

# The Perceptions of Students Regarding Gender Equality Policies in Universities

Denisa Titili<sup>1</sup>, Irena Nikaj<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Department of Social Sciences, University "Fan S. Noli" Korça, Albania

<sup>2</sup>Department of Education, University "Fan S. Noli" Korça, Albania

## Abstract

The study is about the perceptions of students of the University of Korca regarding the university's commitment to gender equality. Albanian universities have made significant efforts in gender mainstreaming. As part of a higher education institution, we must offer new generations a different path, free from prejudice and stereotypes, embracing people's freedom and appreciating their individuality and originality. There is a significant commitment from the University of Korca (UNIKO) toward gender equality policies. The paper aims to point out the perceptions of students on gender equality policies followed by UNIKO and the commitment of the university to build an honest and communicative learning and work environment where people are treated equally and there is no discrimination, as well as a community which conveys trust, a sense of belonging and shared goals. A quantitative approach was used for this study. A questionnaire was conducted to measure the perception of students on gender equality policies in the university. The students were recruited in the four faculties of UNIKO. The study focused on students' knowledge of gender mainstreaming; their participation in trainings and activities focused on gender issues; equal representation in the decision-making units and awareness of gender equality and unconscious gender biases. The study showed a high interest of students in the gender policies of the institution, but a more visible involvement of students in informative activities and greater awareness to address gender issues is suggested.

**Keywords:** capacity building; gender mainstreaming; decision- making bodies; gender- based violence; training