

In regard to the Self-Evaluation process for the academic year 2011/2012 the Office of Vice-Rector for Scientific Research and International Cooperation submits the following report:

**REPORT ON THE DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY OF
INTERNATIONAL BURCH UNIVERSITY
2011-2012**

Introduction

The team appointed by the senate of International Burch University (IBU) on 02.06.2011 comprised of nine members. These names are stated in the Development Strategy Report previously submitted to the related organs. All these members are still on duty and continue their work in IBU. Some of the members have changed their positions within the organizational scheme of the university but still continue to contribute.

1. Mission and Vision of the University

Based on the past developments and future plans of the university, the mission and vision of the university are still in effect and guide the university administration and staff in their work and planning activities.

2. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- 2.1. An evaluation of the university with a SWOT analysis was given in the development strategy previously. Stated opportunities and threats in the environment are still effective in today's conditions. However, compared to the time SWOT analysis prepared a year ago, the University gained significant strengths and decreased the effects of its weaknesses. As mentioned in the SWOT analysis, foundation work of the university (i.e. construction, developing laboratories etc.) was a weakness but today, all the construction work that planned previously was completed and planned activities on laboratories and other physical environments are completed. Therefore, modern physical environments have become the strength of the university.

In addition, with the newly hired academic and administrative personnel, the university's human

resources are now strength for the university.

Current academic and administrative personnel numbers are as follows:

- Academic staff – 89
- Administrative staff – 51

2.2. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES – in detail

The strategic objectives set by the strategy report are still in effect.

3. STUDY PROGRAMS AND STUDENTS

Strategic Objective 1:

Adaptation of study programs

Indicator 1.1. With the recent developments, number of academic programs increased from 4 to 7 in both first, second and third cycles. The new programs added to the Engineering Faculty include:

- Department of Architecture
- Department of Genetics and Bioengineering
- Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering

The quality of teaching and quality assurance system:

Indicator 1.2. Current ratio of students per teacher is approximately 10/1. This ratio was enhanced compared to previous year.

Indicator 1.3. The university established an Office for Standardization and Quality Assurance with two employees engaged in these activities and a Quality Board as the directing body of the office. During the past year Student satisfaction surveys, evaluation of academic/administrative staff and an employee satisfaction surveys have been conducted by the office. In addition, the ISO 9000:2008 Quality Management System of the university was reengineered by the office and the University has been prepared for the next external ISO 9000:2008 certification. The development of the office is still ongoing.

Effectiveness

Indicator 1.4. All the reports mentioned in the task were completed by the office and are given in the self evaluation report for the previous year. For the academic year 2011/2012 the reports on student passing rates are not final yet, since the calculations can be completed only after the last examination period that shall be organized in September 2012.

Multidisciplinary

Indicator 1.5. Currently the university does not hold multidisciplinary programs. However, the university is now applying for a TEMPUS program with a consortium of universities in Europe to establish a multidisciplinary master study program titled “LEADER” for the coming academic years.

Lifelong Education

Indicator 1.6. The university’s Continuing Education Center is actively organizing language and art courses for student and public. This center has organized five different educational programs during the last year. Detailed information is available on the center’s web-site (www.cec.ibu.edu.ba).

Cooperation with economy and community

Indicator 1.7. During the past year, the university established a coordinator for Career Development and Business Relations. Through this coordinator, contracts are signed with organizations, institutions and businesses to do joint work on internship, research and education. The number of partnerships established during the last year is 15. These contracts are given in the website of the office (www.career.ibu.edu.ba). Most recent contract signed by the university include the contract with Turkey’s famous TUSKON organization (www.tuskon.org) that houses hundreds of businesses in Turkey and elsewhere. The

Openness of the University

Indicator 1.8. The increase in local and foreign student numbers are given in the following numbers:

	2010-2011	2011-2012
Local	33.1%	41%
Foreign	66.9%	59%

Indicator 1.9. The university runs one program in Turkish language and the rest of the programs are in English language. The current capacities and legal framework on education do not allow the implementation of additional programs in either language of instruction.

4. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH WORK

Strategic objective 2:

- Increasing research activities at the university.
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Indicator 2.1. Currently, the university does not have any research institutes. In order to establish an research center in social studies, activities have been initiated at the end of the academic year 2011/2012. The result of these activities is expected to bear fruit during the first semester of the next academic year.

Indicator 2.2. During the course of past year research projects were a matter of individual endeavors of the teaching staff at the university. The first step in providing institutional support for research activities will be the establishing of a Project Office which will be responsible for the follow up of project opportunities, open calls for research proposals. The office is expected to functional during the first semester of the following academic year.

Indicator 2.3. Funding of the research projects has been limited to provision of resources, equipment and working space. Financial aspects of the issue are not clearly outlined yet. The proposal is to draft a institutional program for scientific research for the future period.

Indicator 2.4. Last year, the university awarded one successful doctoral degree in Management. This was the first doctoral theses defense at the University.

Indicator 2.5. The number of research publications, presented in academic journal and conferences for the last year is 78.

