



**Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education T@SK project**

*Towards increased awareness, responsibility and shared quality in social work*

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**WP 4.2**

***Research presentation and conference press***

***P6 University of Elbasan***



ISCTE IUL  
Instituto Universitário de Lisboa



Ordine  
Assistenti Sociali  
Consiglio Regionale della Toscana

**Track of changes**

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## ***INTRODUCTION***

In fulfillment of the obligations defined in WP 4.2 Research presentation and conference press, University of Elbasan “Aleksandër Xhuvani” (P6) conducted the presentation conference of the book *Social services in Albania: background and state of the art. A report from Tirana, Shkodër and Elbasan*. This book is a contribution of the University of Elbasan “Aleksandër Xhuvani”, the University of Tirana, “Luigj Gurakuqi” University of Shkodra, the University of Florence and the Order of the Social Worker Tuscany region.

This book was published by CACCUCI, ITALY. The purpose of this collaboration is to help social workers in the field, students and young researchers. Since it is an online open access book, anyone can have it and use it for educational, informational, etc. needs. As one of the important products of the T@SK project, it is the most important scientific product. Wanting to come to the aid of all beneficiaries of this book, the conference for its presentation had as its main objective not only to present to stakeholders and beneficiaries the results of this study but also through audiovisual and social media to convey the news to all interested .

## ***THE FIRST PART OF THE DAY – PANEL I***

Conference for the presentation of the book *Social services in Albania: background and state of the art. A report from Tirana, Shkodër and Elbasan* was made according to the agreed agenda of the project partners. It was held in Tirana on 05.03.2020 in the premises of the House of Europe. According to the agenda, the registration of those present took place from 9 am to 9.30 am. This conference was moderated by the project coordinator for University of Elbasan “Aleksandër Xhuvani”, Prof.as.dr Elisabeta Osmanaj. After the guests were introduced to the T@SK project in general terms by the moderator and they were thanked for their participation, the Rector of the University of Elbasan “Aleksandër Xhuvani”, welcomed them as the organizing university of the activity. In the speech taken on this occasion, the Rector of the University of Elbasan, prof. dr. Skender Topi, said that this book is an asset in the field of social services and will serve them well, not only to professors

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and students but also to young researchers. Without discussion, it will be a great help for social workers as well. "The Rectorate of the University of Elbasan, the entire working group of the Department of Social Work and I personally, have supported and encouraged colleagues and departments involved from the beginning in this project," said Rector Skender Topi. He also underlined that "thanks to the T@SK project, today the students of the Department of Social Sciences have in use an IT laboratory and in function of very important platforms such as MOODLE and LMS".

Giorgia Bulli, T@SK Project Coordinator, greeted the conference even though she was not present due to the situation created by COVID 19<sup>1</sup>. She presented the achievements and challenges of the project through a video emphasizing the importance of the book and other products' project. The importance of this study lies precisely in the fact that now in Albania students, social workers will have a free access book which will be of great help to them.

After the Rector of the University of Elbasan "Alkesandër Xhuvani", the event was greeted by the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana, Prof. Dr. Edmond Rrapti. On behalf of the University of Tirana, greeted prof. dr. Edmond Rrapti who underlined in his speech the importance of this publication in the Albanian reality. He also stressed the great importance of the cooperation of homologue departments in such projects which help increase academic capacity.

The representative of the European Delegation in Albania, Mr. Andrea Vera revealed that he welcomed the invitation to the event also to promote the concrete collaboration between European Union higher education institutions in Albania. He also shared with the participants a personal experience emphasizing the importance of the role of the social worker in society. He was happy that through such projects the EU contributes to capacity building, he expressed the commitment of the European Delegation in Albania to support such initiatives.

Deputy Minister of Education Mr. Oltion Rrumbullaku, in his word for the occasion, emphasizing the great collaboration of the Ministry with Higher Education Institutions in

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<sup>1</sup> Also absent due to the restrictions of the pandemic, the authors Giulia Mascagni and Sheyla Moroni (DSPS - UNIFI) and Laura Bini (President of OAS Toscana) participated remotely in the presentations of their respective chapters with short video clips and / or streaming.

Albania and also congratulated the academic staff for this great initiative. He stressed that such books that are a great help for students, professors and social workers are an indicator of quality academic work of Albanian professors and that such initiatives should be more frequent. He also encouraged academic staff to continue to be part of Erasmus + projects.

