

**PBHE - “Rezonanca”
Branch “Pristina”
Application for Accreditation:
General Medicine**

**Site visit on the 5th of June 2016
At the school site in in Pristina**

The accreditation task:

College of Medical Sciences “Rezonanca”, Prishtina is applying for accreditation of the general medicine program. An Expert Team (ET) visited PBHE - “Rezonanca” Branch “Pristina” on June 5th, 2017 to perform evaluations for accreditation of the study program general medicine

The Expert Team:

- Prof. Dr. Danica Zeleznik/ University College of Health Sciences Slovenj Gradec, Slovenia
- Prof. Dr. Helvi Kyngäs, University of Oulu, Finland

The Team was supported by members of the Kosovo Accreditation Agency:

- Prof. Dr. Blerim Rexha, State Quality Council - KAA
- Ms. Furtuna Mehmeti, Acting Director, Expert for Evaluation and Accreditation - KAA
- Mr. Sokol Officer for Evaluation and Monitoring – KAA

Site visit

The site visit took place on “Rezonanca Pristina, June 5th , 2017. It was organized as follows:

- Meeting with management
- Meeting with responsible persons for the study program (Curriculum, teaching, researches)
- Visit to facilities in the main campus
- Consultation of expert team with KAA officer
- Closing meeting with management
- Visit in a new hospital construction site

The report is based on:

- Self-evaluation report academic year 2017/2018
- Meetings and discussions which took place during the site visit
- The Code of Good Practice, Guidelines for Site-Visit and Guidelines for Experts (academic programs) provided by the Kosovo Accreditation Agency
- Site-visit of the facilities

The following additional documents were requested:

- 1) contract with hospital and University Clinical Center of Kosovo which provides its health care services in twelve clinics
- 2) the allocation of all program hours to each courses

Documents was received on time.

The Expert Team (ET) wishes to acknowledge the hospitality, discussions and the pleasant and productive working environment.

Mission and vision and general medicine study program

PBHE-Rezonanca-Prishtina was established in 2003 and joint College “Iliria” in 2008. College of Medical Sciences “Rezonanca” has a mission to organize university studies, based on European standards for higher education, professional and scientific research standards, which will contribute to overall regional development, as a precondition for equalizing with the developed area of Europe and the World. Vision is to develop education in medical sciences filed in the next five years to achieve European standards for both university education and scientific work in medical sciences in Kosovo and to achieve rating as an academic institution attractive for students from the region. It was argued that there is a need of general medicine doctors in Kosovo. The average number of doctors per 1000 inhabitants is 1 in Kosovo, while the average in European Union countries is 3:25/1000 inhabitants. The need of medical doctors is obvious.

The program correspond with mission of college of medical science – Rezonanca in Pristina. However, vision is to develop education in medical sciences in the next five years to achieve European standards. The current situation is not according to directive 2005/36/EC on the recognition of professional qualifications and Regulation (EU). According to that: “Basic medical training shall comprise a total of at least five years of study, which may in addition be expressed with the equivalent ECTS credits, and shall consist of at least 5 500 hours of theoretical and practical training provided by, or under the supervision of, a university (articala 24)” During the site visit manager told about plan to make collaboration contract with Alma Mater Europaea, Salzburg.

Recommendation:

1. To develop education in medical sciences according to European standards it must be made a contract with some university to assure that general medicine program is provided by, or under the supervision of a university.

Academic Program and Student Management

Structure of the Program

According to original program there was 300 ECTS (5500 hours) divided into 12 semesters (each 30 ECTS). This was said to be technical mistake and additional document this was corrected to be 360 ECTS and divided into 12 semesters. One ECTS is equivalent of 30 hours. Theoretical and practical ratio is 1:1.49 (2205 theoretical hours and 3285 practical hours). In additional document the allocation of ECTS between theoretical and practical studies and independent work is proper. All courses should have at least 3 ECTS. However, there is internship in some special medical areas carrying only 1 or 2 ECTS. The content and number of elective courses are proper but from the students learning perspective and interest there might be more elective courses.

