input type="checkbox"/>
Universities do not have information on opportunities arising from university-business collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of financial resources of business	<input type="checkbox"/>
Current financial crisis	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of university funds for university-business collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of external funds for university-business collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Difficulties in identifying the right partner for collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bureaucracy within or outside university	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on the production of practical results from the business	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business fear that their know-how will be disclosed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business need for confidentiality of research results	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of contact persons with scientific knowledge within the business	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limited capabilities of business to absorb research findings	<input type="checkbox"/>
No adequate first contact person within the university or business	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unmatched motivation/values between university and business	<input type="checkbox"/>
Different form of communication between university and business	<input type="checkbox"/>
Different horizons between university and business	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limited absorption capacities of SME to obtain practices or projects	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other...	<input type="checkbox"/>

To what extent do you think the following barriers will affect your university-policy-making institution collaboration?

Please rate using a scale of 1-10, where 1 = “Not at all” and 7 = “Very important”.

The policymaking institutions do not have the knowledge on university research activities/supply	<input type="checkbox"/>
Universities do not have information on opportunities arising from university-policy-making institution collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Policymaking institutions are not clear about the benefits from collaboration with universities	<input type="checkbox"/>



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Universities are not clear about the benefits stemming from their contribution in policymaking	
Lack of university funds to conduct research work for practical implementation/use in policymaking	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of public funds allocated to university-policymaking institution collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bureaucracy in universities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bureaucracy outside universities in terms of engaging researchers as experts	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mutual distrust between universities and public institutions	
Polarization of public discourse on topics of national importance	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of contact persons with scientific knowledge within the policymaking institutions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limited capabilities of policymaking institutions to absorb research findings	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limited capabilities of academics to conduct research work for practical implementation/use in policymaking	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limited capabilities of academics to “translate” their research work in a simple and applicable language for non-academic staff	
Unmatched motivation/values between university and policymaking institution	<input type="checkbox"/>
Different form of communication between university and policymaking institution	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other...	<input type="checkbox"/>

To what extent do you think the following barriers will affect your university-civil society organization collaboration?

Please rate using a scale of 1-10, where 1 = “Not at all” and 7 = “Very important”.

The civil society organizations do not have the knowledge on university research activities/supply	<input type="checkbox"/>
Universities do not have information on opportunities arising from university-civil society organization collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Civil society organizations are not clear about the benefits from collaboration with universities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Universities are not clear about the benefits stemming from their collaboration with civil society organizations	
Lack of university funds to conduct research work for practical implementation/use in civil society organizations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bureaucracy in universities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of contact persons with scientific knowledge within the civil society organizations	



Mutual distrust between universities and civil society organizations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limited capabilities of civil society organizations to absorb research findings	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limited capabilities of academics to conduct research work of interest to civil society organizations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limited capabilities of academics to “translate” their research work in a simple and applicable language for non-academic staff	
Unmatched motivation/values between university and civil society organizations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Different form of communication between university and civil society organizations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other...	<input type="checkbox"/>

To what extent do you think the following barriers will affect your university-media collaboration?

Please rate using a scale of 1-10, where 1 = “Not at all” and 7 = “Very important”.

The media do not have the knowledge on university research activities/supply	<input type="checkbox"/>
The media do not have an interest in the university research activities/supply	<input type="checkbox"/>
The media are not clear about the benefits from collaboration with universities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Universities are not clear about the benefits of the collaboration with the media	
Lack of funding for collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bureaucracy in universities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of contact persons with scientific knowledge within the media	
Mutual distrust between universities and media	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limited capabilities of media to understand and present research findings	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limited capabilities of academics to “translate” their research work in a simple and understandable language for the public	
Unmatched motivation/values between university and media	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other...	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please indicate how many agreements your university has entered into with:

- Business: ____
- Policymaking institutions: ____
- Civil society organizations: ____
- Media: ____



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THANK YOU!





