

DECISION
Nr. 88, dated 14.2.2018
FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE INTER-INSTITUTIONAL CENTER
OF ALBANIAN ACADEMIC NETWORK (RASH)

Pursuant to Article 100 of the Constitution, Article 6, Law no. 9704, dated 2.4.2007, "On the ratification of agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Italy, for the realization of a service center and a telematic network for universities ", and articles 96 and 129, of the law no. 80/2015, "On Higher Education and Scientific Research in Higher Education Institutions (HEI) in the Republic of Albania ", with the proposal of the Minister of Education, Sports and Youth, the Council of Ministers

DECIDED:

1. The reorganization of the Inter - University Services Center and Telematic Network (QNSHRRT) in Inter-Institutional Center of Albanian Academic Network (RASH), according to the founding agreement between universities and the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth, that is attached to this decision and is an integral part of it.
2. The Inter-Institutional Center of the Albanian Academic Network has the status of a public legal person and enjoys its financial and organizational autonomy and staff selection as well. Areas of research and object of the activity of the Inter-Institutional Center of the Albanian Academic Network are directed to Institutions of Higher Education and scientific research.
3. The purpose of the Inter-Institutional Center of the Albanian Academic Network is:
 - a) Development and promotion of research and development projects and innovation in the field of information and communication technology (ICT) for education and science;
 - b) Creation of infrastructure for the establishment of a joint interdisciplinary research and development center (ICT) by participating HEIs or third parties;
 - c) Coordination of the participation of local researchers in the European GÉANT research project and projects in the field of information and communication technology (ICT), an integral part of the European framework program for research, development and innovation;
 - c) Development of software programs and provision of relevant services to the ministry responsible for education, dependency agencies for high education and research, institutions of higher education, scientific research and innovation and to all membership of RASH, as well as to third parties.
4. In order to accomplish its goal, the Inter-Institutional Center of the Albanian Academic Network performs the following activities:
 - a) Developing and providing the most advanced *software* management *system* for the university application process, management of academic-scientific and administrative-university processes and platforms for *on-line* formation and testing for higher education, in the framework of increasing the quality of education and participation in research and development activities, led by the international scientific and educational community;
 - b) Taking the necessary security and back up measures for the database that it creates or administers for the account of the participating HEIs, the ministry responsible for education, dependency agencies for higher education and scientific research or third-party and the interaction of these databases for all membership of RASH
 - c) Collection, processing and publication of data on education and scientific research, on behalf of the ministry responsible for education as a source of data, statistics and analysis;

- c) Developing and expanding the national telematic network for higher education and research, by guaranteeing to the Albanian educational, academic and research community the cross-border and intercity linkage, the linkage with the European network of education and research GÉANT and the provision of this network service in Albania as well as linkage to world education and research networks;
 - d) Developing and Providing *Cloud Computing* and *Supercomputing* Infrastructure Services through the *Datacenter for Education and research* and any other ICT infrastructure needed for HEIs and participating institutions;
 - dh) Promoting the mobility of high school graduates and students through exchange of their electronic data, part of the international network "Groningen Declaration";
 - e) Participating in the European network of the University Information Systems EUNIS, serving to broaden the spectrum of ICT services for membership;
 - è) Organizing of teaching and training activities completed with the issue of the corresponding certificate;
5. The funding sources of the Inter-Institutional Center of the Albanian Academic Network are:
 - a) Funds, as agreed between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of Republic of Italy, for the realization of a service center and a telematic network for universities, ratified by law no. 9704, dated 2.4.2007;
 - b) Funds from the state budget;
 - c) Annual membership fee from Institutions of Higher Education and other institutions;
 - ç) Annual contribution from the Ministry responsible for Education, the agencies and Higher Education Institutions according to the services provided;
 - d) Revenue from the sale of center services to public bodies and other services for third parties;
 - e) Donations, subsidies and other contributions;
 - e) Other legitimate revenue.
 6. The Interinstitutional Center of the Albanian Academic Network will continue to use all movable assets and immovable properties, as a contribution of the co-creators, the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth.
 7. The Interuniversity Center of Services and Telematic Networks (QNSHRRT) completes its activity with the election of the new governing bodies of the Inter-Institutional Center of the Albanian Academic Network. The implementation of the agreement ratified by law no. 9704, dated 2.4.2007, "On the ratification of the agreement between The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Italy for the realization of a service center and a telematic network for universities ", passes to the Inter-Institutional Center of the Albanian Academic Network, until the end of its term.
 8. Decision No 236 of 6.3.2009 of the Council of Ministers, as amended, "On the establishment of the Inter-University Service Center and Telematics Network", is repealed.
 9. In the list 2, attached to decision no. 673, dated 22.11.2017, of the Council of Ministers, "For the reorganization of the National Agency of Information Society ", the name" Interuniversity Center of Services and the Telematic Network "is removed.
 10. The Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth and the creative universities of the Inter-Institutional Center of the Albanian Academic Network (RASH) are responsible for the implementation of this decision.