The purpose and profile, content, learning outcomes of theoretical studies are well explained and they are according to European directive. There is not learning outcomes for clinical training which must be added.

To practical training it is allocated 3285 hours. Practice with direct contact with patients are going to organized in University Clinical Center of Kosovo (UCCK), which is the tertiary health care center. University Clinical Center of Kosovo is the main tertiary health care institution located in Prishtina, which offers most specialized medical services. It consists of Emergency Care Center, 12 clinics, National Institute of Public Health, Central Pharmacy, Private Pharmacies, and Institutes such like anatomy, pathology, pharmacology, toxicology. There is signed contract with hospital.

It is planned to take in 60 students and the target group is high school graduates. The registration and enrollment is explained in self-evaluation report and according to that it is acceptable.

Recommendations:

1. The clinical training outcomes must be on program. It should also prepare clinical training books for students of all key areas of medicine.
2. All courses must have at least 3 ECTS. This must be corrected to program.
3. The need of more elective courses should be considered
4. It should not take more students than 30.

Teaching, learning and assessment methods

It is mentioned to use variety of teaching methods which are commonly used in medical program. Addition to lectures and seminars it will be done practical exercise in laboratory. The responsibility persons of program was argued that different types of methods will be used. Assessment methods are also well described and they are logical with learning outcomes. As well, there is criteria for passing the courses.

The Institution has developed a strategy to provide communication with students though inter and intra net, email and other TV technique. These are using with students and the plan is to use also with students of general medical program.

Staff

There is named three persons in charge of program. They all are medical doctors in science. During the discussion they express to share responsibility between three persons. There is also other academic staff enough and their qualifications and competencies are proper for general medicine program teaching.

There is human resources and development plan which content is good and multisided. There is also list of staff development priorities for the medicine.

Recommendation:

1. It should be considered to share clearly the responsibilities of three people who are in charge of general medicine program and what is each person's responsibility e.g one person is charge of program, one is charge of research and one is charge of teaching.

Research and international co-operation

There is institute for scientific research which is established in 2004 and was reorganized to the existing structure 2009. It is planned to start research in field of general medicine. There is named the following six topics: Infection Disease Research Program (IDRP), Cardiovascular Disease Pharmacotherapy Research Program (CVDPHRP), Pain Management Research Program (PMRP), Health Services Research Pharmacoepidemiology Program (HSRPhEP), Smoking Cessation Program – Role of the Pharmacists (SCP-RPh) and Environmental Research Program (ERP). The research topics are central and important areas in medicine. On discussion with responsibility persons of program it was argued that students' thesis will be involved in these research topics. If quality is high the thesis is planned to publish as a scientific article. Generally speaking an aim is to publish high impact factor journals. It was also supposed to get money for research.

Space and equipments

The institution provides sufficient spaces for teaching and learning. All infrastructure for theoretical part such like lecture rooms, computer labs and library are good. There is electronic library with high number of computers and available databases such as for journals and books.

In library many bookshelves is empty, some books are donated. Management said that they get the money from the ministry to buy the books. Laboratories are modern, proper to practice basic studies of medical program. A new hospital is under construction and it is supposed to be ready at end of this year. ET visited in new hospital construction area. It is built a modern hospital where students will perform clinical training.

Recommendation:

1. To purchase basic textbooks for the all field of medicine as soon as possible. This need to check on the next visit.

Quality Management

Institution has clearly defined policies and procedures for quality assurance. It has a well-organized and defined Quality control system. Evaluation of curriculum, the organization of the studies, the teaching quality, the scientific and professional research activities and gained knowledge and gained clinical skill are done regularly. It is collected the data by questionnaire from students to evaluate the quality of teaching once a year. Quality control system is transparent and well organized.

Expert teams' conclusion:

Accreditation recommendation: It is recommended **the accreditation of general medical program for one year**. According to EU directive theoretical and practical training must be provided by, or under the supervision of, a university and the contract with some university must be done during that year.

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