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Questionnaire for Researchers

Introduction

Hello distinguished researchers:

We are asking for your cooperation in filling in the following questionnaire, which will only take 15-20 minutes of your time.

This questionnaire is sent to you in the framework of the USIA Project, which seeks to strengthen the capacities of Albania's universities and participating institutions in collaborating with other societal actors (including policymaking institutions, private sector, media, and civil society).

The purpose of this questionnaire is to collect quantitative data on the collaboration between the scientific research sector and the other stakeholders mentioned above. This questionnaire is one of the three instruments employed to investigate current practices of collaboration among these groups. The data collected through this questionnaire will be confidential and will be strictly used for the purpose of this research.

The USIA Project is funded by the European Union through the Erasmus+ Program for Capacity Building in Higher Education. This project is being implemented by 12 partners from Albania, Italy, Serbia, and Germany under the leadership of the Mediterranean University of Albania.

Should you be interested in the research results, please provide your email address at the end of this questionnaire.

Thank you,

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* *Operational note:* For the purpose of this research:

- The word ‘university’ implies all Higher Education Institutions.
- The word ‘business’ implies private sector: companies; SME; startups; joint ventures; business associations; business umbrella organizations;
- The phrase ‘collaboration, science and society’ implies collaboration between the academia and policymaking, business, media, and civil society actors.





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1. Information on researcher

What is your role in the university where you work?

Please choose the option that describes your role:

University management (including Rector/ President / Chancellor, /Administrator)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Academic (including researcher, / lecturer / professor)	<input type="checkbox"/>
University staff working with third parties (including Office of Projects/ Alumni Office/ Erasmus+ Office/ Career Counseling Office / Business Development Manager)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (<i>Please specify</i>) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

What university are you working for?

- Mediterranean University of Albania (UMSH)
- European University of Tirana (UET)
- Aleksander Moisiu University of Durrës (UAMD)
- Luigj Gurakuqi University of Shkodra (UNISHK)
- Tirana Professional College (KPT)
- Other, please specify _____

What is your academic qualification?

Master	<input type="checkbox"/>
PhD	<input type="checkbox"/>
Doctor of Sciences	<input type="checkbox"/>
Associate Professor	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prof. Dr	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please specify _____	

Where did you complete your doctorate studies?

In Albania	
In Albania + mobility outside Albania	
In one of the European Union countries	





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In another non-European Union member country (but outside Albania)	
In the United States of America	
Other, please specify _____	

What is your area of expertise?

Communication Sciences and Linguistics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Demography and Social Statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Development Studies, Geography, and Environmental Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Economic Studies, Management, and Business	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education	<input type="checkbox"/>
Law	<input type="checkbox"/>
Media and Journalism	<input type="checkbox"/>
Political Sciences and International Relations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Psychology	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social Anthropology	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sociology	<input type="checkbox"/>
Social Sciences	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mathematics, Computer Science, Statistics	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please specify _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

How do you fund your research?

University research funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
National research funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business/Private sector research funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
International organizations operating in Albania providing grants for applicable research and/or policy-oriented research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Research programmes of European Commission	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local donors in Albania / civil society organizations that provide funds for research/applicable research and/or policy-oriented research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other international research grants and programmes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal funds	<input type="checkbox"/>



Other (Please specify) _____

What is the biggest challenge in funding the research in your institution?

- Research funds are limited.
- Researchers' capacities to solicit funds are limited.
- The institutional capacities, such as structures, procedures, internal resources for soliciting funds, are either missing or limited.
- The interest in funding scientific research on the part of the researcher is low.
- Other, please specify _____

2. Participation and Collaboration

Please, indicate whether you have participated in any of the following programmes of the European Union.

