

**ANNUAL REPORT
OF
THE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
"CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY"**



**FOR
THE ACADEMIC YEAR
2023-2024**

Tirana, December 2024

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INTRODUCTION – LEGAL BASIS AND PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

This report was drawn up in compliance with Article 32, points 1-2 of Law No. 80/2015, dated 22.07.2015 "On Higher Education and Scientific Research in Higher Education Institutions in the Republic of Albania", as well as with Order No. 5, dated 19.02.2018 "On determining the components for the annual reporting and reporting deadlines for higher education institutions", as amended, issued by the Minister of Education, Sports, and Youth.

The annual report of CIT for the academic year 2023-2024 has been prepared by the Academic Senate and the Board of Administration of the institution and is structured according to the required issues, fields, and competencies.

The "Canadian Institute of Technology" was licensed to open bachelor programs by the Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 781, dated 10/11/2011 "On licensing the 'Canadian Institute of Technology'." In 2012, by Order No. 487, dated 18/10/2012, from the Minister of Education, "CIT" was licensed to open second-cycle programs.

On December 2, 2016, through decisions No. 564, 565, 566, 567 from the Ministry of Education and Sports, CIT was licensed to open four new programs, two at the bachelor level and two at the master's level (Master of Science).

Additionally, in September 2021, two new programs were launched:

- Master of Science in "Information Technology in Business" (Order No. 359, dated 17.09.2021).
- Master of Science in "Digital Marketing" (Order No. 345, dated 17.09.2021).

The institution has applied to launch several new programs, listed below, according to the academic years in which they started:

In the academic year 2022-2023, the following programs were launched:

1. Order No. 340, dated 06.07.2023, for the launch of the Bachelor program in "Robotics and Mechatronics Engineering."
2. Order No. 383, dated 18.07.2023, for the launch of the Bachelor program in "Electronic Engineering."

In the academic year 2023-2024, the following program was launched:

- Order No. 351, dated 09.07.2024, for the launch of the Bachelor program in "Artificial Intelligence and Data Science."

The institution has been reaccredited by the Accreditation Board of ASCAL, according to decision No. 06, dated 27.01.2023, for a five-year period.

Furthermore, several study programs have gone through the reaccreditation process:

Master of Science in “Software Engineering” – reaccredited with the Accreditation Board’s decision No. 119, dated 20.10.2023, for a 4-year period.

- Bachelor in “Software Engineering” – reaccredited with the Accreditation Board’s decision No. 120, dated 20.10.2023, for a 4-year period.
- Master of Science in “Computer Engineering and Information Technology” (with three profiles) – reaccredited with the Accreditation Board’s decision No. 121, dated 20.10.2023, for a 4-year period.
- Bachelor in “Business Administration and Information Technology” – reaccredited with the Accreditation Board’s decision No. 122, dated 20.10.2023, for a 4-year period.
- Bachelor in “Business Administration” – reaccredited with the Accreditation Board’s decision No. 123, dated 20.10.2023, for a 4-year period.
- Master of Science in “Business Administration” – reaccredited with the Accreditation Board’s decision No. 124, dated 20.10.2023, for a 4-year period.

The institution has accredited the following programs for the first time:

- Master of Science in “Digital Marketing” (Accreditation Board’s decision No. 53, dated 13.01.2024).
- Master of Science in “Information Technology in Business” (Accreditation Board’s decision No. 69, dated 15.03.2024).

Meanwhile, for the study programs: "Master of Science" in "Finance and Accounting" with two profiles, as well as the Bachelor's program in "Telecommunication Engineering," the institution has undergone the re-accreditation process, and site visits have been conducted for both programs:

1. For the "Bachelor's" program in "Telecommunication Engineering," the external evaluation final report has been received, and we are awaiting the VBA (Accreditation Body) decision.
2. For the "Master of Science" program in "Finance and Accounting" with two profiles, no report has been received, although the process was completed during the first quarter of 2024.

This Annual Report is designed to provide information to the Ministry of Education and Sports regarding the progress of the institution in fulfilling its objectives, the activities of its governing bodies, educational programs, student numbers, faculty data, financial status, and other institutional activities.

Simultaneously, the report presents an accurate picture of the institution state at the beginning, mid-point, and at the end of the 2023-2024 academic year.

Additionally, the documentation and data provided present the work done and the results achieved by the Canadian University Institute during the 2023-2024 academic year.

The purpose of this report is:

1. To inform monitoring and supervisory institutions, business partners, employees, students, and the general public about the realization of its mission and compliance with the relevant legal provisions, providing them with a comprehensive, accurate, and comprehensible overview of the activities of the Canadian University Institute of Technology (CIT).
2. To ensure transparency in front of monitoring and supervisory institutions, employees, students, and the public by preparing and publishing complete, accurate, and comprehensive information about its activities, developed programs, achieved results, and other aspects of the institution's work.
3. To strengthen institutional and public accountability by establishing a system of continuous reporting to oversight bodies, students, and other involved parties.
4. To implement the Higher Education Law in Albania, etc.

THE INSTITUTION

Institution, Objectives, and Their Fulfillment

a) Realization of the goals and objectives of the institution and its core units.
Fulfillment of some of the main goals and objectives

The philosophy of the University College "Canadian Institute of Technology" is based on the commitment to equip students with the quality education and skills necessary for the Albanian, European, and American/Canadian labour markets. To achieve some of its major goals and objectives, the institution has worked on organizing its operations, distributing tasks, and establishing structures to fulfill its annual goals and objectives.

The University College "Canadian Institute of Technology" has rigorously followed its vision, mission, and development strategy, which have guided the determination of both short-term and medium-term objectives. These were implemented meticulously to achieve the 2023-2024 academic plan, the 2020-2025 strategic plan, and the development plan aimed at fulfilling the goals set by its collegiate and executive bodies.

Vision and Mission of the Institution According to the Statute

Vision

The University College "Canadian Institute of Technology" is committed to preparing students with skills grounded in education, values, and an ethical spirit, critical and analytical thinking, problem-solving orientation, creativity, innovation, and leadership, which they will use to shape their lives, careers, and society.

Mission

Through the promotion of carefully prepared curricula, teaching, scientific research, and the opening of new programs, the University College "Canadian Institute of Technology" has as its mission the development of personal skills and opportunities, the promotion of competition, and the improvement of the quality of education in the service of values, while appreciating and respecting the cultural diversity and values of Albania.

University College "CIT" expresses its commitment to this mission through:

- Providing higher education and creative activities in the fields of engineering and economics;
- Developing and protecting knowledge through teaching and academic activities both locally and internationally;
- Training young researchers in the theoretical fields of evaluation, engineering, and economics;
- Deepening the professional and scientific qualification of specialists in engineering and economics;
- Conducting research studies to develop and advance applications and innovations in engineering and economics research;
- Providing the best opportunities to benefit from higher education and lifelong learning;
- Contributing to supporting strategic priorities and the development interests of the country.

Goals and Key Objectives of CIT in the Implementation of the "Institution's Strategic Development Plan 2020-2025" for the 2023-2024 Academic Year

Some of the major goals and objectives set by CIT for the 2023-2024 academic year were as follows:

1. Expand the cooperation network with universities worldwide, including the USA, Canada, the EU, the Balkans, Asia, and North Africa;
2. Extend existing collaborations and sign new agreements to offer dual-degree programs with universities in the USA, Canada, and the EU;
3. Internationalization of the institution by applying for membership in various associations in the Balkans, the EU, and other regions;
4. Apply for national projects as an institution;
5. Apply for Erasmus projects with partner universities;
6. Focus on project-oriented teaching for all subjects;
7. Explore the possibility of opening a new faculty by forming a team to study the market;
8. Offer study programs according to high education standards;
9. Prepare students for the job market;
10. Rank the "CIT Review Journal" (CRJ) scientific journal in the RASH database under category B;
11. Index CRJ in well-known international databases;
12. Continuous improvement of processes in all units of the institution;
13. Organize two annual conferences;
14. Improve CIT's ranking position in Webometrics, aiming to be one of the top 10 universities;
15. Support academic staff in publishing in journals indexed in Scopus;
16. Support CIT HUB;
17. Support scientific groups at CIT;
18. Apply for new programs in both faculties as follows:
 - Bachelor in Digital Economy
 - Bachelor in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science
 - Master's in Telecommunications and Electronic Engineering
19. Employ and retain quality academic and administrative staff;
20. Organize the graduation ceremony and involve generations that have not had a ceremony at the end of their studies;
21. Successfully accredit educational programs that are expected to enter this process in 2024;
22. Increase the number of student and staff exchanges in Erasmus and CEEPUS;
23. Promote, advertise, and raise awareness of the institution and its programs;
24. Develop relationships with major employers in the public and private sectors to help students find quick and useful employment;
25. Expand academic support services, including tutoring programs with active involvement of departments for specific disciplines and increasing support for educational technology services;
26. Involve students in scientific research by supporting them to participate in scientific activities organized by departments and faculties, as well as supporting them to become co-authors or authors of research papers, presentations at scientific activities, etc., to enhance their professional development through certification of knowledge.

Alignment of the Institution's Development Strategy 2020-2025 with the Main Institutional Goals and Objectives for the 2023-2024 Academic Year

1. **Context and Position:** In the context of higher education development in Albania, CIT has continued to focus on the fields of engineering and economics, which are closely related with one another, offering quality study programs in the English language. The institution has continued its efforts to expand its academic offerings by studying the market and then applying for new study programs linked to the core fields. The application and licensing of new study programs has been conducted in alignment with the Institution's Development Strategy 2020-2025, its Development Plan, and the institution's objectives, as well as those of its core units.
2. **Status and Target Population:** CIT has continued to operate in the 2023-2024 academic year in accordance with the framework of a profitable organization. However, CIT does not aim to generate profit from the academic services it offers. In this spirit, the fundamental strategy is to make the education provided by CIT affordable for students coming from middle-income families. CIT has continued to offer scholarships and financial aid to excellent students, talented students, those in financial difficulty, and students with special needs. CIT has continued to focus on attracting students with average or above-average results in high school, who are passionate about engineering and economics and want to study in English.
3. **"Open Doors Institution":** To maximize interaction between students and academic staff, CIT during the 2023-2024 academic year has followed and applied the philosophy of open doors. Students have had the opportunity to consult with academic teaching staff as well as administrative academic staff at any time.
4. **"Digitization of Institutional and Academic Processes":** As part of the institution's development and improvement of work processes, the digitization of these processes has played an important role. The institution has improved the University Management System (UMS), developed by its staff, and adapted new application features within this system to ease operations, generate data, statistics, issue supplements, certificates, track absences, student progress, and evaluations.
5. **Quality Teaching and Orientation Toward Student Development for Local, Regional, and Global Job Markets:** The institution is committed to offering teaching based on: a) Project-oriented learning; b) Teaching in English with the latest literature through agreements with McGrawHill Education; c) An online library with over 100,000 titles provided by the rich O'Reilly literature; d) Teaching by an international staff, with approximately 24% of the academic staff coming from countries like Canada, the USA, Turkey, England, North Macedonia, and Kosovo. Additionally, 62% of the academic staff hold advanced degrees from prestigious international and domestic universities.
6. **Careful Academic Planning and Development:**
 - a) **Curriculum Updates:** Course programs have been updated to align with labor market needs, resulting from discussions in basic units and consultations with interest groups, businesses, and listening to students' feedback.
 - b) **Unique Programs:** CIT remains committed to offering unique programs in both undergraduate and graduate cycles.
 - c) **Licensing of New Programs:** The institution has conducted market research and applied for three new programs:
 - Bachelor in Digital Economy
 - Bachelor in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science

- Master in Telecommunications and Electronic Engineering
From these, only one has been licensed:
 - Bachelor in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science
7. **Internationalization of the Institution through Signed Agreements, Their Implementation, and Academic Mobilities:** a. **International Recognition of Programs:** CIT has continued to maintain an active credit recognition agreement with Georgian College, Ontario, Canada, for the “Bachelor in Business Administration” program. Ongoing discussions with partner institutions focus on signing agreements for joint diplomas or credit recognition, particularly with Canadian universities. Recently, CIT engaged in talks with George Brown College in Canada to offer dual degrees and scholarships for CIT students. b. CIT has signed numerous agreements with national and international academic institutions, underscoring the necessity of cooperation in shared fields, engagement in various academic and scientific projects, exchange of staff and students through Erasmus+ and CEEPUS mobilities. c. **Involvement in Projects:** The institution is involved as a partner in several international projects, from which staff and leaders have gained valuable experience and expanded their network of international and strategic collaborators.
8. **Research, Development, and Creativity (RDC):** Scientific research, development, and creativity are institutionalized through the creation of Research Centers (CIRD) within faculties:
- **Faculty of Engineering:** Center for Innovation, Research, and Development (CIRD Engineering)
 - **Faculty of Economics:** Center for Innovation, Research, and Development (CIRD Economics)

Research is institutionalized through the creation of these Centers, which focus on scientific research, project development, grant applications, the organization of national and international conferences, publications, and more. All academic staff and student papers are published free of charge in the "CIT Review Journal" or conference proceedings.

9. **Projects:** CIT has intensified its involvement in project development, and during the 2023-2024 academic year, it established specialized workgroups that, in collaboration with committees, CIRD Economics, and CIRD Engineering, along with partners, prepared application documentation for projects inside and outside the country.
10. **Development of Innovation Centers:** As part of following and developing projects, student training, scientific research, and developing training programs, the **CIT HUB Innovation Center** has been established. CIT HUB coordinates the development of various projects, practices, or trainings with their subsequent application and implementation. CIT HUB has its own website (<https://cit-hub.al/>) where all scientific activities are presented.

Institutional Organization, Collegial Bodies, and Decision-Making Bodies

Governing Bodies and Authorities, as well as Other Bodies

The institutional, academic, and administrative life are guided by the statutory spirit and the bodies defined in this key document of the University College “Canadian Institute of Technology” (CIT).

At the University College “Canadian Institute of Technology,” the highest academic governing body is:

- a) The Academic Senate.

At the University College “Canadian Institute of Technology,” the highest administrative governing body is:

- a) The Board of Administration.

At the University College “Canadian Institute of Technology,” the collegial bodies are:

- a) The Rectorate;
- b) The Faculty Council;
- c) The Dean’s Offices;
- d) Assemblies of the academic staff of the main units.

Other collegial bodies in the form of committees or commissions include: a) The Ethics Council; b) The Permanent Commission for Scientific Research, Projects, Applications, and Innovation; c) The Permanent Commission for Student Relations and Ensuring Student Rights; d) The Internal Quality Assurance Unit.

At the University College “Canadian Institute of Technology,” the governing authorities are:

- a) The Rector;
- b) The Deans;
- c) The Heads of Departments;
- d) The Heads of Research Units (CIRD);
- e) The Vice-Rector and Vice-Deans;
- f) The College Administrator;
- g) The Administrators of the main units.

The University College “Canadian Institute of Technology” has continued to support its institutional academic organization at the rank of the main units under two faculties: the Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Economics.

Each is organized as follows:

1. FACULTY OF ECONOMY:

- Department of Business Administration;
- Department of Business Administration and Information Technology;
- Research Center - Scientific Center CIRI Economics.

2. FACULTY OF ENGINEERING:

- Department of Software Engineering;
- Department of Electronic and Telecommunication Engineering;
- Research Center - Scientific Center CIRI Engineering.

The study program at the 'Canadian Institute of Technology' is conducted on a full-time schedule.

The Statute, the Institutional Regulations, and the "Institution's Regulations Book" define the duties, functions, responsibilities, and decision-making processes. All departments are composed of at least 7 full-time academics, of whom at least three hold academic degrees or titles.

CIT offers study programs organized within two faculties, each under the respective unit (department). Study programs are organized according to the 3 + 2 Bologna system. Bachelor's programs (first cycle) last 3 years (180 ECTS), while Master's programs (second cycle) last 2 academic years (120 ECTS).

The University College “Canadian Institute of Technology” enjoys academic freedom, financial autonomy, organizational autonomy, and personnel selection autonomy.

