

Context

Main objective of the project	Innovation
Project Title	Strategic Partnership for Transdisciplinary Balkan Studies: Geophilosophy of the Balkans
Project Acronym	GEOBALKANS
Project Start Date (yyyy-mm-dd)	2020-09-01
Project Total Duration	36 months
Project End Date (yyyy-mm-dd)	2023-08-31
National Agency of the Applicant Organisation	MK01 National Agency for European Educational Programmes and Mobility
Language used to fill in the form	English

For further details about the available Erasmus+ National Agencies, please consult the following page:

<https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/contact>

Project Summary

Please provide a short summary of your project. Please recall that this section (or part of it) may be used by the European Commission, Executive Agency or National Agencies in their publications. It will also feed the Erasmus+ Project Results Platform.

Be concise and clear and mention at least the following elements: context/background of project; objectives of your project; number and profile of participants; description of activities; methodology to be used in carrying out the project; a short description of the results and impact envisaged and finally the potential longer term benefits. The summary will be publicly available in case your project is awarded.

In view of further publication on the Erasmus+ Project Results Platform, please also be aware that a comprehensive public summary of project results will be requested at report stage(s). Final payment provisions in the contract will be linked to the availability of such summary.

The aim of Transdisciplinary Balkan Studies: Geophilosophy of the Balkans (GEOBALKANS) is to modernize educational approaches on crucial issues related to (self)understanding of the region to face up the current and future challenges of reconciliation and Europeanisation. In light of the increasing and resurfacing illiberal tendencies that stall its European perspectives the project starts from the premise that studies in social science and humanities in the Balkans are mostly nationally biased, lacking cross-regional and trans-disciplinary dimension. This bias, notably, critically impairs the processes of reconciliation and democratisation of the region. Based on this, GEOBALKANS' main objective is the establishment of an integrated, trans-Balkan and trans-European school that will fuse the best European practices in the study of the respective fields, giving them a sound regional dimension, supported through trans-disciplinary cutting-edge methodologies and cooperation in social sciences, humanities and natural sciences, flexible (conventional and digital) study approaches, covered by distinguished regional and European experts in the field.

GEOBALKANS consists from a number of incremental and interrelated activities for the achievement of the project objectives and results. Key result of the project will be the establishment of the joint, integrated graduate programme Transdisciplinary Balkan Studies: Geophilosophy of the Balkans. This general objective will be achieved and implemented through a significant number of Intellectual Outputs, Learning/Teaching/Training Activities and Multiplier Events as follows:

- 4 Intellectual Outputs (IO1 Methodology and Programme Syllabus, IO2 Training and Learning Materials, IO3 Open Educational Resources, IO4 Model and guide for implementation)
- 8 Learning/Teaching/Training Activities (subdivided into 3 Intensive Program for Teaching Staff, followed by 5 Intensive Programmes for Higher Education Learners)
- 1 Multiplier Events

By developing a curriculum for an integrated MA and PhD programme GEOBALKANS will be “supporting individuals in acquiring and developing basic skills and key competences” in the field of trans-disciplinary and critical political and social studies of the Balkans, hence providing prospective students and existing teaching staff with innovative methodologies and apparatus of critical and contemporary concepts for analyzing the historical and contemporary socio-political and cultural contexts and phenomena in the Balkans, Europe and world-wide. Bringing together as project partners universities, departments and teaching staff that cut across multiple disciplines and social sciences, which in a joint effort and trans-national

partnership will develop programme that goes beyond the strict traditional confines of political sciences studies, the project will offer studying opportunity for students coming from different under-graduate backgrounds, and thus support permeability between the different education and training pathways.

The project brings together universities on a trans-Balkans and trans-European level and creates high quality and innovative teaching, learning and research resources for trans-disciplinary and critical studies of the Balkans, while setting reconciliation, justice, equality and promotion of European values as its motivational and forward-looking vision. The project will have a positive effect on the educational function and scope of societal impact of the beneficiary partners, but has the potential to extend towards the local, national and international levels of other Higher Education Institutions and NGOs in all consortium countries through the established networks of researchers, teachers, academics and civil society actors.

GEOBALKANS establishes a consortium of five prominent universities that will jointly organize and implement the project. Participants are FON University from Skopje, North Macedonia, SINGIDUNUM University from Belgrade, Serbia, PANTEION University, Greece, L'ORIENTALE University from Naples, Italy and University of VERONA from Verona, Italy.