Indicator 2.6. The number of mentors on the II and III study cycles has risen to 14 for the academic year 2011/2012. The number is expected to increase during the next year since three new departments that have been established include II and III study cycles.

5. CAPACITIES – HUMAN, FINANCIAL AND MATERIAL RESOURCES

Strategic objective 3:

- Human capacities for carrying out the program and organization

Indicator 3.1. Courses and academic activities in our study programs and in lifelong learning programs are carried out by the permanent academic staff of the university. At least 2/3 teachers, 2/3 assistants and 2/3 other associates who teach and mentor are full time employees of the university which is in accordance with positive laws of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Sarajevo Canton. In this sense, the university follows Canton and Federation laws and regulations on Bologna system strictly and prepares reports that can be reached on our web site. Percentage of full time academic staff is calculated on yearly basis and according to this year's report the percentage of full time academic staff on university level is 89%. The calculation of workload of academic staff for the academic year 2011/2012 will be completed and evaluated at a future point.

- Plan of advancement of academic staff

Indicator 3.2. As part of the plan of academic progress, the university's top management adopted a decision to support ongoing education of current academic staff through which for the last year 22 assistants have commenced or are about to complete their education on II and three senior teaching assistants have graduated from III study cycles at our University.

To give a chance to the teachers and the students, the university organized two large scale conferences. All our academic staff and significant number of students participated to these conferences and presented their academic works. The conferences were titled as:

1. Second Symposium on Foreign Language Teaching and Advanced Linguistics, taking place in May 2102
2. Third Symposium on Sustainable Development, organized 31. May - 2. June 2012.

Indicator 3.3. The proportion of assistants, teachers and students are given in the following figures:

The total number of academic staff in September 2012 is 89, out of which 71 are full time employees and 18 are external collaborators, that indicates an impressive increase in regard to last year's 53 full time employees.

Indicator 3.4. The following activities were held through our graduate study unit and other departments:

1. Workshop, organized by the Graduate Study Unit of International Burch University, on *Research Project Planning Matrix and Writing for High Impact Publication* held by lecturers from the National University of Malaysia.

2. Seminars and workshops from last year.

Indicator 3.5. The University has adopted a policy that every non-teaching staff is supported financially if s/he enlists in one of the II or III study cycles. The financial support is presented in reduction of tuition fees of up to 50%.

Indicator 3.6. Workshop, organized by the Graduate Study Unit of International Burch University, on *Research Project Planning Matrix and Writing for High Impact Publication* held by lecturers from the National University of Malaysia.

Indicator 3.7. The university administration keeps close contacts with quality system experts from private companies and other universities to update information on the current developments on quality assurance and university management. During the previous year, three round table discussions were held with experts to discuss about quality assurance and institutional policies which included top management representatives of the university and employees from a QMS certification firm – PGM, TUV Adria representatives among others.

- **Material Resources**

Indicator 3.8. The financial plan of the university was successfully actualized for the past year.

Indicator 3.9. Construction of the physical facilities including all classrooms, laboratories, library and other facilities was completed during the course of past year.

Indicator 3.10. All the necessary equipment for the implementation of technical courses (laboratories etc.) was ensured during the course of last year.

6. RELATIONSHIP WITH THE COMMUNITY AND ECONOMY

Strategic objective 4:

Indicator 4.1. As mentioned above implementation of projects was a matter of individual endeavors of the teaching staff at the university. The first step in providing institutional support for research activities will be the establishing of a Project Office. Still additional efforts have to be made in order to fully utilize the potential of the institution in this regard. One of the projects with social character was the organization was a Project Olympiad “BOSEPO” for students enrolled in elementary and high schools. The activities will be conducted on yearly basis.

Indicator 4.2. To meet the needs of the economy and the community, six new study programs were established in the first, second and third cycles. These are:

Department of Architecture (First, second, third cycle)

Department of Genetics and Bioengineering (First, second, third cycle)

Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (First, second, third cycle)

It is evident that the newly established departments represent deficient professions in BiH economy and will contribute greatly through education on new engineers and scientific research and contribution in respective fields.

Indicator 4.3. Cooperation agreements were established with a number of private businesses and organizations. Our students were given chances to do their internships in these companies and organizations. These organizations are as follows:

Turkish Ziraat Bank Bosnia, Sarajevo; Bank Asya, Istanbul; Atim Mimarlik, Bursa; Surat Teknoloji, Istanbul; Umutkan Elek, Bursa; DISTI doo, Sarajevo etc.

7. MOBILITY OF TEACHING STAFF AND STUDENTS

Indicator 5.1. Currently the university has bilateral agreements with 31 Higher Education Institutions across the globe which is an indicative increase according to last year's when the University has agreements with 9 other universities.

Indicator 5.2. Necessary changes in the university curricula were made to harmonize study programs with other universities and the economy.

Indicator 5.3. The University did not have any visiting professors from other universities during the last year. It is evident that additional efforts have to be made to achieve this goal and it shall be discussed at a higher level.

Indicator 5.4. Two agreements on joint programs were made last year. These are:

- MBA program with Texas A&M Commerce University
- Joint Undergraduate Business Program with Leeds Metropolitan University

Details of the programs are available on our web site.

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