Academic Freedom is guaranteed through the right: a) To organize teaching activities, scientific research activities, and creative activities; b) To design and develop study programs and define research fields; c) To organize the process of promoting academic staff.

Financial Autonomy is guaranteed through the right: a) To generate legal income from teaching, scientific research activities, services, etc.; b) To receive funds from the state and other organizations; c) To establish internal rules for financing and using revenues; d) To set tuition fees; e) To manage movable and immovable assets available for fulfilling its mission, etc.

Organizational Autonomy and Personnel Selection Autonomy are guaranteed through the right: a) To self-govern, select governing bodies, organize structures, and regulate how their activities are carried out through internal acts (Statutes and Regulations of the College), created in compliance with laws and other applicable legal and sub-legal acts; b) To set criteria for admitting students into study programs in accordance with the Law and other applicable legal and sub-legal acts; c) To enter into agreements with legal entities, both public and private, domestic or foreign, for teaching, scientific research, qualification activities, etc.; d) To independently determine the salaries of staff, and the criteria and procedures for their selection.

The activities of the University College “Canadian Institute of Technology” have been carried out in accordance with the rules and principles of the European Higher Education Area.

Institutional Committees and Commissions, their composition 2023-2024

Institutional Units, Committees, and Commissions	Persons and Engagement
Scholarship Commission	Ubejd Osmani - Chair Erjona Keruti – Registrar (Secretary) Shefqet Meda - Representative of the Faculty of Engineering Besarta Tafa – Representative of the Faculty of Economics Kejvin Luga – Student
Internal Quality Assurance Unit	Bledar Komini - Chair Artur Jaupaj – Member Enriko Ceko – Member Oriod Malo – replaced by Muhamedali Kura – Member Franci Sima – Student
Permanent Commission for Scientific Research, Projects, Applications, and Innovation	Nihat Adar - Chair Wassim Ahmad - Member Erjona Deshati - Member Bekim Fetaji - Member Albina Joga - Member Ergi Bogdani – Student
Permanent Commission for Curricula and Educational Programs	Vasil Qano – Chair Eugen Musta - Member

	<p>Bledar Komini – Member</p> <p>Edmira Cakrani - Member</p> <p>Asemina Meraj – Student</p>
<p>Permanent Commission for Student Relations and Protection of Student Rights</p>	<p>Shefqet Meda – Chair</p> <p>Enkeleda Suti - Member</p> <p>Denis Xheleku - Member</p> <p>Anxhela Bare - Member</p> <p>Ahmed Pemaj – Student</p>
<p>Ethics Council</p>	<p>Reis Mulita – Chair</p> <p>Entelë Gavoci - Member</p> <p>Brisida Sefa - Member</p> <p>Alfons Harizaj - Member</p> <p>Florenc Hidri - Member</p>
<p>Health and Safety Committee</p>	<p>Qamil Mani - Chair</p> <p>Elvira Kotorri - Member</p> <p>Brunilda Kola - Member</p> <p>Emërie Miftari – Member</p>

Approved by Decision of the Academic Senate no. 15, dated 28.09.2023 and 05 dated 26.01.2024

Institutional Objectives and Key Unit Activities for The Academic Year 2023-2024

Based on the Statute of the institution, UC “ICT” offers the core units, foundational units, and the entire academic staff organized in collegial bodies the freedom and autonomy to: organize teaching activities, scientific research activities, and creative activities; develop and implement study programs; define research fields; and manage the academic staff promotion process, among others. On this basis, they set annual objectives on which the institutional life and activities are developed.

The objectives and strategy of the faculties for the academic year 2023-2024 were aligned and implemented according to the Institutional Development Strategy 2020-2025, as well as with the progress of programs, academic staff, infrastructure, students, etc.

Institutional Objectives in Support of the Institutional Development Strategy 2020-2025 for the Academic Year 2023-2024

At the beginning of the academic year 2023-2024, the governing bodies and authorities, as well as the main units, based on and in accordance with the institution's mission and the Development Strategy 2020-2025, determined the annual work objectives and the methods for their implementation.

The Academic Senate of UC “ICT” approved the annual objectives at the beginning of the 2023-2024 academic year, divided into three categories:

i) Institutional Objectives

- Major institutional objectives in accordance with the Institutional Development Strategy.

ii) Objectives of the Main Units

- Specific objectives for the faculties.

iii) Objectives Related to Projects, Internationalization, and Scientific Research

The main institutional objectives for the academic year 2023-2024 are listed below, along with the relevant bodies or heads involved in achieving them. A table is also provided with the key persons responsible for their completion.

a.1 Major institutional objectives in accordance with the Institution's Development Strategy

UNITS OR ORGANIZATIONS THAT ARE ENGAGED AND COORDINATED FOR THE REALIZATION OF THE OBJECTIVES										
CIT Annual Objectives	Board of Administration	Rectorate/Office of the Rector	Academic Senate	Faculties	Departments	Committees Centers Journal	IR O	Q A U	Office of the Administrator	Accomplish YES/NO/In process
Expansion of the collaboration map with universities worldwide, including the USA, Canada, the EU, the Balkan region, countries in Asia, and North Africa.		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	In continuous process
Extend existing collaborations and sign new agreements to offer dual-degree programs with universities in the USA, Canada, and the EU	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			In continuous process
Internationalization of the institution by applying for membership in various associations in the Balkans, the EU, and other regions.	x	x	x	x	x					Yes
Apply for projects as an institution within the country.		x	x	x	x	x	x		x	Yes
Apply for Erasmus projects with partner universities.		x	x	x	x	x	x			Yes
Focus the institution on project-based teaching across all subjects		x		x	x	x		x		Yes
Explore opportunities to open a new faculty by establishing a team to conduct market research.	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	In process
Offer study programs according to high education standards		x	x	x	x	x		x		Yes
Prepare students for the labor market				x	x	x		x		In continuous process
Rank the scientific journal "CIT Review Journal" (CRJ) in the RASH database system under category B.		x				x				No
Index CRJ in internationally recognized and reputable databases.		x				x				Yes
Continuous improvement of		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	Yes

processes across all institutional units										
Organize two annual conferences		x		x	x	x				Yes
Improve the ranking position of CIT by becoming one of the top 10 universities		x		x	x	x				Yes
Support CIT academic staff to publish in Scopus-indexed journals		x		x	x	x				Yes
Support for CIT HUB		x				x				Yes
Support scientific groups at CIT		x		x	x	x				Yes
Apply for new programs in both faculties	x	x	x	x	x	x		x		Yes
Employ and retain a high-quality academic and administrative staff		x		x	x					Yes
Successfully accredit educational programs expected to enter this process in 2024		x		x	x	x		x		Yes
Increase the number of staff and student exchanges through Erasmus and CEEPUS programs		x		x	x		x			Yes

Tab. No. 1: Realization of annual institutional objectives.

a.2 Specific objectives for Offices and Committees

CIT objectives	OFFICES OR COMMISSIONS/COMMITTEES IN CHARGE OF ACHIEVING THE OBJECTIVES										
	Office for External Relations and Projects	Permanent Commission for Scientific Research, Projects, Applications, and Innovation	Permanent Commission for Student Relations and Protection of Student Rights	QA U	Curriculum Office	Admissions Office	Office for Student Affairs and Career Counseling	IT Office	HR Office	PR and Marketing Office	Accomplish YES/NO/In process JO/Ně proces
Strengthening Public Relations, marketing and wide awareness of the institution and the programs it offers.	x				x	x	x			x	Yes
Review of curricula/subject programs through focus groups and meetings with stakeholders, businesses, and companies operating in the labor market.				x	x						Yes

Continuous evaluation and improvement of all processes, policies, leave forms, staff assessment, guidelines, application forms, manuals, etc.	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		Yes
Continuation of agreements with Erasmus+ and "CEEPUS" partners for student and academic staff exchange and mobility.	x	x									Yes
Digitization of all academic, administrative, financial, and other processes.								x	x		In process
Collaboration with alumni to track labor market trends and improve through their evaluations.	x		x		x	x	x				Yes
Expansion of academic support services, including tutoring programs with active involvement of departments for specific disciplines, and increased support for educational technology services.			x	x			x				Yes
Expansion of the network and collaboration with educational institutions, government agencies, and businesses to strengthen recruitment efforts.	x	x				x			x		Yes
Student counseling should be prioritized by academic and administrative staff, as well as relevant structures.			x			x	x				Yes
Development of relationships with key employers in the public and private sectors to assist students in finding quick and valuable employment.			x			x	x				Yes
Involvement of students in scientific research either independently or with academic staff.		x									Yes

Tab. No. 2: Realization of annual objectives by offices and committees/commissions

ACHIEVEMENT OF THE MAIN OBJECTIVES OF THE INSTITUTION AND THE KEY UNITS

For the academic year 2023-2024, the "Canadian Institute of Technology" University College (CIT) has achieved most of the objectives set by the Rectorate and the Academic Senate, whether they are major institutional goals or specific objectives for the key units and research centers. CIT has carefully analyzed the objectives that have been partially met as well as those that have not been achieved due to major reasons. For these objectives, various meetings and consultations have been held so that they can be included in the following academic year, with their progress monitored by the executive bodies within the institution. In all cases, institutional performance has been within expectations and successful in achieving institutional objectives.

Below is a summary with detailed data on the fulfillment of some of the key institutional objectives and those of the key units:

Objective: Start, development, and successful completion of the academic year

Achievement: The academic year started in October 2023, in accordance with the orders and guidelines of the Ministry of Education and Sports. The academic year was organized into two semesters, each lasting 15 weeks. The teaching plans were approved by the Academic Senate and implemented in accordance with the development of classes and credit distribution. The academic year will end on September 27, 2024. Classes were held in the morning for the first cycle from Monday to Friday and in the afternoon for the second cycle from Monday to Saturday.

Objective: Offering study programs in both cycles in English

Achievement: For the academic year 2023-2024, CIT offered 8 programs in the first cycle of studies, with 180 ECTS, as well as 6 programs in the second cycle, Master of Science programs with 120 ECTS.

- The Faculty of Economics consists of 2 core units and a research center, offering 7 study programs, including 3 Bachelor's programs (BSc) and 4 Master's programs (MSc).
- The Faculty of Engineering consists of 2 core units and a research center, offering 7 study programs, including 5 Bachelor's programs (BSc) and 2 Master's programs (MSc). CIT has continued to offer study programs in both cycles, in English, with a focus on quality education, and has promoted curricular and extracurricular activities to support students. The entirely English-language curriculum ensures that CIT uses the latest teaching materials, fulfilling its philosophy towards students in their quest for knowledge and professionalism, which is essential for the respective environments in Albania and beyond.

Objective: Reaccreditation and Opening of New Programs at CIT during the academic year 2023-2024

Achievement: During the academic year 2023-2024, CIT successfully completed reaccreditation processes for several study programs. For the study programs under reaccreditation, the BA decision was made for their accreditation for a four-year period as follows:

- Master of Science in "Software Engineering" – Decision No. 119, dated 20.10.2023
- Bachelor in "Software Engineering" – Decision No. 120, dated 20.10.2023
- Master of Science in "Computer Engineering and Information Technology" with three profiles – Decision No. 121, dated 20.10.2023
- Bachelor in "Business Administration and Information Technology" – Decision No. 122, dated 20.10.2023
- Bachelor in "Business Administration" – Decision No. 123, dated 20.10.2023
- Master of Science in "Business Administration" – Decision No. 124, dated 20.10.2023

For the following programs:

- Master of Science in "Finance and Accounting" with two profiles
- Bachelor in "Telecommunication Engineering"

The institution has passed the reaccreditation process, conducted visits for both programs, and received the final evaluation report for the Bachelor's program in Telecommunication Engineering. However, for the Master of Science in Finance and Accounting, no report has been received, even though the process was completed in the first quarter of 2024.

Furthermore, CIT has accredited for the first time new programs:

- Master of Science in "Digital Marketing" – Decision No. 53, dated 13.01.2024
- Master of Science in "Information Technology in Business" – Decision No. 69, dated 15.03.2024

As part of expanding its academic offerings, CIT has applied for the opening of several new programs. So far, the Bachelor's program in "Artificial Intelligence and Data Science" has been licensed by the Ministry of Education and Sports with Order No. 351, dated 09.07.2024.

These achievements confirm the institution's commitment to offering high-quality programs and supporting the academic development of students and faculty staff.

Objective: Infrastructure in compliance with required standards, modern and updated

Achievement: CIT provides environments for academic staff in proportion to their number, ensuring that each member of the staff has their workspace in suitable offices or environments to carry out their academic and teaching activities. Surrounding the building, there is a wide green area with possibilities for creative activities.

The infrastructure at CIT provides suitable and modern conditions for carrying out daily academic and administrative activities, including: offices for academic staff, administrative staff, educational secretary,

lecture halls, seminar rooms, laboratory environments, meeting rooms, conference halls, library, student service areas, career counseling, etc.

The institution ensures parking for staff and students. CIT has suitable infrastructure for academic, administrative, and social activities. It has provided spaces such as offices, meeting rooms, conference halls, libraries, etc., for the development of academic, scientific research, and administrative activities. During this year, the institution has created new offices for both academic and administrative staff. Additionally, a modern space for the CIT HUB has been created, serving as a center for creativity and innovation, and an advanced robotics laboratory has been established, expanding opportunities for practical and research activities for students and staff.

The effective-to-ineffective academic staff ratio was within the norm of 70% effective and 30% ineffective. The building housing CIT offers very suitable conditions for carrying out academic-scientific and administrative activities. The spaces are utilized efficiently with the goal of fully achieving the services for students, staff, and partners.

Objective: Signing institutional agreements with partners such as universities, enterprises, and various industries

Achievement: The institution and its main units have signed various agreements, focusing on memorandums, partnerships, full-term agreements, contracts, etc. Some of these agreements have been signed with businesses, banks, and other entities, focusing on student internships, employment, and organizing activities with students. CIT is committed to fostering reciprocal collaborations with other higher education institutions, both within and outside the country, in academic fields, staff and student exchange, joint project applications, conference organization, scientific research, etc.

In the academic year 2023-2024, several new agreements have been signed with a focus on:

- Cooperation in joint project applications
- Cooperation in scientific research and organizing joint conferences
- Cooperation in staff and student mobility
- Joint publications in scientific journals both domestically and abroad
- Organization of student conferences
- Implementation of student internships at businesses and enterprises.

At the same time, the institution has carefully analyzed all signed agreements and their implementation. The institutional interest has focused on organizing joint activities with all partners, as specified in the agreements.

The signed agreements are listed in tables no. 6 and 6/1-6/2 of this report.

Objective: Ensuring internships for students

Achievement: CIT has collaborated with a number of public and private institutions to offer quality services to students in education, skills development, and other cultural, social, and sports activities. Some of the relations with these businesses or public entities derive from earlier long-term agreements, while in the

academic year 2023-2024, a new group of agreements has been signed. Notable agreements include those with:

- IERA (Cisco) Academy
- Illyrian Cyber Security Center Organization
- Procredit Bank
- UBA Bank
- National Authority for Cybersecurity (AKSK)
- TUYAFED, Turkish Software Developers Federation
- And others.

Relevant offices, in collaboration with CIRD Centers and key units, have worked to ensure successful internships for students and have managed to turn these agreements, as well as those signed earlier, into active initiatives with specific objectives. Key units and the institution have been proactive in organizing meetings with representatives of these enterprises and working to attract students not only for internships but also for their employment.

The agreements for internships mentioned above are listed in tables no. 6 and 6/1 of this report.

Objective: Internationalization of the institution through partnerships

Achievement: CIT views its regional and international focus as an opportunity: to offer a wide range of joint programs, mobility, internships, and employment opportunities for students; to support scientific research and quality education; to exchange experiences and engage in fruitful collaborations in project applications, conference organization, joint publications, etc.

