
Accreditation Procedure
Public University of Pristina, Kosovo
Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary in Pristina
Food Sciences (M.Sc.)

Final Report

Site visit 2017

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Introduction

The authors of this document executed the review of provided documents and a joint site visit in mission of the Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA) for preparation of the accreditation of the study program Food Sciences (M.Sc.) the University of Pristina, Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary (FAV).

The present document contains the final evaluation report 2017 about the above mentioned study program. It is the output of the collegial efforts of an international team of experts appointed by the Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA) to evaluate the study program. The report is based on the Self Evaluation Report (SER) 2017 and the site visit by the expert team in Pristina on May 11th, 2017.

During the site visit, meetings with representatives from different groups of the University of Pristina were held as follows:

- o Meeting with the management of the institution:

Name	Holding position
Dr. Teuta Pustina	Vice Rector
Prof. Dr. Hajrip Mehmedi	Vice Dean
Prof. Dr. Mentor Thaqi	Vice Dean
Prof. Dr. Xhavit Ramadami	Head of the Department of Food Technology
Mr. Skender Musa	Secretary of Faculty of FAV
Besnik Logja	Director of the office for academic development
Iliriana Miftari	Coordinator for academic development at FAV

- o Meeting with responsible persons for the study programs under evaluation:

Name	Position	Responsible for study program in:
Prof. Dr. sc. Hysen Bytyqi (not present)	?	Food Sciences (M.Sc.)
Dr. sc. Agim Rexhepi	?	Food Sciences (M.Sc.)
Dr. sc. Driton Qaushi	?	Food Sciences (M.Sc.)

In addition, facilities, particularly laboratories belonging to the FAV have been visited.

Unfortunately, Prof. Dr. sc. Hysen Bytyqi has not been attending the meeting. It turned out that the two other participants, Dr. sc. Agim Rexhepi and Dr. sc. Driton Qausi, have neither been involved in the development of the M.Sc.-program nor will be participate in teaching in the program in future. Consequently, a more detailed discussion about the study program has not been possible. As a consequence, the questions which were arising from the SER could not be answered during the discussion.

1. Academic Program and Student Management

- **Does the academic program correspond to the institution's mission statement and principles of operation?**

The question cannot be answered because there was no mission statement included in the SER.

- **Are the program's quality, range and academic aims appropriate to the academic degree?**

Yes.

Structure and contents is copied to a large extent from an ongoing program in Food Sciences offered by the University of Ljubljana.

- **Is the program based on an overarching didactic concept that has been adequately communicated to and adopted by the teaching staff?**

The question cannot be answered because such a concept is not mentioned in the SER and also did not become clear in the discussion with the management of the institution. Some E-learning approaches and the development of a learning platform would contribute to such a concept and are still in the process of establishing.

- **Does the academic degree correspond to international standards?**

Yes.

The program correlates to an ongoing program in Food Sciences offered by the University of Ljubljana.

- **Does the structure of the program give sufficient opportunity for independent study, reflection and analysis? (e. g. what is the proportion of independent study time compared to online/distance teaching and classroom units?)**

Yes. Descriptions in the SER indicate that there is sufficient space for independent studies. Examples in the module descriptions include visits in the fields and in factories of the food industry, practical trainings, case studies and reports, colloquium, seminar presentations, teacher contacts and are mentioned to range

up to a 50:50 relation in some modules. However, student's experiences in this respect are not available yet.

- **Is the allocation of ECTS appropriate and justified?**

Yes

- **Is the workload required for the academic program manageable for students?**

As far as it can be concluded from the module descriptions, yes. However, student's experiences in this respect are not available yet.

- **Are the teaching methods and contents of teaching units sufficient for the successful achievement of the program's goals and outcomes (competences and qualifications, knowledge and skills)?**

Yes. Based on SER it can be concluded. The portfolio of teaching methods as described in the SER is suitable to achieve the programs goals in terms of knowledge, competences and skills.

- **Is the overlap of academic content between the various parts of the curriculum comprehensible and transparent?**

Yes. The syllabus is well designed in this respect and does not indicate disturbing overlap.

- **How do the admission criteria and admission procedures measure up to international standards?**

The criteria and procedures are in accordance with wide spread international standards. This holds true for B.Sc. graduates from the faculty's program of Food Technology and Biotechnology as well as for external applicants. In case of external applicants, there has to be obtained a certain number of credit points originating from subjects from the program Food Technology and Biotechnology. It has to be mentioned positively that this decision is done individually for every applicant by a study commission.

- **Is the ratio of academic/artistic staff to students appropriate?**

The ratio is sufficient. The limitation of max. 60 students per semester is mentioned in the SER. According to SER there are 10 academic staff members linked to the

60 students which is a comfortable ratio compared to international standards. However, the engagement of those 10 professors in other study programs remains unclear

2. Staff

- **Does the institution have an adequate proportion of permanent staff and appropriate proportions of permanent and external staff?**

Yes. There are 36 academic staff members with PhD working in the Faculty and the number of external academic staff is 45. The above average high portion of external staff can be problematic in implementing long term programs. A higher portion of permanent internal staff should be achieved.

