



Department of English Language and Literature
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To: Whom it may concern

Since its establishment the Department of English Language and Literature has been the main source that has been feeding the labour market with English language professionals. In its endeavors to strengthen its capacities and keep abreast with the global developments in the field of education, several revisions of the curricula were conducted in the post war period. During this process the approach that was adopted aimed at offering innovative and flexible programs that would comply with Bologna scheme on the one hand, and on the other address the needs of the war-torn Kosovar society.

Among other novelties, attempts were made to introduce Translation and Interpreting profile. However, my main concern was lack of facilities and resources that I assumed would pose a serious hindrance in our efforts to equip students with knowledge and skills that would enable them to cope with the challenges encountered in the labour market. I was aware that the sterile classroom ambience would not provide opportunity for hands-on exercise; hence students would be deprived of gaining knowledge and experience in real-life situations.

It was at this point that the cooperation between the Department of English of the University of Prishtina and KosovaLive Organization began by courtesy of Kelmend Hapçiu, Head and founder of KosovaLive Organization. KosovaLive not only hosted the first generation of UP Translation and Interpreting Section students, which I supervised, but it also employed a number of them after their graduation, a practice that stretches up to the present.

What I would like to particularly emphasize is the fact that at the time when our cooperation was initiated, student internship (or professional practice, in UP terminology) was not even envisioned in the curriculum. It was conducted on voluntary basis as extracurricular activity. In my life-long experience in university teaching, this was the first time that I have been offered such a sincere and unconditioned opportunity for cooperation. It was the merit of KosovaLive staff headed by Kelmend Hapçiu, and the students' perception of the opportunity for gaining complementary training and experience that resulted in the inclusion of Professional practice courses in the final year of study program. These courses were considered as a strong point of the program which got accredited in the year 2007.

Since then, many students have benefited from UP cooperation with KosovaLive (see the attached student list). KosovaLive remains the main and of paramount importance partner of the Department of English since it provides opportunity to our students to gain life-skills and grow professionally serving as a direct link with the labour market, its challenges and its demands. Moreover, for almost a decade, for many students this has been the initial step in their career path which enabled them



not only to broaden their horizons and enhance their skills, but also to progress further in the career ladder.

Considering all that has been stated above, as well as our determination to continue to cooperate for many years to come, I unreservedly recommend KosovaLive as a host, or partner in activities that relate to education and training. Should you have any further inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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