



# NEWSLETTER #1

ACCELERATING

WESTERN BALKANS UNIVERSITY

MODERNIZATION

BY INCORPORATING

VIRTUAL TECHNOLOGIES



Lodz University of Technology

University of Ljubljana



**PROJECT DURATION:**  
**November 2019–November 2022**  
**Overall Budget: 867,124.00 Euro**

### **Vtech@WBUi PARTNERS**

Aleksander Moisiu University of Durrës (lead partner)



European University of Tirana



Polis University



Epoka University



University of Prishtina



University for Business and Technology



Mother Teresa University



South East European University



University of Tartu



Lodz University of Technology



University of Ljubljana



### **VTECH IS AN ERASMUS + CAPACITY BUILDING IN HIGHER EDUCATION PROJECT FOCUSING ON:**

1. Capacity building of academic staff to incorporate Virtual Technologies in teaching
2. Developing teaching methodologies availing of technology and/or ICT tools
3. Equipping students with competencies to use/ access tools, software and platforms
4. Increasing interaction between teachers and students
5. Increasing the level of understanding and reducing the grasping time and the effort that students need to learn information by using 3D concepts instead of 2D ones
6. Offering a better delivery of basic knowledge even for complex issues, higher learning efficiency and better learning experience by AR/VR techniques.
7. Establishing Virtual Technology HUB for developing teaching materials for basic learning courses and serve as a HUB for other HEIs
8. Fostering cooperation between academy and industry by organizing open days, joint product developments, thesis supervision etc.
9. Developing capacities for future joint research and innovative ideas with the support of Virtual Technologies.





## WHAT IS THE AIM OF VTECH PROJECT?

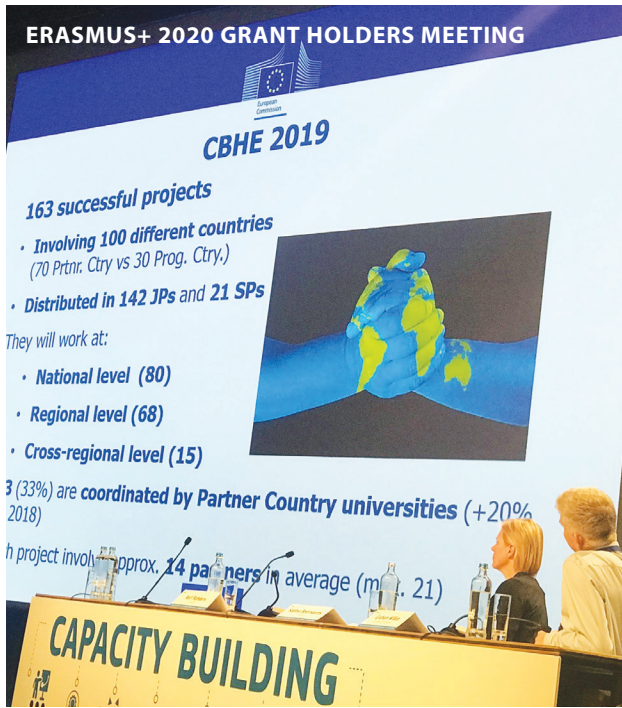
The project general aim is to introduce for the first time at Western Balkan universities the concept of virtual technologies as a tool for accelerating university modernization, while contributing on developing knowledge-driven society. By incorporating Virtual Technologies in academic culture of universities we aim to increase the quality and level of efficiency in teaching and knowledge retention through interactive learning methods, thus contributing on skills enhancement and further building of digital society at WB countries. In the mid and long term, the project will enhance effectiveness of the higher education system in knowledge retention and application. The project direct beneficiaries are universities, schools, teachers, students, regional industries and businesses.

## PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

### 1. KICK OFF MEETING

On January 10th , 2020, the kick-off meeting of the VTECH project took place at the premises of UAMD Durres, Albania. The project partners gathered in this intensive working day, with the aim to get to know the project, set core values of the common work and to distribute the tasks for the next years ahead. Great examples were demonstrated from our VTech Project partners on how VR is transforming the education sector. AR/VR is the new norm because (among other reasons) it helps creating richer experiences and a more engaging way to learn for students, as well as exhibit research findings.





## 2. ERASMUS+ 2020 GRANT HOLDERS MEETING

VTech project coordinator Dr. Albana Halili participated in Erasmus+ 2020 Grant Holders Meeting held in Brussels during 27-28th of January 2020.



## 3. ERASMUS DAYS 2020

On 15th and 16th October 2020 UET hosted one of the most important events of the academic year, Erasmus Days 2020 at UET. During these days, UET had the opportunity to introduce their projects and study program opportunities. A special session was dedicated to the presentation of the EU funded projects such as VTECH, EVIVA, GRADUA, ITG4AU, etc. and students and staff were invited to join ongoing and upcoming projects activities. Also on the same day, a unique event took place at the premises of Aleksander Moisiu University of Durres. This event, full of fun, curious facts and videographics, was organized with teachers and high schoolers of Gjergj Kastrioti Gymnasium on the occasion of a European-wide #ErasmusDays campaign.





1st VIRTUAL REALITY FOR ACADEMIC STAFF

**4.1st VIRTUAL REALITY FOR ACADEMIC STAFF TRAINING FOR THE ERASMUS+ KA2 PROJECT**

On 27th to 29th October 2020 the First Virtual Reality for Academic Staff training for the Erasmus+ KA2 project #VTechProject took place at Multimedia Lab (UAMD) premises.



1st VIRTUAL REALITY FOR ACADEMIC STAFF



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ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE REGARDING VIRTUAL TECHNOLOGIES

**5. ASSESSMENT OF KNOWLEDGE REGARDING VIRTUAL TECHNOLOGIES AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION IN TEACHING/ LEARNING PROCESSES AMONG ACADEMIC STAFF AND STUDENTS**

On December 27th 2020, Vtech project staff from UP, Prof. Asoc. Dr. Sabrije Osmanaj, Prof. Asoc. Dr. Hena Maloku and Ass. Msc. Jeta Dobruna, processed and analyzed the results of distributed questionnaires to academic staff and students regarding their knowledge about the implementation of virtual technologies in the teaching/learning process. The questionnaires were distributed to a considerable number of students and academic staff from different HEI's in the country and the preliminary results indicate a shallow knowledge of virtual technologies and the possibilities and benefits of their usage in the teaching process.



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## 6. QUALITY PLAN: ACTIVITIES AND REPORTS

In the meeting: “QUALITY PLAN: Activities and reports”, held on February 15th, 2021 were presented and discussed the following topics: The Quality monitoring plan-table was presented by the WP3 coordinator (SEEU) and prof. Lejla Abazi-Bexheti informed each partner individually with the content of the table, the needed activities from the WP they are leading, the expected deliverables, the due dates, the expected delay and similar. While, in March 2021, the yearly report of Quality assurance was shared by the Project Quality Committee. At VTECH, South East European University (SEEU) is in charge to lead and manage the activities under the Quality Assurance WP. In this regard during February 2021, several online and two meetings were held at Polis University, Tirana among the project partners.



SHARING REGIONAL FINDINGS ON THE USE OF AR/VR IN TEACHING

## 7. SHARING REGIONAL FINDINGS ON THE USE OF AR/VR IN TEACHING METHODOLOGIES

On February 25-26th 2021, Vtech Project partners shared on a two day workshop at Polis University, where the first event was an sharing findings on the use of AR/VR, and the second one was the Steering Committee Meeting.



SHARING REGIONAL FINDINGS ON THE USE OF AR/VR IN TEACHING



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