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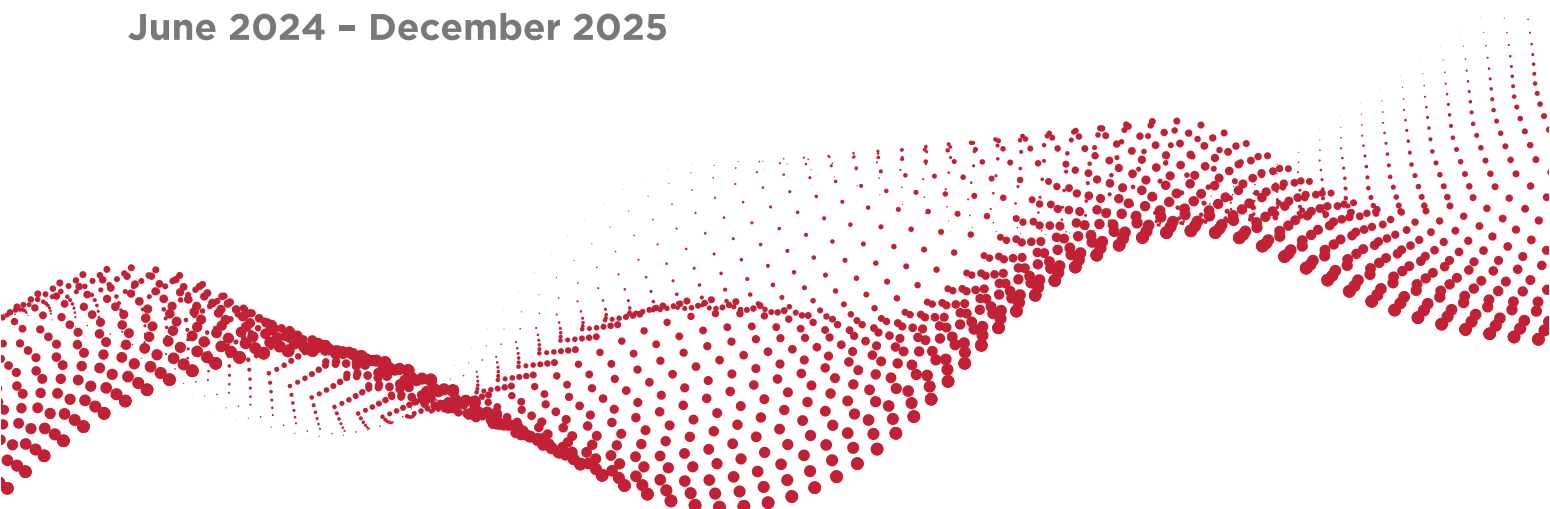
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MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

