



Community Engagement Experiences of Students in Epoka University: A Rector Perspective

How do Epoka University Students Engage
with the Society

From Values to Employability

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Values

Fundamental

- academic freedom,
- institutional autonomy, and
- the concomitant responsibility to society.

Other values may include:

- integrity and fairness;
- equity;
- creativity, innovativeness;
- excellence;
- social responsibility and community service;
- diversity, pluralism, and inclusiveness, and
- health, well-being, and a caring community.

Core Values in Epoka

- Believes in the universality of education and research;
- Obeys to universal legal principles and rules;
- Is respectful and tolerant towards different religions, languages, genders, nationalities, colors, and differences in opinion;
- Shows no compromise regarding the preservation of justice and integrity;
- Keeps institutional identity in the forefront;
- Adopts a participatory, transparent, decision-oriented, sensitive, rapid and effective governance;
- Continuously interacts with the community to become a pioneer and a model of learning and research at the local and international level;
- Is a student-focused institution in all procedures;
- Gives importance to the harmony, liaison and satisfaction of its personnel;
- Is open to innovation;
- Pursuits excellence;
- Values time;
- Creates a safe and sustainable environment in the premises;
- Puts emphasis on the conduct original research.



Epoka University's Mission

- “To be an innovative and influential teaching and research institution, serving to fundamental human values through the production, dissemination, and development of knowledge at an international level as well as to contribute to the improvement of the life quality of society based on national and regional needs”
- In this context, EPOKA University aims at raising well-prepared, productive and competent individuals with a research-oriented spirit, who possess professional ethics and social sensitiveness and are also open towards national and international challenges.



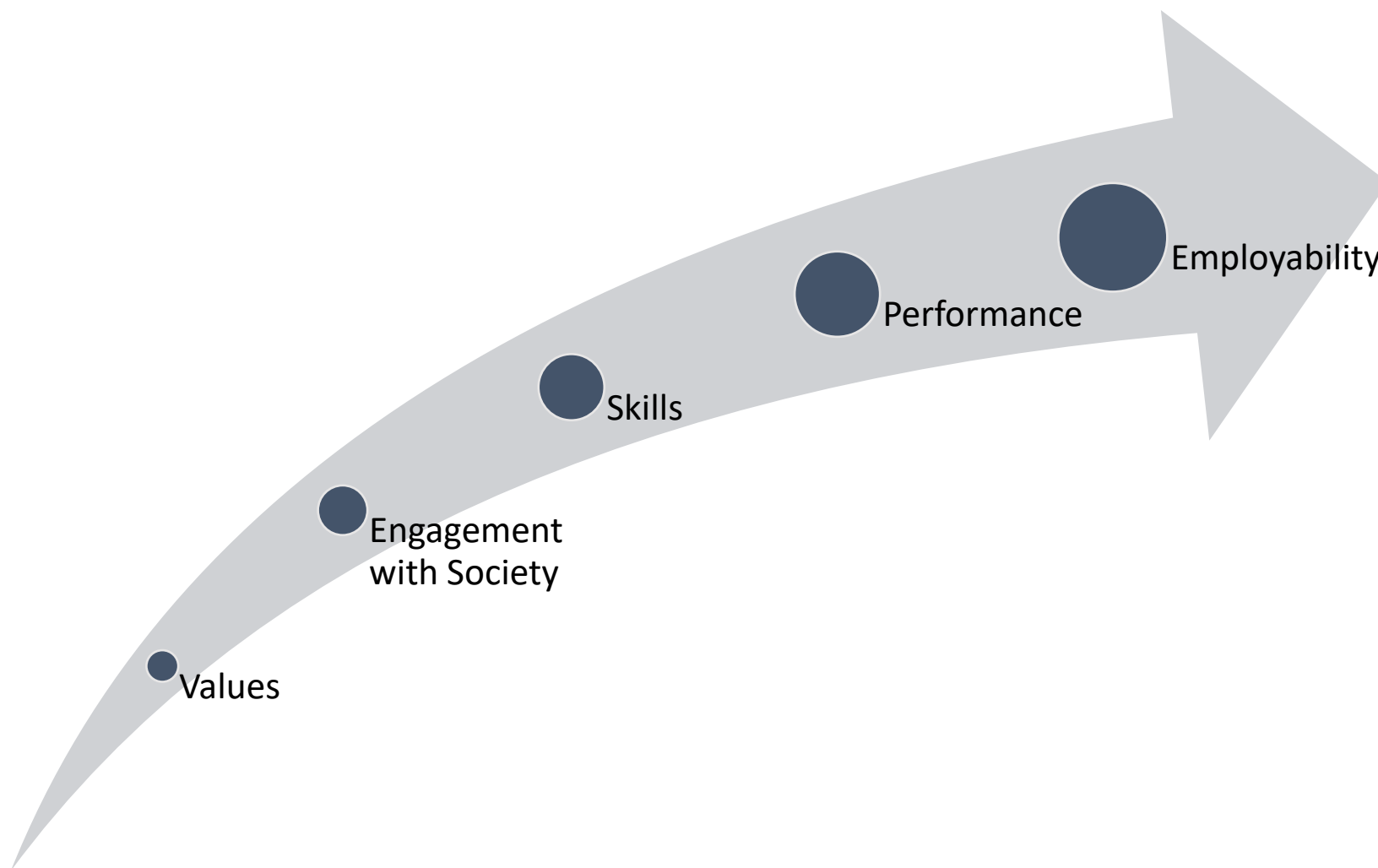
Epoka University`s Vision

- “To be one of the leading universities in our country and in the region in the areas of;
 - **education,**
 - **research and development** as well as
 - **service to society.**

Community Engagement Experiences

1. Service learning programs
2. Community partnerships
3. Community-based research
4. Internship and co-op programs
5. Volunteer programs
6. Outreach and educational programs

From Values to Employability



Seminars, Training and Open Forums



- Orienting Students in Career Development
- Ways of employment
- Prepare a CV
- Prepare a Motivation Letter
- Managing the job interview

Internships



- Internships are an important element in forming students by offering them practical training in addition to the theoretical knowledge.
- Epoka University is in constant communication with about 200 companies to provide employment and internship opportunities for students.

