



Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova - Republic of Kosovo



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

UNIVERSITY OF PRIZREN “UKSHIN HOTI”

LAW/LLB

REACCREDITATION

REPORT OF THE EXPERT TEAM

May 2019, Prishtina

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Context

Date of site visit: 14th - 15th of May 2019

Expert Team (ET) members:

- Prof. Dr. Johannes Falterbaum, Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg (Germany)

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 (SER) submitted by University of Prizren “Ukshin Hoti”;
- Meetings conducted with the management of the program, teaching and administrative staff, students, graduates, external stakeholders and employers of graduates;
- Supplementary documents requested by the ET.

Criteria used for program evaluation:

- Standards and performance indicators for external quality assurance (Re/accreditation of bachelor and masters study programs) set in the Accreditation Manual
- National Qualifications Framework



1.2. Site visit schedule

14th May

- 19.45** Meeting at the Reception of the Hotel
- 20.00** Working dinner

15th May

- 07.30** Meeting at the reception of the hotel
- 09.00 – 10.30** Meeting with the management of the institution
- 10.40 – 11.50** Meeting with the quality assurance representatives and administrative services
- 12.00 – 13.00** Meeting with the heads of study programs
- 13.00 – 13.50** Lunch break
- 13.50 – 14.50** Visiting tour of the facilities and infrastructure
- 14.50 – 15.40** Meeting with teaching staff
- 15.50 – 16.40** Meeting with students
- 16.50 – 17.40** Meeting with graduates
- 17.50 – 18.40** Meeting with employers of graduates and external stakeholders
- 18.45 – 19.00** Internal meeting – Expert Team and KAA
- 19.00 – 19.15** Closing meeting with the management of the institution



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

The University of Prizren asked for reaccreditation of the general law program Bachelor of Law (LLB) established in the faculty of law of the university.

The previous accreditation of this program was 2015. This External Review Report bases on the Self-Evaluation Report of the University of Prizren 2019, the site visit of the External Experts Mai 15, 2019 and additional documents send from the University Mai 23, 2019. The report was transferred as Draft Report to the University. The response of the Faculty of Law did not give a necessity to modify the report.

2. PROGRAM EVALUATION

2.1. Mission, objectives and administration

The mission of the Bachelor of Law Program is to prepare students with practical management skills in the context of modern European legislation by achieving sufficient intellectual skills and capacities for productive leadership career in the justice system in state administrative institutions and jurisprudence the spirit of European legislation.

The University of Prizren serves the region of Prizren and the country with recruiting, developing and educating students to be successful in the labour market in Kosovo and beyond. The Universities aims to develop competency skills through the program, in order to be equal and prepared with the knowledge and skills for their practical implementation.

The purpose of this field of study is to offer students the opportunity to acquire general legal knowledge that will serve them as a basis for further specialization in various fields in the legal and other fields, also students, with that knowledge in general theoretical and practical justice and comprehension in its broadest sense.

The goal is not to educate students in a specific and specialized part of the law, but to enable them to understand the goals, principles and instruments of the law and their fields. It is also



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important to ensure an interdisciplinary understanding of the law that will link the various aspects in the field of justice-law in its economic, social and historical context.

In the currently situation of the Republic of Kosovo it is good to offer students a general law program in this manner. It is valuable to increase the knowledge of the actual valid law system as a solid base for building up more specified programs on Master Program level.

The study program is designed in accordance with the objectives of the respective study program, its curriculum and its teaching activities. First-cycle studies provide basic knowledge on general scientific methods and principles and specific skills in a wide variety of professions and specialties. Studies in this cycle are realized with 240 credits and their normal duration is four years. At the end of the study program the student is provided with Bachelor's Degree. These conditions are corresponding with general standards of other countries in Western Europe.

In the year 2018/2019 in the Bachelor Program are enrolled overall 880 students; 263 students semester I, 197 students semester III, 236 students semester V and 184 students semester VII. On request of the External Expert Team after their site visit the Faculty of Law sent as additional document a list of the enrolled students while the last ten years. In this time the number of enrolled students varies from 204 to 598. This is a very high number of students considering the dimension of the Republic of Kosovo and the high rate of actual unemployed lawyers in the country. Therefore it is indispensable to work out carefully a plan about the need of lawyers in the next ten years in the Republic of Kosovo, observing the offer from other universities and colleges. This is one of the most important duty and challenge for law programs and has a great relevance for reaccreditation.

