

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE INDUSTRIAL BOARD (BI)

The third meeting of the Industrial Board of the Faculty of Computer Sciences/
Private Sector Partnerships to Strengthen Higher Education

Date:

19.12.2023

Start:

10:00

Conclusion:

11:40

Location:

University of Prizren, Faculty of
Life and Environmental Sciences, Amphitheater
Hall

Participants:

1. Zirije Hasani, Dean of FShK
2. Arbnore Shehu, Secretary of FShK
3. Enis Qafeleshi, Makerspace – Chairman of BI
4. Lulzim Guhelli, Ex-Cite
5. Visar Haxifazliu, ITP Prizren
6. Fatos Dida, Proton Cable
7. Alper Yildirim, Telcomm
8. Valon Ibrahim, student at the Faculty of Computer Sciences
9. Nehat Gashi, Coordinator of the Career and Alumni Center
10. Denur Paçaku, Program Assistant
11. Ariel Shaban, Industry Relations Specialist
12. Ardi Mejzini, Communication Manager
13. Arta Rrustemi, Finance and Operations Manager
14. Gentë Kadriu, Agribusiness Specialist
15. Getoar Krasniqi, ICT Specialist

DESCRIPTION OF THE TOPICS ADDRESSED AND CONCLUSIONS

i) Discussion in BI

- **Zirije Hasani:** We are in the process of drafting the program (subjects) of the "Software Design" study program.
Several new subjects have been added since the last communication we had. The idea is that the mentors lead some of the subjects [Zirije Hasani continues with the presentation of the study program, subjects, characteristics and ways in which it is expected to develop]. In this program, the thesis of the students will be a project, i.e. a product, a software or any piece of hardware, depending on the knowledge and possibilities. Subjects have been discussed within the academic staff and they have been distributed to the respective professors, and inputs have also been received from businesses.
- **Lulzim Guhelli:** It would be good if within the subjects there were also subjects related to project management.
- **Getoar Krasniqi:** It must be a way to manage work. There must be methods, where the professor he himself must have a work management method.
- **Lulzim Guhelli:** Students should be prepared for the market from now on. They must be prepared for the market and have all the information received from the faculty. We as a company give that training which is two days and is dynamic. Based on experience so far with students and the private sector, they need these. They do work, but when they know the framework, they open up their knowledge more. I hold trainings at universities both in Prizren and Prishtina and I have seen that this is necessary. We also hold training exercises for academic staff at universities.
- **Getoar Krasniqi:** It would be very good if trainings for professors were held through the Center for Excellence in Teaching, waiting to be introduced as a module and offered to professors.