This decision shall enter into force after its publication in the Official Gazette.

PRIME MINISTER
Edi Rama

Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth

No. 11558 Prot. Dated 08.11.2017

University of Tirana

No. 4700 Prot. Dated 09.11.2017

Polytechnic University of Tirana

No. 1381 Prot. Dated 08.11.2017

Agricultural University of Tirana

No. 2162 Prot. Dated 09.11.2017

Tirana University of Medicine

No. 2171 Prot. Dated 08.11.2017

University of Arts

No. 1570 Prot. Dated 09.11.2017

University of Sports of Tirana

No. 1216 Prot. Dated 09.11.2017

University of Shkodra "Luigj Gurakuqi"

No. 3623 Prot. Dated 14.11.2017

University of Elbasan "Aleksandër Xhuvani"

No. 1601 Prot. Dated 14.11.2017

University of Vlora "Ismail Qemali"

No. 1411 Prot. Dated 10.11.2017

University of Durrës "Aleksandër Moisiu"

No. 1115 Prot. Dated 14.11.2017

University of Gjirokastra "Eqrem Çabej"

No. 1205 Prot. Dated 10.11.2017

University of Korça "Fan S. Noli"

No. 412 Prot. Dated 15.11.2017

AGREEMENT ACT

FOR THE CREATION OF THE INTER-INSTITUTIONAL CENTER OF ALBANIA ACADEMIC NETWORK (RASH)

This agreement is concluded between:

Minister of Education, Sports and Youth (below MASR), represented by Mrs. Lindita Nikolla;
University of Tirana (below UT), represented by prof. dr. Mynyr Koni, rector of this university;
Polytechnic University of Tirana (below UPT), represented by prof. dr. Andrea Maliqari, rector of

this university;

Agricultural University of Tirana (below UBT), represented by prof. dr. Bahri Musabelliu, rector of this university;

Tirana University of Medicine (below UMT), represented by prof. dr. Arben Gjata, rector of this university;

University of Arts (below UART), represented by prof. Kastriot Çaushi, rector of this university;

University of Sports of Tirana (below UST), represented by prof. dr. Agron Cuka, rector of this university;

University of Shkodra "Luigj Gurakuqi" (below UNISHK), represented by prof. dr. Adem Bekteshi, rector of this university;

University of Elbasan "Aleksandër Xhuvani" (below UE), represented by prof. dr. Skender Topi, rector of this university;

University of Vlora "Ismail Qemali" (below UNIVLORA), represented by prof. dr. Roland Zisi, rector of this university;

University of Durrës "Aleksandër Moisiu" (below UAMD), represented by prof. dr. Kseanela Sotirofski, rector of this university;

University of Gjirokastra "Eqrem Çabej" (below UOGJ), represented by prof. dr. Bektash Mema, rector of this University;

University of Korça "Fan S. Noli" (below UNIKORÇË), represented by prof. dr. Ali Jashari, rector of this university.

Given that:

1. The Interuniversity Center of Services and Telematics Network (QNSHRRT) is the result of the intergovernmental agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Italy, "for the creation of a service center and a telematic network for

Universities, ratified by law no. 9704 dated 2.4.2007 and created by the decision of the Council of Ministers no. 236, dated 6.3.2009, "On the establishment of the Inter-University Center for the Development of Telematics", as amended, as a public institution of higher education for the promotion of the quality of higher education and scientific research;

2. During the duration of the project, technical assistance for QNSHRRT was implemented, university software has been used, university telematics network was built and its connection with the pan-European network of education and research GÉANT was realized, as well as membership in GÉANT, RIPE NCC;

3. In the framework of the expiration of the intergovernmental agreement and following the entry into force of law no. 80/2015, dated 22.7.2015, "On higher education and scientific research in higher education institutions in the Republic of Albania", based on which the reorganization of higher education institutions is required, it's necessary the reorganization of the QNSHRRT in a new form provided by the new law on higher education no. 80/2015, article 96, and guaranteeing its continuity and durability.

The parties decided as follows:

Article 1

Object

The Interuniversity Center of Services and Telematics Network (QNSHRRT) is reorganized into the Inter-Institutional Center of the Albanian Academic Network (hereinafter RASH) with the status of a public legal entity. The Inter-Institutional Center RASH enjoys financial, organizational and personnel selection autonomy.