Options: *Yes; No; Don't Know*

Lifelong Learning Programme (LLL)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Framework Programme for Research and Development (for example: FP6, FP7)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Erasmus Mundus Programme	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tempus Programme	<input type="checkbox"/>
Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP)	<input type="checkbox"/>
European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)	<input type="checkbox"/>
European Social Fund (ESF)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Erasmus+	<input type="checkbox"/>
H2020	<input type="checkbox"/>
COST Actions	
Creative Europe	
Europe for Citizens	
COSME	
InterregMed	<input type="checkbox"/>
BalkanMED	<input type="checkbox"/>
IPA	<input type="checkbox"/>

During your experience, have you collaborated with the private sector (companies, SMEs, Startups)?

Yes	No
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Can you specify the type of collaboration with the private sector?

Individual external expertise offered as part of the short-term project	<input type="checkbox"/>
Individual external expertise offered as part of an agreement with the company	<input type="checkbox"/>
Institutional collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Specific activities and consultations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Permanent contracts to support a company in research and development	<input type="checkbox"/>
Permanent contracts to support a company in innovation of products, services, and processes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>

What was this collaboration initiated for?

Please specify	_____
----------------	-------

How was this collaboration funded?

Company funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
Donor funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
University funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
Co-funding from university and company	<input type="checkbox"/>
European Union project funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please specify) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

What activities does this collaboration include?

Please specify	_____
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What are the main results of this collaboration?

Please specify	_____
----------------	-------

From your viewpoint as an individual researcher, what would assess as the most important objective of collaboration with the businesses?

Please specify	_____
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What are the benefits of this collaboration for your university?

Please specify	
----------------	--

Based on your personal experience, what do you think are the most important benefits for the business sector from this collaboration?

Please specify	
----------------	--

What are the benefits for the students?

Please specify	
----------------	--

What do you see to be the collective benefits of this collaboration?

Please specify	
----------------	--

Based on what you have learned to date, what should be considered to make this collaboration more successful? What are the main elements of a successful collaboration?

Please specify	
----------------	--

During your experience, have you collaborated with the public sector (policymaking institutions, central and local governments)?

Po	Jo
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

During your experience, have you collaborated with the public sector?

Individual external expertise offered as part of the short-term project	<input type="checkbox"/>
Individual external expertise offered as part of a long-term broader agreement	<input type="checkbox"/>
Institution collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Specific activities and consultations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>

What was this collaboration initiated for?

Please specify	
----------------	--

How was this collaboration funded?

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Public institution funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
University funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
Co-funding from university and institution	<input type="checkbox"/>
European Union project funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other donor funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other forms of co-funding (<i>Please specify</i>)	
Other (<i>Please specify</i>) _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

What activities does this collaboration include?

Please specify	_____
----------------	-------

What are the main results of this collaboration?

Please specify	_____
----------------	-------

From your viewpoint as an individual researcher, what would assess as the most important objective of collaboration with policymaking institutions?

Please specify	_____
----------------	-------

What are the benefits of this collaboration for your university?

Please specify	_____
----------------	-------

Based on your personal experience, what do you think are the most important benefits for the public institutions from this collaboration?

Please specify	_____
----------------	-------

What are the benefits for the students?

Please specify	_____
----------------	-------

What do you see to be the collective benefits of this collaboration?

Please specify	_____
----------------	-------

Based on what you have learned to date, what should be considered to make this collaboration more successful? What are the main elements of a successful collaboration?

Please specify	_____
----------------	-------

During your experience, have you collaborated with the civil society (non-profit organizations, think tanks, informal groups or networks, research centers outside academia)?

Po	Jo
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<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Can you specify the type of collaboration with the civil society?

Individual external expertise offered as part of the short-term project	<input type="checkbox"/>
Individual external expertise offered as part of a long-term broader agreement	<input type="checkbox"/>
Institution collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Specific activities and consultations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please specify)	<input type="checkbox"/>

What was this collaboration initiated for?

Please specify	
----------------	--

How was this collaboration funded?

