



Republika e Kosovës  
Republika Kosova - Republic of Kosovo



Agjencia e Kosovës për Akreditim  
Agencija Kosova za Akreditaciju  
Kosovo Accreditation Agency

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# **UNIVERSITETI HAXHI ZEKA PEJË GENERAL LAW / LLB**

## **RE/ACCREDITATION**

### **REPORT OF THE EXPERT TEAM**

LEÓN, SPAIN, MAY 14, 2019



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

### Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	2
1. INTRODUCTION .....	3
1.1. Context.....	3
1.2. Site visit schedule .....	4
1.3. A brief overview of the institution and program under evaluation .....	5
2. PROGRAM EVALUATION.....	6
2.1. Mission, objectives and administration.....	6
2.2. Quality management.....	7
2.3. Academic staff .....	8
2.4. Educational process content .....	9
2.5. Students.....	10
2.6. Research.....	10
2.7. Infrastructure and resources .....	12
3. OVERALL EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE ET .....	12



## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Context

**Date of site visit:** May 10, 2019.

**Expert Team (ET) members:**

- Prof. Dr. Mirjana Pejic Bach
- Prof. Dr. Nevenka Cavlek
- Prof. Dr. Dr. Salvador Rus-Rufino

**Coordinators from Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA):**

- Avni Gashi, Acting Director of KAA
- Shkelzen Gerxhaliu, Senior Officer for Evaluation and Monitoring
- Arianit Krasniqi, Senior Officer for Evaluation and Accreditation

**Sources of information for the Report:**

- Self evaluation report of School of Law of Haxhi Zeka University in Peja
- Strategic Plan of Haxhi Zeka University in Peja
- Study Program of School of Law
- Agreements of School of Law
- Meetings with
  - Academic Authorities: Dean, Head of Administration, Secretary and Office of Finances.
  - Head of study programme: four professors
  - Representatives of quality assurance: four persons
  - Teaching staff: eight professors.
  - Students: seven students of grade and master
  - Graduate: five graduates students
  - Employers of graduates: seven employers
  - Visit to the facilities and infrastructures.



## Criteria used for program evaluation:

- Mission, objectives and administration
- Quality management
- Academic staff
- Educational process
- Students
- Research
- Infrastructure and resources

### 1.2. Site visit schedule

9th of May

19.45 Meeting at the Reception of the Hotel

20.00 Working dinner

10th of May

07.30 Meeting at the reception of the hotel

09.00 – 09.30 Meeting with the management of the faculty where the programme is integrated

09.40 – 10.40 Meeting with the head of the study programme

10.50 – 11.40 Meeting with quality assurance representatives

11.50 – 12.50 Meeting with teaching staff

13.00 – 14.00 Lunch break

14.00 – 14.30 Visiting tour of the facilities and infrastructure

14.40 – 15.20 Meeting with students



15.30 – 16.00	Meeting with graduates
16.10 – 16.50	Meeting with employers of graduates
17.40 – 18.00	Closing meeting with the management of the faculty and program

### **1.3. A brief overview of the institution and program under evaluation**

The Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA), member of Enqua, has received a petition of the University Haxhi Zeka in Pejë to accredit the Program in General Law / LLB (four years / eight semesters and 240 ECTS). In order to evaluate the KAA has set up an expert: Prof. Dr. Dr. Salvador Rus-Rufino of University of Leon (ES), who works with a team of experts from another European universities and countries.

During the assessment process the expert followed all the guidelines of the KAA for evaluating academic programs. The expert was able to visit the facilities and the building of the University Haxhi Zeka in Pejë. The Dean of the School of Law of University Haxhi Zeka made a presentation of the institution. Prof. Dr Rus Rufino holds a meeting with eight professors of the General Program of Law / LLB. It was a meeting planned with eight teachers of the general program of Law, Avdullah Aziz, , Sabiha Shala, Kole Krasniqi, Agim Kurmehaj, Petrit Nimani, Armend Podvorica, Argzon Muquaj and Gani Asllini. All of them teaching in the General Program of Law. Therefore a site-visit was organised by the KAA for May 10, 2019.

According to the Code of Good Practice for site-visits and the Guidelines for Experts (Institutions and Academic Programmes), edited by the KAA, the expert has written the following evaluation report. The evaluation report is based upon a Self Evaluation Report of the School of Law of the University Haxhi Zeka concern with the General Program of Law / LLB of 2017, and further upon the findings of the expert during the site-visit and the meetings.



