

UHZ–FERD WORKSHOP AGENDA

From partnership to co-creation: The region as a partner in profiling "Haxhi Zeka" University

Date: August 28, 2026	Location: Senate Hall, "Haxhi Zeka" University, Peja	Time: 10:00
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Time	Topic / Activity	Content and guiding questions
10:00–10:10	Opening – FERD in a new phase	Introduction from UHZ: From FERD as a forum for regional economic development to FERD as a permanent mechanism for dialogue and co-creation University–Municipality–Business–Civil Society. Why should FERD take on a new role in profiling UHZ and developing the region? Speaker: Prof. Dr. Armand KRASNIQI, Rector
10:10–10:35	Discussion I – What kind of university does the region need?	What are the main economic and developmental challenges of the municipalities? Which sectors have the greatest potential? What profiles and skills will the region need by 2030? In which fields should UHZ be more strongly profiled? Joint discussion / We are awaiting the discussion of each municipal representative related to the topic
10:35–11:00	Discussion II – From data to decision-making: UHZ as a research partner of municipalities	A brief presentation of the initiative of the Institute of Science and Arts for feasibility studies and the matrix of municipal analyses. What should UHZ investigate for municipalities? What data can municipalities provide? Discussion on the creation of the Economic and Development Barometer of the Dukagjin Region – UHZ/FERD. Speaker: Prof. Assoc. Dr. Elvis ELEZAJ
11:00–11:35	Discussion III – From diploma to competency: what should a student offer the UHZ region?	What skills do institutions and the local economy require? How can the needs of the region be linked to the study programs? How should practice-based learning be developed? How can practice be institutionalized in municipalities, public enterprises, businesses, and NGOs? The region's needs → skills → programs → practical learning → internships → employment. Speakers: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Alma Shehu Lokaj, Vice-Rector
11:35–12:00	Discussion IV – From formal partnership to co-creation	What specific role should municipalities, businesses, chambers of commerce, professional associations, and NGOs have in profiling UHZ? How can partners be involved in program development/review, scientific research, projects, practical learning, and industry boards? Joint discussion on the topic

12:00– 12:20	From the Workshop to the 4th FERD Conference	What should the Fourth Conference discuss and, above all, what should it produce? Identification of priority topics: profiling of public universities; university and regional development; research based on regional needs; skills, practices, and employability; the FERD 2030 model. Joint discussion and proposals
12:20– 12:35	Conclusions – From discussion to engagement	Agreement on: (1) the new leadership of FERD; (2) the priorities that UHZ must address; (3) cooperation between UHZ and the Municipality for research and feasibility; (4) mapping skills and practice; (5) the objectives and themes of the 6th FERD Conference Joint discussion / proposals
12:35– 13:00	Networking & bilateral discussions	A space for communication between UHZ, municipalities, and partners; identification of concrete initiatives and coordination for the next steps.
	Presentation and distribution of the Draft Strategic Plan of UHZ	Sharing the Draft Strategic Plan of UHZ with the participating municipalities and partners, with the aim of receiving comments, proposals, and recommendations to enrich the document and strengthen inter-institutional cooperation.
13:00	Lunch	A shared lunch for the participants.

The guiding message of the workshop

"A university cannot be specialized separately from the region in which it operates. The region should not only benefit from the University's knowledge but also be a partner in its creation."

From FERD 1.0 to FERD 2.0

From a forum for regional economic development → a permanent co-creation mechanism between the University, public institutions, businesses, and civil society for profiling UHZ, regional development, and preparing students for professional life.