- **Lulzim Guhelli:** It's not a problem for me, we can keep it for professors at the university.
- **Zirije Hasani:** According to this program, to pass from the first year to the second year there must be one month of practical work, then the same from the second year to the third year, there must be practical work and it is a condition to be registered in the following year. In this case, there will be practical work even after the end of the studies, namely in the last semester.
- **Visar Haxifazliu:** I will talk to m
- engagement because I believe we can help.
- **Valon Ibrahim:** There are more subjects and I believe it will be a good program.
- **Alper Yildirim:** I think that the subject of mathematics should have more credits in the evaluation, since the subject of mathematics is related to other subjects or rather it is the basis for knowing other subjects.
- **Zirije Hasani:** We will see about this idea and the possibilities to include more mathematics in the study program.
- **Lulzim Guhelli:** It would be good if one of the optional subjects that are there is related to mathematics.
- **Enis Qafeleshi:** This study program is not a scientific program of computer science or engineering. It is a program for specific bachelor studies. This program is very moderate and can be adapted to software development companies. Demand at the moment is high and the industry is looking for such a profile.
- **Getoar Krasniqi:** Maybe the master's studies could be with more mathematics subjects.
- **Enis Qafeleshi:** I want to thank the project that is helping to operationalize the Industrial Board. We how board, we can't see the faces or the people we need to meet, where a comment from everyone makes the need for this meeting complete. I would like the secretariat or the project to send us a plan for the accreditation of the programs. We are interested in how we as members will utilize such a program in our local market and beyond. The University of Prizren had this program earlier, but now it is very good that it is coming back as it is needed. This may be a different one-size-fits-all program, but it will have an impact on the youth of this region. We as a board must reform, that is, change the membership. The invitations that are sent today by the secretariat or the project are also to some who have never been present before and for this reason we must reform it. Presence here proves a member's commitment. We need a meeting whether with the project or without the project, to see how we can actively influence the implementation of this curriculum. This program should become a serious competitor in the programs offered by other universities. This may sound difficult or easy, but the fact that there are projects like this with Iowa, the fact that the University of Prizren has agreements with other entities, means that there is support. It is good that this board has an action plan for the next year. It would be great to meet in the next few weeks of next month to discuss these details. I don't know if there will be much time for discussing the curriculum [Zirije Hasani: today], but we have to see how we can help the industrial development of young people. It remains for us as an industry to give a better color to this program of studies. I'm also interested in some parts like management, encouraging entrepreneurship, but it's a moderate program and for a bachelor this is very close to being a dual education program. Now is the time to take the TIT program and see what we can do with it.
- **Ariel Shaban:** It is the only board that during the discussion is asking for an action plan. It is challenging for us, but this should be done by the dean. We have our plans for the next year that Arta will present and we will foresee cooperation in the development of activities and we will be much more organized to provide information earlier, to prepare even more significant discussions. We in five other boards do not have a satisfactory participation of the Industrial Board. It remains to be seen with Enis Qafelesh and the dean's office what will happen with the list of participants on the board. According to the regulation, if they do not come twice, then they can also leave the board.

We wanted to gather these meetings to inform the participants about the meetings in Training of Trainers (ToT) and Corporate Panels (CP) and on this occasion at the University of Prizren we focused on the agribusiness program. *[Ariel presents to the participants some of the details of the organization/maintenance of ToT and CP].* We solicited responses from company representatives about what is important to them on the topics we've discussed, and then we've taken that data and put it into the tables we're presenting. We asked them what the trends are or what they expect in the next three years.

There were more or less the same requests between FIEK and FSK. What we have seen as important identified topics or issues are: AI; Cyber Security; Devops; Ethics in IT; Data Science etc.

[Ariel Shaban presents the main results and recommendations of the Corporate Panels].

- **Zirije Hasani:** We have seen earlier opportunities for the creation of study programs that link agriculture with technology, however, it was difficult since we currently do not have academic staff for that part. It was mentioned in FIEK that there was a need for the inclusion of soft skills as a subject in the study program, but I do not prefer this to be the case. In the action plans of the boards there can be meetings where the student group can participate in the meetings, from where the private sector can receive comments from the students, but they can also present their projects as foreseen in the study program, in the meetings of the Industrial Boards. In this case they can receive comments from the participating companies.
- **Ariel Shaban:** We continuously select the study programs that need to be addressed. In the following, yes I give the floor to Getoari to present. *[Ghettoari introduces].*
- **Zirije Hasani:** The topic of the diploma should not be a classical thesis, but should be integrated as a practical work.
- **Zirije Hasani:** Group work is a problem due to the nature of the work of a science worker computer, students often have problems with presentation skills.
- **Lulzim Guhelli:** When talking about the release of students/softskills and interactivity, teachers are important in this part.
- **Arta Rustemi:** In January, we expect to have approved the plan for the second year of the project, which must be approved by USAID, and we cannot present it without approval. As a comment on the plan for 2024, it is foreseen that the meetings will be every three months, it will be ToT, there will be 4 study programs. Your job as a board is to help us in the Corporate Panels which are held in September or October. I would also like you to recommend people from companies to us. People like you should be on Corporate Panels. We are reporting, we have reported, the links are ready to find the materials used during board meetings.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES (IF ANY)			
	ACTIVITY	LIABILITY	DEADLINE
	N/A	N/A	N/A

The record was drawn up by: Denur Paçaku

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