



UNIVERSITY "UKSHIN HOTI" - PRIZREN (UPZ)  
FACULTY OF COMPUTER SCIENCE (FCS)

## Open ICT Education for Youth Employability

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Leader under the project<sup>1</sup>

Lecturer and Teaching Assistant (full time)

"Open ICT Education for Youth Employability"<sup>1</sup> is the cross-border project funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by Open Data Kosovo (ODK) in partnership with the Albanian Institute of Science (AIS), in 7 academic institutions, namely:

1. University "Ukshin Hoti" - Faculty of Computer Science, Prizren.
2. University "Haxhi Zeka" - Faculty of Business, Pejë.
3. Professional School "Kolin Gjoka", Lezhë and
4. Four high schools in Kurbin district (Mamurras, Laç, Gorre and Milot).

This project is part of the "Albania-Kosovo Cross-Border Cooperation Program" under the Instrument for Pre-Accession (IPA II) 2014-2015 with contract number 2017 / 394-533.

The project has aimed to promote youth employment by providing important access and skills in the field of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT), as well as to strengthen cross-border cooperation between the academic institutions involved in the project. By focusing on supporting and acquiring ICT skills among young people in the project regions, this enables significant investment in their educational and professional development and empowers them to overcome barriers to accessing the labor market and pursuing higher education. It is important that the project serves as the basis for the expansion of knowledge through e-learning, the courses are launched in the Cursor platform, thus eliminating potential obstacles in various areas related to ICT. This approach provides the audience (students) involved in the project future employment opportunities in professional areas within ICT. The project contributes to eliminate the language barriers that young people in the targeted communes / municipalities may face, to

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<sup>1</sup> For more information about the project please visit the official website of ODK: <https://opendatakosovo.org/projects/2018/07/09/MOOC/>



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participate in the online courses offered in Albanian through the aforementioned platform. There are three online courses available on the Cursor<sup>2</sup> platform:

1. Practical Development of Web-Based Applications,
2. Web Database Design, Analysis and Integration and
3. Scalable Software Product Deployment.

In these courses are included, especially the FCS' students from all academic levels (bachelor and master). Currently, over 122 students are attending online courses as part of their respective project.

This project in the FCS is led by full time Teaching Assistant Arbër Beshiri, Ph. D. c and Agim Morina, B. Sc.

The project is being implemented in the FCS from March 2019 and will be completed in February 2020. During this time students who are involved in this project hold two assisting hours per week in the FCS object to be informed and assisted about the project and its ambiguities or activities, mainly about e- learning in the aforementioned courses.

The best students, evaluated by technical leaders and project coordinators, on the basis of attendance in assisting hours, completion of courses based on project instructions, and contribution with their software projects created based on lessons learned from project courses will be selected to be part of Bootcamp event. Bootcamp is an event organized for students selected from participating institutions in the project and those who successfully develop the web applications required during this event before ICT companies, ODK and AIS partners will be recruited and employed in these companies, which also make their assessment during the three days of Bootcamp. This event is part of the project and will be held in early 2020 in Kosovo. Technical leaders and students involved in the project will be certified by the EU, ODK and AIS.

This project is a result of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Open Data Kosovo (ODK) and the Faculty of Computer Science (FCS) at the University "Ukshin Hoti" - Prizren, signed in August 2018 by the heads of relevant institutions, Blerta Thaçi as ODK Executive Director and Prof. Assoc. Dr. Samedin Krrabaj, the dean of the FCS.

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<sup>2</sup> [www.kursori.org](http://www.kursori.org)