SHER BROCHURE

June 2024 – December 2025



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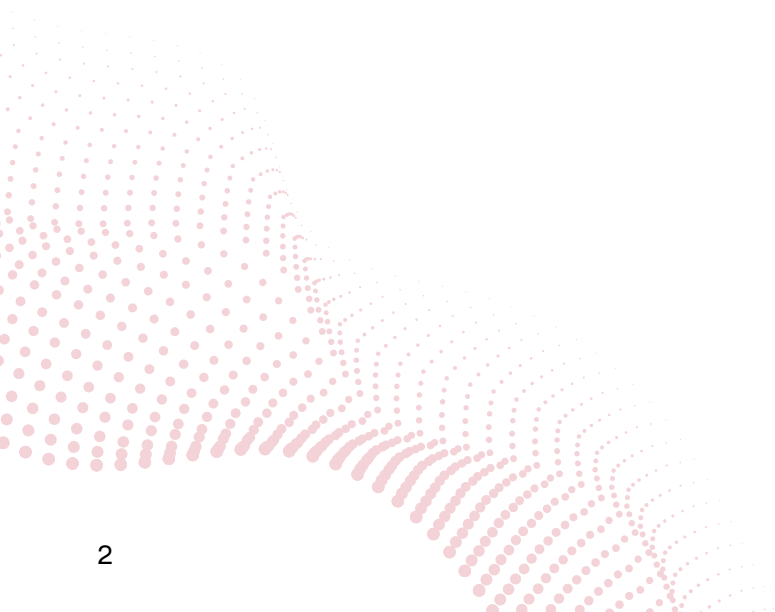
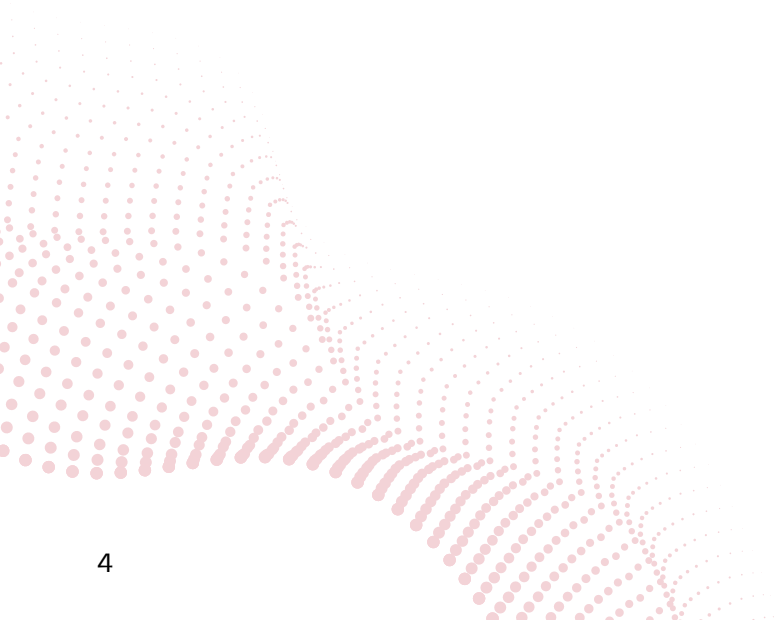


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*Figure 1: Veronika Nitsche,
WUS Austria*

FOREWORD by Veronika Nitsche

Dear friends of the SHER Programme,

With this brochure, we are pleased to present the progress achieved so far under the Sustainable Higher Education and Research in Kosovo (SHER) Programme. SHER aims at contributing to a sustainable, evidence-based, needs-oriented and gender-responsive Higher Education and Research sector in Kosovo that is in line with the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), the European Research Area (ERA), and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To achieve this objective, SHER implements a set of ambitious outputs and activities focusing on quality assurance, labour market and economic relevance, international cooperation, gender equality, and the social dimension of higher education.

The SHER Programme is implemented by an experienced Austrian consortium composed of WUS Austria, the Zentrum für Soziale Innovation (ZSI), and the Austrian Exchange Service (OeAD). The consortium has been actively engaged in Kosovo for many years and maintains strong partnerships across the higher education and research sector. This longstanding presence enables a flexible, context-sensitive response to local needs and priorities. The importance of the close cooperation between Kosovo and Austria in the field of higher education has been continuously reaffirmed at the institutional and policy levels.

Through the application of a human rights-based approach (HRBA), SHER contributes to strengthening the capacities of the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) and other relevant public institutions, such as universities and the accreditation agency to fulfill their obligations related to the right to education. At the same time, the Programme supports students—particularly those from marginalized and underrepresented groups—in strengthening their ability to claim and exercise these rights.

SHER follows a holistic and inclusive approach, engaging stakeholders at all levels throughout the process. In this spirit, the Programme is understood as a joint endeavor, bringing together public institutions, higher education and research actors, development partners, and civil society. This collaborative effort also includes the Austrian Development Agency, represented through its coordination structures, and the dedicated SHER team in Prishtina, whose continuous commitment forms the backbone of the Programme's implementation.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all partners and stakeholders for their dedication and cooperation in advancing sustainable higher education and research in Kosovo.

