



E-MAGAZINE

ALUMNI AS AMBASSADORS OF SUCCESS

2024



UCG

University of Montenegro

ABOUT PROJECT

The AL4Life project introduces an innovative approach to higher education, aligning it closely with labor market demands. By bridging higher education institutions with the business community needs, it seeks to enhance the traditional educational framework throughout the region. A pivotal aspect of this initiative is the establishment of a community of successful graduates who contribute their valuable experience and knowledge to current students. This alumni network not only offers credible guidance but also fosters an environment conducive to new career development.

Prepared For:

AL4Life

Prepared By:

University of Montenegro



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MESSAGE FROM RECTOR

CRAFTING SOLUTIONS, DELIVERING SUCCESS

Forming alumni communities is considered the most important strategic goal of modern universities.

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As much as elsewhere in Europe and throughout the world, by implementing this project, we recognize our alumni as an important resource for improving the quality of higher education and fostering its regional development.

We aim to mobilize the potential of alumni as university ambassadors who can enhance employability, encourage networking, and foster multidisciplinary collaboration. The expertise and support of our international partners are crucial, and we are grateful for their willingness to share their knowledge and experience through collaboration within this project. We are confident that our project activities will continue to grow in the future and remain supported through the Erasmus+ program.

Prof. Dr Vladimir Božović
Rector



MESSAGE FROM VICE - RECTOR

DYNAMIC INVOLVEMENT, EMPOWERED COMMUNITY

The AL4Life project, coordinated by the University of Montenegro, is focused on empowering university alumni communities in the Western Balkans and encouraging their more dynamic involvement in the teaching processes.



Establishing and strengthening alumni networks is a crucial strategic goal for modern universities. Forming alumni clubs and enhancing cooperation with alumni communities will enable universities in the Western Balkans not only to bolster ties with the economic sector but also to achieve greater social impact and recognition. The AL4Life project is designed as a comprehensive and systematic process to create diverse alumni structures, aiming for continuous alumni involvement in teaching, mentorship, and research projects at partner universities. By leveraging alumni as ambassadors, we can improve student employability, foster creative networking and multidisciplinary collaborations, and better respond to the challenges of the modern labor market.



Prof. Dr Sanja Peković
Vice-rector & Project
Coordinator



PROJECT

INTRODUCTION

UNIVERSITY ALUMNI COMMUNITY - COLLECTIVE EFFORT, DEDICATED IMPACT

The AL4Life project promotes an innovative approach to higher education, with labor market demands, societal needs, and community engagement at its heart. By opening higher education towards industries and societies, we aim to enhance the traditional education systems throughout the region. A key feature of this vision of a connected university is the creation of a vibrant community of successful graduates who represent a major source of professional expertise and access to important business networks. Engaging alumni in the teaching process, scientific projects, career development, and important events can thus not only strengthen the professional skills of students and graduates and facilitate their professional insertion, but also contribute to bridging the gap between the scientific and professional community, and aligning university's research and teaching process to respond to the major societal challenges and needs.

HOW WE DO IT

The strategic development directions are defined in accordance with the dominant focus on three priority areas, which include:

- **Strong alumni engagement**
 - Teaching process
 - Scientific projects
 - Student career development
- **Fostering dynamic collaboration**
 - Scientific diaspora
 - International students
 - Business community
- **Creating alumni structures and events**
 - Strengthening the alumni culture



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ALUMNI STRATEGY OF UOM

2024-2029

The first **Alumni Strategy of UoM**, along with an Action Plan, has been adopted for the period **from 2024 to 2029**. This strategy incorporates the best European practices regarding university-alumni engagement models and priorities, as highlighted by our EU project partners.

The Action Plan facilitates collaboration between the Career Development and Lifelong Learning Office and the Alumni Association, aiming to align their activities and organize joint events. This will enhance the connection between the alumni community, the university, and the industry, and strengthen the professional and personal skills of students.



VISION &

A strong, loyal, and engaged alumni network that supports students and the broader academic community, builds lifelong relationships, and increases the visibility, relevance, and impact of the University.



MISION

To establish a dynamic and engaged alumni network and framework for lifelong collaboration, fostering excellence and innovation at the University of Montenegro, and enabling continuous development of knowledge, skills, and opportunities for the community.