Article 2

Legal basis

This agreement is concluded in support of Article 6 of Law no. 9704, dated 2.4.2007, "On the ratification of the agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the Government of the Republic of Italy, on the implementation of a service center and a telematic network for universities" and Articles 96 and 129 of the law no. 80/2015, "On higher education and scientific research in higher education institutions in the Republic of Albania".

Article 3

Founding institutions

The founding institutions of the Inter-Institutional Center RASH are the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth and public universities, as follows:

- a) University of Tirana;
- b) Polytechnic University of Tirana;
- c) Agricultural University of Tirana;
- d) Tirana University of Medicine;
- e) University of Arts;
- f) University of Sports of Tirana;
- g) University of Shkodra "Luigj Gurakuqi";
- h) University of Elbasan "Aleksandër Xhuvani";
- i) "Ismail Qemali" University of Vlora;
- j) "Aleksandër Moisiu" University of Durrës;
- k) "Eqrem Çabej" University of Gjirokastra; and
- l) "Fan S. Noli" University of Korça.

Article 4

Other member institutions and associated institutions

1. Members of the Inter-Institutional Center of the Albanian Academic Network after the establishment can be and other institutions of higher education, research and innovation, which wish to become part of it.

2. Private society or university associations or societies from the "ICT ecosystem", based in Albania or outside it are accepted with the status of associate.

3. The member institutions have the right to vote according to the provisions of this Agreement and the Statute of the Inter-institutional Center RASH, while the associated institutions / entities do not have the right to vote.

Article 5

The role of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth

Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth, in the capacity of:

- a) the institution responsible for education and scientific research;
- b) the legal administrator of the assets available from the QNSHRRT;
- c) the institution responsible for the functioning of agencies in the field of higher education and scientific research, as well as the funder of services that RASH provides for them;
- d) the financier of other services exclusive to the ministry;
- e) the financier with scientific-research and innovation grants, co-creates the Inter-Institutional Center (RASH).

Article 6

Purpose and object of activity

1. The purpose of the Inter-Institutional Center of the Albanian Academic Network is:

- a) development and promotion of research-development and innovation projects in the field of technology information and communication (ICT) on education and science;
- b) creation of infrastructure for the establishment of a joint interdisciplinary research and development center and ICT services from participating Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) or third parties;
- c) coordination of the participation of local researchers in the European research project GÉANT and other projects in the field of information and communication technology (ICT), an integral part of the European framework research, development and innovation program;
- d) program development *software* and the provision of relevant services to the responsible ministry, for: education, subordinate agencies, higher education, research and innovation institutions, pre-university education institutions, as well as to third parties.

2. For the realization of its goal, the Inter-Institutional Center of the Albanian Academic Network performs following activities:

- a) development and provision of most advanced systems *software* for the administration of higher education, pre-university education, research and training platforms *on-line*;
- b) taking the necessary security measures and storing information (*Back up*) for the database that it creates or administers on behalf of the participating HEIs, the ministry responsible for education and subordinate agencies or third parties and the interaction of these databases for the entire membership of the RASH;
- c) collection, processing and publication of data on higher education and research on behalf of the ministry responsible for education, as a source of data, statistics and analysis;
- d) development and expansion of the national telematics network for education and research, guaranteeing to the educational, academic and research Albanian community the intercity and cross-border connection, the connection with the European education and research network GEANT and the provision of services of this network in Albania, as well as the connection with the world networks of education and research;
- e) development and provision of infrastructure services *Cloudcomputing* and *Supercomputing* through the Datacenter for Education and Science (*Datacenter*) and any other ICT infrastructure required for participating HEIs;
- f) promoting student mobility through the exchange of students' electronic data, part of the international network "Groningen Declaration";
- g) participation in the European network of computer systems EUNIS, in the service of expanding the spectrum of ICT membership services;
- h) organization of teaching and training activities, which are finalized with the issuance of the relevant certificate.

3. The Inter-Institutional Center of the Albanian Academic Network, in fulfillment of its activity can sign cooperation agreements and contracts with other public or private entities, domestic or foreign, that have common interests in their own activity.

Article 7

Organization

The bodies of the Inter-Institutional Center of the Albanian Academic Network are:

- a) Membership Assembly (MA);
- b) Steering Board (SD);
- c) The General Director.

Article 8

Membership Assembly

1. The Assembly of Membership is the highest policy-making body of the center, responsible for the fulfillment of its mission and development strategy. The Membership Assembly consists of representatives of the creative or added members of the center. Each member has a representative in the Membership Assembly. Meetings of the Assembly, relevant decisions and modalities are defined in the regulation of the Inter-Institutional Center RASH. The President of the Membership Assembly is the minister responsible for education. The general director of the center participates in the meetings of the assembly without the right to vote.