Veronika Nitsche

On behalf of the SHER Consortium

Overview

The programme Sustainable Higher Education and Research in Kosovo (SHER) aims at contributing to a sustainable, evidence-based, needs-oriented and gender-responsive Higher Education and Research sector in Kosovo that is in line with the principles of European Higher Education Area (EHEA), European Research Area (ERA), and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4 and 9. The sustainable benefits for the target group towards the defined objective are described through the following Outcomes:

Topics overview of the support provided from June 2024 to December 2025 includes (but not limited to):

Output 1: Policy level

- ✓ Enhanced skills and competences of Ministry of Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation (MESTI) staff in charge of Higher Education (HE) and Research for effectively developing and implementing policies and laws along European standards in HE and research including performance-based funding (in line with specific objective 4.4. of Kosovo Education Strategy (KES)).
- ✓ Enhanced skills and competences of Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA) staff in addressing the requirements for regaining full membership in ENQA (European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education) and EQAR (European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education) (in line with specific objective 4.4. of KES).

Activity cluster 1: Policy Level

- ✓ Tailor-made support to MESTI for the development of policies, laws, regulations and strategies related to HE and research with a focus on performance-based funding.
- ✓ Tailor-made support to KAA in addressing the requirements for regaining full membership in ENQA and EQAR

Output 2: University level

- ✓ Capacities developed for enhanced good governance, labour-market relevant education and the promotion of the 3rd mission at Kosovo's public universities (in line with specific objective 4.2. of KES).
- ✓ Capacities developed for the implementation of performance-based funding and internal quality assurance systems (in line with specific objective 4.2. of KES).

Activity cluster 2: University Level

- ✓ Tailor-made support to universities in the revision of statutes, regulations and strategic documents
- ✓ Tailor-made support to universities for the implementation of a performance-based funding system, internal quality assurance and the promotion of the 3rd mission of universities
- ✓ Implementation of 2 Grants for the development of joint or double degrees
- ✓ Development and implementation of 2 tailor-made interventions in the field of a.) gender equality and b.) promoting HE for vulnerable groups based on results from 2 co-creation workshops
- ✓ Development and implementation of 10 Social Dimension Grants

Output 3: Research level

- ✓ Capacities developed for enhanced quality of teaching, research & innovation, implementation of the National Research Programme and the internationalisation/Europeanisation of its HE and research system.

Activity cluster 3: Research Level

- ✓ Tailor-made support for the implementation of Kosovo Research Information System (KRIS)
- ✓ Tailor-made support to the implementation of the National Research Program (NRP)
- ✓ Implementation of 300 fellowship months and a study visit for staff of international offices of Kosovar Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)
- ✓ Implementation of seed funding for development of Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe proposals
- ✓ Tailor-made support to the Organisation of Kosovar-Austrian Alumni (OKAA)
- ✓ Tailor-made support to National Contact Points (NCP)

SHER Programme Kick-off event



Figure 2: Kick-off Event – 3 October 2024

On 3 October 2024, the Sustainable Higher Education and Research in Kosovo (SHER) Programme officially launched with a Kick-off Event held in Prishtina. The event marked the start of a key initiative aimed at strengthening Kosovo's higher education and research sector in alignment with European and international standards.

The event was honored by the presence of the Minister of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ms. Arbërie Nagavci, and the Austrian Ambassador to Kosovo, H.E. Georg Schnetzer, who delivered opening remarks highlighting the importance of international cooperation and sustainable reform in higher education and research.

Representatives of the implementing consortium, Ms. Veronika Nitsche (WUS Austria), Ms. Elke Dall (ZSI), and Ms. Martina Friedrich (OeAD), together with the SHER Programme Team Leader, Mr. Aqim Emurli, presented the Programme's objectives, strategic priorities, and collaborative implementation approach.

The SHER Programme aims to contribute to a sustainable, evidence-based, needs-oriented, and gender-responsive higher education and research sector in Kosovo, working closely with partner institutions and key stakeholders. Following the launch, Programme activities continued with outreach and information dissemination to stakeholders involved in SHER interventions.

Funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and co-financed by the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), SHER is implemented by a highly experienced Austrian consortium led by WUS Austria, in partnership with the ZSI and OeAD.

ACTIVITIES BY LEVELS OF INTERVENTION

Output 1: Policy Level

Tailor-made support to MESTI for the development of policies, laws, regulations and strategies related to HE and research with a focus on performance-based funding

- Supporting the advancement of the Draft Law on Scientific Research and Innovation

SHER in close cooperation with the MESTI supported the advancement of the Draft Law on Scientific Research and Innovation through the provision of coordinated local and international expertise.

This support brought together relevant institutional representatives and key stakeholders to further strengthen and refine the draft legislation.

The initiative aimed to ensure that the Draft Law establishes a structured, forward-looking, and sustainable foundation for the development of a dynamic research and innovation ecosystem, aligned with European standards and responsive to evolving scientific, technological, and societal trends.

The progress achieved will continue through dedicated working mechanisms to further advance and finalize the Draft Law on Scientific Research and Innovation.



Figure 3: Workshop with MESTI towards the advancement of the Draft Law of Scientific Research and Innovation – 5, 6 & 7 March 2025

Performance Based Funding (PBF) support

In cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI) and public HEIs, SHER has supported the launch of this important policy reform. The model will initially be piloted with one higher education institution before being gradually extended to other public universities.

The introduction of PBF is designed to incentivize institutional excellence and enhance strategic development, accountability, and transparency in the use of public funds. By linking funding to clearly defined performance indicators, the reform aims to improve monitoring and evaluation processes while encouraging universities to achieve measurable results aligned with national priorities.

SHER facilitates peer exchange and brings in international expertise, including relevant European experiences, to strengthen institutional capacities and promote the adoption of good practices.

SHER remains committed to supporting MESTI and public universities throughout this transition, ensuring that funding structures increasingly reflect institutional performance and contribute to the long-term development objectives of the higher education sector.



Figure 4: Workshop with MESTI and the University of Prishtina towards Performance-Based Funding Piloting – 5 February 2025

Tailor-made support to KAA in addressing the requirements for regaining full membership in ENQA and EQAR

- Supporting the Revision of PhD Standards

SHER supported the Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA) in revising the national PhD standards through a collaborative and inclusive process aligned with European Standards and Guidelines (ESG) and international good practices. Working together with KAA, SHER engaged international expertise and facilitated a series of meetings and workshops involving higher education institutions, PhD students, KAA staff, State Council of Quality (SCQ) members, and local and international experts. This consultative approach ensured broad stakeholder input, institutional ownership, and practical recommendations aimed at strengthening the quality and relevance of doctoral education in Kosovo. The PhD standards have been formally approved by SCQ.



Figure 5: Workshop with KAA on the revision of accreditation standards for PhD Programme – 22 May 2025

- Supporting the 3rd KAA Annual Conference

SHER supported the organization of KAA's 3rd Annual Conference, contributing to the creation of a national platform for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and reflection on quality assurance in higher education. Through this support, SHER worked together with KAA to bring together key national and international stakeholders, fostering discussions on current challenges, best practices, and future developments in the higher education and quality assurance landscape.

The conference brought more than 100 participants, locally and internationally.



*Figure 6: 3rd KAA Annual Higher Education Conference –
30 September 2025*

- Supporting the KAA Strategic Plan and Action Plan (2026–2030)

SHER worked closely with KAA to support the development of its Strategic Plan and Action Plan for 2026–2030. As a member of the formal working group, SHER contributed to the design of the development methodology, evidence collection, and stakeholder consultations. This included supporting surveys with higher education institutions, desk research, and consultative meetings and workshops focused on reviewing the current strategy, conducting a SWOT analysis, and drafting strategic objectives and measures. Through this partnership, SHER continues to support KAA in developing a forward-looking strategic framework that promotes excellence, transparency, and continuous improvement in quality assurance.