AL4Life



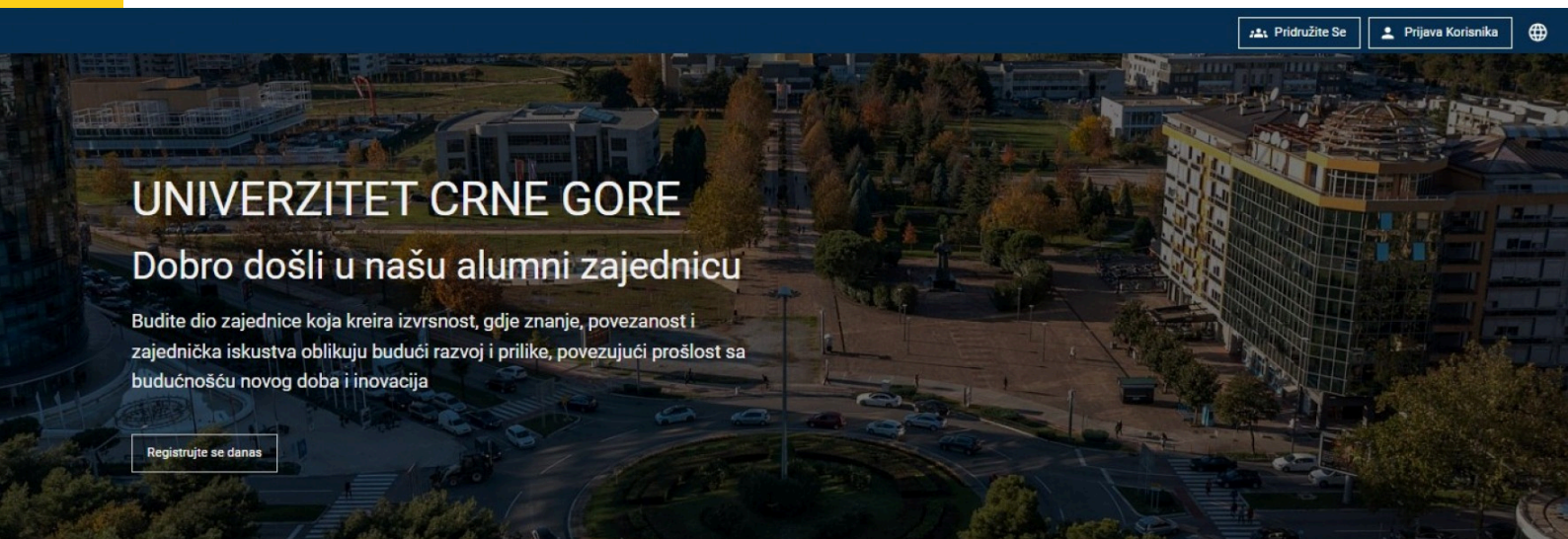
Competence is
the best investment.



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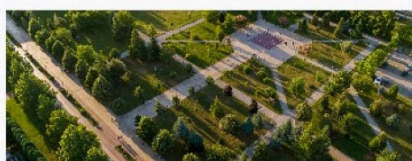
NEW HORIZONS - PLATFORM CONNECTING THE ALUMNI COMMUNITY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTENEGRO



Poveži se i dijeli



Kreiraj i transformiši



Unapređuj svoje znanje i vještine



UNIVERSITY ALUMNI COMMUNITY - OPEN DOORS, INFINITE POSSIBILITIES

At the University of Montenegro, a **new platform** for collaboration with alumni **has been launched**, serving as a key tool for promotion and communication with our vibrant community of former and current students.

This innovative and interactive platform, available at <https://alumni.ucg.ac.me/>, marks a new era of connectivity and collaboration within our alumni community.

By creating this interactive platform, the University of Montenegro offered its alumni a structured and modern collaboration space. It is not only a virtual meeting space, through which alumni can connect with each other and share experiences, but also an important resource of university achievements, milestones, events and opportunities which should bring the alumni closer to their *alma mater*. From now on, communication among community members, crucial for further development, becomes simpler and more efficient.





MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION SIGNED BETWEEN THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTENEGRO AND THE UoM ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

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"The signing of this Memorandum is a major milestone in fortifying our alumni connections," **asserted Rector Božović.**

"This collaboration will significantly enhance our university's educational and scientific pursuits, stimulate groundbreaking innovations, and greatly support the career advancement of our students."

EMPOWERING ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT TO ENHANCE INSTITUTIONAL EXCELLENCE

On **June 12, 2024**, a significant milestone in the institutionalization of alumni at the University of Montenegro was marked by the signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation. Rector Prof. Dr. Vladimir Božović formalized the agreement with the newly elected **President of the UoM Alumni Association (UoMAA), Srdan Kosović.** This event underscores the university's commitment to enhancing alumni engagement and leveraging their contributions for institutional excellence.