The goal has been and remains the creation of institutional connections with partner universities to establish opportunities for cooperation, experience exchange, and conference organization. CIT continues to build its international partnerships with universities from the EU, North America, and academic institutions in the Balkans and beyond.

In the field of internationalization, visits have been conducted to partner universities, and vice versa. Efforts have also been made to recognize study programs, credit recognition, or the implementation of joint degrees with academic institutions in Europe and North America. Several agreements have been signed in this context.

Some notable agreements signed during the 2023-2024 academic year for geographical partnership expansion include:

- UTT University, France
- AAB College, Pristina
- Batterjee Medical Colleges
- International Science and Technology University, Warsaw, Poland
- International Cultural Communication Center Malaysia
- University of Split, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Naval Architecture (FESB), Croatia
- University of Tuzla

- Trakya University
- Sakarya University of Applied Sciences (Academic Cooperation Protocol)
- University Sorbonne Paris Nord, Agreement for Cooperation and Specification
- University of Split, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Naval Architecture on Ph.D. Studies Partnership

A very special agreement was signed with the University of Split, Faculty of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and

Naval Architecture for establishing joint Ph.D. programs that enable the mobility of students and staff.

The agreements are mentioned in tables no. 6 and 6/1 of this report.

Objective: Organization of the Graduation Ceremony

Implementation: On July 19, 2024, the Institution organized the graduation ceremony for the students, marking an important moment for over 200 graduates of the year. The ceremony took place in a special venue, the National Theatre of Opera and Ballet, where the festive and emotional atmosphere highlighted the significance of this moment in the academic and professional life of the students. During the ceremony, special greetings were made by several distinguished personalities, including Ms. Olta Manjani, Deputy Minister of Economy, Culture, and Innovation, who congratulated the students on their achievements and emphasized the importance of education and innovation in the development of society. Additionally, Mr. Grant Van Cleve, President of the American Chamber of Commerce, gave a motivational speech, encouraging students to continue pursuing their dreams and contribute to strengthening international ties and sustainable development.

During the ceremony, several awards were distributed to students and members of the academic and administrative staff as a token of appreciation for their outstanding contributions to the achievements of the academic year. These awards served to recognize the effort and commitment of all those who contributed to this shared success.

The ceremony marked another step in the Institution's efforts to provide excellent educational opportunities and foster the continuous development of students, preparing them for future professional and social challenges.

Objective: Use of the Latest Educational Literature According to the Cooperation Agreement Between CIT and "McGraw-Hill Education"

Implementation: Since 2016, CIT has maintained an active agreement with one of the most renowned and reliable companies in the global academic literature market, McGraw-Hill Education. The literature provided by this company is not only among the most comprehensive but also among the most up-to-date, offering the institution's staff and students a wide selection of resources and services that ease the pedagogical-student relationship and help in the teaching and learning process. Students also have the opportunity to access the same literature that their peers in developed countries study with. Based on the agreement signed between the two parties, the institution has created a guarantee

in the academic field, as McGraw-Hill Education is one of the two largest companies globally offering this type of service.

Furthermore, the service for academic staff is provided free of charge, allowing them unlimited access to the platform, which enables the staff to access rich literature for scientific research and stay updated with the latest publications in their respective fields.

Objective: A Rich Library Facilitated by the Agreement with McGraw-Hill and O'Reilly

Implementation: To enrich their culture, knowledge, and skills in the English language, the institution provides students with a very rich library, consisting of two integral parts:

- A physical library with printed books

The physical library contains around 5,000 titles and 370 journals, with approximately 30 titles in Albanian and a special section for foreign languages such as French, Spanish, German, and Italian. All the library's titles are regularly updated in the library database, and anyone can access them at any time.

- Electronic literature

A virtual library through the agreement with McGraw-Hill Education and O'Reilly. The library has a rich collection of books in the fields of engineering and economics (sectors dedicated to software engineering, data science, programming, AI-Artificial Intelligence, computer engineering, IT, telecommunications, business administration, management, finance, marketing, accounting, etc.) and natural sciences, mathematics, physics, statistics, chemistry. The collection has been enriched with various titles, thanks to campaigns for purchasing and donations from institutions, individuals, and CIT professors. The titles are selected in accordance with the needs and requests of students, academic staff, and administrative staff.

The electronic literature accessed through the CIT virtual library comes from the collaboration with McGraw-Hill Education and O'Reilly, one of the three most well-known academic publishers worldwide. Every student enrolled in a program at the institution has free access to the virtual library of McGraw-Hill Education and O'Reilly.

CIT has an agreement with the "Press Subscription Agency" to obtain the most well-known international periodicals in the fields of economics and engineering. The institution regularly receives the latest issues of journals and periodicals in these fields, enriching the library with them. The electronic literature offered by O'Reilly is among the most recognized in the world, containing rich scientific resources such as monographs, journals, manuals, etc., helping researchers and students with their academic work. Today, many universities worldwide offer O'Reilly literature, and CIT is ranked among the top 500 universities globally.

Objective: Organization of “Open Days” and “Orientation Week” in Support of Prospective Students and First-Year Students

Implementation: The institution periodically organizes “Open Days” or “Orientation Week” at the beginning of each semester, where prospective students can visit the institution, either alone or accompanied. The institution has also participated in fairs organized by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and other fairs within and outside the country. During these days, academic staff, in cooperation with administrative staff, have welcomed students and informed them about institutional policies, registration, study programs, etc. In addition, other offices such as the Student Affairs & Career Office, secretariats, the library manager, the student affairs coordinator, etc., are available to support students. The institution works to guide prospective students by showing them the benefits and employment opportunities upon completing their studies. Career counseling is also provided, explaining study programs, credits, fees, scholarship opportunities, and how to apply.

Some of these activities are also mentioned in tables 5 and 7 of this report.

Objective: Periodic Academic Counseling and Tutoring for Students

Implementation: The institution, along with its main units and basic units (departments), in cooperation with the Student Affairs & Career Office, successfully offered academic tutoring and counseling for students during the 2023-2024 academic year. Each academic staff member published office hours when they were available for student meetings, which were made public and posted on the office door or syllabus, so students were informed from the first week.

The department, in cooperation with the Student Affairs Office, has advised and oriented students regarding the selection of institutions for professional practice and the selection of thesis topics. Orientation sessions, counseling, and support for thesis writing have also been developed for students. Tutoring and academic counseling occur throughout the academic year, with sessions taking place at the beginning of the academic year, before exam periods, or thesis submissions. Each academic staff member is assigned a group of students and holds one hour of meetings weekly in a designated office/classroom, during hours free from teaching or administrative duties. It is advisable for students to maintain contact with the same professor throughout their studies.

Objective: Successful Completion of the First Accreditation Process for Two MSc. Study Programs in Digital Marketing and Business Information Technology

Implementation: The accreditation process for the Master of Science in Digital Marketing and Master of Science in Business Information Technology began with an application in April 2022, continued with a GVI visit in June-July 2023, and concluded with the Accreditation Board's Decision in early 2024 (January-March 2024).

The “CIT” University College successfully accredited these two study programs for the first time, securing a five-year accreditation for each: the Master of Science in Digital Marketing, according to the Accreditation Board Decision No. 53, dated January 13, 2024, and the Master of Science in Business Information Technology, according to the Accreditation Board Decision No. 69, dated March 15, 2024.

Objective: Organization of National and International Scientific Conferences and Events

Implementation: The “CIT” University College has also prioritized supporting scientific research at the institutional level, across basic and main units, as well as individually for the academic progress of its staff. In the 2023-2024 academic year, CIT organized or participated as a partner in 3 international conferences and ranked 9th in EduRank, 8th according to the National H-index Rank 2024, and Scopus, as well as 6th in the Web of Science.

Objective: Engagement of Qualified Staff with Academic Titles

Implementation: Throughout the 2023-2024 academic year, CIT engaged in all academic processes a highly experienced staff with academic titles in their respective fields. The institution continued to retain its internal staff while also recruiting experienced staff where necessary. The quality of the full-time and part-time staff can be seen in Tables 3-4 below.

According to the data, CIT had an international staff representing approximately 24% of its total, including academics from countries such as Canada, the United States, Turkey, the United Kingdom, North Macedonia, and Kosovo. On the other hand, 62% of the academic staff had academic titles and degrees with experience in academia and scientific research, having completed their studies at prestigious international universities and local institutions. While 38% were assistant lecturers with a master's degree in the sciences.

At the institutional level, both main units employed a total of 50 full-time staff, including 3 Professors Dr., 7 Associate Professors, 21 Doctors/PhDs, 6 Doctors in process, and 11 with MSc. degrees. Meanwhile, part-time staff included 5 members: 3 Associate Professors Dr., 2 Doctors, and 1 Doctor in process. The PAE/PAK ratio was 50/5.

For the 2023-2024 academic year, the Faculty of Engineering employed 27 full-time staff, including 3 Professors Dr., 3 Associate Professors, 10 Doctors/PhDs, 3 Doctors in process, and 8 with MSc. degrees. Meanwhile, 3 part-time members included 2 Associate Professors Dr. and 1 Doctor in process. The PAE/PAK ratio was 27/3.

For the 2023-2024 academic year, the Faculty of Economics employed 23 full-time staff, including 0 Professors Dr., 4 Associate Professors, 11 Doctors/PhDs, 3 Doctors in process, and 5 with MSc. degrees. Meanwhile, 2 part-time members included 1 Associate Professor Dr. and 1 Doctor/PhD. The PAE/PAK ratio was 23/2.

CIT also aims to maintain its current staff and attract highly qualified personnel with academic degrees and titles, possessing distinguished expertise in the fields of engineering and economics, where necessary, for the upcoming academic year.

Objective: Apply for two new study programs in the field of engineering and one in economics.

Realization: In this regard, the institution and its main units have worked to expand the range of programs offered in both faculties by studying the market and then applying for the opening of two new programs in engineering and one in economics, of which:

- Bachelor's in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science (Faculty of Engineering)
- Master of Science in Telecommunications Engineering (Faculty of Engineering)
- Bachelor's in Digital Economics (Faculty of Economics) Out of these applied programs, only one was licensed for the 2024-2025 academic year:
- Bachelor's in Artificial Intelligence and Data Science (licensed).

Objective: Maintaining and strengthening relations with ALUMNI

Realization: During the academic year 2023-2024, the institution worked extensively and methodically to keep continuous contact with its graduated students (ALUMNI). Through these contacts, important data regarding their career progression, employment, further academic achievements, etc., were collected. Meetings and roundtables were organized with some of the ALUMNI to gather opinions and feedback regarding the study programs at CIT and to improve where necessary. Their thoughts were considered valuable and important, and were forwarded to the respective departments of the faculties. For many years, CIT has had an Alumni Relations Coordinator who is responsible for maintaining contacts with them, following up on the agenda of meetings, and providing reports and statistics.

Objective: Support the Research Centers CIRD Economics and CIRD Engineering.

Realization: The main units and basic departments at CIT, supported by the "Regulation on the organization and functioning of the department", have established their research groups, which are approved at the beginning of each year by the Academic Senate. The Research Centers CIRD in both faculties have coordinated their efforts to ensure that the entire academic staff participates in scientific research. In this plan, the Centers and research groups have coordinated their efforts with specific objectives as follows:

1. Publishing the scientific journal *CIT Review*, with ISSN and indexed. As mentioned in the report, two issues were published for the academic year 2023-2024, the November 2023 issue and the May 2024 issue. A total of 13 scientific publications were featured in these two issues (8 in November and 5 in May), of which 7 were from the academic staff of CIT.
2. Organizing national and international scientific conferences; In this regard, three international conferences were organized, two in Italy, where CIT was a co-organizer, and one at CIT.
3. Publishing conference materials in Proceedings or scientific journals; All conferences were published in Proceedings, and some of the scientific research was later published in the institution's Scientific Journal CRJ.
4. Publishing research reports; Following the implementation of various tasks, the CIRD Centers published their annual reports for 2023-2024.
5. Preparing and publishing the institutional Annual Report on the website of the institution, summarizing scientific achievements; As an annual task, data is collected and reported for this annual report, which is submitted to the Ministry of Education, summarizing academic activities, including scientific and research activities.
6. Publishing all activities carried out by the institution in the periodical *CIT Newsletter*, which is distributed periodically to all collaborators; For several years, the institution has published the

monthly *CIT Newsletter*, a bulletin of activities, in collaboration with the Student Government. For the academic year 2023-2024, all monthly issues were published, totaling 12 issues.

7. Collecting, storing, and managing scientific research at the faculty;
8. Preparing formats for the academic staff to apply for participation in international conferences or for publications in scientific journals.
9. Organizing roundtables, meetings, and open lectures for staff and students with businesses, enterprises, banks, public agencies, and various entities.

In general, the work of the CIRDC Centers has been very positive and beneficial not only for the staff and students but also for third parties, such as partner universities, various collaborators, businesses, etc.

Objective: Periodic publication (2 issues per year) of the scientific journal *CIT Review*.

Realization: *CIT Review* is a periodic scientific journal of CIT. It has continued to be published twice a year. For the academic year 2023-2024, this journal published two issues, the November 2023 issue and the May 2024 issue. The journal has an Editorial Board that meets periodically, consisting of:

- Albana Demi, Aleksander Moisiu University, Albania
- Edlira Martiri, University of Tirana, Albania
- Klodiana Gorica, University of Tirana, Albania
- Llukan Puka, University of Tirana, Albania
- Nihat Adar, Canadian Institute of Technology, Albania
- Vaso Qano, Canadian Institute of Technology, Albania The Coordinator of *CIT Review* Journal was Dr. Eriona Deshati.

In the meetings of the Board, parameters of publication, issues, scientific publications, reviews, continuity policies of the journal, and its scope are discussed.

CIT Review is a scientific journal with several parameters that clearly stand out:

- Open Access Journal;
- Visibility in scientific journal databases;
- An editorial board and international collaborators consisting of well-known names from the academic and scientific world;
- Peer-Review process;
- Part of the Ulrichsweb™ Periodicals Directory database;
- Indexed in Citefactor.

The journal primarily covers the fields of engineering, economics, and related scientific fields such as natural sciences, humanities, etc. As a genuine scientific journal with ISSN and an editorial board composed of prominent international personalities in the field of science, this journal provides an opportunity for the academic staff of CIT and research groups to publish their findings and achievements and to enhance collaboration with the members of the journal's editorial board, who are also distinguished figures in foreign universities. The Editorial Board consists of well-known names in the field of scientific research who work and contribute in prestigious academic institutions. For the academic year 2023-2024, two issues were published:

- November 2023, with 8 scientific publications
- May 2024, with 5 scientific publications.

Data for the magazine:

CIT REVIEW (CIT rev.) online publication recorded permanently in the ISSN Register as follows:

ISSN 2788-645X

Key title: CIT Review Journal

Faqja zyrtare e revistës: <https://crj.cit.edu.al/>

Objective: Qualitative growth and support for scientific, social, and cultural activities in the institution

Realization: In support of the realization of objectives and to further extend the implementation of the annual plan, as well as to strengthen student and academic support, the faculties and the institution have managed to organize several key activities such as:

- Agreements in support of students and staff: 11
- Active Erasmus+ agreements: 18
- Open lectures: 11
- Seminars and workshops: 6
- Informational sessions from business and industry: 6
- Staff training: 2
- Student training: 4
- Participation in fairs: 6
- Competitions: 6
- Student conferences: 2
- Summer school: 2
- Conferences organized or in collaboration: 3
- Academic + administrative mobilities (staff): 12
- Student mobilities: 15
- Staff arriving at CIT: 12
- Students arriving at CIT: 2
- Project applications: 5
- Project won: 0
- Project under implementation: 2
- Scientific journal published: 2 issues
- Cultural trips for students: 5

Objective: Application for mobility under the CEEPUS program

Realization: CIT has been part of CEEPUS since 2016. As part of international collaborations and its membership in academic organizations and well-known European academic networks, CIT has continued to strengthen its relationships with partner institutions in Southeast Europe, which are also part of CEEPUS. In the academic year 2023-2024, as academic mobilities, 9 academic staff from CIT had the opportunity to travel to universities in Southeast Europe for one week, and 10 students to universities in countries such as

Austria, Czech Republic, Poland, and Hungary for a period of 1-3 months. Meanwhile, 3 professors arrived at CIT from these universities. No students came.