The frames of reference for the evaluation report are international standards of comparable institutions of higher education (benchmarks) and the standards, edited by the KAA. The KAA asked the expert to evaluate the Master in Constitutional and Administrative Law and deliver a report with a resolution to offer the opportunity to the University Haxhi Zeka make appropriate improvements.

## **2. PROGRAM EVALUATION**

### **2.1. Mission, objectives and administration**

The Faculty of law of the UHZ is getting to perform three fundamental objectives of an academic institution. Offer a training programme for lawyers combining in a very balanced way the theoretical teaching with practice through the introduction of clinic courses. The second is the impulse that is giving to research through the creation and consolidation of stable research on important topics, for example, human rights teams in its theoretical and practical dimensions. Thirdly, the career guidance offered to the graduates, competing successfully with other graduates from other universities for the jobs that are offered both in the public administration, private companies and law firms. All this contributes to the School of Law to comply with its mission to educate students in the knowledge of Law, Legal Science, promote scientific research and publications in different areas of Law and legal system. The LLB Program is a important contribution to educate and professionalize the new generations of Kosovo jurists, lawyers and public servants by providing them the knowledge, experience and development of theoretical and practical analytical skills necessary to work in the profession as a jurist who promotes social order just.

**Compliance level:** Fully compliant

**ET recommendations:**



1. School of Law must to promote and encourage the research activity among the professors.
2. Intensify relations with other foreign universities and research teams to carry out an effective exchange of professors using programs such as Erasmus+ for universities teachers.
3. Improve professional follow-up of graduates.

## **2.2. Quality management**

The Faculty has a system of quality assurance that evaluates adequately and very efficient the processes and the planning. There is a Committee designing strategies, assessment methods and the contents of the interviews. Students and teachers have the opportunity to express their views once a year in an interview written and anonymous. Faculty evaluations have implications for the career and development of the professors. It is well defined the responsibilities corresponding to each member of the Faculty at the quality, for example, corresponds to the students fill out questionnaires and reporting the performance of the training tasks of the professor. The regulation on the evaluation of the quality is very complete, clear and efficient.

**Compliance level:** Substantially compliant

### **ET recommendations:**

1. Increase the participation of students in the process of evaluation of professors, only 50% answers to questionnaires.
2. An assessment in each semester, i.e. two evaluations each academic year.
3. Scan the processes of evaluation to know better the results and apply them to the improvement of the quality.
4. Establish a permanent office that ensure the quality of the Faculty



### **2.3. Academic staff**

The School of Law and the UHZ have made an effort to expand the template of faculty which combines in a balanced way to full-time professors and part time professors that develop an activity related to the Law and turn over their experience in the classes. The qualification of professors has improved. All professors responsible for a subject or course hold the title of Doctor (Juris Doctor or Doctor in Science) and there are assistants for classes. The experience of professors ensures that the transmission of knowledge, teaching classes and the training of students is adequate. There is a professional career with objective criteria that combines teaching expertise with research results. The process of selecting new teachers is objective and follows the directives that mark the current legislation on this matter.

**Compliance level:** Substantially compliant

#### **ET recommendations:**

1. Establishes a stable financing to promote the research and the creation of permanent research teams.
2. Get individual offices for professors, then their research work and the tutorials activities may be better.
3. Take advantage of supports and programs to internationalize the teaching staff, for example, the Erasmus+ for teaching for the professors of the Faculty and also for to attract professors from other universities.
4. Increase of the Faculty institutional relations with other faculties of Law in Kosovo and abroad.





## 2.4. Educational process content

The program of studies is a real process of training of future lawyers. In the curriculum students can get three types of knowledge. In the first six months the students have the opportunity to get a general education and basic information about legal system of Kosovo and European Union. From the second semester until the seventh semester they will get a specific knowledge about the Kosovo legal system and international institutions, EU law and international law. In these semesters there are a balance between theoretical and practice teaching. In the eighth, last semester, the students have to choose between four specialties or specific itineraries which contribute to their specialization. The program of studies and training actually contributes to the acquisition of a general and a specific knowledge, professional skills and competencies to be a jurist, a lawyer, a public servant and so on. It is a good curriculum.