As long as the Faculty of Law of the University of Prizren has not presented a coherent plan about the future demand of layers it is not acceptable to enroll more than 180 students per year.

In correlation to this question there is in the Republic of Kosovo still a big need to improve the quality of study programs significant. For this it is indispensable to develop an action plan continuing concrete steps how it is possible to ameliorate the quality of the still young bachelor program.

Compliance level: Partially compliant



ET recommendations:

1. The Faculty of Law of the University of Prizren has to work out a detailed plan about the need of lawyers in the next ten years in the Republic of Kosovo, observing the offer from other universities and colleges. As long as a larger demand is not proved and in a reaccreditation process accepted it is not acceptable to enroll more than 180 students per year.
2. The Faculty of Law has to develop an action plan how to ameliorate the quality of the program.

2.2. Quality management

The University of Prizren has made big progress since in the year 2012 the management has established a Quality Assurance office.

Actually the Bachelor Program of Law passes three filters in order to be applicable for evaluation by the Accreditation Agency. The focus group of the particular faculty (consisting of the dean of the faculty, professors, students) proposes a study program in the senate of University of Prizren to be approved by providing facts and feasibility. The senate then gives recommendations to the rectorate, which brings a final decision. The study program was prepared by the faculty commissions guided by the dean of the faculty. Then the program has been reviewed based on the recommendations of international experts.

The following immeasurable and qualitative (quantitative) instruments are used to provide and extend the quality:

1. Questionnaires
2. Interviews
3. Monitoring
4. Evaluation schemes
5. Self-evaluation reports

The Faculty of Law of the University of Prizren undertakes an evaluation of professors at each semester. It is within the competence of the management to make decisions and measures based on the overall evaluation results at the university.



The Faculty of Law should document in the future the recommendations and suggestions given by the students in the survey executed each semester and document as well the concrete results and realized improvements.

Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

1. The Faculty of Law has to document the recommendations and suggestions given by the students in the survey executed each semester and to document the concrete results and realized improvements.

2.3. Academic staff

In the previous reaccreditation process the External Experts assessed in their final report page 31 that the law faculty had employed for the Bachelor of Law Program four full-time professors and the employment of two more full-time law professors was planned. These six full-time professors had to teach and support the in the year 2015 enrolled 1106 students of the faculty of law. So one full-time professor had to supervise more than 180 students. The Expert Team judged that it was impossible to handle this amount of students in an adequate way and demanded for the law program of the University of Prizren between 9 and 11 full-time law professors.

Now in the year 2019 the faculty has employed 7 full-time professors for actual 880 enrolled students. So the situation without doubts is improved. But the assessment of the Expert Team is that this relation is still not satisfactory. Considering that in the Republic of Kosovo are already too many lawyers looking for work and to many students are enrolled in different law programs it seems to be an actual urgent challenge to ameliorate the quality of the law programs obvious and sustained. (See already above “mission, objectives and administration”.)

In this context the number of employed full-time professors has a very big relevance, particularly accompanying the students in a personal and effective manner.

Compliance level: Substantially compliant



ET recommendations:

1. The faculty of law has to still to increase the number of employed full-time professors

2.4. Educational process content

The Self-Evaluation Report (page 227-231) contains an insufficient syllabus and description of the courses. There is no assignment of the course to responsible professors, no description of the content of the courses and no information about suggested literature. Therefore it was regrettably not possible to discuss this topic with the academic staff.

As a result of the request by the Expert Team while the site visit the Faculty of Law send an complete syllabus and description of the courses as additional document via e-mail form May 23, 2019.

Regarding this delayed submitted documents there are no obvious weaknesses concerning the content. But while a following reaccreditation process the content and coordination of the course should be in detail discussed.

It is hardly to complain that the descriptions of the courses (syllabuses) are not equalized but very dissimilar sent in 46 (!) separate files. It is standard for academic programs of higher education level to work out and present in a handbook a description of all courses in equal standard giving information about the content, responsible professor and advised literature.

In the discussion with the academic staff was consensus with the External Expert that law clinic is very import to prepare students for practice but as well to find out their qualification for this profession. It is to expect an expansion of this subject in the program.

Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

1. The Faculty of Law has to present a handbook containing a description of all courses in equal standard about the content, responsible professor and advised literature.
2. The Law Faculty has to extend the law clinic in the academic program.