Objective: Support for students and staff for mobilities under ERASMUS+

Realization: CIT has made significant progress in furthering cooperation with European and Western institutions to enhance collaboration, staff exchange, and student mobility. In the academic year 2022-2023, a considerable number of cooperation agreements were signed with universities, which later began to implement several of the collaboration points, one of which was mobility for staff and students under Erasmus+.

For the academic year 2023-2024, 18 Erasmus+ exchange agreements were active with universities from France, Lithuania, Romania, Croatia, Portugal, Turkey, Austria, Poland, Czech Republic, Spain, and North Macedonia.

From these agreements, 3 staff and 5 students from CIT benefited, and 9 academic staff and 2 students arrived at our institution.

Objective: Organization of various scientific, social, cultural, and sports activities for staff and students

Realization: In relation to this objective, the institution has sought to support staff and students by offering them numerous opportunities for scientific, professional, technical, social, cultural, and sports development. For this purpose, trainings, seminars, open lectures, workshops, sports activities, social events, and various competitions have been organized to support the positive development and progress of students and academic and administrative staff. These activities are summarized in the table below.

Nr.	Organizing Various Scientific, Social, Cultural, and Sports Activities for Staff and Students
1.	<p>LEADERSHIP IN ALBANIA OPEN LECTURE October 3, 2023 On October 3, 2023, an open lecture was held with Mr. Neritan Sejamini as the speaker. The topic of discussion was “Leadership in Albania,” where Mr. Sejamini provided an in-depth analysis of the evolution of communication and interactivity among the Albanian people.</p>
2.	<p>BRIDGING THE FUTURE TECHNOLOGY TBS 96 EVENT October 20, 2023 On October 20, 2023, our university had the privilege of participating in the 10th event organized by TBS 96 in Tirana, titled “Bridging the Future Technology.” The event highlighted the latest developments in broadcasting, telecommunications, cybersecurity, protection, and artificial intelligence solutions. Students, accompanied by Prof. Ing. Shefqet Meda, had the opportunity to interact with local and international tech companies.</p>
3.	<p>UNIVERSITY SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP OPENING CEREMONY October 25, 2023 On October 25, 2023, CIT participated in the University Sports Championship organized by FSHSU. CIT students competed in three disciplines: football, basketball, and volleyball.</p>
4.	<p>CLOUDIFICATION EVENT CIT PARTICIPATION October 26, 2023 On October 26, 2023, students from UC“ICT” had an exciting opportunity to participate in the Cloudification Event, organized by Raiffeisen Bank. The event featured detailed presentations from key experts representing Amazon Web Services (AWS), Raiffeisen Bank International, Raiffeisen Bank Albania, and Deloitte Digital. Discussions focused on industry success stories, challenges, and the evolving landscape of cloud technology. The event also included a hands-on experience through the AWS JAM DAY, where students participated in a 3-hour session. Guided by AWS and Raiffeisen experts, they tackled tasks, refined their skills, and expanded their understanding of cloud solutions.</p>
5.	<p>AUTOMOTIVE FAIR ALBANIA 2023 CIT PARTICIPATION October 27, 2023 UC“ICT” participated in the Automotive Albania 2023 Fair, a dynamic event showcasing the latest technology and innovation in the automotive sector.</p>
6.	<p>TECHFEST ALBANIA CODING CONTEST October 30, 2023 On October 30, 2023, students from UC“ICT” participated in the TechFest Albania Coding Contest, a prestigious competition held as part of a community-driven tech festival. The contest presented coding challenges of various difficulty levels, attracting participants from Albania, Kosovo, and North Macedonia. Students took part in the four-hour contest, where Kedi Kalaj, a Software Engineering student, was part of the winning team. Their victory awarded them a trip to Austria, where they will meet developers, companies, and institutions, offering them valuable exposure to the global tech industry.</p>

7.	<p>THE EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND EMPLOYMENT FAIR CIT PARTICIPATION October 31, 2023 On October 31, 2023, CU"ICT" participated in the Education, Training, and Employment Fair, organized by the Ministry of State for Youth and Children and the Municipality of Tirana.</p>
8.	<p>GAMING CHALLENGE STUDENT CLUB November 8, 2023 On November 8, 2023, our students engaged in an exciting gaming challenge organized by the Student Gaming Club.</p>
9.	<p>EBLA INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FAIR 2023 November 13, 2023 On November 13, 2023, our university actively participated in the EBLA International Education Fair 2023, joining over 35 colleges and universities from various regions, including Europe, Canada, and the USA. This event provided a valuable platform to engage with prospective students, showcase our programs, and build connections.</p>
10.	<p>DELOITTE "IT INTERNSHIP FEST" INFORMATIVE SESSION November 14, 2023 On November 14, 2023, Deloitte Albania held a comprehensive informative session at UC"ICT" to introduce their "IT Internship Fest" project. Deloitte, a renowned multinational professional services firm and a member of the prestigious Big 4 accounting firms, offers a wide range of services, including consulting, auditing, taxation, accounting, and legal advice. UC"ICT" has established multiple collaborations with Deloitte, aiming to provide various practical opportunities for our students. The main objective of this project is to offer students a platform to apply the skills they have gained during their academic journey.</p>
11.	<p>"THE ENTREPRENEUR'S JOURNEY" PROGRAM LAUNCH November 20, 2023 On November 20, 2023, the "Entrepreneur's Journey" event was launched, made possible by Eu4innovation, inviting students to embark on an exciting entrepreneurial adventure.</p>
12.	<p>THE GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK IN ALBANIA 2023 November 20, 2023 Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) in Albania took place in November, featuring a series of engaging activities that brought together innovators, entrepreneurs, and businesses from various countries. GEW Albania stands as a dynamic initiative that fosters innovation, honors creativity, and uplifts the entrepreneurial community in the country. A significant moment was the presentation by Dr. Eugen Musta, a representative from CU"ICT," who revealed the winning project titled "The Entrepreneur's Journey Program." This initiative, enabled by Eu4innovation, aims to support a wide range of individuals, from experienced entrepreneurs to aspiring start-up founders, by offering comprehensive resources and support.</p>
13.	<p>EMPOWERING STUDENTS' VOICE STUDENT GOVERNMENT MEETING November 21, 2023 The student government meeting served as an extraordinary forum where academic and administrative staff joined with students to empower our campus community. This meeting represented a unified commitment to address student concerns and foster a collaborative environment.</p>
14.	<p>FOSTERING STUDENT LEADERSHIP OPEN LECTURE November 24, 2023 An Open Lecture on "Fostering Student Leadership" was organized, with two distinguished guests: Mr. Avni Ponari, CEO of SIGAL UNIQA Group AUSTRIA, and Mrs. Rita Petro Filipi, CEO of the Albas Printing House. Both guests shared their invaluable knowledge and experiences, inspiring many participating students. Mr. Ponari, known for his successful entrepreneurial journey, offered crucial lessons and insights on leadership and entrepreneurship, highlighting the successes he has achieved throughout his career. Meanwhile, Mrs. Rita offered a unique perspective on leadership, drawing on her creative and literary expertise in the journey of transforming a simple dream into a publishing empire with significant impact in Albania.</p>
15.	<p>THE STOCK EXCHANGE GAME – THE STOCK WHISPERERS November 30, 2023 The Master's students from CU"IKT" participated in "The Stock Whisperers," a prestigious international Stock Exchange competition in Stuttgart, Germany! Currently ranked first, our team demonstrated exceptional financial insight and strategy. This event, organized by Deutsche Sparkassenstiftung für Internationale Kooperation (DSIK) in collaboration with the Financial Supervisory Authority (AMF) and the Albanian Stock Exchange (ALSE), promotes financial education and raises awareness about capital markets.</p>
16.	<p>IGNITE ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM ANALYZING PRODUCTS IN A MARKET December 1, 2023 Another engaging session at Techspace, made possible by the EU4Innovation Action and implemented by @kongresi_rinor_kombetar, was organized by UC"ICT." Dr. Eugen Musta, leader of CIT HUB, presented a captivating task for participants—Analyzing products in a market. The challenge involved identifying the product's manufacturer, its distinguishing features, market performance, and a comparative analysis of prices before making a selection. This hands-on activity provided invaluable insights, allowing participants to understand the complexities of product creation, its intended utility, the ever-evolving dynamics of pricing, and the fundamental mechanisms of the market.</p>
17.	<p>DIVE INTO REACT OPEN LECTURE December 5, 2023 The session "Dive into React" was held, led by industry experts from TeamSystem! Elis Pelivani, expert; Rubin Elezi, an alumni of UC"ICT" turned React Developer; and Ledja Halltari, React Developer, shared their journeys into the thriving world of React at TeamSystem – Italy's leader in digital solutions. Students gained an in-depth analysis of the advantages of using React and had the opportunity to ask questions about the company and industry trends.</p>
18.	<p>STUDENT GOVERNMENT MEETING December 6, 2023 The Student Government held a working meeting. Topics discussed ranged from protecting student needs to addressing challenges.</p>
19.	<p>UNDER 30 (<30) December 11, 2023 As part of National Youth Day, we participated in the exciting event "Under 30 (<30)" organized by the Minister of State for Youth and Children. Over 100 youth service providers participated, including organizations, businesses, universities, institutions, youth panels, donors, politicians, and ambassadors.</p>
20.	<p>NEW TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATIONS IN MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS OPEN LECTURE December 18, 2023 An open lecture titled "New Technology and Innovations in Mobile Communications" was organized by CIRD Engineering. A distinguished guest speaker, Mr. Elvis Bregu, Head of the Extended Leadership Team for Business Development at Vodafone Albania, participated. During the lecture, Mr. Bregu delved into the latest advancements and cutting-edge technologies, offering valuable</p>

	insights into Vodafone’s innovative efforts. He highlighted key projects, including the Tirana Platform and the innovative 5G network, providing a glimpse into the future of mobile technology.
21.	AAB COLLEGE OPEN LECTURES December 20, 2023 Pedagogues from UC ICT, Eng. Shefqet Meda and Dr. Eugen Musta, visited AAB College in Pristina as part of a cooperation agreement. Eng. Meda led a dynamic session on Operating System Algorithms with master's students from the Faculty of Computer Science, encouraging engaging discussions and fostering active participation. Meanwhile, Dr. Musta delivered an in-depth lecture on business financing for master's students from the Faculty of Economics, covering topics ranging from early-stage startups to the complexity of venture capital and IPOs.
22.	FROM LIGHT SOURCE TO SENSOR: HARNESSING SEMICONDUCTOR LASERS DYNAMICS FOR FBG SENSING OPEN LECTURE December 21, 2023 An open lecture titled "From Light Source to Sensor: Harnessing Semiconductor Lasers Dynamics for FBG Sensing" provided an inspiring dimension in the field of advanced optoelectronic research. The lecturer, Mr. Martin Skënderas, a distinguished postdoctoral researcher from the Optoelectronic Research Center at the University of Southampton, illuminated the complex dynamics of semiconductor lasers and their key applications in Fiber Bragg Grating (FBG) sensor technology. The event was further enriched by the active participation of our students, who engaged in thought-provoking questions, enhancing the overall experience.
23.	COMPUTERIZED ACCOUNTING TRAINING ELIF ACCOUNTING PROGRAM February 20, 2024 The Center for Innovation, Research, and Development (CIRD Economics), in collaboration with 2RM Lab, successfully completed the Computerized Accounting Training (Elif Accounting Program) for CIT students. This intensive training program consisted of five comprehensive sessions, led by Mr. Franko Daja, an expert in the field. Throughout the training, participants engaged with key topics, including: Practical accounting principles for business entities; Computerized accounting practices using the Elif Program; Financial statement preparation techniques; An overview of tax legislation; The complete fiscalization process. Upon completion of the program, all participants received a certificate of participation.
24.	HTML & CSS TRAINING FIRST SESSION February 22, 2024 An HTML and CSS Training session was organized by CIT students for their peers. This student-led initiative aimed to empower participants with fundamental web development skills. In the first session, attendees were introduced to the basic concepts of HTML and CSS.
25.	WORK AND STUDY FAIR 2024 FIRST WEEK February 29, 2024 CIT actively participated in the Work and Study Fair organized by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Tirana (DHKT). Various cities across Albania, including Dibra, Shkodra, Lezha, Kukës, and others, were visited.
26.	EMERGING TRENDS IN CYBERSECURITY AND SMART SYSTEMS OPEN LECTURE March 6, 2024 An open lecture titled "Emerging Trends in Cybersecurity and Smart Systems" was delivered by Prof. Assoc. Carlene E-A Campbell from the Institute of Science and Art in Wales. During her presentation, Prof. Campbell explored the latest trends shaping cybersecurity and smart systems, emphasizing the critical importance of cybersecurity in our increasingly connected world. She highlighted the need for innovative approaches to protect data and systems in this evolving landscape. Furthermore, her discussion included the sphere of smart systems and the Internet of Things (IoT), offering valuable insights into the latest trends and innovations in these interconnected technologies.
27.	CYBER ZERO CONFERENCE 2024 STUDENTS PARTICIPATION March 6, 2024 The CYBER ZERO Conference, organized by the Albanian Cybersecurity Association and FINDBUG SHPK, received unwavering support from the U.S. Embassy in Pristina. The event brought together over 1,500 cybersecurity enthusiasts, professionals, and innovators from around the world. CIT students had the privilege of participating in this prestigious conference, where they gained valuable insights into real-world cybersecurity challenges. The experience allowed them to develop their skills through hands-on workshops and facilitated lasting connections with industry experts.
28.	ALBANIAN ICT AWARDS INFORMATIVE SESSION March 12, 2024 The Albanian ICT Awards organized an informative session at CIT, inviting students to participate in the 12th edition of this prestigious event. This session offered a fantastic opportunity for students to gain insights from experienced professionals in the field, who shared valuable advice on excelling in innovation and technology.
29.	SAINT MARY UNIVERSITY, CANADA INFORMATIVE SESSION March 15, 2024 Ms. Lauren Cullen, a representative from Saint Mary University, Canada, held an informative session at CIT. During this session, she provided valuable insights into studying abroad and acquiring global knowledge, showcasing a range of attractive study programs. Ms. Cullen carefully addressed all student questions with detailed explanations.
30.	EBLA INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FAIR 2024 March 18, 2024 The “Canadian Institute of Technology” (CIT) University College was pleased to participate in the “Ebla International Education Fair 2024”, held at Hotel Plaza on March 16, 2024. This event, organized by EBLA Albania, brought together over 30 prestigious colleges, universities, and educational institutions from Europe, Canada, the UK, the USA, Dubai, and Malta.
31.	HIKING TO BOVILLA LAKE STUDENT TRAVEL CLUB March 19, 2024 The Student Travel Club embarked on an unforgettable hiking adventure to Lake Bovilla, led by club leader Justi Hysi. This stunning lake is known for its picturesque landscape, where the deep blue waters contrast beautifully with the grey rocks and lush green flora surrounding the area. Throughout the day, members tackled challenging trails and honed their hiking skills, all immersed in a spirit of adventure, friendship, and self-care. The experience not only strengthened friendships but also fostered a deeper appreciation for the natural beauty of our surroundings.
32.	BANKING SYSTEM IN ALBANIA SESSION March 19, 2024 Our students participated in a thought-provoking session on "The Banking System in Albania," led by Dr. Valbona Dhjaku. In her discussion, Dr. Dhjaku went beyond traditional banking paradigms, emphasizing the critical roles of trust, security, organization, and planning in the financial sector. She highlighted the significant shift toward online banking systems and the necessity of a strong legal