*Figure 7: Workshop dedicated to finalizing the draft of the KAA Strategic Plan 2026–2030 –
1 October 2025*

Output 2: University level

At the university level, SHER focuses on strengthening the institutional capacity of Kosovo's public higher education institutions (HEIs) to enhance good governance, labour-market relevance, and the third mission of universities. This intervention supports strategic development, alignment with accreditation and quality assurance frameworks, and the advancement of research, innovation, and societal engagement.

Following a series of kick-off meetings with all relevant stakeholders, priority areas of cooperation were jointly identified and formalised through Memorandum's of Understandings (MoUs). These MoUs form the basis for building sustainable partnerships and for defining earmarked, needs-based support tailored to each institution. () Building on the experience of the previous HERAS Plus project, the current programme expands its scope to include two additional higher education institutions: the Faculty of Islamic Studies and the Public International Business College Mitrovica (IBCM).

The intervention covers the following public HEIs:

- University of Prishtina
- University "Ukshin Hoti" in Prizren
- University "Haxhi Zeka" in Peja
- University "Fehmi Agani" in Gjakova
- University "Kadri Zeka" in Gjilan
- University "Isa Boletini" in Mitrovica
- University of Applied Sciences in Ferizaj
- Public International Business College Mitrovica
- Faculty of Islamic Studies

The SHER Programme has officially signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with all public Higher Education Institutions in Kosovo, marking a significant milestone in institutional cooperation and long-term reform. This formal commitment reflects a shared vision for strengthening governance, academic quality and research capacity. By consolidating partnerships at the university level, the Programme reinforces mutual responsibility, ensures structured collaboration, and accelerates the effective implementation of agreed priorities. The signing of MoU's not only institutionalizes engagement but also powerfully reaffirms a collective determination to translate commitments into measurable and sustainable impact for Kosovo's higher education system.



University of Prishtina (UP)

Based on the Competitive Fund for Strategic Development of Public Higher Education Institutions, SHER provided targeted support during 2025 across several key governance and strategic development activities. This support focused primarily on the drafting and revision of institutional regulations, including the harmonization of existing regulations with the provisions of the newly adopted Statute. In total, 29 regulations were reviewed, with expert input provided to ensure full alignment with the new statutory framework. In addition, SHER supported the development of the Regulation on Selection Procedures regarding the Appointment, Reappointment, and Advancement of Academic Staff at the University of Prishtina (UP), which was finalized and adopted by the UP Senate. Further support was provided to monitor and report on the implementation of the UP Strategic Plan 2023–2025, thereby strengthening institutional accountability. Building on this engagement, SHER will provide support to the UP in drafting a new Strategic Plan. Further, SHER’s area of support also focuses on implementing PBF. One workshop was held to discuss the structure and objectives of the PBF system, as well as the main instruments guiding its implementation, including the draft template for the PBF Agreement. The draft Agreement between MESTI and UP, with UP serving as the pilot institution, is expected to be signed in 2026.



Figure 8: Workshop with the University of Prishtina on the monitoring of the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2023–2025 - 3-4 October 2025

University “Isa Boletini” in Mitrovica (UIBM)

Based on the agreed framework of cooperation, SHER provided institutional support to the University “Isa Boletini” in Mitrovica (UIBM) throughout the reporting period, focusing on governance and strategic development. This support included negotiating and formalizing cooperation through the signing of a joint Memorandum of Understanding. In addition, SHER conducted an external review of the Statute of the University and prepared a comprehensive analysis with concrete recommendations to strengthen alignment with the legal and regulatory framework. Furthermore, SHER provided support for the development of the Strategic Plan 2026–2030, which was adopted by the Steering Council. In addition, SHER contributed to the general institutional accreditation process by providing support in preparing the self-evaluation report and coordinating preparations for the upcoming institutional accreditation visit.