Own funds of organization	<input type="checkbox"/>
University funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
Co-funding from university and organizata	<input type="checkbox"/>
European Union project funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other donor funds	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other forms of co-funding (<i>Please specify</i>)	
Other (<i>Please specify</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/>

What activities does this collaboration include?

Please specify	
----------------	--

What are the main results of this collaboration?

Please specify	
----------------	--

From your viewpoint as an individual researcher, what would assess as the most important objective of collaboration with civil society organizations?

Please specify	
----------------	--

What are the benefits of this collaboration for your university?

Please specify	
----------------	--





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Based on your personal experience, what do you think are the most important benefits for the civil society organizations from this collaboration?

Please specify _____

What are the benefits for the students?

Please specify _____

What do you see to be the collective benefits of this collaboration?

Please specify _____

Based on what you have learned to date, what should be considered to make this collaboration more successful? What are the main elements of a successful collaboration?

Please specify _____

During your experience, have you collaborated with the media on communication of scientific research or development of joint projects?

Po	Jo
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

How was this collaboration initiated?

Please specify _____

Did this collaboration help you in successfully promoting your work to a broader audience?

Please specify _____

What difficulties did you encounter in adapting your scientific work to an appropriate format for the media you collaborated with?

Please specify _____

What are the benefits of this collaboration with the media for you as a researcher?

Please specify _____

What are the benefits of this collaboration with the media for your university?

Please specify _____

Based on what you have learned to date, what should be considered to make this collaboration more successful? What are the main elements of a successful collaboration?





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Please specify	
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Would you collaborate with the following sector in the future?

Business Yes No

Public sector Yes No

Media Yes No

Civil society Yes No

Explain why: _____

3. Barriers and Facilities for Collaboration with the Business

To what extent do the following elements facilitate collaboration with the business?

Please rate using a scale of 1 = “Not important at all” to 7 = “Very important”.

Orientation towards the transfer of know-how/innovation of the university	<input type="checkbox"/>
Possibility of access to financial resources to work with the business	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business partner’s flexibility	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business interest in accessing scientific knowledge	<input type="checkbox"/>
Access to research and development of business sector	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employment of university students and staff	<input type="checkbox"/>
Short geographical distance of university from business partner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Existence of mutual trust	<input type="checkbox"/>
Existence of mutual commitment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Goal sharing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shared understanding of interest on the part of stakeholders (e.g., universities, business, individuals, students)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preliminary links with business partner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collaboration as an effective means to address social challenges and issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please specify _____	<input type="checkbox"/>





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To what extent do the following elements facilitate collaboration with the policymaking institutions?

Please rate using a scale of 1 = “Not important at all” to 7 = “Very important”.

Interest of institutions in accessing scientific know-how	<input type="checkbox"/>
Possibility to access financial resources to work with policymaking institutions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Will to contribute to the process of developing key strategic/legislation documents	<input type="checkbox"/>
Engagement of university staff in institutions after conclusion of academic career	<input type="checkbox"/>
Short geographical distance of university from institution	<input type="checkbox"/>
Existence of mutual trust	<input type="checkbox"/>
Existence of mutual commitment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Goal sharing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shared understanding of interest on the part of stakeholders (e.g., universities, business, individuals, students)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preliminary links with business partner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collaboration as an effective means to address social challenges and issues	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other, please specify _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

To what extent do the following elements facilitate collaboration with the civil society organizations?

Please rate using a scale of 1 = “Not important at all” to 7 = “Very important”.

Possibility to access financial resources to work with civil society organizations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Flexibility of partner organization	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interest of organizations in accessing scientific know-how	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limited capabilities of organization to conduct independent scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Employment of university staff in civil society organizations during and after work at university	<input type="checkbox"/>
Short geographic distance of university from partner organization	<input type="checkbox"/>
Existence of mutual trust	<input type="checkbox"/>
Existence of mutual commitment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Goal sharing	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shared understanding of interest on the part of stakeholders (e.g., universities, business, individuals, students)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preliminary links with business partner	<input type="checkbox"/>
Collaboration as an effective means to address challenges and social issues	<input type="checkbox"/>





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Other	<input type="checkbox"/>
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To what extent do the following elements facilitate collaboration with the media?