	framework to support this evolution. The session also introduced the concept of e-banking as a service, advocating for a shift in mindset, business practices, and customer behavior to adapt to these advancements.
33.	EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE OPEN LECTURE March 20, 2024 An open lecture on "Emotional Intelligence" was held, featuring distinguished speakers from Global Leadership Partners: Scott M. Wright, Steve Shoemake, and Charley Eberhard. Their discussions offered profound insights into understanding and managing emotions, emphasizing the vital roles of sensitivity, self-awareness, and social skills in both leadership and personal development. The speakers delved deeply into the nuances of emotional intelligence, exploring a range of emotions such as joy, sorrow, excitement, and fear, and illustrating how these emotions influence our interactions and decision-making processes.
34.	DATA VISUALIZATION WITH PYTHON OPEN LECTURE March 21, 2024 The Center for Research and Innovation Development (CIRD) at CIT organized an in-depth open lecture titled "Data Visualization with Python," presented by Dr. Sidita Duli from the University of Shkodra. The lecture explored various aspects of data visualization, emphasizing its importance in extracting meaningful insights from data.
35.	BUSINESS CONCEPTS OPEN LECTURE March 22, 2024 CIT organized an enriching lecture on Business Concepts, with speakers from Global Leadership Partners: Scott M. Wright, Steve Shoemake, and Charley Eberhard. The speakers emphasized three key principles for achieving business success: Striving for excellence in offering the best products and deals; Consistency in honesty and fair behavior; The importance of exceeding expectations through good character and trust. The discussion further explored product innovation, underscoring the need for continuous improvement in business practices. Mr. Steve Shoemake emphasized that being a servant leader is crucial for success, reinforcing the idea that effective leadership is about serving others.
36.	B4STUDENTS PROGRAM INFORMATIVE SESSION March 26, 2024 On March 26, 2024, CIT organized an informative session with the B4Students program, aimed at informing students about the exciting opportunities available to them. B4Students is a dynamic initiative designed specifically to meet students' needs by linking their studies with practical experience, social initiatives, and the development of their potential and entrepreneurial ideas, enabled by the Mane Foundation. During the session, attendees engaged in discussions about various competitions, internship and employment programs, social clubs, and more, fostering a collaborative environment for learning and exploration.
37.	WORK AND STUDY FAIR March 29, 2024 On March 29, 2024, the Canadian Institute of Technology (CIT) University College participated in the Work and Study Fair organized by the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Tirana (DHKT). This event marked an important opportunity for CIT to connect with students, sharing valuable knowledge about our programs, activities, and available job opportunities.
38.	INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND ITS IMPORTANCE IN PROMOTING INNOVATION AMONG STUDENTS April 8, 2024 On April 8, 2024, CIT organized an informative session on "Intellectual Property and its Importance in Promoting Innovation Among Students," with representatives from the General Directorate of Industrial Property (DPPI) of Albania, including Ms. Eneida Shiroka, Ms. Suela Qatipi, and Ms. Brunilda Cuko. Organized by Dr. Enriko Ceko, Head of the Business and IT Department, the session aimed to educate students about the critical role of intellectual property in protecting innovative ideas.
39.	FOOD DONATION DRIVE STUDENT CHARITY CLUB April 9, 2024 On April 9, 2024, CU"ICT", in collaboration with the Student Charity Club, launched a food donation drive aimed at supporting families in need. This initiative is part of our ongoing commitment to give back to the community and make a positive impact.
40.	THE LAUNCH OF A GLOBAL GAME FROM ALBANIA INSIGHTS FROM TEGARIA AND OUTERLYNX April 18, 2024 On April 18, 2024, CU"ICT" hosted an open lecture titled "The Launch of a Global Game from Albania," with representatives from Tegeria and OuterLynx, led by Dr. Valbona Dhjaku. The session provided an in-depth overview of the digital transformation landscape, emphasizing the role of innovative technologies and human creativity in driving growth within the gaming industry. Mr. Renato Toni, a senior game engineer at OuterLynx, captivated the audience with his insights on game development tools and the significant impact of artificial intelligence on game design.
41.	OPEN DAY 2024 April 20, 2024 On April 20, 2024, CU"ICT" organized an Open Day filled with excitement and engagement. Future students and their families were welcomed to explore the university's offerings through a series of interactive meetings and informative discussions.
42.	BLOOD DONATION DRIVE April 22-23, 2024 On April 22-23, 2024, CU"ICT" partnered with the Red Cross Albania to organize a vital blood donation drive under the inspiring theme "Be a Hero, Donate Blood, Save a Life!"
43.	TECHNICAL TRAINING ON CYBERSECURITY April 25, 2024 On April 25, 2024, CU"ICT" hosted an all-encompassing Technical Training on Cybersecurity, led by experts from AKCESK. The training aimed to equip participants with essential skills and knowledge to implement effective security policies and procedures, prevent cyber-attacks, and stay informed on current threat trends. Participants engaged in a hands-on experience through a cyber drill simulation on the Cyber Drill platform, providing them with practical insights into real-world cybersecurity challenges.
44.	EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES STUDENT CLUB VISITS April 25, 2024 On April 25, 2024, the Entrepreneurship, Finance, and Programming student clubs embarked on an enriching visit to the TEG Shopping Center, made possible through the generous support of ACREM (Albanian Commercial Real Estate Management) and the BALFIN Group. The students were warmly welcomed and engaged in a comprehensive presentation covering key topics such as shopping center management, marketing strategies, IT systems, and potential employment opportunities within the industry.
45.	ARTISM, CULTURAL HERITAGE, AND PERFORMANCE DISCUSSION April 29, 2024 On April 29, 2024, the Student Art Club, in collaboration with IETT, organized a thought-provoking discussion titled "Artism, Cultural Heritage, and Performance," led by Ms. Iris Canaj, Executive Director of "DoART." The session highlighted the vital role of art in preserving cultural heritage and illustrated how performance art can serve as a bridge to unite communities and overcome cultural barriers.

46	<p>TECHTREK HACKATHON – CIT EDITION April 30, 2024</p> <p>On April 30, 2024, the “Canadian Institute of Technology” College (CIT) successfully hosted the TechTrek Hackathon, held on May 10-11, 2024. The event brought together a vibrant community of technology enthusiasts, innovators, and problem-solvers, fostering a creative and collaborative environment. During the hackathon, participants engaged in exciting challenges that tested their skills and encouraged innovative thinking. They had the opportunity to attend seminars led by industry experts, gaining valuable insights and mentorship to enhance their projects. The event also included networking opportunities, allowing participants to connect with peers and professionals in the technology field. The TechTrek Hackathon celebrated outstanding projects with awards and recognition for the best applications, showcasing the creativity and talent of the participants. The CU“ICT” community expressed enthusiasm for the exceptional ideas and solutions that emerged from this engaging event, highlighting its success in promoting innovation and collaboration within the tech community.</p>
47	<p>FINANCES TRAINING May 2, 2024</p> <p>On May 2, 2024, the “Canadian Institute of Technology” College (CIT) celebrated the successful completion of the ‘Finance5’ training program, organized by the Center for Research and Innovation Development (CIRD Economics). This highly valued training was led by Gjergji Tafa, PhD(c), a distinguished expert in Finance, Accounting, and Auditing, with over 15 years of industry experience and currently serving as CEO of Foodway Ltd. Throughout the training, participants delved into advanced topics such as production, cost, and managerial accounting. A major focus was placed on understanding the complex relationship between economic policies and financial decision-making processes.</p>
48	<p>MOVIE DAY AT ZYBER HALLULLI CHILDREN’S HOME May 6, 2024</p> <p>On May 6, 2024, the Charity Club at CU“ICT”, in collaboration with the Student Government Senate and the Student Affairs Office, organized an unforgettable movie day for the children at the “Zyber Hallulli” Children’s Home. The children were treated to a pleasant trip to the Millennium Cinema in Tirana, where they enjoyed the animated film ‘Noah’s Ark’ (2024). This event exemplified the spirit of community and compassion, demonstrating the commitment of CU“ICT” students and staff to making a positive impact on children’s lives.</p>
49	<p>TECHTREK HACKATHON SUCCESS May 13, 2024</p> <p>The TechTrek Hackathon took place at CU“ICT”. Over two intensive days, participants demonstrated extraordinary creativity, innovation, and technical skills as they tackled challenges that pushed the boundaries of technology. Teams worked closely with mentors who provided invaluable guidance, helping them refine their ideas and develop their projects to their full potential. The quality of the projects presented was exceptional, highlighting the talent and dedication of all participants.</p>
50	<p>THE IV STUDENT CONFERENCE May 17, 2024</p> <p>On May 17, 2024, CU“ICT” students participated in the 4th Student Conference, co-organized by CU“ICT” and the Fan S. Noli University in Korça. This year’s theme, "Digital Transformation in Challenging Times," attracted about 40 students who presented detailed papers. The conference adopted a hybrid format, facilitating presentations both on-site and online, which allowed for broader participation and interaction. The event emphasized how digital transformation is shaping various industries and the innovative solutions being developed to address current global challenges. Our students from the Faculties of Engineering and Economics, under the guidance of Assoc. Prof. Vasil Qano, presented their research projects and practical applications of digital technologies. At the end of the conference, our students were awarded participation certificates, recognizing their hard work and dedication to their research.</p>
51	<p>WORK ETHICS FOR GEN Z Open Lecture May 21, 2024</p> <p>An open lecture was held by Ms. Eljona Boce Elmazi on the topic "Work Ethics for Generation Z." This lecture addressed often speculated and preconceived notions about the work ethics of young Albanians. Ms. Elmazi presented the findings of a research study conducted in the spring of 2023, which examined the strengths and various aspects of Generation Z's work ethics. The session provided a valuable platform for meaningful discussions, highlighting the implications for the workforce and youth education.</p>
52	<p>EXPLORING HERITAGE TRAVEL STUDENTS CLUB May 22, 2024</p> <p>In celebration of International Museum Day, our Student Travel and Art Clubs, in collaboration with the Institute of Education, Heritage, and Tourism (IETT) and the Student Affairs Office of CU“ICT”, organized an enriching visit to the Ethnographic Museum of Elbasan. This excursion provided our students with an engaging glimpse into local traditions, ethnography, traditional clothing, craftsmanship, and the lifestyle of Elbasan. The museum showcased a diverse range of exhibits, from intricate handcrafted works to vibrant traditional garments, all highlighting the unique heritage of the city.</p>
53	<p>EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES AT RAIFFEISEN BANK May 22, 2024</p> <p>An informative session was held by Raiffeisen Bank Albania, with Rudina Hysaj from Talent Acquisition & People Consulting, Andi Vogli, Senior IT Specialist, and Kler Pula, Test Automation Officer. During this engaging event, our students discovered exciting practical and employment opportunities available at the bank, as well as valuable information about student programs. The session offered insights into various fields, including IT strategy, business analysis, and test automation, providing students with a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of the banking sector.</p>
54	<p>EXPLORING THE WORLD OF BANKING STUDENTS VISIT May 24, 2024</p> <p>On May 24, 2024, our Finance and Accounting students, accompanied by Dr. Besarta Tafa, embarked on an important visit. This visit allowed students to gain firsthand knowledge of the banking industry. They were warmly welcomed by Ms. Nora Ilirjani, Head of BNJ, along with other bank representatives. They explored the structure of the bank, the credit granting process, and various banking products and services. This initiative successfully bridged the gap between academia and industry, enriching the students' understanding of the financial sector and fostering essential practical skills for their future careers.</p>
55	<p>MASTERING THE ART OF PUBLIC SPEAKING OPEN LECTURE May 28, 2024</p> <p>On May 28, 2024, an open lecture titled “Mastering the Art of Public Speaking” was organized, with speaker Ms. Entela Hidri. Ms. Hidri emphasized the transformative power of public speaking both in personal and professional spheres. The lecture covered key aspects of public speaking, including motivation, emotional intelligence, strength, and managing interpersonal relationships.</p>

	Attendees had the opportunity to participate in interactive exercises designed to boost their confidence and improve their public speaking skills.
56	THE 4TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ICITTBT 2024 MAY 30-31, 2024 CU“ICT” hosted the 4th International Conference on Technology Transformations and Business Trends based on intelligence (ICITTBT 2024) on May 30-31, 2024. The conference successfully brought together experts from 30 different countries to discuss advancements in technology and business. The event featured scientific presentations from experts in machine learning, robotics, and smart cities, as well as innovative research presentations from 175 participants. Various awards were presented to honor outstanding achievements in different fields, including contributions from Prof. Dr. Rexhep Meidani, Mr. Balázs Révész, and students and researchers from CU“ICT.”
57	SUMMER SCHOOL 2024 June 6, 2024 On June 6, 2024, CU“ICT” launched the Summer School 2024 program, aimed at empowering young innovators through an engaging and practical curriculum. The program, running from June 26 to July 9, offered an immersive two-week experience in Python programming, game development, and robotics, all designed to inspire future entrepreneurial success among participants aged 15-19. This free program offered a unique opportunity for students to explore key technological skills while fostering their entrepreneurial mindset.
58	GRADUATION CEREMONY 2024 July 19, 2024 The Graduation Ceremony 2024 marked a significant event as we proudly celebrated the achievements of over 200 graduates. The event was graced by national and international personalities, featuring inspiring speeches and emotional award presentations. This ceremony highlighted CU “ICT”’s unwavering support for the dedication and hard work of our university staff and administration, ensuring an unforgettable journey for our students.

Table no. 5: Various activities during the academic year 2023-2024.

INSTITUTIONAL COLLABORATION, SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH, PROJECTS

b) Information on inter-institutional cooperation (2023-2024)

Cooperations and inter-institutional agreements

No.	Collaborating Institution	Date of Signing	Term of the Agreement	Objectives of the Agreement	Profitable entity
1	UTT University, France	11.10.2023 <i>CIT</i> ; 06.11.2023 UTT	5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange of staff and students; - Development of joint activities and publications; - Joint involvement in various projects. 	Faculty of Engineering
2	IERA (Cisco) Academy	30.10.2023	5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of various CISCO courses; 	Faculty of Engineering & Faculty of Economy
3	Atlantic Language Galway	10.11.2023		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Staff exchange; - Joint research activities; - Development of training programs; 	Faculty of Engineering
4	College AAB, Pristina	04.12.2023	5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of joint activities, projects, conferences, and scientific research; 	Faculty of Engineering & Faculty of Economy
5	Batterjee Medical Colleges	21.03.2024	5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation in transnational educational programs and joint projects; - Engagement in scientific research projects and other collaborations; 	Faculty of Engineering & Faculty Of Economy

				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sharing of teaching methodologies, materials, and other resources as needed; - Exchange of students and staff; - Development of joint activities; 	
6	International Science and Technology University, (ISTU), Warsaw, Poland	04.04.2024	5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange of staff and students; - Development of joint activities and publications; - Joint involvement in various projects. 	Faculty of Engineering & Faculty of Economy
7	International Cultural Communication Center Malaysia	16.04.2024	5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange of staff and students; - Development of joint activities and publications; - Joint involvement in various projects. 	Faculty of Engineering & Faculty of Economy
8	TUYAFED, Turkish Software Developers Federation	22.05.2024	Without a specified time, frame	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of joint activities and workshops; 	Faculty of Engineering & Faculty of Economy
9	Illyrian Cyber Security Center Organization	15.05.2024	5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Offering training and internships for students of the Faculty of Engineering; 	Faculty of Engineering
10	University of Split, Faculty of Electrical Engineering Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture (FESB), Croatia	28.05.2024	No deadline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of joint activities - Engagement in scientific research projects and other collaborations; 	Faculty of Engineering
11	University of Split, Faculty of Electrical Engineering Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture on PHD Studies Partnership	29.07.2024	6 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishing a cooperation relationship between UC "CIT" and FESB to facilitate Ph.D. studies for students and staff of UC "CIT" at FESB, which offers a comprehensive Ph.D. program. 	Faculty of Engineering & Faculty of Economy
12	University of Tuzla	08.06.2024	5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange of staff and students; - Development of joint activities and publications; - Joint involvement in various projects. 	Faculty of Economy & Faculty of Engineering

13	Procredit Banc	15.04.2024	1 year with the right of renewal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of practical training for students of the Faculty of Economics; - Participation in joint workshops, conferences, and seminars; 	Faculty Of Economy
14	Trakya University	03.06.2024	5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange of staff and students; - Development of academic activities and joint publications; 	Faculty of Economy & Faculty of Engineering
15	UBA Banc	27.06.2024	5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organization of joint research and professional activities; - Selection of students for practical purposes; - Frequent exchange of information regarding the progress of internships; - Exchange of information regarding issues of interest to both parties 	Faculty of Economy & Faculty of Engineering
16	Sakarya University of Applied Sciences Academic Cooperation Protocol	01.07.2024	5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of academic activities and joint publications; 	Faculty of Engineering
17	University Sorbonne Paris Nord Agreement for Cooperation and Specification	28.06.2024	5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cooperation for the exchange of administrative and academic staff; - Cooperation for student exchange; - Organization of joint training programs and activities; - Exchange of training materials, etc.; 	Faculty of Engineering

18	National Cyber Security Authority (AKSK)	26.08.2024	5 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cooperation in the field of information based on mutual benefits for the enhancement of professional capacities; - Organization of joint training programs and activities; - Exchange of training materials; - Development of training programs, seminars, and internships for CU"ICT" students. 	Faculty of Engineering
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Tab.: List of agreements signed during the academic year 2023-2024.