Figure 9: Workshop with the University “Isa Boletini” Mitrovica on the development of the Strategic Plan 2026–2030 - 16–17 July 2025

University “Ukshin Hoti” in Prizren (UUHP)

SHER supported the University “Ukshin Hoti” in Prizren (UUHP) through a structured cooperation framework formalized by a joint Memorandum of Understanding. A comprehensive process was undertaken to support the development of the University’s Strategic Plan 2026–2030, with SHER providing expert support and facilitating three strategic planning workshops. As a result of this support, the Strategic Plan was finalized and successfully adopted by the University’s Steering Council. In parallel, SHER conducted an external review of the University’s Statute, producing an in-depth analysis accompanied by concrete recommendations. In addition, SHER also contributed to the organization of the 4th international scientific conference BRIDGE, which provided an important platform for researchers and academics from Kosovo and beyond not only to present scientific papers and abstracts, but also to exchange ideas and build new partnerships.



*Figure 10: Bridge Conference – University “Ukshin Hoti” Prizren,
21–22 November 2025*

University of Applied Sciences in Ferizaj (UASF)

SHER supported the University of Applied Sciences in Ferizaj (UASF) by formalizing cooperation through the signing of a joint Memorandum of Understanding. Within this framework, SHER provided support for the development of the University's Gender Equality Plan (GEP), which was successfully developed and finalized. In addition, SHER is providing support for other activities, including the review and update of the Regulation on Scientific Research and the Subsidizing of Research Activities at the UASF.



Figure 11: Workshop with the University of Applied Sciences in Ferizaj on the development of the Gender Equality Plan – 12 June 2025

University “Fehmi Agani” in Gjakova (UFAGJ)

Following the establishment of cooperation through a jointly signed Memorandum of Understanding, SHER provided targeted support to the University “Fehmi Agani” in Gjakova (UFAGJ), focusing on capacity building and governance. This support included the delivery of two capacity-building workshops for academic and administrative staff on the effective use of digital services and the integration of the UFAGJ into the digital infrastructure of Kosovo Research and Education Network (KREN), including the integration of the University domain into the KREN network. In addition to the workshops, SHER provided practical guidance materials and manuals to support the effective use of digital tools and services. Furthermore, SHER conducted an external review of the University’s Statute and prepared a detailed analysis with recommendations.



Figure 12: Capacity-building training with the University “Fehmi Agani” Gjakova on the utilization of KREN resources – 4 November 2025

University “Haxhi Zeka” in Peja (UHZ)

Through a formalized cooperation framework with University “Haxhi Zeka” in Peja (UHZ), established in the Memorandum of Understanding. SHER provided expert support in the development of a regulation for the performance evaluation of academic staff. Furthermore, SHER supported the University in the organization of the 3rd Dukagjini Regional Economic Forum (FER-D) 2025, including two preparatory workshops focused on innovation and digital transformation and on strengthening cooperation between the University, municipalities, businesses, and civil society. Additionally, SHER conducted an external review of the draft Statute of the University and facilitated a working group meeting to discuss the analysis and related recommendations.



*Figure 13: Regional Economic Forum Dukagjini (REF-D) –
2 December 2025*

University “Kadri Zeka” in Gjilan (UKZ)

SHER established cooperation with the University “Kadri Zeka” in Gjilan (UKZ) through the signing of a joint Memorandum of Understanding. Within this framework, SHER carried out an external review of the University’s Statute, providing a comprehensive analysis with recommendations aimed at strengthening institutional governance. In addition, SHER is supporting the review and update of five existing University regulations in line with the revised Statute and evolving legal and institutional requirements, while also assisting the University in the development of a Gender Equality Plan.



Figure 14: Workshop with the University “Kadri Zeka” Gjilan to review and refine five institutional regulations – 5-6 December 2025

Public International Business College Mitrovica (IBCM)

SHER supported the Public International Business College Mitrovica (IBCM) by formalizing cooperation through a joint Memorandum of Understanding. This support included an external review of the draft Statute of IBCM, incorporating a gender perspective and resulting in a set of concrete recommendations to strengthen institutional governance. Additionally, SHER provided an international and national perspective on the establishment and operationalization of a Center for Knowledge Transfer and Innovation, as well as support in the development of the IBCM Strategy, which has now been finalized.