Career Fair & Company visits



- This activity aims to create a bridge between students and companies.
- The fair is attended by the largest business companies in Albania and abroad.
- Over 100 companies participate in the career fair.



Student Clubs

- Apart from the coursework, student life on the campus is enriched by different artistic, cultural, sports, academic and social activities organized throughout an academic year.
- These activities give the students an opportunity for practical application of their knowledge acquired and the disclosure of their talents.
- The extracurricular activities are being held in the form of workshops, open forums and open lectures, trainings and seminars, conferences, site visits, company visits, study visits, tournaments, competitions, fests, and trips both locally and internationally.



Student Clubs at EPOKA University

- Academics Club
- Art and Culture Club
- Future Engineers Club
- Finance Club
- Women Leadership Club
- Programming Club
- Sensitive Society
- Innovators Club
- Marketing zone Club
- Sports Club
- Conflict Resolution Club
- International Relations Club
- Outdoors Club
- Young Economists Club
- Electronics Club
- N'cep club
- Cookie Rookie Club
- Back to the Future Club
- Human Defenders Club
- First Aid Club
- Developers Club
- Robotics Club
- Multimedia Club
- IEEE Student Branch Club

Innovators Students Club

Innovators Students Club has been listed among Human Capital Ecosystem Actors by EU for Innovation research on "**Entrepreneurial & Innovation Ecosystem in Albania**" in November 2019.

This club has organized a diversity of activities through the years since 2013 when it was first established by BINF students.

Some of the activities have been organized in cooperation with the Ministry of Innovation and Public Administration in Albania.

EU for Innovation: Stakeholder Overview

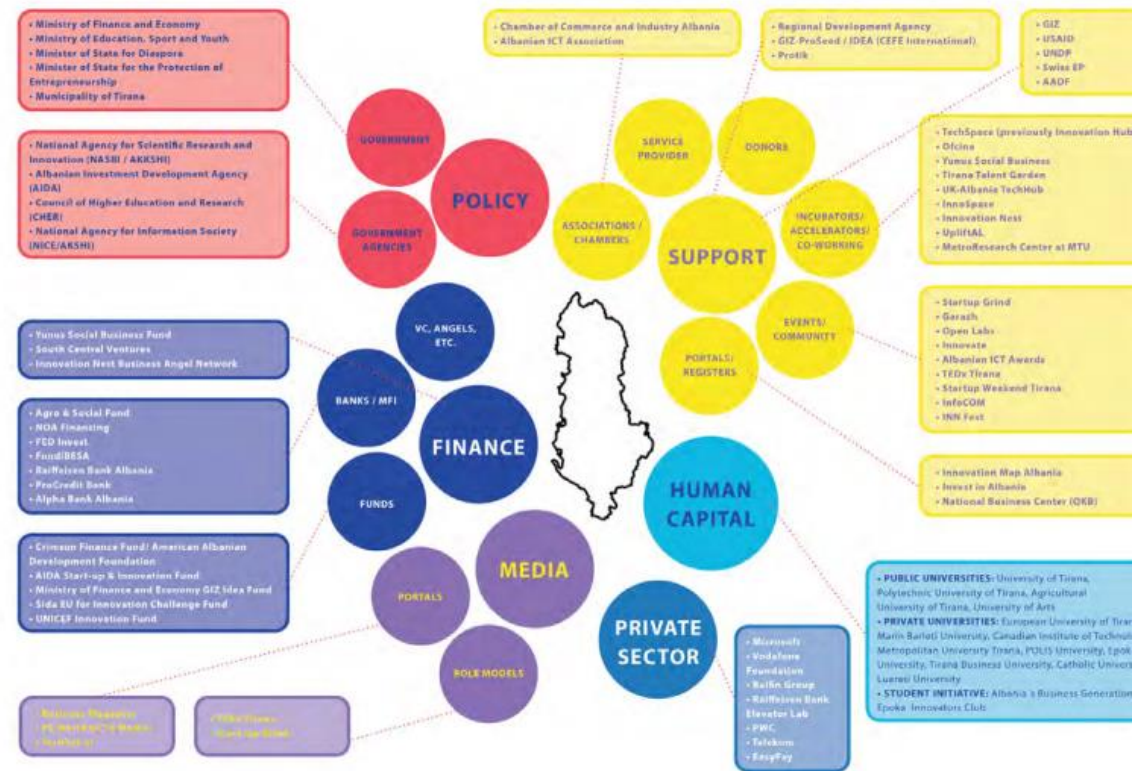


Figure 5: Ecosystem actor mapping Tirana

Epoka Talent

Art & Culture Club



Art & Culture club organizes every year EPOKA Talent, where students may participate by singing, dancing, playing to one instrument, painting or acting. EPOKA University with such kind of activities develops not only great engineers, economists, lawyers but also provides space for students to show their passions.

Blood Donation

Sensitive Club



Blood donation is organized by Sensitive Society Club Twice a year by Sensitive Society Club usually in collaboration with Red Cross Albania. Until now the participation of students in Blood Donation activities is very high.

Upcoming: Graduation Project in response to MCO Research Question

- To what extent are fundamental values the basis of a reliable social contract with Civil Society in your university?
 - what are the values?
 - how do you put them into practice?
 - what might you do differently so they have more effect?



Thank you!