

To: CIG Decision-Making Committee
Action Chair COST Action CA19130
Submitter CIG Grant Application
From: Regional Economic Forum
Str. "UCK"-se, 30000, Peja, Kosovo
www.ferd.unhz.eu
email: ferd@unhz.eu

Letter of support for COST Innovators Grant (CIG): "VisionXAI: Pioneering Visual analytics for Establishing XAI Standards in European Finance with a Policy-Focused Impact"

Dear members of the CIG committee,

The Regional Economic Forum: Dukagjini (FER-D), established by the University "Haxhi Zeka" in collaboration with the municipalities of Peja, Deçan, Klina, Istog, Junik, Gjakova, and Malisheva, serves as a permanent platform for stakeholders from various sectors including the central and local governments, businesses, civil society, experts, academic faculty, and students. Its primary objective is to engage in discussions and foster collaboration to identify, analyze, and tackle challenges and opportunities for economic growth at local, regional, and national levels.

FER-D endeavours to enhance the coordination among these stakeholders, facilitating the exchange of ideas and expertise to formulate policies, strategies, and implementable projects to foster the economic development of the region and the country. By leveraging its diverse participants' collective knowledge and resources, FER-D aims to drive sustainable economic growth, promote innovation, and address pertinent issues hindering development.

The specific goals of FER-D are designed to be adaptable, evolving based on the prevailing circumstances, priorities, and developmental needs identified by the organizing partners. However, at its core, FER-D remains committed to fostering inclusive economic development through collaborative efforts and informed decision-making processes <https://ferd.unhz.eu/>

We are aware of the application submitted by Prof. Dr. Jörg Osterrieder from Bern Business School, along with our professors Vlora Berisha from University Haxhi Zeka and Albulena Shala from the University of Prishtina and other cost members, for the COST Innovator Grant titled "VisionXAI: Pioneering Visual Analytics for Establishing XAI Standards in European Finance with a Policy-Focused Impact."

The VisionXAI project, aimed at enhancing the interpretability and standards of XAI in the European financial sector, aligns with our business goals and current activities at FERD. By fostering collaboration between academia, government, and businesses, sharing best practices, promoting ethical AI adoption, and identifying investment opportunities, FERD supports the VisionXAI initiative. VisionXAI seeks to create a visual analytics tool that enhances XAI interpretability and standards within the European financial sector, meeting regulatory requirements and policy impacts while ensuring alignment with EU directives. It is designed as a scalable solution bridging the gap between technical XAI approaches and practical financial applications, fostering trust and transparency in AI-driven financial decisions through clear, user-friendly interpretations, and addressing bias detection and mitigation to promote fairness and data integrity.

We wholeheartedly endorse the COST Innovator Grant application for VisionXAI, recognizing the significant role such a tool will play in the financial sector. This tool's importance is underscored by its potential to bring clarity and accountability to AI-driven financial decisions, aligning with our dedication to responsible and transparent business practices.

With this letter, we confirm that we are very interested in the proposed solution, and we look forward to assessing the results of the project revenant for Regional Economic Forum.

Sincerely,

Luan Lulaj

Director of FERD