*Figure 15: Workshop with IBCM on the development of the Strategic Plan 2026-2030 –
12–13 December 2025*

Faculty of Islamic Studies (FIS)

Within this framework of the MoU, SHER provided capacity-building support to academic staff of the Faculty of Islamic Studies (FIS) in the area of scientific research and publication in journals indexed in Scopus and Web of Science. A tailored capacity-building program was designed in line with the needs of the faculty, and the first workshop was successfully delivered during the reporting period. Additionally, SHER provided support for the development of the Strategic Plan 2026 -2030 which continued through follow-up working group meetings and workshops, ensuring broad stakeholder engagement throughout the process. SHER will provide support in reviewing the statute and regulation on quality assurance .



Figure 16: Capacity-building workshop on Scientific Research Publication with Faculty of Islamic Studies – 9 April 2025

Implementation of grants for the development of joint or double degrees (JDD)

SHER is implementing a structured grant scheme to support the development of Joint and Double Degree (JDD) programmes between Kosovo public higher education institutions and EU partners. The initiative follows a two-phase approach that guides institutions from programme design to accreditation and implementation. In the first phase, SHER supports Kosovo HEIs in developing labour-market-relevant curricula and establishing sustainable international partnerships. Four HEIs have been awarded development grants to prepare innovative JDD's programmes in collaboration with leading EU universities. In the second phase, selected programmes will be supported through the accreditation process and, where feasible, their initial launch, including promotion and student and faculty engagement. Through this initiative, SHER contributes to the integration of Kosovo's higher education system into the European Higher Education and Research Areas (EHEA), strengthens institutional capacity and governance, promotes gender equality and inclusivity, and expands international learning and mobility opportunities for students and academic staff.



Figure 17: Information Session on the first phase of Joint or Double Degree Programme – 4 December 2024

SHER supporting Gender Equality in Higher Education

SHER promotes gender equality and access to higher education for vulnerable groups through tailor-made, evidence-based interventions developed in close cooperation with stakeholders. Building on baseline assessments, stakeholder consultations, and co-creation workshops, SHER is developing and implementing two targeted interventions: one focused on strengthening gender equality in higher education institutions and another aimed at promoting access, participation, and success in higher education for underrepresented and vulnerable groups. These interventions combine policy alignment, institutional capacity building, and practical guidance, drawing on international good practices and European frameworks to support inclusive, sustainable change across Kosovo's higher education system.



*Figure 18: Gender Equality in Higher Education Workshop –
15 October 2025*

Implementation of Social Dimension Small Grants Scheme

To complement these interventions with concrete action at institutional and community level, SHER is implementing a Social Dimension Small Grants Scheme. Through the development and implementation of eleven Social Dimension Grants, the scheme supports innovative initiatives led by higher education institutions, students, and civil society organizations. The grants address key barriers faced by underrepresented groups, including gender inequalities and the inclusion of persons with disabilities, and foster practical solutions that enhance access, participation, and completion of higher education. By translating social dimension policies into targeted, on-the-ground actions, SHER contributes to a more equitable and inclusive higher education landscape.



Figure 19: Social Dimension Grant Scheme Info-session at University “Fehmi Agani” Gjakova – 25 February 2025

Output 3: Research level

Supporting the functionalisation of Kosovo Research and Innovation System(KRIS)

SHER is supporting MESTI in advancing the full functionalization of the Kosovo Research and Innovation System (KRIS) platform, a national repository for research and innovation data developed under the previous project. During the reporting period, SHER agreed with MESTI to provide targeted expert support to identify technical and operational needs, address system challenges, and improve platform usability. In coordination with MESTI's Department for Higher Education and Science, and the newly established Digitalization Department, SHER contributed to capacity-building and strategic planning to ensure KRIS can effectively support evidence-based policymaking, institutional reporting, and data sharing across the higher education and research sector.