2.5. Students

The selection of candidates for Bachelor study programs is done by a commission which is assigned by the faculty unit, based on an admission form and based on the submitted documentation and the average of the high school or another degree of the first level. The number of admissions is based on the real possibilities of each faculty, for a normal lesson and within the standards required by MEST in accordance with the Law on Higher Education in the Republic of Kosovo, respective bylaws and the Statute of the University of Prizren.

Participation in workshops, establishment of contacts through collaborative memorandums with public institutions as well as with private sector operators are some of the ways that are used to inform students and enable their access to the labour market, in accordance with the requirements of his.

Student information about study programs and curricula is realized at the first moment of their contact with the academic and administrative staff when they are concerned about the opportunities for pursuing studies at this institution of higher education; during the orientation week at the beginning of each academic year, as well as through ongoing announcements announced by the secretariat or deanery and through the website of the university.

The number of students enrolled in the study program in the last 4 years was 1316, of which 254 were enrolled in the first year of study, and 35 were transferred in the intermediate years. Data on student employment 30-40% of graduate students continue their studies in the second cycle of studies, while 40% of graduates lack information since they did not respond to the query office request.

In the past the faculty realised some students exchanged with some of their partner universities, in which they have a joint student exchange agreement, but this joint cooperation is still not very wide. Some of the students have returned to study at University of Prizren after their stay abroad one year in their respective previous study program.

The goal of the law faculty is the most desirable requirement for organizing international educational training within the Republic of Kosovo and partners involved in various projects, as this will facilitate students to be more knowledgeable and inspired, and admirable with the



experiences shared with faculties of students / colleges of different cultural backgrounds and different ways of developing the education of other Western countries. Regarding the professional training of the students, the university has several agreements with local companies, where students of the Faculty of Economics and Law Faculty carry out their practice in their premises, and the Faculty of Education perform their professional practice in the respective elementary and secondary schools, as required within their core curriculum program.

This is a good approach but it is not sufficient. For the new Republic of Kosovo it is essential to realise experiences for the students in other Western countries. As well it is essential to realize internships already while the study in enterprises and administration. Both goals are of course not easy to realize in the actual situation. But the faculty has to work for this continually to progress step by step.

Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

1. The Faculty of Law has to be more engaged to realize more cooperation with other universities in Western countries, realising stays for students abroad.
2. The Faculty of Law has to be more engaged to realize more internship for students in enterprises and administration.

2.6. Research

In the Self-Evaluation Report we can find widely explanations about research activities of the Faculty of Law of the University of Prizren (page 233-235). This is a collection of claims and self-assessments. That's way the faculty was asked by the External Experts to work out a detailed report about concrete research activities of the faculty and send this as additional document.

Via e-mail sent May 23, 2019 the External Expert received five files with descriptions of research activities of five full-time professors of the Faculty of Law. The presented



publications were wide and on –as far as it is possible to assess- on high level (one list didn't say the author!).

Considering the conditions und situation in the Republic of Kosovo the publication activities of these five full-time professors is respectable.

The Expert Team is still missing a precise description of the research activities in the faculty while the last academic year, explaining the summery in the Self-Evaluation Report page 233-235.

The Faculty of Law could work out activities to include students in research activities by special activities..

Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

1. The Faculty of Law has to report the concrete research activities organized by the faculty while the academic year and work out an action plan to make progress.

2.7. Infrastructure and resources

The Infrastructure and resources is in general a big weakness of academic programs in the Republic of Kosovo.

Respecting this the facility conditions of the University of Prizren is acceptable and seems to be more developed in the next years.

The conditions of the library are – as in other Universities in Kosovo- insufficient. There are not enough books, particularly concerning Kosovar law. The electronic bibliotheca was at the day of the site visit mostly out of order.

Compliance level: Partially compliant



ET recommendations:

1. The Faculty of Law has to improve the conditions for learning (library and electronic systems) very much.

3. OVERALL EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE ET

In consideration of the difficult situation of the still young Republic of Kosovo it is to recognize that the Faculty of Law of the University of Prizren hat made progress, particularly concerning the facilities, redaction of number of students and elaboration of syllabuses.

But us well it is to mention that the Self-Evaluation report is not very well established. Largely it contents declarations and summaries but not enough facts and detailed descriptions. As well the report is not well redacted.

In conclusion, the Expert Team considers that the study program Bachelor of Law (LLB) offered by University of Prizren, Faculty of Law 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 180 students to be enrolled in the program.

Expert Team

Chair

	Johannes Falterbaum	3.06.2019
(Signature)	(Print Name)	(Date)