Please rate using a scale of 1 = "Not important at all" to 7 = "Very important".

Opportunity to promote academic work to a broader and versatile audience	<input type="checkbox"/>
Great number of active media	<input type="checkbox"/>
Interest of media in accessing scientific know-how	<input type="checkbox"/>
Various formats of technology used by media (press, portal, social media, video, image, graphics, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preliminary links with one or several media	
Existence of mutual trust	<input type="checkbox"/>
Existence of mutual commitment on specific issues of public interest	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shared understanding of interest on the part of audience	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

To what extent do you think the following barriers will affect your university-business collaboration?

Please rate using a scale of 1-10, where 1 = "Not at all" and 7 = "Very important".

The business does not have the knowledge on university research activities/supply	<input type="checkbox"/>
Universities do not have information on opportunities arising from university-business collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of financial resources of business	<input type="checkbox"/>
Current financial crisis	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of university funds for university-business collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of external funds for university-business collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Difficulties in identifying the right partner for collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bureaucracy within or outside university	<input type="checkbox"/>
Focus on the production of practical results from the business	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business fear that their know-how will be disclosed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Business need for confidentiality of research results	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of contact persons with scientific knowledge within the business	<input type="checkbox"/>





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Limited capabilities of business to absorb research findings	<input type="checkbox"/>
No adequate first contact person within the university or business	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unmatched motivation/values between university and business	<input type="checkbox"/>
Different form of communication between university and business	<input type="checkbox"/>
Different horizons between university and business	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limited absorption capacities of SME to obtain practices or projects	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other...	<input type="checkbox"/>

To what extent do you think the following barriers will affect your university-policy-making institution collaboration?

Please rate using a scale of 1-10, where 1 = “Not at all” and 7 = “Very important”.

The policymaking institutions do not have the knowledge on university research activities/supply	<input type="checkbox"/>
Universities do not have information on opportunities arising from university-policy-making institution collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Policymaking institutions are not clear about the benefits from collaboration with universities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Universities are not clear about the benefits stemming from their contribution in policymaking	
Lack of university funds to conduct research work for practical implementation/use in policymaking	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of public funds allocated to university-policy-making institution collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bureaucracy in universities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bureaucracy outside universities in terms of engaging researchers as experts	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mutual distrust between universities and public institutions	
Polarization of public discourse on topics of national importance	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of contact persons with scientific knowledge within the policymaking institutions	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limited capabilities of policymaking institutions to absorb research findings	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limited capabilities of academics to conduct research work for practical implementation/use in policymaking	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limited capabilities of academics to “translate” their research work in a simple and applicable language for non-academic staff	





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Unmatched motivation/values between university and policymaking institution	<input type="checkbox"/>
Different form of communication between university and policymaking institution	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other...	<input type="checkbox"/>

To what extent do you think the following barriers will affect your university-civil society organization collaboration?

Please rate using a scale of 1-10, where 1 = “Not at all” and 7 = “Very important”.

The civil society organizations do not have the knowledge on university research activities/supply	<input type="checkbox"/>
Universities do not have information on opportunities arising from university-civil society organization collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Civil society organizations are not clear about the benefits from collaboration with universities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Universities are not clear about the benefits stemming from their collaboration with civil society organizations	
Lack of university funds to conduct research work for practical implementation/use in civil society organizations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bureaucracy in universities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of contact persons with scientific knowledge within the civil society organizations	
Mutual distrust between universities and civil society organizations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limited capabilities of civil society organizations to absorb research findings	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limited capabilities of academics to conduct research work of interest to civil society organizations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limited capabilities of academics to “translate” their research work in a simple and applicable language for non-academic staff	
Unmatched motivation/values between university and civil society organizations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Different form of communication between university and civil society organizations	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other...	<input type="checkbox"/>

To what extent do you think the following barriers will affect your university-media collaboration?