Figure 20: Meeting with UP and MESTI regarding the functionalization of KRIS – 12-13 February 2025

Supporting the implementation of the National Research Program (NRP)

SHER is supporting the implementation of Kosovo's National Research Program (NRP) through close cooperation with the National Science Council and MESTI. During the reporting period, SHER developed the initial concepts for research funding instruments 'Diaspora4Science' aimed at mobilizing Kosovo's scientific diaspora for national research excellence, as well as "Start-Up and Spin-Off Fund", an innovation instrument to support commercialization of research and university-industry collaboration. These instruments seek to strengthen national research capacity by fostering collaborative projects between diaspora researchers and Kosovo-based institutions, promoting long-term partnerships, mentorships, and international integration. Further stakeholder consultations will support its finalization and implementation in upcoming periods.



Figure 21: Stakeholder Consultation Event on Instruments to Implement the National Science Program – 30 October 2025

Implementing fellowships and strengthening internationalisation capacities

SHER is implementing a fellowship scheme for PhD students and Postdoctoral researchers as a key instrument for institutional capacity development and international scientific cooperation. During the reporting period, SHER launched the first fellowship call, resulting in the allocation of 112 fellowship months to 19 scholars. The scheme supports high-quality research, promotes sustained links with Kosovar institutions, and requires fellows to contribute to the national higher education and research system upon completion. In parallel, SHER strengthened cooperation with international offices of Kosovar HEIs through consultative meetings focused on internationalization strategies, mobility opportunities, and institutional needs.



*Figure 22: Event with representatives of International Offices of Public HEIs –
3 March 2025*

Enhancing participation in Horizon Europe through capacity building and seed funding

In close collaboration with MESTI, SHER actively supported Kosovo's engagement in Horizon Europe by organizing Horizon Europe Week and a series of targeted capacity-building activities. These included proposal-writing workshops, consultations with international experts, coordination with National Contact Points (NCPs), and information sessions reaching a broad range of stakeholders. Complementing these efforts, SHER developed and launched a seed funding scheme to support the preparation of Horizon Europe proposals, awarding grants that cover technical and logistical costs and aim to increase both the number and quality of submissions from Kosovar researchers.



*Figure 23: Horizon Europe Information Day –
27 May 2025*

Organization of Kosovar – Austrian Alumni (OKAA)

Established as a non-profit legal entity with the support of the previous project, OKAA continues to receive support from SHER in its mission to promote internationalisation and academic mobility between Kosovo and Austria. SHER aims to strengthen OKAA by enhancing its organizational capacity, reinforcing its sustainability, and supporting the development of a long-term vision for the organization. To date, SHER has held several meetings with OKAA to discuss: strategic goals and objectives; the planning of a study visit; and the organization of a General Assembly, during which three new board members were elected. In addition, OKAA is receiving tailor-made support through an earmarked grant, which will be implemented from February to October.



*Figure 24: OKAA General Assembly 2025 -
3 December 2025*

Tailor-made support to National Contact Points (NCPs)

SHER provided tailored support to strengthen the National Contact Points (NCPs) system as a cornerstone of Kosovo's participation in Horizon Europe. Through dedicated workshops and coordinated events, SHER supported NCPs in improving outreach strategies, stakeholder engagement, and alignment with cross-cutting priorities such as open science, ethics, and gender equality. These efforts contribute to building a more effective, visible, and coordinated support structure for researchers and institutions seeking Horizon Europe funding.



*Figure 25: First NCP Workshop on Horizon Europe –
6 November 2024*

Advisory Board Meetings of SHER Programme

The first Advisory Board meeting of SHER was held on 5 March 2025 in a hybrid format, followed by the second meeting on 2 October 2025 held on the same format. The Board members (ADA, MESTI, Austrian Federal Ministry of Women, Science and Research as well as Consortium members) discussed on the progress implementation of the programme, milestones achieved, challenges faced, lessons learned and followed by decision making on key issues relevant to the upcoming implementation in the period ahead.



*Figure 26: 1st Advisory Board Meeting –
5 March 2025*



*Figure 27: 2nd Advisory Board Meeting –
2 October 2025*

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