

DESCRIPTION OF THE INSTITUTION

The Heimerer College is an accredited Higher Education Institution in Kosovo, which offers bachelor and master studies in medical fields. As a holder of Higher Education Heimerer College with its basement the Eastern Europe Institute for Health and Nursing Advancements with a scientific and educational multi-year activity in field of health in Kosovo and the Region, and the German Educational Institution Heimerer GmbH with a 30-year experience in Vocational education. We are mainly focused on teaching and research. Our staff (around 60 workers and with the external staff this number goes to around 100) has a proven experience on EU-funded project development and implementation. The research group of Heimerer College is also well known in Kosovo for their contribution in health sciences.

The main inspiration for founding this institution was the immediate need of providing new qualifications and improving the quality of the existing qualifications in social and health fields in general, in particular in the field of rehabilitation. Mission of the Heimerer College is the preparation and implementation of advanced study programs in Bachelor and Masters Level in the fields of health and rehabilitation. Such mission is planned to be realized through well qualified teachers, and using modern methods and technologies. As such, we are able to reach respective high, European standards in educating health professionals, resulting with qualitative professional skills and knowledge.

Further, we aim through our study programs to offer education and advancement of professional skills of students in order to gain knowledge and to use it in the interest of the individual and society. By offering a qualitative education that is oriented towards the needs of society and market, we intend to support the education of our society and at the same time generate higher economic efficiencies in market. Doing so, we seek to become the leading institution of higher education in Kosovo and the region in the area of health and rehabilitation. At the same time, we envision to transform our Institution into a leading and reliable partner for regional and international initiatives, by providing:

- a. Highly specialized health care related undergraduate and graduate academic programs,
- b. Training opportunities for most modern health care practices to relevant public and other health care service providers in Kosovo
- c. A pool of data and evidence based research for effective health related policies in Kosovo as a developing country
- d. Ongoing opportunities for exchange of expertise and students between Kosovo and the world

A distinct advantage of Heimerer College is that it is the only IHE that is offering academic programs in the area of Speech and Occupational therapy in Kosovo. As such, it is placed at a very good position in the domestic and regional market. As an Institution of Higher Education, we offer and seek to continue offering specific educational programs that are missing in Kosovo, and have a relatively high potential for employment in the national or international market (German one in particular). Our work model has been proven to be very successful.

Currently, we have five accredited BA programs, including:

1. Nursing
2. Professional Pedagogy in Nursing
3. Occupational Therapy
4. Speech Therapy
5. Laboratory Technician

Since 2014, Heimerer College offers master studies in the field of “Management in Health Services and Health Institutions (MSc)”. Every consecutive year has marked an exponential increase of enrolment in the existing and new programs. Today, we are proud to declare that our Institution employs 64 academic staff, while already 1,400 students have been enrolled.

All of our programs consist of a combination of theoretical lectures and practical exercises. Students are given the opportunity to absolve a part of or entire practice at specialized institutions in Germany and other European Union countries. The modular structure of the study program enables flexibility and creates suitable conditions student mobility. During the entire practice students will be monitored by a professional mentor. The total number of students this year (2016-2017) in both levels (graduate and undergraduate) is around 1,400.

Further, the Heimerer College represents a suitable and valuable partner for the following factors, but not limited to:

- Accredited IHE with specialized academic programs recognized throughout the Europe/World (Bologna system based)
- Very strong brand and great reputation in Kosovo and the region, especially
- Strongly networked in Kosovo, region and Germany in particular,
- Highly professional and committed staff
- Research oriented
- Successful experience with past EU-funded projects
- Relatively lower cost of operations (tuition and the rest of logistics-related activities)
- Financially stable and growing each year since its establishment

Our goal is to further strengthen our dominance in the local market, but also expand our presence in the regional markets. Such dominance shall comprise not only the academic component, but also the research and health related services. Besides, once we will be able to offer programs in the area of Physiotherapy, such an advantage shall be further completed. Thus, we will be able to produce the required skills of a multidisciplinary team that would help establish a professional multidisciplinary rehabilitation center in Kosovo.

Our objectives are:

- To offer qualitative education according to the needs and interests of the individual, community and society in general, according to the European standards;

- Through quality and modern education, to achieve increasing effectiveness and efficiency of human resources and hence the maximization of, the effectiveness and efficiency of financial and material resources of the country in the service of society;
- Develop high level of cooperation with all European and world PBHE with proven tradition of quality in vocational education;
- To be the most qualified and renowned Higher Education Institution on the respective fields in the region;
- Assist in promoting health care and its role in the Health System;
- Cooperate and participate in all activities of the professional health higher education at the national, regional and international levels;
- Further integrate into European zone of higher professional education of the health professionals.