**Compliance level:** Fully compliant

### **ET recommendations:**

1. Try to introduce a new itinerary or specialty in Law and Technology.
2. Establish an International Congress every two years with a general theme and several sections, and stimulate the participation of students.
3. Increase the hours of classes devoted to the clinics courses. Consider the possibility of dedicating some credits of the theoretical subjects to clinic.
4. A semester for specialty is not enough; it should be expanded to two semesters.
5. Take advantage of the program Erasmus+ so that increase the mobility of students.



## 2.5. Students

The method of selection of students is transparent and public with it ensures equal opportunities for all students. There are specific tests for graduate studies. There is a code of ethics that must meet all students and some internal regulations governing the stay of the student in the faculty. The number of new students is suitable for the number of teachers and school facilities. Increasing the participation of students and their opinion is taken into account by the authorities of the faculty. The students are adequately represented in the organs of Government and direction of the faculty.

**Compliance level:** Substantially compliant

### ET recommendations:

1. Divide groups of students to avoid overcrowding in classrooms.
2. Improve bibliographic resources, especially electronic ones.
3. Develop a tutorial program among students, especially with the new students.
4. Take advantage of the opportunities of the program Erasmus+
5. Increase vocational guidance and practices of students.
6. Facilitate the recognition of studies and ECTS credits that the students got in other universities.
7. Promote the exchange of students with other universities.

## 2.6. Research

Research in the Faculty is the weakest point and that should work more intensely, knowing that the results are achieved in a minimum period of three years. The professors of the faculty participate in congresses, conferences, etc. inside and outside of Kosovo, but publications in journals indexed, in the form of paper or electronic, etc. it is no enough



and can be described as little. Although it is increasing every year. Publish a handbook students is not research. This lack of results is accompanied by the scarcity of bibliographical resources available to faculty and the absence of stable research teams.

One of the most critical aspects to run successfully the research activity of the professors and students is the absence of a specialized library with sufficient books and reviews to write the research papers and theses. Establish a library is a question of investing money and time. But now there are some ways to cut this investment and time.

- First, request to other universities the donation repeated copies, as the experts could see in the library, i.e. some US institutions.
- Second, reaching agreements with printer houses to buy funds and defer payments, as the agreements with EBSCO.
- Third, use available data on-line bibliographic repertories and other materials. The library has not any access to those programs and data bases.
- Four, reaching agreements with public or private institutions to donate part of their funds to the library, or try to convince those institutions that the library of the Faculty of Law will be their library.
- Fifth, try to reputable lawyers and jurists have donated to the library faculty. In any case, it is impossible to development the research without a library or to have access to online library resources.

**Compliance level:** Partially compliant

**ET recommendations:**

1. Increase the bibliographic collections and databases of the library.
2. Develop a program of research funding, creating stable and competitive research groups.



3. Develop a program for professors of international cooperation with research institutions
4. Take advantage of the possibilities of the program Erasmus+ for professors.
5. Set two or three strategic research lines.

## **2.7. Infrastructure and resources**

It has made a great effort to improve the infrastructure of the Faculty. It has built a new Amphitheatre, a Courtroom and is going to equip a second amphitheatre. All classes have a projector. It has adapted a new reading room in the library and new offices for the Administration and the attention of the students. There is a computer room where students can work and consult the data bases and the electronic resources. The budget for the next three years will be 11 million Euros that will be enough to renew the Faculty once the Faculty of Arts will be its new building.

### **ET recommendations:**

1. Equipped with means to teach on-line or distance classes.
2. Increase the budget for infrastructure investments.
3. Try to get best offices for professors.

## **3. OVERALL EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE ET**

The recommendations of the ET could be summarize in those aspects.

1. Having an internship program for students in institutions and in international universities.
2. All professors (full, part, assistant and associate) should have personal research plans or project, which are reviewed regularly and evaluate by a Research Commission of School of Law.



3. It is necessary to have a library with digital repertories and facilities for the research.
4. The quality team should to change the way to get the answer to the questionnaires from the students.
5. The Faculty must to develop a document setting out its international strategy for teaching and research. It is the way to get a real and fruitful internationalisation of the Faculty of Law for exchanging professors and students. Erasmus+ it is a good instrument.
6. Consider introducing optional courses on Law and Technologies and Deontology.

In conclusion, the Expert Team considers that the study program General Program in Law / LLB offered by Universiteti Haxhi Zeka Pëja is **substantially compliant** with the standards included in the *KAA Accreditation manual* and, therefore, recommends **to accredit** the study program for a duration of **3 years** with a number of **450 / 500** students to be enrolled in the program.