In her speech, the Director of the State Social Service at the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, Mrs. Merita Xhafaj, said that this book as a great scientific research that it is also going to assist the ministry, for the initiative focused on the " Social Worker's Order. " Promising that the commitment to complete the process of Consolidation of the Order of Social Worker in Albania, she stressed that such a study was lacking and that it will be a great help to social workers in Albania.

### ***THE SECOND PART OF THE DAY – PANEL II***

Mr. Robert GAJDA, Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination in Albania, noted the high number of groups at risk and the role of the social worker as a defender of social rights. The study said it is an indication of the serious engagement of the T @ SK project in the social protection sector being an overview of the services situation in the country.

Ms. Saraçi, participating in the meeting, said that the aforementioned is of special importance for three reasons:

First, it is related to academic capacity building, through trainings, sharing of experiences, updating of university curricula, updating of physical and electronic libraries.

Secondly, it is related to the involvement of basic actors in the provision of social services in Albania, creating a good coordination network for today's and tomorrow's cooperation.

Third, it takes steps to follow European practices and policies, to create the Social Worker's Order in Albania.

Mr. Ervin Saraçi, Deputy Major of Elbasan, conveyed the greetings of the Mayor of Elbasan and stressed that as a partner of the University "Aleksandër Xhuvani" in this project would continue to support the T@SK project as a project which had increased the capacity of social

workers mainly from trainings. According to him, the study better identifies those interested in social services and their challenges.

Ms. Anisa Ruseti, Deputy Mayor for Social Affairs in Tirana Municipality, thanked the organizers for the invitation and the project colleagues for the study because according to her this study was of special importance especially for social workers.

Mr. Filip Vila, Representative from the Municipality of Shkodra, pointed out the problems that social services in the municipality of Shkodra have and that this study helped social workers as a guiding guide. He said that such collaborations are very important for social workers in the field as they have the opportunity to benefit from the best European practices.

The conference was also greeted by the order of the social worker of the Tuscany region through a video as he could not be present due to the situation created by the Corona Virus.

### ***PRESENTATION OF STUDY RESULTS***

The second part of the conference was dedicated to the authors of the book, the professors who presented the study by universities. This second part was also moderated by the T@SK project Coordinator for University of Elbasan “Aleksandër Xhuvani” Prof.as.dr Elisabeta OSMANAJ.

For the University of Tirana the study was presented by Prof.as.dr Izela Tasini

For the University of Elbasan by Dr. Sabina Belshaku

For the University of Shkodra by Dr. Bujanë Topalli

The presentation for each representative lasted 20 min and the study methodology, results and conclusions were presented. There were questions from students and social workers present and at the end of the activity, the link to the book was sent to the email addresses of all participants. The conference closed with thanks for the presence and interest from Elisabeta Osmanaj.

### **CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS**

#### Policymakers

Ministry of Education and Sports	Deputy Minister Mr.Oltion RUMBULLAKU
Ministry of Health and Social Protection	The director of the State Social Service, Mrs. Merita XHAFI
Municipality of Elbasan	Deputy Chairman Mr.Ervin SARACI
Municipality of Tirana	Vice President Anisa RUSI
Shkodra Municipality	Director of Social Service Filip VILA
Delegation of the European Union	Z.Andrea VERA
ERASMUS + Office	Znj Elona SARACI

#### Social Worker

City	Tirana	Elbasan	Shkodër
Number	5	9	3

#### Students

City	Tirana	Elbasan	Shkodër
Number	7	15	

#### Lecturer

City	Tirana	Elbasan	Shkodër
Number	9	18	4

***PHOTOS FROM THE EVENT***

Prof.dr. Skender Topi, Rector of University of Elbasan



Prof.dr. Edmond Rapti, Dean of Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tirana.

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Mr. Andrea Vera, EU delegation in Albania



Mr. Olti Rumbullaku, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth.

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Ms. Merita Xhafaj, General Director of Social Protection, Ministry of Health and Social



Mr. Robert Gajda, Commissioner for Protection from Discrimination in Albania.

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Ms. Elona Saraçi, Representative of Erasmus+ Office, Tirana.



Mr. Ervin Saraçi, Deputy Major of Elbasan.

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Ms. Anisa Ruseti, Deputy Mayor for Social Affairs in Tirana Municipality



Mr. Filip Vila, Representative from Municipality of Shkodra.

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