SIGNED OR ACTIVE AGREEMENTS 2023-24 ERASMUS +

AGREEMENTS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF ERASMUS +			
No	DATE OF SIGNING	COOPERATING INSTITUTION	OBJECTIVES OF THE AGREEMENT
1.	12/03/2024 2022-2027	University of Vilnius, Lithuania	LT VILNIUS02 - Staff and student exchange
2.	20/03/2024 2021-2027	University of Oradea, Rumani	RO ORADEA01 - Staff and student exchange
3.	18/04/2023	Universite de Sorbonne Paris-Nord	- Staff and student exchange - Cooperation agreement
4.	18/06/2024	University of Split, Croatia	- Cooperation agreement - Scientific research
5.	16/05/2023	Instituto Politécnico de Setúbal, Portugali	Cooperation and development agreement Scientific research
6.	16/01/2024 2023-2026	Sakarya University, Turkey	TR SAKARYA01 - Staff and student exchange
7.	01/03/2023 2022-2029	University of Kassel, Germany	D KASSEL01 Staff and student exchange
8.	05.12.2023 - 2026	Medical University of Graz	A GRAZ23 - Staff and student exchange
9.	16.12.2021 - 2027	Liepaja University	LV LIEPAJA01 - Staff and student exchange
10.	05.02.2019 - 2025	Powislanski College in Kwidzyn	PL KWIDZYN01 - Staff and student exchange
11.	19.12.2019 - 2023	Sakarya University of Applied Sciences (SUBU)	TR SAKARYA02 - Staff and student exchange
12.	24.12.2021 – 2027	Instituto Politecnico Do Porto (p. Porto)	P PORTO 05 - Staff and student exchange
13.	07.01.2021 – 2029	University of Applied Sciences in Nysa	PL NYSA01 Staff and student exchange
14.	30.01.2021 - 2027	Institute of Technology and Business in Ceske Budejovice	Cz Ceske04 - Staff and student exchange
15.	06.05.2023 - 2027	University of A Coruna, Spain	E LA-CORU01 - Staff and student exchange

16.	06.02.2023 - 2027	University of Jean	E JAEN01 - Staff and student exchange
17.	15.04.2022 2023-2025	Universidad de Sevilla	E SEVILLA01 - Staff and student exchange
18.	2022- 2027	International Balkan University	MK SCOPJE 04 - Staff and student exchange

Tab.: List of Erasmus+ agreements signed or active during the academic year 2023-2024

c) Information about Scientific Research at Higher Education Institutions

The University College "Canadian Institute of Technology" has had among its main objectives the support of scientific research at the institutional level, within the basic and core units, as well as at the individual level for the academic progress of the respective staff of both faculties.

For the academic year 2023-2024, it can be said that the CIT has organized or participated as a collaborator in 3 international conferences and is ranked 9th in EduRank, 8th according to the National H-index Rank 2024 and Scopus, and 6th in the Web of Science.

Conferences organized:

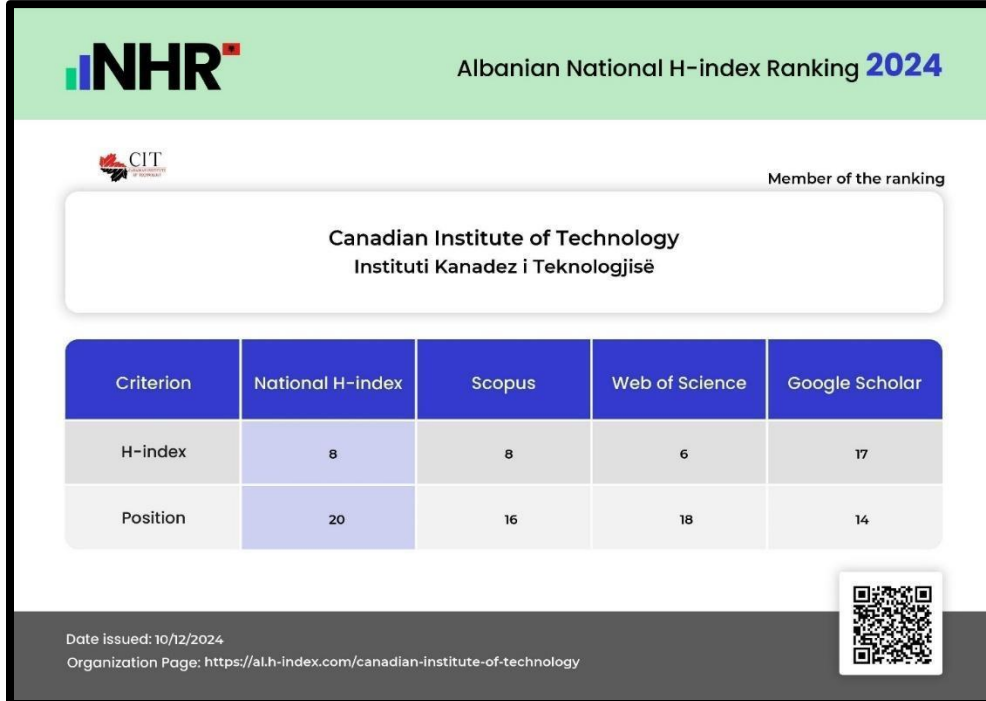
- Institutional participation in the International Conference organized by the European Center of Sustainable Development: ICSD 2023: 11TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, 07-08 SEPTEMBER 2023 ROME, ITALY
- Institutional participation in the International Conference organized by the European Center of Sustainable Development: ICSD 2024: 12TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, 11-12 SEPTEMBER 2024 ROME, ITALY
- Organization of the International Conference "4th ICITTBT 2024 Conference": International Conference on Intelligence-Based Transformations of Technology and Business Trends (ICITTBT) Way of New Life: Bridging Horizons in Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Cybersecurity, Smart Cities, and Digital Economy" Tirana, CIT, 30-31 May 2024

A significant support has also been provided by financially supporting and offering other opportunities for academic staff to publish in high-impact, indexed journals. For the year 2023-2024, CIT has made a significant leap in EduRank, ranking 9th in the country. This aligns with and fulfills the major objectives of the Development Strategy, aiming for the institution to be among the top 10 in the country.



Graphic: CIT ranked in EduRanking 2023-2024

Meanwhile, according to the Albanian National H-Index Ranking 2024, the institution is ranked 8th for Scopus and 6th in Web of Science nationwide. This is a significant achievement, as for two consecutive years, the institution has maintained a strong ranking in these international indices, demonstrating the investment that CU ICT is making through scientific activities, publications, and sponsorships for the academic staff.



Graphic: CU "ICT" ranked in Google Scholar, Scopus, and WoS 2023-2024

Various activities with a scientific, social, cultural, and training character, etc.

In the academic year 2023-2024, among the various activities organized by the institution with a scientific character (conferences, seminars, workshops, competitions, startups, etc.), in which both the academic teaching and scientific staff as well as the students were involved throughout this academic year, the following are mentioned below.

Category	Type	Description
I.	Conference	Description
	1	ICSD 2023: 11TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, 07-08 SEPTEMBER 2023 ROME, ITALY ¹
	2	ICSD 2024: 12TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, 11-12 SEPTEMBER 2024 ROME, ITALY ²
	3	«4rd ICITBT 2024 Conference»: International Conference on Intelligence Based Transformations of Technology and Business Trends (ICITBT) Way of new life: Bridging Horizons in Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Cybersecurity, Smart Cities, and Digital Economy” Tirana, CIT, 30-31 Maj 2024 ³
II.	Roundtable, Seminars and Workshops, Open Lectures	Description
	1	BRIDGING THE FUTURE TECHNOLOGY TBS 96 EVENT October 20, 2023 ⁴
	2	LEADERSHIP IN ALBANIA OPEN LECTURE October 3, 2023 ⁵
	3	CLOUDIFICATION EVENT CIT PARTICIPATION October 26, 2023 ⁶
	4	DELOITTE “IT INTERNSHIP FEST” INFORMATIVE SESSION November 14, 2023 ⁷ -
	5	“THE ENTREPRENEUR’S JOURNEY” PROGRAM LAUNCH November 20, 2023 ⁸
	6	THE GLOBAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP WEEK IN ALBANIA 2023 November 20, 2023 ⁹
	7	EMPOWERING STUDENTS’ VOICE STUDENT GOVERNMENT MEETING November 21, 2023 ¹⁰
	8	FOSTERING STUDENT LEADERSHIP OPEN LECTURE November 24, 2023 ¹¹
	9	DIVE INTO REACT OPEN LECTURE December 5, 2023 ¹² .
	10	UNDER 30 (<30) December 11, 2023 ¹³
	11	NEW TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATIONS IN MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS OPEN LECTURE December 18, 2023 ¹⁴ .
	12	AAB COLLEGE OPEN LECTURES December 20, 2023 ¹⁵
	13	FROM LIGHT SOURCE TO SENSOR: HARNESSING SEMICONDUCTOR LASERS DYNAMICS FOR FBG SENSING OPEN LECTURE December 21, 2023 ¹⁶

¹ <https://ecsdev.org/conference/11th-icsd-2023>

² <https://ecsdev.org/conference/12th-icsd-2024> ; <https://fsnnetwork.org/event/icsd-2024-12th-international-conference-sustainable-development-rome-italy>

³ https://cit.edu.al/2024_icitbt/

⁴ https://www.instagram.com/p/CynztjVNvkX/?img_index=1

⁵ <https://cit.edu.al/leadership-in-albania-open-lecture/>

⁶ <https://cit.edu.al/cloudification-event-cit-participation/>

⁷ <https://cit.edu.al/deloitte-it-internship-fest-informative-session>

⁸ <https://cit.edu.al/the-entrepreneurs-journey-program-launch/>

⁹ <https://cit.edu.al/the-global-entrepreneurship-week-in-albania-2023-highlights/>

¹⁰ <https://cit.edu.al/empowering-students-voice-student-government-meeting/>

¹¹ <https://cit.edu.al/fostering-student-leadership-open-lecture/>

¹² <https://cit.edu.al/dive-into-react-open-lecture/>

¹³ <https://cit.edu.al/under-30/>

¹⁴ https://www.instagram.com/p/CIC4TNvtsh4/?img_index=1

¹⁵ <https://cit.edu.al/aab-college-open-lectures/>

¹⁶ <https://cit.edu.al/from-light-source-to-sensor-harnessing-semiconductor-lasers-dynamics-for-fbg-sensing-open-lecture/>

	14	EMERGING TRENDS IN CYBERSECURITY AND SMART SYSTEMS OPEN LECTURE March 6, 2024 ¹⁷
	15	ALBANIAN ICT AWARDS INFORMATIVE SESSION March 12, 2024 ¹⁸
	16	SAINT MARY UNIVERSITY, CANADA INFORMATIVE SESSION March 15, 2024 ¹⁹
	17	BANKING SYSTEM IN ALBANIA SESSION March 19, 2024 ²⁰
	18	EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE OPEN LECTURE March 20, 2024 ²¹
	19	DATA VISUALIZATION WITH PYTHON OPEN LECTURE March 21, 2024 ²²
	20	BUSINESS CONCEPTS OPEN LECTURE March 22, 2024 ²³
	21	B4STUDENTS PROGRAM INFORMATIVE SESSION March 26, 2024 ²⁴
	22	INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND ITS IMPORTANCE IN PROMOTING INNOVATION AMONG STUDENTS April 8, 2024 ²⁵
	23	THE LAUNCH OF A GLOBAL GAME FROM ALBANIA INSIGHTS FROM TEGARIA AND OUTERLYNX April 18, 2024 ²⁶
	24	WORK ETHICS FOR GEN Z Open Lecture May 21, 2024 ²⁷
	25	EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES AT RAIFFEISEN BANK May 22, 2024 ²⁸
	26	EXPLORING THE WORLD OF BANKING STUDENTS VISIT May 24, 2024 ²⁹
	27	MASTERING THE ART OF PUBLIC SPEAKING OPEN LECTURE May 28, 2024 ³⁰
III.	Competitions, Hackathon, Startups, etc	<i>Description</i>
	1	TECHFEST ALBANIA CODING CONTEST October 30, 2023 ³¹
	2	GAMING CHALLENGE STUDENT CLUB November 8, 2023 ³²
	3	THE STOCK EXCHANGE GAME – THE STOCK WHISPERERS November 30, 2023 ³³
	4	IGNITE ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAM ANALYSING PRODUCTS IN A MARKET December 1, 2023 ³⁴
	5	TECHTREK HACKATHON – CIT EDITION April 30, 2024 ³⁵
	6	TECHTREK HACKATHON SUCCESS May 13, 2024 ³⁶
IV.	Student conference	<i>Description</i>
	1	CYBER ZERO CONFERENCE 2024 STUDENTS PARTICIPATION March 6, 2024 ³⁷
	2	THE IV STUDENT CONFERENCE May 17, 2024 ³⁸
V	Sports, Social, and Cultural Activities	<i>Description</i>

¹⁷ <https://cit.edu.al/emerging-trends-in-cybersecurity-and-smart-systems-open-lecture/>

¹⁸ <https://cit.edu.al/albanian-ict-awards-informative-session-2/>

¹⁹ <https://cit.edu.al/saint-mary-university-canada-informative-session/>

²⁰ <https://cit.edu.al/banking-system-in-albania/>

²¹ <https://cit.edu.al/emotional-intelligence-open-lecture-2/>

²² <https://cit.edu.al/data-visualization-with-python-open-lecture-2/>

²³ <https://cit.edu.al/business-concepts-open-lecture/>

²⁴ <https://cit.edu.al/b4students-program-informative-session-2/>

²⁵ <https://cit.edu.al/intellectual-property-and-its-importance-in-promoting-innovation-among-students-informative-session/>

²⁶ <https://cit.edu.al/the-launch-of-a-global-game-from-albania-insights-from-tegeria-and-outerlynx/>

²⁷ <https://cit.edu.al/work-ethics-for-gen-z-open-lecture/>

²⁸ <https://cit.edu.al/exploring-opportunities-at-raiffeisen-bank/>

²⁹ <https://cit.edu.al/exploring-the-world-of-banking-students-visit/>

³⁰ <https://cit.edu.al/communication-and-ethics-in-the-workplace-training/>

³¹ <https://cit.edu.al/techfest-albania-coding-contest/>

³² <https://cit.edu.al/gaming-challenge-student-club/>

³³ <https://cit.edu.al/the-stock-exchange-game-the-stock-whisperers/>

³⁴ <https://cit.edu.al/ignite-entrepreneurship-program-analyzing-products-in-a-market/>

