

PROPOSAL

Based on Article 78 of the Law on Higher Education ('Official Gazette', no. 44/14, 47/15, 40/16, 42/17 and 71/17) and Article 32 paragraph 1 item 25, in regard with the Article 102 of the Statute of the University of Montenegro, Senate of the University of Montenegro, at session held on April 12th, 2018, has adopted the

**DECISION ON USE OF
SOFTWARE FOR PLAGIARISM DETECTION
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTENEGRO**

I BASIC PROVISIONS

Aim

Article 1

Considering the common wealth and preservation of integrity of academic community, the University of Montenegro, as a scientific research institution, conducts regular audit of authenticity of master papers, PhD dissertations, publications issued within publishing activities, as well as others.

The main aim of auditing is prevention academic plagiarism at the University of Montenegro. Also, the aim is to determine if and to what extent the publication/author article is authentic and if rules of citation, indication of sources etc. are followed.

Subject

Article 2

This Decision shall regulate the way of use of authenticate software for detection of plagiarism; it shall define evaluation of implemented methods to the scope and categories of publications/documents being the subject of control as well as entities related to this Decision.

Definition and Types of Plagiarism

Article 3

Plagiarism implies every takeover of an authorised paper or material without any indication of being someone else's author paper or paper of that paper or performing any other similar action presenting it as his/her authentic paper.

Article 4

Types of plagiarism, in terms of this Decision, are:

Copying: Copying is related to taking over, i.e. using the same or similar content, text, paragraph or its part, idea, method or something similar, without using quotation marks and indication of the source (i.e. without quotation of authentic content).

Autoplagiarism: auto plagiarism is related to the usage of earlier published paper (partially or entirely) by the same author without adequate indication.

This is not implied to: Plagiarism in translation and inadequate retell without indication of the source may not be defined plagiarism via plagiarism detection software iThenticate.

Entities and Publications/Author Papers

Article 5

This Decision shall be implemented to:

- 1) Academic personnel and entities with scientific and research titles, employed at the University of Montenegro;
- 2) Students of the University of Montenegro.

Article 6

This Decision may be implemented to the following publications/authorships:

- 1) Publication issued by the University of Montenegro within and out of the publishing;
- 2) PhD dissertations implemented at the University of Montenegro;
- 3) Master papers implemented at the University of Montenegro;
- 4) Other documentation when needed.

II MANNER AND PROCEDURE OF AUDITING

Methods

Article 7

In the procedure of auditing an automatized review of author papers is implemented, submitted in electronic form, by using licensed software for plagiarism detection iThenticate license in possession of the University of Montenegro.

Evaluation of Results of Implemented Method

Article 8

Reviews include:

- 1) Quotations;
- 2) Bibliographies;
- 3) Phrases;
- 4) Match with up to 10 words;
- 5) Similarity less than 5%;
- 6) General definition of words and concepts (e.g. words from standard book literature).

Result of implementation of method for plagiarism audit is positive if there are elements which may be interpreted as plagiarism.

Positive result indicators are:

- For PhD dissertations and master papers:
 - Existence of any part of the text directly taken from other authors without quotations and original source;
 - Existence of any segment of method, idea or similar taken without quotation of original paper where method, idea software and other are introduced.

This is not implied to: There are parts of scientific papers showing great similarity. This should not be considered as plagiarism. It is important to name authors who developed the methodology given.

- Existence of more than 30% of similarities between PhD thesis/master paper of a candidate and author papers of other authors without indicated sources;
- Candidate does not indicate clearly parts of his/her scientific papers in master papers or PhD theses.

This is not implied to: It is acceptable that PhD/master students include parts of their scientific papers and master theses, with obligatory indication of the source.

- For publications issued by the University of Montenegro:
 - Existence of any kind of part of the text directly taken from other authors without quotations and original source;
 - Existence of any other segment of a method, idea or similar taken without any indication of original paper where the method, idea, software are introduced;
 - Existence of more than 30% of similarity with some other author papers without quotation of the source.

The stated percentages in this Article are estimated based on performances of the plagiarism detection software iThenticate.

Evaluation Bodies

Article 9

Evaluation of author papers through method defined in Article 7 of this Decision is performed by the following expert bodies at the University of Montenegro:

I Board for PhD studies – for PhD dissertations

PhD dissertations need to be sent electronically to the Board for PhD studies prior sending to the Central University Library. Attached to PhD dissertations, scientific papers as basis for PhD thesis are also submitted.

II Board for Master Studies – for master papers

Master papers need to be sent electronically to the Board for Monitoring of Master Papers prior sending to the Central University Library. Attached to master papers, scientific papers as basis for master thesis are also submitted (if any).

Having in mind a great number of master papers, the subject of software proofing will be minimum 50% out of total number of master papers.

III Editing Board of the University of Montenegro – for publications published by the University of Montenegro.

Editing Board analyses the publication in electronic form during and after the reviewing procedure.

The Review Procedure

Article 10

If the evaluation of author papers, by the method defined in Article 7 of this Decision, raises suspicion that there are elements that may be interpreted as plagiarism, the Centre for Studies and Quality Control shall establish the commission from the line of entities with academic scientific title at the University of Montenegro. The Commission is composed of minimum three members. Members of the commission shall not be entities with academic and scientific title who previously have written a positive review of the paper, mentors and members of commission for evaluation and defence of thesis, as well as other parties who signed official reports.

Task of the commission is to gather evidence, conduct analysis if the results of evaluation are relevant for specific cases and the results are delivered to bodies competent for evaluation. When necessary, commission may organise a joint meeting both with mentor and author (in case of master papers and PhD dissertations) for obtaining additional explanations.

Also, when needed, the commission work may be supported by rector and vice-rectors.

The Commission may require opinion for mother professional entities or expert bodies from adequate field.

The Commission shall suggest correction of irregularities from Article 8 of this Decision detected by implementation of software iThenticate on a concrete document, within 30 days from the day when irregularities are detected, unless it is about the phase of paper defence.

Candidate shall correct disputable parts within 30 days from the day of delivering suggestions of the commission.

If software for detection of plagiarism determines that author whose paper is being tested did not correct disputable parts, commission on basis of evidence gathered in prior procedure prepares opinion for the Senate, i.e. commission of organisation unit.

III FINAL PROVISIONS

Implementation

Article 11

This Decision shall be implemented in procedure of obtaining diploma of master and PhD studies at the University of Montenegro, as well as in the procedure of publishing publications within the research activity of the University of Montenegro, including procedures started before this Decision came into force where final decision had not been made.

Coming to Force

Article 12

This Decision shall come into force on the eighth day of the day of publishing in Bulletin of the University of Montenegro.

Number: _____

Podgorica, _____ **2018**

SENATE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MONTENEGRO

Chairperson

DaniloNikolic, PhD

EXPLANATION

Having in mind that plagiarism in higher education presents a problem faced by entire academic community at international level and that the University of Montenegro owns software iThenticate for determination of plagiarism, with the aim to implement the software competent bodies of the University of Montenegro have found necessary to adopt *Decision on Use of Software for Plagiarism Detection at the University of Montenegro*.

Adoption of this Decision is very important in terms of setting up basis for prevention of this occurrence, since implementation of software, next to prevention of plagiarism as primary goal, will contribute to improvement of overall academic culture and scientific research at the University of Montenegro.

Since plagiarism present violation of academic ethics, we emphasize the importance of testing authenticity of paper with the aim to reinforce academic integrity and quality of higher education.