Please rate using a scale of 1-10, where 1 = “Not at all” and 7 = “Very important”.

The media do not have the knowledge on university research activities/supply	<input type="checkbox"/>





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The media do not have an interest in the university research activities/supply	<input type="checkbox"/>
The media are not clear about the benefits from collaboration with universities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Universities are not clear about the benefits of the collaboration with the media	
Lack of funding for collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bureaucracy in universities	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lack of contact persons with scientific knowledge within the media	
Mutual distrust between universities and media	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limited capabilities of media to understand and present research findings	<input type="checkbox"/>
Limited capabilities of academics to “translate” their research work in a simple and understandable language for the public	
Unmatched motivation/values between university and media	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other...	<input type="checkbox"/>

THANK YOU!





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FOCUS GROUP 1 – SCIENTIFIC RESEARCHERS

Creation and Establishment of Forms of Collaboration between Scientific Research and Private Sector

Participants: Scientific researchers in the area of Social Sciences and Economy

Number of participants: 8 – 10 scientific researchers

Session moderator: – Ms. Erida Curraj; Staff member of the organizing partner university (UMSH, UET, KPT, UAMD and UNISHK)

The purpose of conducting this focus group with researchers is to solicit quality data focusing on the promotion of collaboration between scientific research and other stakeholders (policymakers, civil society, media, and business sector) in Albania.

The focus group is conceptualized as an instrument of broader research for WP1 of the USIA Project.

The USIA Project is funded by the European Union through the Erasmus+ Program for Capacity Building in Higher Education. The project seeks to strengthen the capacities of Albania's universities and participating institutions through the establishment of "Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Brokerage Unit (USIA)" that ensures an institutionalized and sustainable linkage of the university with the business sector, government, civil society, and media.

The has 11 partners under the leadership of the coordinator Mediterranean University of Tirana. Other project partners are from Albania, Italy, Serbia, and Germany.

The data to be collected from the focus group discussions will be strictly confidential, will not violate any of the principles of ethics, and will only be used for the purpose of the study within the USIA Project, the First Work Package of Needs Mapping, led by SCiDEV.

Some 8-10 researchers of social and economic sciences will participate in this focus group. This session will be headed by a moderator, who is trained in advance on issues that will be raised for discussion.

The number of participants in the focus group is not random. From a methodological viewpoint, the participation of 8-10 subjects for a focus group exceeds the threshold of validity and reliability.

The assistant from the partner university will transcribe the participants' focus group discussion.



Participating scientific researchers will have profound knowledge on the field of study in order to deepen knowledge on the establishment of possible forms of collaboration between scientific research and other stakeholders (policymaking, civil society, media, and business) in Albania.

The role of scientific researchers is deemed to be an added value of the study, as the focus of their research is the very promotion of collaboration between scientific research and other societal stakeholders as one of the forms of sustainable development of a country. Their participation in the focus group is expected to bring in case studies and well-known practices from other, even more developed, countries.

The data collected from this focus group will be an added value in creating a database for other research of this nature.

Once the focus group discussion is conducted:

- (i) The staff from partner university will transcribe the discussions among participating researchers;
- (ii) A report to introduce the main findings will be prepared on WP1 (by SCiDEV);
- (iii) And after the data is collected and processed, a detailed and structures analysis will be prepared on the focus of the research.

Duration: 60 – 90 minutes at most.

Topics to be discussed include:

1. Perception of scientific researchers with regard to collaboration between scientific research and other stakeholders (policymaking, civil society, media, and business sector) in Albania;
2. Have they (participating scientific researchers) been part of such collaboration?
3. Do they think there is a gap between the private sector and scientific research?
4. Similar question is re-asked to other abovementioned stakeholders regarding their collaboration with the scientific research.
 - a. If yes, why?
 - b. Why is scientific research not considered to be one of the instruments that may help in the further development of the private sector/other stakeholders?
5. How can scientific research be promoted even more in order to make it a valid roadmap in the process of consultations?
6. How can the collaboration between scientific research and abovementioned stakeholders be improved?



