

A New Faculty with European Standards and Mentality



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«I have a dream», said Martin Luther King. „Trust your dreams. Have the courage to go after them, „another wise man had said. „Do not allow small minds to convince you that your dreams are too great,“ advised another wise man.

It was considered a big dream the idea of creating a new Albanian non-public faculty in the field of medicine and health.

In fact it was a dream that was born in the mind of Henri Çili and preserved for many years in his heart. He is one of the most passionate innovators in the field of

higher education and our social liberalization in general. He together with three other open-minded inovators created the European University of Tirana (UET), which in the last ten years marked impressive stories of success.

Those prominent professionals, elite scientists and elite academics of Albanian medicine who believed in that dream, who contributed and pursued with persistence and hope the initiator, without calling it either great or unachievable or even impossible as many skeptics claimed, deserve the same acknowledgment.

So, the Faculty Of Medical Technical Sciences was created and licensed. It is going to open its' doors today to start the activity at UET. It is a joyous day of success as a first step, but also a prelude to a new challenge, as seductive as the step towards the extension to a full nonpublic Albanian medical faculty (or why not to a new medical university) with all branches even the specialties that our population needs and the free market of health services demands.

This faculty was born due to the logical consequence of the growing needs of our population for nursing, physiotherapy, imaging services and professionals, while their number in relation to our population is the lowest not only in Europe but also in the region. It was born when a part of such professionals are emigrating each year more and more to the huge demand Europe has for them, and also the aging of our population is growing unbreakably in percentage, along with the specific needs they have for such services.

Actually, It did not spring up in the emptiness. Other courses, one or two year schools and up to state and private universities have contributed over the years to the education and training of such health professionals. They also deserve our deep appreciation and gratitude. Thanks to their recent achievements and the identification of shortcomings, we have learned the lessons, especially in the ambition to create a more advanced model and quality of their education and training: that of skilled, competent and professional health workers but even with empathy, with the smile, eye and eye contact and listening attentively to patients and citizens; the demands that „in today's industry“ such services have become necessary standards for implementation.

There are some existing UET advantages that allow such goals. The new Faculty Of Technical Medical Sciences had the fate that was born in UET, now a „grizzly“ university in pedagogical, with a scientific and managerial experience „with renewed teaching and learning concepts, with new pedagogical interactive methods based on the concept of „adult-adult“ dialogue that allows students not only to gain knowledge but also to give their own opinions and have the feeling that they are not just UET's customers, but also an active partner in the process of continuous perfection and the assurance of appropriate European standards for accreditation. Our goal is not „business as usual“ or to produce „more of the same existing“, but to educate and train medical professionals of a new type, the type that the population, the market and the time we live demands of.

Nurses will not acquire in UET just another paperboard diploma, as an aide or „secondhand worker“, not to say „maidservant“ of the superiors, but will be trained as professional partners with competences for specific activities independent of the doctor. Such nurses could create a „nursing sector“ which our system and health market lacks nowadays. This will give them the possibility that after graduation, instead of seeking jobs somewhere in existing public or private institutions centers, they will be able to create the workplace themselves, even employ others by creating a free „market independent nursing centers“ with certified competence for specific standardized medical service facilities, which they will be able to add to and expand upon their own initiative according to their ability and client requirements.

Ten years of UET's success have given it a modern European mentality and functionality. An innovation of interest in creating a multidimensional and multifactorial „mini universe“, which gives the appropriate meaning to the university term but which our higher education lacked. This „universe“ as a bouquet of programs, offers its students not only theoretical knowledge in auditoriums or how to put those in practice, but also cultural and intellectual erudition in the fields of sociology, psychology, economics and management, pedagogy, justice, ethics, arts, communication and information sciences; irradiated by the respective faculties in the UET atmosphere.

UET, beside being a higher education institution, it is an „environment which encourages freedom and intellectualism“ condensed with knowledge, science, ideas, and alternatives that are developed with a reciprocal representation. It offers free debates and forums with renowned local and international scholars, artists and intellectuals, young writers, avant-garde art exhibitions, where the Albanian Academy of Arts and Science holds its meetings, where honoris causa titles, grants and donations are awarded to prominent personalities and to excellent students and also to those in need.

All this constitute a precious asset for the overall ethical and cultural formation of the new medical professionals, which are crucial today because medical sciences have surpassed the previous biological boundaries focused on organs and the physical body and extended to sociological, psychological, ethical and economical aspects, of sick people and citizens in general. A new type of medical professionals can not be fully shaped, nor can he/she perform successfully if he/she has only received a paperboard certificate for the knowledge but they will still remain spiritually dry.

With the potential of UET and its many faculties, in non-medical fields and profiles, will strongly radiate. So, new faculty students, after finishing their studies will not leave with the white coat, not just with a paperboard diploma but also with erudition, ethics and civil culture as humanists and dignified intellectuals. And of course with a white heart.

Let's congratulate together the new faculty and this first edition magazine.