At a formal constitutive session of the Association, representatives of alumni clubs from all organizational units of the University of Montenegro chose Srdan Kosović, a former student of the Faculty of Political Sciences and current Director of Online Development at Vijesti, as the head of the umbrella Alumni organization.



JOINT VISION, COLLABORATIVE EFFORTS TO ENHANCE EDUCATION, RESEARCH, AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The Memorandum is focused on advancing innovation, technology transfer, competitiveness, and entrepreneurship in Montenegro. Its key goals are to strengthen connections, support student career development, improve graduate employment prospects, and solidify partnerships between the academic community and the private sector.

The agreement outlines various collaborative mechanisms, including knowledge exchange, training sessions, workshops, lectures, and joint projects aimed at fostering innovation and entrepreneurship. It places particular emphasis on student career development and academia-business mentorships, striving to introduce innovations, tackle societal challenges, and achieve sustainable development.

The University of Montenegro will actively engage alumni in educational, research, and social activities, develop cooperation models with the business sector, and create a platform for managing alumni data. The Alumni Association will bolster the University's growth, contribute to curriculum development and scientific initiatives, organize events and projects, and assist in securing funding for research and innovation.

19	8
faculty units	cities
<p>The UoM Alumni Association consists of alumni clubs from every faculty unit of the University of Montenegro, which are located in various cities throughout the country.</p>	



To more effectively implement activities aimed at advancing science and improving the conditions for engaging in scientific research, the University of Montenegro established the **Fund for Scientific Research Activities (FRA)**. The funds for these activities are provided through, among others, the Alumni community (Alumni clubs and the Alumni Association). In this regard, the University provided **9 scholarships** for short-term research mobility, i.e., research visits of young researchers from UoM to eminent European universities to improve and exchange research experiences.





Mr Jakov Milatović
President of Montenegro

ALUMNI & EVENTS HIGHLIGHTS

PRESIDENT OF MONTENEGRO AS THE ALUMNUS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTENEGRO: CONVERSATION WITH STUDENTS

On November 17th, in celebration of International Students' Day, the Faculty of Economics at the University of Montenegro hosted an inspiring debate featuring the President of Montenegro, **Mr. Jakov Milatović**, an esteemed alumnus of the University.

President Milatović engaged in a stimulating discussion with students on current economic topics, underscoring the critical role of higher education in driving the country's economic and societal progress.

"Education must become the cornerstone of Montenegrin development, and I believe that investing in human capital is the best way for our country to move forward. In this context, I firmly advocate for establishing a value system where success in life is solely dependent on knowledge and diligent work. I congratulate you the International Students' Day and affirm that, from my current position, I will strongly influence the subjects that relate to the Montenegrin development, as citizens have entrusted me with the legitimacy to address all areas in need of improvement. I will do everything in my power to promote the importance of education for further societal progress."





Jasna Pejović

Executive Director and Founder,
Flourish and DigitalBee Academy

STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION AND ROLE IN ICT: SYNERGY BETWEEN THE ALUMNI AND ICT EXPERTS FOR EMPOWERING YOUNG GIRLS AND FEMALE STUDENTS

On April 25th, in celebration of the International Day of Girls in ICT, a Speed Mentoring Session titled "Brief Encounters, Long-term Vision" was held at the Rectorate of the University of Montenegro. The event was organized by Women4Cyber Montenegro, ICT Cortex, and the University of Montenegro.

One of the mentors at the session was **Jasna Pejović**, Executive Director and Founder of Flourish and DigitalBee Academy, and an alumna of the University of Montenegro. Her mentorship offered young girls valuable insights into the career opportunities and challenges within the information and communication technology (ICT) field, where women remain underrepresented. Participants had the chance to engage directly with professionals from the ICT sector, exchange experiences, and receive essential advice on how to advance their future professional development in this field.

"As a graduate mathematician with a Master's in Information systems management from the University of Montenegro, and therefore a proud alumna, I can say that academic education has provided me with solid foundations for over two decades of successful career in information technology. Through various roles, from IT director to startup founder, I have had the opportunity to firsthand witness how the IT industry shapes our lives and to create meaningful change myself. I have never believed that there are any barriers for me in professional development because of being a woman. On the occasion of Girls in ICT Day, I encourage you to be curious, explore career opportunities in ICT, and not let prejudices deter you."





GUEST LECTURE BY ALUMNA IVANA VUKSANOVIĆ, QUALITY MANAGER AT HG BUDVANSKA RIVIJERA

At the Faculty of Tourism and Hospitality, alumna **Ivana Vuksanović**, Quality Manager at HG Budvanska Rivijera, gave a guest lecture on sustainability in the hotel industry. She focused on the implementation of international standards and eco-labels, using Budvanska Rivijera as an example of good practice.