- **Does the academic staff demonstrate proven ability at a high academic and didactic level and are their qualifications appropriate to the positions they hold within the institution according to the basic criteria?**

Yes, in the case of academic level. The didactic level cannot be evaluated as long as there are no student evaluation results available.

3. Research and International Co-operation

- **Is the teaching staff involved in research activities inside or outside the institution, and do these research activities feed back into teaching/course contents?**

Major parts of the research is based on projects in collaboration with the local industry. Some staff members are maintaining their contacts to partners from international universities to participate in research projects of their partners.

- **Are the extent and the quality of international co-operation in research and teaching adequate?**

Information on answering this question is missing in the SER. Some international projects have been mentioned in the discussion with the management of the institution. These projects should be listed in detail in a requested list (topic, partners, financial budget, duration).

- **Are students involved in research and co-operation projects?**

It can be assumed that M.Sc. students become involved in such research and co-operation projects, e.g. preparing their master thesis.

5. Finances and Infrastructure/Space and Equipment

- **Does the institution have an adequate budget plan?**

There is a centralized system for financial issues in the university. All academic and administrative units of the university are obliged to prepare a budget plan once a year. Decisions about budget distribution are made by the university according to the overall budget line. The budget plan is made available as Annex 3 in the SER.

- **Does the institution have adequate buildings and specialized infrastructure for the requirements of the program?**

Adequate buildings and specialized infrastructure are available. It can be mentioned, that there has been built a new building with about 10.000 m². So the future working conditions for the studies will be much better in the near future especially for the practical training in new laboratories too. A problem remains the limited equipment.

6. Quality Management

- **Are the institution's programs assessed regularly within the context of internal evaluation processes?**

University management reports that there is a clear procedure for the development of study programs. Since 2015 a newly established advisory board (including members from private food processing companies) contributes to quality assurance. A regulation has been established for set up of such advisory boards. There is a career development center available at rectorate level. All re-accreditation processes are pre-checked by an internal office at university level. A manual evaluation procedure has been established in which students evaluate teaching staff. However, there is no feedback-procedure of evaluation results neither back to teaching staff, nor to students. It is strongly recommended to establish feedback procedures of students' evaluation of teaching staff results to teaching staff and to students. Otherwise this evaluation will be regarded as a

control measure and not - what it should be - a basis for a continuous improvement process.

7. Summary of Evaluation

The proposed M.Sc. study program "Food Sciences" is highly relevant since the food sector shows increasing importance for Kosovo and offers a rising number of job opportunities of highly qualified graduates. Also the successfully implemented B.Sc. program "Food technology and Biotechnology" is asking for a consecutive M.Sc. program for a continuous academic career development.

However, based on the above mentioned statements and answers to evaluation questions, accreditation of the study program "Food Sciences (M.Sc.)" in its present form cannot be recommended. It is recommended to revise and resubmit the SER for the next possible deadline.

General recommendation:

During the site visit, it turned out that FAV seems not to be able to appoint 3 permanent staff members on PhD-level from the field of Food Science as exclusively responsible persons for the new program. This seems to be a pure technical limitation, because 10 docents on Ph.D. level are listed in the SER for the program. However, they seem to be already responsible for other study programs and therefore are not eligible. The presented discussion partners were neither from the field of Food Science nor involved in developing and teaching in the new program. This was the reason, why during "Meeting with responsible persons for the study program (scheduled 9:30-11:30)" clarification of open questions was not possible. It is recommended that FAV undergoes restructuring of the portfolio of its study programs, to set free the required specialists as responsible persons for new programs.

Study program specific recommendations:

In the SER it is claimed that new M.Sc.-programs have to be identical to at least 85% to comparable ongoing international programs. Against this background the

FAV has screened several European programs and finally has chosen the program “Food Science” of the University of Ljubljana as model. Most of the course names were copied one-by-one and in some cases even major parts of contents (s. SER Table p.111 pp). The orientation according to successful programs is generally appreciated. However, structure and contents has to be adapted to Kosovo requirements and also to the teaching potential of the faculty. This requires a thorough revision of the SER.

The revision also should include a chapter on ongoing international projects in research and higher education. These projects should be listed in detail (topic, partners, financial budget, duration). Also a chapter on quality assurance is missing, where also the system of evaluation by students should be described. This issue was already discussed in the “Meeting with the management of the institution”. It is strongly recommended to establish feedback procedures of students’ evaluation to teaching staff and to students. Furthermore, a mission statement of the university as well as an overarching didactic concept should be presented in the SER.

Final Recommendation:

The expert team does not recommend the accreditation of the M.Sc. program “Food Sciences” in the present state.

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Stuttgart, May 23, 2017