Table 1: International academic partners

No	Institution	Type of agreement	Objectives
1	Münster University of Applied Sciences		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Readiness for implementation of accredited programs - Joint implementation of EPI (für Praxisentwicklung und Evaluation Institute) for providing the Nursery program
2	Münster University of Applied Sciences	Program TEMPUS	--Joint implementation of Tempus program for Master's program
3	South-eastern institute for advancement of health and nursery		Joint implementation of Tempus program for Master's program
	University of Prishtine		Joint implementation of Tempus program for Master's program
	Ministry of Health		Joint implementation of Tempus program for Master's program
5	The Health and Life Sciences University Hall/Tyrol		Joint implementation of Tempus program for Master's program
6	University of Maribor		Joint implementation of Tempus program for Master's program
7	University of Maribor Faculty of Health Sciences	CEEPUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mobility grants for students and teachers of universities and their connection in order to operate with joint programs, aiming joint degrees
8	Faculty of Public Health, University Vlora		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mobility grants for students and teachers of universities and their connection in order to operate with joint programs, aiming joint degrees
9	Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ministry of Health		Expression of interest and request for cooperation meeting
10	Marienhause	MoA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – educational and academic projects (such as planning, development and implementation of joint projects, exercises and student mobility programs) – Joint training programs (training programs with theoretical and practical part) – Cooperation in education in the field of geriatrics and nursery (exchange

			<p>of teachers under the current EU and Germany program for teachers mobility)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - annual joint events, such as the Health Sciences Symposium - joint teams of Germany and Kosovo experts for specific tasks and programs (such as the development project of the literature) - Provision of professional practices in Germany - Interest in recruiting staff in Kosovo, to be employed in institutions Marienhaus in Germany
11	Humanitas	MoA (unsigned yet)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - educational and academic projects (such as planning, development and implementation of joint projects, exercises and student mobility programs) - Joint training programs (training programs with theoretical and practical part) - Provision of professional practices in Germany - Interest in recruiting staff in Kosovo, to be employed in institutions Marienhaus in Germany
12	Metropolia University of Applied Sciences	<p>ERASMUS+ KA2</p> <p>Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices - Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education</p>	<p>Rehabilitation through education - drafting specific courses of Continuous Professional Development</p>
13	Artevelde University College Ghent		
14	Escola Superior de Saúde do Alcoitão		
15	Hanze, Groningen		
16	Northern State Medical University		
17	Perm State Medical University named after E.A. Wagner		
12	Metropolia University of Applied Sciences		

Table 2: International professional partners

No	International Partner	Field of cooperation
1	Standing Liaison Committee of E.U. Speech and Language Therapists and Logopedists (CPLOL)	-Implementation of international standards in Heimerer College and Kosovo in general, which are promoted by CPLOL in the areas of speech therapy and ergotherapy; -Participation in conferences, symposia, European and global conventions, focusing on speech therapy and occupational therapy;
2	Council of Occupational Therapists for the European Countries (COTEC)	-Implementation of international standards in Heimerer College and Kosovo in general, which are promoted by CPLOL in the areas of speech therapy and ergotherapy; -Participation in conferences, symposia, European and global conventions, focusing on ergotherapy.
3	European Federation of Nurses Associations (EFN)	-Implementation of international standards in Heimerer College and Kosovo in general, which are promoted by EFN in the field of nursing -Participation in conferences, symposia, European and global conventions, focusing on nursing.
4	European Oncology Nursing Society – ENOS	-The focus of the cooperation in Kosovo is based on the preparation of nurses working in specific field e.g. oncology: - Collaboration in research projects in the field of nursing; -Participation in conferences, symposia, European and global conventions, with a focus on nursing;
5	European Forum of National Nursing and Midwifery Associations (EFNNMA)	-Cooperation can focus on the promotion and the development of knowledge, skills and competencies for nurses in Kosovo in support of policies that focus on raising the quality of health services
6	Union of Young Researchers	Heimerer College has close cooperation with the Union of Young Researchers, which is an organization of professionals in psychology. Lecturer Fitim Uka is representative for Kosovo. Cooperation aims to present psychological research in Kosovo and to involve students in research activities.
7	GIZ – Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	– joint projects in the field of education and training, in cooperation with the responsible Centre in Ferizaj joint projects for the translation and adaptation of deficient professional literature in health sciences in Kosovo

8	Ministry of Health and Social Development of Arkhangelsk Region	ERASMUS+ KA2 Cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practices - Capacity Building in the field of Higher Education. Rehabilitation through education - drafting specific courses of Continuous Professional Development Heimerer College is one of the full partners. It is the coordinating institution for Kosovo.
9	Health Ministry of Perm Region	
10	Center of complex rehabilitation of disabled	
11	Residential Center for elderly and disable people	
12	Rehabilitation Center for disable children	
13	Sankt-Petersburg Medico-Social Institute, RU	
14	ANO Physical Rehabilitation	
15	The South-East Institute for Advancement in Health and Nursing Sciences	
16	Ministry of Education, Science and Technology	
17	Rehabilitation Center in Kllokot, Kosovo	

Table 3: Number of national (international) students, 2015

Program	No. of students
1. Nursing	261
2. Professional Pedagogy in Nursing	35
3. Occupational Therapy	18
4. Speech Therapy	91
5. Laboratory Technology	41
6. Management in Health Services and Health Institutions (MSc)	13
Total	459

Table 4: Number of national (international) academic staff, 2015

Program	National staff	International staff
1. Nursing	42	3
2. Professional Pedagogy in Nursing	21	0
3. Occupational Therapy	17	6
4. Speech Therapy	13	10
5. Laboratory Technology	13	2
6. Management in Health Services and Health Institutions (MSc)	8	2
Total	114	23