Ms. Vuksanović explained how these standards and labels are applied in the industry and highlighted specific measures Budvanska Rivijera takes to improve sustainability and ecological responsibility.

She also shared her professional journey as an alumna, inspiring students with her experiences and insights into the opportunities and challenges in their future careers.

I WILL BE AN ENTREPRENEUR: LECTURES AS PART OF THE BUSINESS PLAN WRITING TRAINING

The Faculty of Economics of the University of Montenegro organised on 17 May 2024 the third cycle of the Business Plan Writing Training for all interested students of the University of Montenegro, in the framework of the platform "**I Will Be an Entrepreneur**".

The lecture on the process of analyzing business plans when applying for a loan at the Investment and Development Fund of Montenegro, as well as on current credit lines for young and aspiring entrepreneurs, was given by **Mr. Spasoje Vujošević**, coordinator of the Credit and Guarantee Service at the Investment and Development Fund of Montenegro AD. **Mr. Arton Gjokaj**, executive director of the company "myWorld" for Montenegro, Albania, and Kosovo region, provided insights into his professional experience and career path, as well as the advantages that entrepreneurship brings. Both lecturers are alumni of the Faculty of Economics, University of Montenegro.



WORKSHOP: START-UP IDEA: FROM CONCEPT TO IMPLEMENTATION



On April 23rd, in collaboration with the Francophone Employment Office, a workshop titled "**Start-up Idea: From Concept to Implementation**" was held and moderated by University of Montenegro alumnus, **Željko Lučić**, a manager at the Technopolis incubator, entrepreneur, leader of the Boost Me Up pre-acceleration program, and mentor in the field of innovation and startup culture.

As an alumnus of the UoM with extensive experience in developing startups, Željko introduced students to the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Montenegro, the process of creating their own business, available support measures, and funding sources, with a special focus on the use of AI tools in modern business.

The workshop was the first in a series of gatherings with successful University of Montenegro alumni within the AI4Life project, to gain important practical skills, enhance their network of contacts, and better understand the contemporary entrepreneurial market in Montenegro.



OPEN DAY OF THE UoM: OPEN THE DOORS TO YOUR FUTURE



The **Open Day** at the University of Montenegro presents a unique and invaluable opportunity for high school graduates across Montenegro. Held annually, this event enables prospective students to engage directly with professors and teaching assistants from all 19 faculties, gaining essential insights into academic programs and career prospects. Alumni of the University play a vital role in the Open Day by sharing their personal experiences and success stories. Their involvement adds depth to prospective students' understanding of each faculty's offerings, highlighting the achievements and opportunities available through a University of Montenegro education.



SUMMER JOB FAIR: SEIZE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES AND EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS



The seasonal employment **Summer Job Fair** offers students invaluable opportunities to gain work experience through seasonal jobs in local companies, predominantly owned and managed by UoM alumni. This initiative integrates students into the local workforce, enhancing their engagement and career development.

The fair provides students with a platform to apply theoretical knowledge, develop essential workplace skills, and expand their professional networks. They gain firsthand experience in various industries, understand workplace dynamics, and make informed career decisions.

Alumni benefit by engaging with motivated students, identifying potential future full-time employees, and meeting seasonal staffing needs. This fair fosters career development for students and supports local companies, creating a mutually beneficial environment.

The Summer Job Fair took place on March 6th, 2024, attracting **over 90 employers** and receiving applications from approximately **2,014 graduates and students**. This event once again highlighted the importance of dynamic engagement of the alumni community in career development of students and young graduates, as the Fair showed to be extremely relevant both for students, in terms of new job opportunities, and for the alumni-employers, who both recruited perspective talents and strengthened connections with other fellow alumni.

ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE **ALUMNI COMMUNITY**

BRIDGING SCIENCE AND BUSINESS FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE



"We are aware that dynamic engagement of alumni represents one of the fundamental pillars of development and modernization of higher education institutions, often with far-reaching positive impact on both the institution and its former students," *said Asst. Prof. Lipovina Božović.*

She asserted that the University of Montenegro is strongly convinced that **UoM graduates are its best ambassadors and a tremendous resource.**

"The University of Montenegro has a clear mission to harness its resources for the development of society as a whole. Therefore, we have developed a program aimed at establishing a link between our research capacities and the needs of the business sector. Our goal is for scientific research to directly contribute to economic development, enabling faster application of research results in practice," *Lipovina Božović stated.*



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**University Alumni
Community - Building
the Future with Pride**

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