³⁵ <https://cit.edu.al/hackathon-techtrek-cit-edition/>

³⁶ <https://cit.edu.al/techtrekhackathon-success/>

³⁷ <https://cit.edu.al/cyber-zero-conference-2024-students-participation/>

³⁸ <https://cit.edu.al/the-iv-student-conference/>

	1	UNIVERSITY SPORTS CHAMPIONSHIP OPENING CEREMONY October 25, 2023 ³⁹
	2	HIKING TO BOVILLA LAKE STUDENT TRAVEL CLUB March 19, 2024 ⁴⁰
	3	FOOD DONATION DRIVE STUDENT CHARITY CLUB April 9, 2024 ⁴¹
	4	OPEN DAY 2024 April 20, 2024 ⁴²
	5	BLOOD DONATION DRIVE April 22-23, 2024 ⁴³
	6	EXPLORING OPPORTUNITIES STUDENT CLUB VISITS April 25, 2024 ⁴⁴
	7	ARTISM, CULTURAL HERITAGE, AND PERFORMANCE DISCUSSION April 29, 2024 ⁴⁵
	8	MOVIE DAY AT ZYBER HALLULLI CHILDREN'S HOME May 6, 2024 ⁴⁶
	9	EXPLORING HERITAGE TRAVEL STUDENTS CLUB May 22, 2024 ⁴⁷
VI	Fair	<i>Description</i>
	1	AUTOMOTIVE FAIR ALBANIA 2023 CIT PARTICIPATION October 27, 2023 ⁴⁸
	2	THE EDUCATION, TRAINING, AND EMPLOYMENT FAIR CIT PARTICIPATION October 31, 2023 ⁴⁹
	3	EBLA INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FAIR 2023 November 13, 2023 ⁵⁰
	4	WORK AND STUDY FAIR 2024 FIRST WEEK February 29, 2024 ⁵¹
	5	EBLA INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION FAIR 2024 March 18, 2024 ⁵²
	6	WORK AND STUDY FAIR March 29, 2024 ⁵³
VI	Student Trainings and Summer Schools.	<i>Description</i>
	1	COMPUTERIZED ACCOUNTING TRAINING ELIF ACCOUNTING PROGRAM February 20, 2024
	2	HTML & CSS TRAINING FIRST SESSION February 22, 2024
	3	TECHNICAL TRAINING ON CYBERSECURITY April 25, 2024 ⁵⁴
	4	FINANCES TRAINING May 2, 2024 ⁵⁶
	5	SUMMER SCHOOL 2024 June 6, 2024 ⁵⁷

Tab.: Scientific activities such as conferences, seminars, workshops, competitions, etc., during the academic year 2023-2024.

1. On October 30, 2023, students from UC "ICT" participated in the TechFest Albania Coding Contest, a prestigious competition held as part of a technology festival led by the community. The contest featured coding challenges at various levels of difficulty, attracting participants from Albania, Kosovo, and North Macedonia. The students participated in the four-hour contest, where Kedi Kalaj, a Software Engineering student, was part of the winning team. Their victory awarded them a trip to

³⁹ <https://cit.edu.al/university-sports-championship-opening-ceremony-2/>

⁴⁰ <https://cit.edu.al/hking-to-bovilla-lake-student-travel-club/>

⁴¹ <https://cit.edu.al/food-donation-drive-student-charity-club/>

⁴² <https://cit.edu.al/open-day-2024-best-moments/>

⁴³ <https://cit.edu.al/blood-donation-drive/>

⁴⁴ <https://cit.edu.al/exploring-opportunities-student-club-visits/>

⁴⁵ <https://cit.edu.al/artism-cultural-heritage-and-performance-discussion/>

⁴⁶ <https://cit.edu.al/movie-day-zyber-hallulli-childrens-home/>

⁴⁷ <https://cit.edu.al/exploring-heritage-travel-students-club/>

⁴⁸ <https://cit.edu.al/automotive-fair-albania-2023/>

⁴⁹ <https://cit.edu.al/the-education-training-and-employment-fair/>

⁵⁰ <https://cit.edu.al/ebla-international-education-fair-2023/>

⁵¹ <https://cit.edu.al/work-and-study-fair-2024-first-week/>

⁵² <https://cit.edu.al/ebla-international-education-fair-2024-highlights/>

⁵³ <https://cit.edu.al/work-and-study-fair-3rd-week/>

⁵⁴ <https://cit.edu.al/technical-training-on-cybersecurity/>

⁵⁵ <https://cit.edu.al/technical-training-on-cybersecurity-2/>

⁵⁶ <https://cit.edu.al/completed-accounting-finance5-training/>

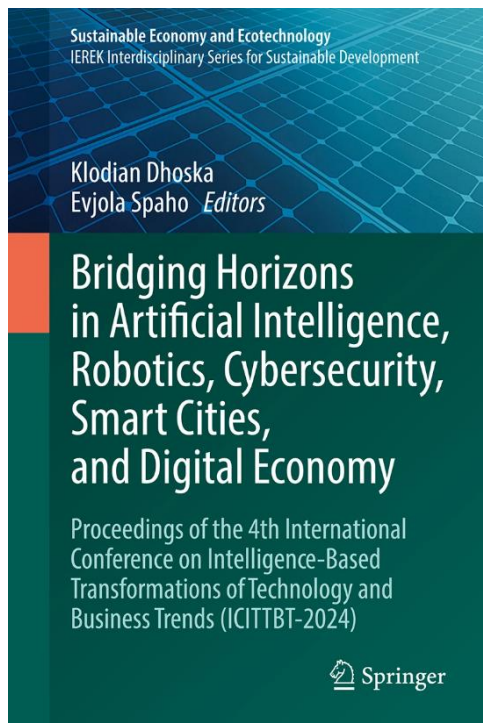
⁵⁷ <https://cit.edu.al/summer-school-2024-join-now/>

⁵⁸ <https://cit.edu.al/exciting-start-to-summer-school-2024/>

Austria, where they will meet developers, companies, and institutions, providing valuable exposure to the global technology industry.

2. On November 30, 2023, a group of 'Master's students from UC "ICT" participated in "The Stock Whisperers" competition, the prestigious International Stock Market Competition in Stuttgart, Germany! Currently ranked first, our team demonstrated exceptional financial acumen and strategy. This event is organized by Deutsche Sparkassenstiftung für Internationale Kooperation (DSIK) in cooperation with the Financial Supervisory Authority (AMF) and the Albanian Stock Exchange (ALSE) to promote financial education and raise awareness of capital markets.

- **Publication of the Proceedings of the IV ICITTBT Conference by SPRINGER**



On May 30-31, 2024, the IV Conference, ICITTBT 2024 Conference : "International Conference on Intelligence Based Transformations of Technology and Business Trends (ICITTBT) Way of New Life: Bridging Horizons in Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Cybersecurity, Smart Cities, and Digital Economy," was held at the University of Information and Communication Technology (UICIT).

The conference marked a real success, as it had participants from 30 different countries. For the first time, the proceedings of this conference were published by a prestigious international publisher, SPRINGER.

UICIT is one of the few institutions in the Western Balkans and the Albanian territories to successfully publish the best conference papers with an international publisher.

Photo: Conference Book Publication

Various Awards and Recognitions Given

On the occasion of the organization by UC "ICT" of the IV Conference, ICITTBT, held on May 30-31, 2024, several awards were distributed for outstanding contributions in the fields of science and entrepreneurship, as follows:

1. **Academician Prof. Dr. Rexhep Mejdani** – Recognition for Outstanding Lifetime Achievements
2. **Mr. Balas Raves** (CEO of Vodafone Albania) – Recognition for Excellent Leadership
3. **Mr. Joel Murataj** – UC ICT student – Recognition as an Outstanding Student
4. **Dr. Eugen Musta** – UC ICT academic staff – Recognition for academic contribution and in the field of R&D

5. **Prof. Llukan Puka** – Former member of the Editorial Board of the UC "ICT" Scientific Journal – Recognition for Best Author

Two honorary recognition awards were given to two students who came to UC "ICT" on mobility from foreign universities:

1. **Hugo Bontemps** – Recognition for participation with contributions during the Erasmus+ Mobility
2. **Leonard Grandry** – Recognition for participation with contributions during the Erasmus+ Mobility

Publication of the scientific journal CIT Review Journal (CRJ)

"CIT Review" is a periodic scientific journal of CIT that publishes scientific articles from the academic staff of both faculties, as well as researchers who express interest in publishing from other institutions. The journal is published twice a year, specifically in November and May. It primarily covers the fields of engineering and economics, as well as related scientific fields such as natural sciences, humanities, etc.

CIT Review has become part of the Ulrichsweb™ Periodicals Directory and is indexed in Citefactor, which is also the largest index of scientific journals and articles in the world. As a genuine scientific journal with an ISSN and a board of distinguished international personalities in the field of science, this journal provides an opportunity for the academic staff of CIT and research groups to publish their findings and achievements, as well as to increase collaboration with board members who are also distinguished personalities in foreign universities.

For the academic year 2023-2024, the journal has published two issues, and in each issue, scientific studies have been published by both the academic staff of CIT and collaborators from other universities within and outside the country. In both published issues, over 50% of the articles are from the academic staff and students of the institution.

Scientific works of UC "IKT" lecturers in the magazine "CIT Review Journal" (CRJ)		
		Number of items
<i>Magazine number</i>	November 2023	4 of 8 articles
	May 2024	3 of 5 articles
	2 numbers	7 of 13 items
Total		9

Tab.: Scientific works of lecturers in CIT Review Journal November 2023 – May 2024.

STUDY PROGRAMS

INFORMATION ABOUT THE STUDY PROGRAMS

d.) Information about the study programs

i) The higher education institution informs about all the study programs it offers, including interdisciplinary and joint programs, if any. The report presents the study programs that are active, suspended, closed, or those for which permission has been granted for their opening but have not been activated.

CIT offers study programs organized into two faculties: Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Economics. Each of these faculties is organized into basic units and research units. The study programs are organized according to the 3+2 system of the Bologna Process. The first cycle (Bachelor) programs last 3 years (180 ECTS), while the second cycle (Master of Sciences) programs last 2 years (120 ECTS).

During the 2023-2024 academic year, CIT continued to develop the teaching process in both faculties and the programs it had active. The Statute, the Institutional Regulation, and the "Book of Institutional Regulations" define the duties, functions, responsibilities, and decision-making processes.

Each of the faculties has offered the following study programs during this academic year:

FACULTY OF ECONOMICS:

a. In the first cycle of studies, for the Bachelor's degree:

- "Bachelor" in "Business Administration"
- "Bachelor" in "Business Administration and Information Technology"
- "Bachelor" in "Finance and Accounting"

b. In the second cycle of studies, for the Master's degree:

- "Master of Science" in "Business Administration"
- "Master of Science" in "Finance and Accounting"
- "Master of Science" in "Information Technology in Business"
- "Master of Science" in "Digital Marketing"

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING:

c. In the first cycle of studies, for the Bachelor's degree:

- "Bachelor" in "Software Engineering"
- "Bachelor" in "Telecommunications Engineering"
- "Bachelor" in "Computer Engineering and Information Technology"
- "Bachelor" in "Electronic Engineering"
- "Bachelor" in "Robotics and Mechatronics Engineering"

d. In the second cycle of studies, for the Master's degree:

- "Master of Science" in "Software Engineering"
- "Master of Science" in "Computer Engineering and Information Technology"

CIT offers study programs in two cycles: the first cycle (Bachelor) and the second cycle (Master of Science). In the first cycle of study, during the academic year 2023-2024, a total of 8 programs were offered across both faculties, while in the second cycle, 6 programs were offered across both faculties.

The study mode at the Canadian Institute of Technology University College (CIT) is full-time.

All departments consist of at least 7 full-time academic staff members, of whom at least three hold degrees or titles. Data related to the academic staff can be found in Tables No. 3 and 4 of this report.

Internal Quality Assurance Unit (NJSBC):

Based on CIT's Statute, the Internal Quality Assurance Unit (NJSBC) is a permanent internal structure responsible for developing policies and procedures for ensuring internal quality. The unit is composed of five members, one of whom is a representative of the Student Council.

During the 2023-2024 academic year, NJSBC conducted surveys every semester regarding the organization of programs, faculty members, course content, teaching quality, and academic literature used by the staff. The surveys were anonymous and conducted online. The data collected was processed by QAU and submitted to the responsible authorities for continuous quality improvement, increasing the implementation of required standards, and achieving institutional objectives.

	Members of the Internal Quality Assurance	Responsibilities on QAU	How long has he/she been in this role
1.	Bledar Komini	Chairman	10 Year
2.	Artur Jaupaj	Member	8 Year
3.	Enriko Ceko	Member	2 Year
4.	Oriod Malaj (zëvendësuar nga Muhamedali Kura)	Member	2 months (O.M) 7 months (M.K)
5.	Franci Sima	Student	1 year

Table: Data on the Members of the Internal Quality Assurance Unit (IQAU) of IKT

During the academic year 2023-2024, the IQAU has implemented all the normative standards outlined in institutional acts such as the Statute, Regulations, and Manuals. At the same time, the unit has worked on improving processes, formats, and procedures that assist the institution, academic and administrative staff, as well as students.

The IQAU has also been fully engaged in the periodic accreditation process of two study programs:

- "Master of Science" in "Digital Marketing"
- "Master of Science" in "Information Technology in Business" At the same time, the IQAU has been fully engaged in processing data and formats for the application of three new programs.

f) Engagement of Academic Staff, Corresponding Workload, Courses/Modules to Be Developed by Each of Them for Each Semester of the Academic Year

Data on the engagement of academic staff for the 2023-2024 academic year, their workload, and the distribution of courses are provided in the Appendix of this report.

i) Percentage of Graduates Who Pass the State Examination and Obtain Licenses When the Study Program Is Related to a Regulated Profession

The programs offered by CIT are not related to licenses or regulated professions.

h) Data on Student Councils and Their Representation in the Governing Bodies of the IAL and the Internal Quality Assurance Unit

Composition of the Student Government 2023-2024

- Ahmed Pemaj – President of the Student Government
- Kedi Kalaj – Vice President
- Izabela Prasta – Secretary of the Student Government

Students in Committees and Institutional Committees Scholarship Committee

- Kejvin Luga – Student

Internal Quality Assurance Unit

- Franci Sima – Student

Permanent Commission for Scientific Research, Projects, Applications, and Innovation

- Ergi Bogdani – Student

Permanent Commission for Curricula and Teaching Programs

- Asemina Meraj – Student

Permanent Commission for Relations with Students and Protection of Student Rights