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7. What are the push factors? Impeding factors? Enabling factors?
8. What is the role of higher education institutions in this collaboration?
9. What would be the immediate benefits from this collaboration?
10. What would be the long-term benefits from this collaboration?
11. Priority areas of collaboration.





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FOCUS GROUP 2 –PRIVATE SECTOR

Creation and Establishment of Forms of Collaboration between Scientific Research and Private Sector

Participants: Representatives of the private sector, such as (i) companies; (ii) SMEs; (iii) startups

Number of participants: up to 8 (tetë) people

Session moderators: Erida Curraj, SCiDEV and Aris Tasho, CCIT

Transcription of discussions: CCIT staff members

The purpose of conducting this focus group with private sector representatives is to solicit quality data focusing on the promotion of collaboration between the private sector and scientific research sector in Albania. The focus group is based on instruments of a study on potential collaboration between the private sector and scientific research, supported by the PERFORM Project, conducted by Dr. Erjon Curraj.

The data to be collected from the focus group discussions will be strictly confidential, will not violate any of the principles of ethics, and will only be used for the purpose of the study within the USIA Project, the First Work Package of Needs Mapping, led by SCiDEV.

The USIA Project is funded by the European Union through the Erasmus+ Program for Capacity Building in Higher Education. The project seeks to strengthen the capacities of Albania's universities and participating institutions through the establishment of "Knowledge Transfer and Innovation Brokerage Unit (USIA)" that ensures an institutionalized and sustainable linkage of the university with the business sector, government, civil society, and media.

The has 11 partners under the leadership of the coordinator Mediterranean University of Tirana. Other project partners are from Albania, Italy, Serbia, and Germany.

The focus group will include eight representatives of the private sector. The meeting will be headed by a moderator, who is trained in advance on issues that will be raised for discussion. The number of participants in the focus group is not random. From a methodological viewpoint, the participation of 8-10 subjects for a focus group exceeds the threshold of validity and reliability.

Another attendant of this meeting will be an assistant from the CCIT staff, who will take notes during the discussion process.

Private sector representatives participating in the focus group will share their experiences in both cases of success and failure in order to deepen knowledge regarding possible forms of



collaboration between the private sector and scientific research in Albania as a way to guarantee the sustainable success of the private sector.

Their participation in the focus group is expected to bring empirical cases and real-world examples. This is extremely important when considering the fact that this very target group is directly affected in the event of failure of the activity in which they are involved.

Therefore, this focus group is designed with the participation of only entities that are engaged in the private sector, as the latter have best knowledge on problems and challenges confronting their sector. The findings to be gained from this focus group constitute an added value of the study and will help to create a database with valuable data for the Albanian context as well as for other research of this nature.

Once the focus group discussion is conducted:

- (iv) The CCIT staff will transcribe the discussions among participating private sector representatives;
- (v) A report to introduce the main findings will be prepared (by SCiDEV);
- (vi) And after the data is collected and processed, a detailed and structures analysis will be prepared on the focus of the research - W1 (by SCiDEV)

Topics to be discussed include:

1. Most common problems confronting the private sector regarding research and development or innovation of products/services, etc.;
2. The reasons of existence of these problems;
3. Forms of circumventing/overcoming problems;
4. How important is consultation with research and experts of education/research sector for the private sector?
5. Have representatives of the private sector participating in this focus group ever thought of consulting with scientific researchers, connoisseurs, and experts of the area?
 - a. If yes, what is the result of this consultation?
 - b. If not, what is the private sector representatives' perception of this collaboration?
6. How can the collaboration between private sector and scientific research be improved?
7. Priority areas of collaboration.



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