2. The Membership Assembly has the following competencies:

- a) elects the vice president from his membership;
- b) elects the representative members of the universities in the Board of Directors, according to the list proposed by the membership;
- c) approves the regulation of the Inter-Institutional Center, in accordance with the statutes of the member institutions;
- d) approves the fees for the use of joint services and the annual membership fee;
- f) approves the strategic development plan of the institution in accordance with the object of activity;
- g) decides by 2/3 of the votes on the admission and expulsion of the members of the center.

The votes of the members of the assembly are calculated according to the amount of the contribution in kind or the monetary value of each of its members. The manner of calculating the value of the vote is determined in the regulation of the RASH, while the calculation is done once a year for the budget by the Steering Board.

Article 9

Board of Directors

1. The Board of Directors (BD) is the highest administrative body, which guarantees its financial and administrative well-being. The BD consists of 5 members with a 5-year mandate, with the right to be re-elected. Two representative members of HEIs are elected by the Assembly of Membership, while three members are appointed by the minister responsible for education. BD meetings, decisions and other modalities of operation are defined in the center regulation. The President of the Assembly may attend BD meetings.

2. The composition of the BD may change depending on the medium-term budget plan of the institution. Whether the institution itself provides more than fifty percent of the medium-term budget, three of the members are elected by the Assembly and two members are appointed by the minister responsible for education.

Article 10

Competencies of the Board of Directors

1. The Board of Directors has the following competencies:

a) proposes to the President of the Assembly of Membership the General Director of the Center from its membership;

b) proposes the regulation of the Inter-Constitutional Center of the Albanian Academic Network, in accordance with the legal framework in force and other bylaws;

c) proposes the strategic development plan of the institution to the Membership Assembly;

d) approves the long-term operational plans, annual plans, as well as the draft budget;

e) approves the reports of the technical-administrative activities, as well as of the balance of the previous exercise year;

f) approves services for members and third parties;

g) approves service fees for individual use of creators and third parties;

h) proposes the relevant fees for the use of services and the annual membership contribution to the Assembly of Membership;

i) approves the structure and staff of the Inter-Institutional Center of the Albanian Academic Network, the level of staff salaries for all levels, as well as policies related to economic treatment and external personnel;

j) determines the remuneration of the members of the Board of Directors.

Article 11

General Director

1. The general director of the center is appointed by the chairman of the Assembly of Membership, according to the proposal of BD and is also the chairman of the Board of Directors. The Director General of the Center is appointed for a 5-year term with the right to be re-elected.

2. The General Director represents the Inter-Institutional Center RAS and acts on its behalf. It must have an academic degree or the scientific degree "Doctor" (PHD) obtained in one of the EU or OECD countries and with specific academic and administrative management experience not less than 5 years in the fields related to the object of center activity.

Article 12

Structure

1. The Inter-Institutional Center RAS consists of not less than:

- a) Department of Programs, Technology and Innovation;
- b) Department of Infrastructure and Telematics Network;
- c) Department of Projects and Supporting Services.

2. The structure and staff of the Inter-Institutional Center of the Albanian Academic Network may change without compromising its minimum composition.

Article 13

Financial resources

1. The financial resources of the center are as follows:

a) funds under the agreement between the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania and the government of Republic of Italy, "for the creation of a service center and telematics network for universities", ratified by law no. 9704, dated 2.4.2007;

b) funds from the state budget;

c) the annual membership fee from HEIs and other institutions;

d) the annual contribution of the ministry responsible for education, agencies, and HEIs, according to the relevant services offered;

e) income generated from the sale of the center's services to public institutions and entities, as well as other services for third parties;

f) donations, subsidies and other contributions;

g) other legal income.

2. The Inter-Institutional Center of the Albanian Academic Network will continue to use all movable assets and real estate at its disposal, as an in-kind contribution of the co-creator, the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth.

Article 14

Final provision

The agreement is prepared and signed on ___ () original copy, one copy for each university and one copy for the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth.

Article 15

Entry into force

This agreement enters into force immediately after its signing by the representatives of the parties.

Tirana, __.__.2017

Mrs. Lindita Nikolla

Minister of Education, Sports and Youth

Signature of Mrs. Lindita Nikolla and stamp of the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth

Prof. dr. Mynyr Koni

Rector of the University of Tirana

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Prof. dr. Andrea Maliqari

Rector of the Polytechnic University of Tirana

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Prof. dr. Bektash Mema

Rector of the University of Gjirokastra "Eqrem Çabej"

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Prof. dr. Ali Jashari

Rector of the University of Korça "Fan S. Noli"

Signature of Prof. dr. Ali Jashari and stamp of the University of Korça "Fan S. Noli"

Translated from: Ritvan Gjini

Tirana, April 19, 2020