- Ahmed Pemaj – Student

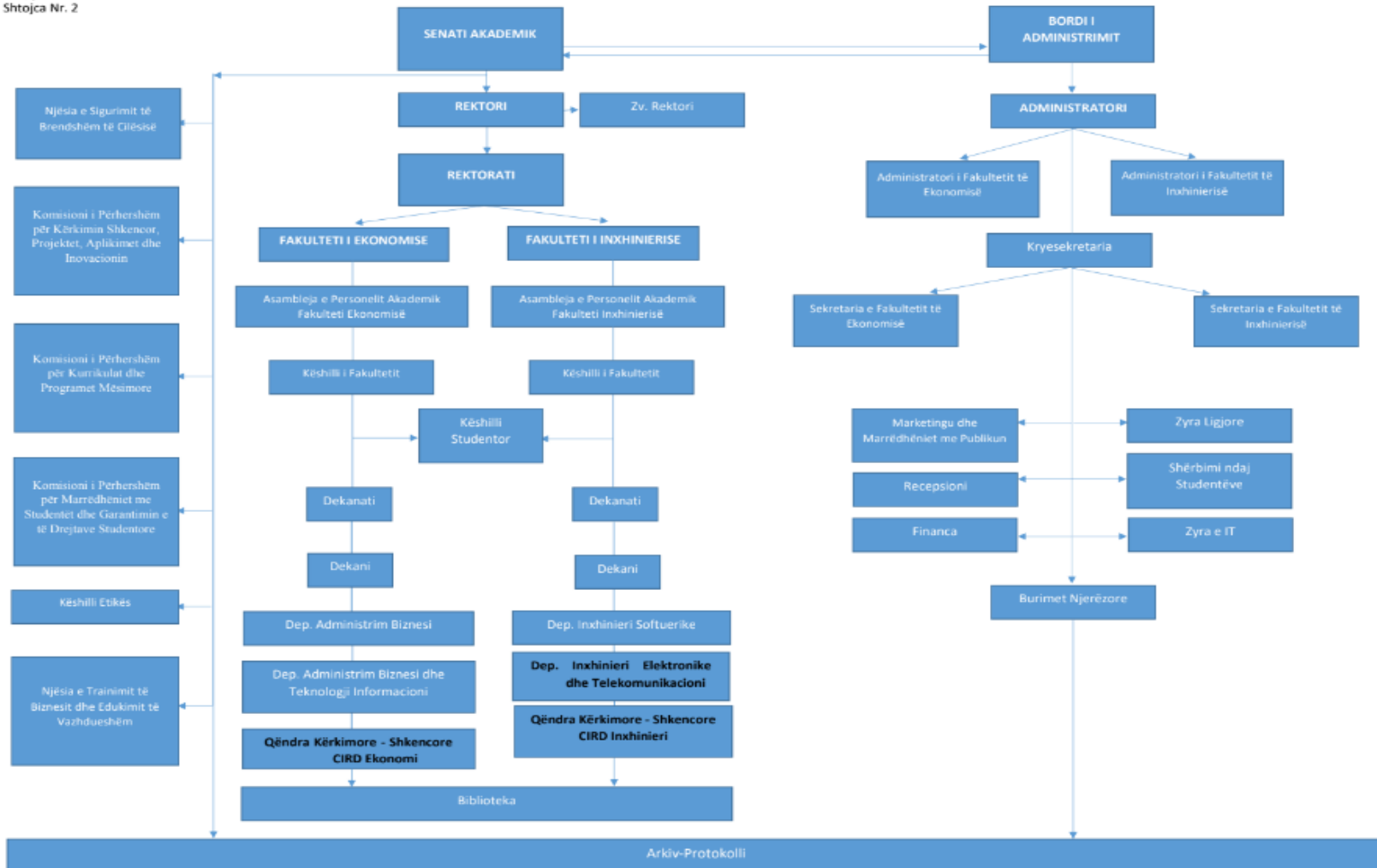
i) Evaluations of the IAL and Possible Recommendations to the Ministry

CIT emphasizes that the overall evaluation of communication with the Ministry of Education and Sports (MAS) remains positive, correct, and always institutional.

CIT highly appreciates the work and commitment undertaken by the Ministry of Education and Sports during the academic year 2023-2024.

BOARD OF ADMINISTRATION

ORGANIGRAMA E KOLEGJIT UNIVERSITAR “INSTITUTI KANADEZ I TEKNOLOGJISË”



Board of Administration, Academic Senate, Institutional Leadership, Infrastructure

a) General Information About the Higher Education Institution (HEI) Regarding its Organizational Structure, Component Units, and Relevant Governing Authorities:

a. Institutional Leaders, Key Units, and Departments

Based on the Law on Higher Education, the Statute, and the Institutional Regulations, the main development policy and strategic recommendations at the institutional level are implemented by the Board of Administration, which coordinates its work with the Academic Senate. At the faculty level, this is realized by the Faculty Council and the Dean's Office. The Rector's Office has carried out a full activity by following the progress of the academic year and the overall institutional activity.

Leadership and decision-making are carried out entirely by the governing authorities such as the Rector, Dean, and Heads of Departments, who fully carry out their duties in accordance with the Law on Higher Education and Scientific Research in the Republic of Albania, and the guidelines of the Ministry of Education and Sports (MAS).

CIT has operated fully in both academic and administrative directions, with a life full of activities that have been followed and implemented at all levels and throughout its institutional hierarchy. All decision-making bodies, collegial bodies, executive authorities, councils, and committees, as well as the administrative bodies responsible for implementation, have functioned fully and carried out their activities in compliance with the Law on Higher Education, the Statute, and Institutional Regulations.

The institution has held periodic meetings in the Academic Senate, Rector's Office, Faculty Councils, various commissions, and committees. For the academic year 2023-2024, the "Canadian Institute of Technology" University College had a complete structure at the administrative, administrative-academic, academic-teaching, and scientific research levels, through which it achieved its annual institutional objectives and those of the main units, while continuing its efforts to contribute to the overall development of the institution.

A significant amount of support was also given to student life and the Student Government, which functions as an independent body representing the interests and demands of the students within the institution.

a. Activity of the Academic Senate

The Academic Senate of the institution has been the collegial decision-making body, which has made key decisions regarding the development of academic life, based on proposals from the Rector's Office, key units, and those below. The Academic Senate has played a leading role as the decision-making collegial body, working towards achieving the main annual objectives in line with the institution's Development Strategy 2020-2025.

Discussions in the Academic Senate during this academic year have been diverse, covering a wide range of topics, such as student registration criteria, student enrollments, setting quotas, approving annual objectives, discussing market studies for opening new programs, reports from institutional committees and commissions, scientific activities, following and approving reports, and evaluating academic staff, among others.

On the other hand, decisions made by the Academic Senate include, but are not limited to, decisions regarding the approval of institutional regulations, manuals, annual academic calendar structure, approval of teaching plans, revised teaching regulations, annual academic load, etc. The decisions taken by the Academic Senate have been based on institutional needs, legal obligations, and daily activities. Faculty Councils, the Internal Quality Assurance Unit, and other academic and non-academic committees have been dedicated to the proper functioning and effectiveness of their work towards achieving the annual objectives and institutional goals to meet them as effectively as possible.

b. Board of Administration

The Board of Administration of CIT for the academic year 2023-2024 has been composed of:

Nr.	Nam,e / Surmane	Position
1.	Prof.Dr. Merita Xhumari	Chairwomen
2.	Prof.Assoc. Vasil Qano	Member
3.	Prof.Assoc. Shkëlzen Cakaj	Member
4.	Prof.Dr. Elez Osmani	Member
5.	Prof.Assoc. Gazmend Pula	Member

Tab.: The Board of Administration of CIT

b) Data for the Medium-Term Budget Plan, the Annual Budget Plan, and the Strategic Development Plan of the Institution

c) Actual Implementation of the Previous Year's Budget Plan by Budget Items, the Budget Plan for the Following Academic Year, and Tuition Fees for the Upcoming Academic Year

CIT is a private institution and operates as a limited liability company (shpk). The institution is financed by a sole shareholder and administered by the Board of Administration, which appoints the Administrator. In addition to the funding from the sole shareholder, CIT also generates income from tuition fees, rental services, projects, and other sources.

Tuition fees for the 2023-2024 academic year:

- **Faculty of Economics:**
 - First cycle of study – 2500 euros
 - Second cycle of study – 3000 euros
- **Faculty of Engineering:**
 - First cycle of study – 3000 euros
 - Second cycle of study – 3000 euros

The institution regularly accounts for all economic and financial transactions according to applicable laws and presents them in the balance sheet. The Finance Office operates in accordance with the approved budget, the institution's internal regulations, and the applicable legislation.

Infrastructure in service of the institution

The University College "Canadian Institute of Technology" is located in Tirana, at the address Rr. Xhanfize Keko, Xhura Complex, No. 12. It is easily accessible to students with different income levels, as it does not require high transportation costs. Its location is close to various public and private institutions and services, both educational and otherwise, making it easily reachable for students, allowing them to save time.

CIT offers a total area of 2715 m². Of this, 2385 m² is dedicated to the teaching process, and 330 m² is for parking. Of these areas, 1790 m² are on the first floor, and 955 m² are on the second floor of the institution.

Agreement with Cisco Academy

CIT has entered into an agreement with the official representatives of Cisco Academy, becoming part of the global Cisco Networking Academy network.

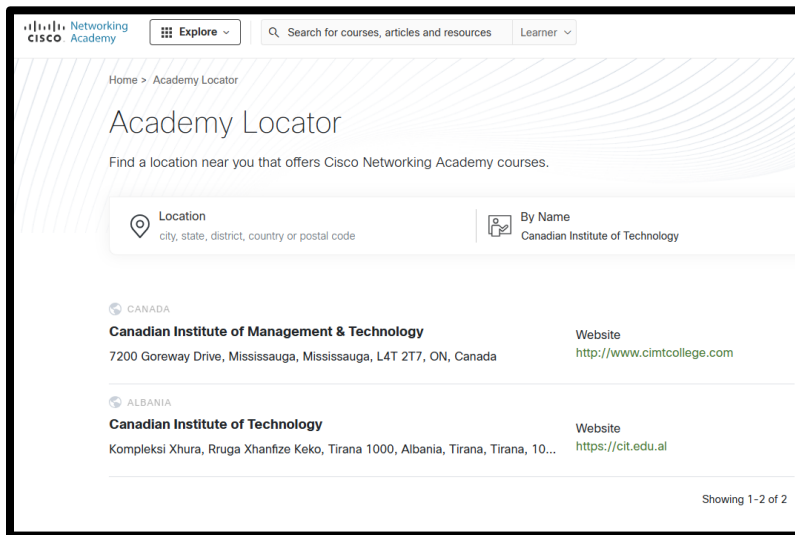


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In the Balkan region, there are few institutions that have signed a cooperation agreement and become part of the CISCO Networking Academy.

CISCO Academy certifications are among the best and most recognized worldwide, and their value for the quality of training they offer is globally known. Students from both faculties will have the opportunity to study some of the curriculum subjects through CISCO curricula, labs, and tools provided by CISCO Academy online. Upon completion of the study program, they will be capable and qualified for the labor market. The agreement is valid for 5 years, starting from the academic year 2023-2024 and ending in the academic year 2027-2028.

A. Library

The library has a rich collection of books in all fields of economics and engineering, as well as in the areas of focus in the studies of the Faculty of Engineering and the Faculty of Economics. The titles are selected based on the needs and demands of students and academics. The library has both its Physical and Virtual Spaces, which have been created and adapted based on the needs of students and academic staff.

As mentioned earlier, the library consists of two parts:

- Physical Library
- Virtual Library

Staff and students have the opportunity to freely access both libraries and enrich their knowledge with the latest educational and scientific texts. The physical library is open according to a schedule six days a week, while the virtual library can be accessed from any mobile device, tablet, or laptop with internet access. The institution provides high-speed, unlimited internet for all staff and students.

The library has its section on the website, where information is provided on:

- General information about the library
- The library's mission and purpose
- Instructions on where free resources can be accessed outside the library
- McGrawHill Education books
- O'Reilly platform
- Library policies
- Announcements
- Opening hours/contact person

a. Physical Library

The physical library has around 5000 titles, journals, manuals, etc., including 352 journals, with about 27 titles in Albanian and a special section for foreign languages such as French, Spanish, German, and Italian. All library titles are regularly updated in the library database, and anyone can access the available titles at any time.

The library has 26 reading places, 6 of which are equipped with computers to assist students who wish to read, study, and consult electronic literature and library resources. Library services are provided by designated staff members and are available to students, academic staff, and the community. The library is located on the second floor of the institution. The opening hours of the library are tailored to students' needs. The library is open every day, Monday to Friday, from 09:00 AM to 01:00 PM and 02:00 PM to 06:00 PM, and on Saturday from 08:00 AM to 03:00 PM. Students and staff can browse the library materials in a comfortable reading room, equipped with all the necessary infrastructure. The library's book collection is "open access," meaning students can select books themselves from the shelves, arranged according to the Decimal System. This makes it even easier to use books and journals.

The institution manages the physical library through the KOHA system, built in accordance with the decimal system.

To enrich the library, an agreement has been signed with the "Press Subscription Agency" to secure the most popular international periodicals in the field of engineering. The institution regularly receives the latest issues of journals and periodicals in these fields and adds them to the library.

b. Virtual Library

All electronic books in the CIT virtual library are available through two agreements signed by the institution:

- Agreement with McGraw-Hill Education, one of the three most well-known global academic publishers, offering academic textbooks from the best publishers today.
- Agreement with TEXO, the official representative of O'Reilly, to offer online access to the library with over 100,000 titles, video tutorials, manuals, etc.

All texts offered through these agreements are the latest in the fields of engineering and economics, as well as in other areas including humanities, natural sciences, foreign languages, etc. The educational literature is provided free of charge to students by the institution, and they do not pay for it.

Agreement with McGraw-Hill Education

Through this agreement, the institution allows staff and students to select academic textbooks for the study programs. All textbooks used in the institution are from McGraw-Hill Education. CIT has long cooperated with McGraw-Hill Education. The first agreement was signed in 2016. Since then, the institution continues to cover all study programs with literature provided by this company.

Agreement with TEXO for O'Reilly

CIT has an agreement with the distribution company TEXO for the distribution of texts in Albania and online access to the O'Reilly platform, which includes:

- Books: Over 100,000 titles from O'Reilly and approximately 200 trusted publishers.
- In-progress titles: Opportunities to follow O'Reilly books that are still in progress, gaining knowledge from the author before they are available to the general public.
- Audio books: 1,500 audiobooks to listen to.
- Videos: 30,000 hours of instructor-led courses and other on-demand recordings.
- Live events: Online live courses, expert discussions, virtual technology conferences, Superstream, and more.
- Interactive learning: Sandboxes, scenarios, and Jupyter notebooks to learn by doing.
- Practice exams: Interactive tests that offer a smarter way to prepare for the exam.

Every student enrolled in one of the institution's programs benefits from free access to the McGraw-Hill Education and O'Reilly virtual libraries. These resources help students not only study and expand their knowledge but also play a crucial role in the Virtual Library, offering unlimited use for projects, course assignments, and thesis writing.

B. Institution Management System (UMS)

The "Canadian Institute of Technology" University College (CIT) developed an "Institution Management System" (University Management System - UMS) in 2016, through which all academic processes of both faculties and the programs they offer are organized and managed. The system is based on an online platform, accessible by all students, administrative staff (secretaries), and academic staff of CU "ICT," through a Username and Password provided by the IT department. The management system is a product developed by the IT department and is improved every year by adding new modules and functionalities.

At the beginning of the academic year, when students register for one of the programs offered by the institution, the IT Department provides them with a personalized email address based on the student's first and last name, enabling their identification in the online system. Following this, interaction between the institution and the student is carried out through email communication, and students can use their email addresses to access the Library, learning materials, the Virtual Classroom, the Management System, as well as the institution's surveys (which are separate from each other). At the same time, all of these services are also available to the academic and administrative staff of the institution.

Through this system, the academic secretariat can upload exam results online for students, organized by groups and relevant programs. Meanwhile, the secretariat can select students using filters based on specific programs, academic years, cities, names, etc.

Through this platform, students can access their exam results online for the courses they are enrolled in, as well as check other relevant information. Each student can view their personal data, but they do not have access to change their academic results. The system provides valuable services for both staff and students, and at the same time, it generates data about their numbers, attendance, enrolled programs, grades, etc.

CU"ICT" publishes on its official website all information related to study programs (program details and fields), admission criteria, tuition fees, scholarship opportunities, and any other information related to the daily activities of the Institution. Additionally, the website has a dedicated section for students, where information about their daily activities can be found. The website can be accessed by any user without restrictions, in two languages: Albanian and English. The access link is: www.cit.edu.al.

F. Development of Teaching Practices, Projects, and Course Assignments

In the framework of monitoring and developing student projects, teaching practices, scientific research, and training programs, the CIT Innovation Center (CIT HUB) has been established as a coordinating unit that manages the development of various projects, practices, or training programs for implementation. In collaboration with the CIRD Engineering and CIRD Economy Centers, CIT HUB follows the development of student teaching practices at companies, businesses, and enterprises with which the institution has cooperation agreements.

On the other hand, CIT HUB is an innovation laboratory where students can develop teaching practices, projects, and course assignments under the guidance of the academic staff. This Hub helps develop concepts, startups, and various student projects, giving them the opportunity to be active in their field of study.