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***UNIVERSITY OF PRISHTINA “HASAN PRISHTINA”  
HYDROTECHNICS MSc***

***REACCREDITATION***

**REPORT OF THE EXPERT TEAM**

*03. May 2021*



## 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.....	7
2. PROGRAM EVALUATION .....	11
2.1. Mission, objectives and administration.....	11
2.2. Quality management .....	13
2.3. Academic staff .....	15
2.4. Educational process content.....	17
2.5. Students.....	20
2.6. Research.....	25
2.7. Infrastructure and resources .....	28
3. OVERALL EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE ET.....	32
4. APPENDICES .....	33



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## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Context

**Date of online evaluation:** 30<sup>th</sup> of March 2021

**Expert Team (ET):**

- Prof. Dr. Gábor Dombay
- Marija Vasilevska bachelor student

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

- Naim Gashi, Executive Director of KAA
- Shkelzen Gerxhaliu, Senior Officer for Evaluation and Monitoring
- Arianit Krasniqi, Senior Officer for Evaluation and Accreditation
- Leona Kovaci, Senior Officer for Evaluation and Monitoring
- Ilirjane Ademaj, Senior Officer for Evaluation and Monitoring

**Sources of information for the Report:**

- Self-Evaluation Report (SER) submitted by University of Prishtina;
- Information obtained during the online meetings;
- Meetings conducted with the management of the institution and program, quality assurance representatives and administrative, teaching staff, students, graduates, employers of graduates and external stakeholders;
- Supplementary documents requested by the ET.

**Criteria used for program evaluation:**

- KAA Accreditation Manual 2018



## 1.2. Online meeting schedule

30<sup>th</sup> March 2021

<u>Meeting no</u>	<u>time</u>	<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Meeting Participants</u>
<u>1</u>	09.00 – 09.40	Meeting with the management of the institution	<u>Prof.ass.Dr.Florim Grajçevci, Dean</u> <u>Prof.ass.Dr.Ymer Kuka, Vice Dean</u> <u>Ms. Valdete Shala, FCE Secretary</u>
<u>2</u>	09.45 – 10.45	Meeting with the heads of the study programme BSc	<u>Prof.ass.Dr.Esat Gashi</u> <u>Prof.asoc.Dr.Naim Hasani (*)</u> <u>Prof.ass.Dr.Hajdar Sadiku</u>
<u>3</u>	10.50 – 11.50	Meeting with the heads of the study programme MSc	<u>Prof.asoc.Dr.Laura Kusari</u> <u>Prof.ass.Dr.Ragip Hadri(*)</u> <u>Dr.Sc Zijadin Guri</u>
<u>4</u>	11.55 – 12.35	Meeting with quality assurance representatives and administrative staff	<b><u>Quality insurance</u></b> <u>Besnik Loxha</u> <u>MSc Enes Krasniqi</u> <u>DrSc Milot Muhaxheri</u> <b><u>Administrative staff:</u></b> <u>Valon Kurtaj</u> <u>Agon Begiri</u> <u>Meriton Shabani</u> <u>Mevlude Rrmoku</u>
	12.35 – 13.30	<b><u>Lunch Break</u></b>	
<u>4</u>	13.30 – 14.20	Meeting with teaching staff	<u>Prof.Dr. Naser Kabashi</u> <u>Prof.Dr. Abdullah Zejnullahu</u> <u>Prof.asoc.Dr. Figene Ahmedi</u> <u>Prof.ass.Dr. Lavdim Osmani</u> <u>MSc Arban Berisha</u> <u>MSc Hana Shehu</u>
<u>5</u>	14.25 – 15.05	Meeting with students	<u>1 Yllka Binaku</u> <u>2 Qëndresa Bajraktari</u> <u>3 Marijana Pera</u>



			<u>4 Leutrim Ramadanaj</u> <u>5 Blerim Sllamniku</u> <u>6 Njomëza Selmani</u>
<u>6</u>	15.10 – 15.50	Meeting with graduates	<u>1 Venera Hajdari</u> <u>2 Krenar Xhaferi</u> <u>3 Valmir Daqaj</u> <u>4 Bledar Hajdari</u> <u>5 Ermira Krasniqi</u> <u>6 Linda Berisha</u> <u>7 Armend Avdiu</u>
<u>7</u>	15.55 – 16.35	Meeting with employers of graduates	<u>1 Hidroterm (Naser Berisha)</u> <u>2 Hidroing (Eta Morina)</u> <u>3 ALFA-I (Halit Jahaj)</u> <u>4 KRU Prishtina – Sokol Xhafa</u> <u>5 Alba Arkitekt (Afrim Demiri)</u> <u>6 Ministry of economic development and Environmental</u> <u>7 Musa Islami</u>
<u>8</u>	16.40 – 16.50	Internal meeting of KAA staff and experts	
<u>9</u>	16.50 – 17.00	Closing meeting with the management of the faculty and program	<u>Prof.ass.Dr.Florim Grajçevci, Dean</u> <u>Prof.ass.Dr.Hajdar Sadiku, Vice Dean</u> <u>Prof.ass.Dr.Ymer Kuka, Vice Dean</u> <u>Ms. Valdete Shala, FCE Secretary</u>



Nr.	Study programs	Experts	Responsible persons of study programs		
1	Hydrotechnics /BSc (Reaccreditation)	Prof. Dr. Gabor Dombay Marija Vasilevska	Esat Gashi	<b>Naim Hasani</b>	Hajdar Sadiku
2	Hydrotechnics /MSc (Reaccreditation)	Prof. Dr. Gabor Dombay Marija Vasilevska	Laura Kusari	<b>Ragip Hadri</b>	Zijadin Guri

Notice (\*: For the Meetings no: 2 and 3 (with the heads of the study programmes) The participants prof. asoc.Dr. Naim Hasani and Prof.ass.Dr. Ragip Hadri are infected with Corona 19, Virus. For this reason, they cannot be a part of meeting.



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

The **Faculty of Civil Engineering (FCE)** as an academic unit of the **University of Prishtina**, the largest public institution of higher education in Kosovo since 1971/72. The main role of a modern academic unit for democratic society, is to provide professional education and upgrades by following contemporary scientific developments in the relevant field of studies.

The mission of FCE is based on the mission of the University of Prishtina for the development of academic activities, research, scientific work and to create professional staff of higher education for the labor market for the fields of civil engineering in accordance with strategic and developmental interests in country level.

Teaching and research are the main activity of this academic unit. The activity of an academic unit is characterized by the interaction between the teaching activity and the scientific-research activity. This is due to the fact that, in order to achieve the desired results in studies, teaching must be inseparable from scientific research.

Within the ongoing activities developed at the FCE, the main focus is on below listed orientations and achievements:

- teaching - learning, which at the same time represent one of two main activities,
- continuous scientific research in the service of society and the country in general,
- professionals compatible with market requirements,
- development of activities required according to the market demands,
- providing services and expertise to third parties,
- research on patent development by academic staff.

The Faculty of Civil Engineering organizes study programs at BSc and MSc levels, while currently no Doctoral programs are available. FCE Study Programs are classified at Departments and Levels as in the following:

- Construction (BSc), and (MSc)
- **Hydrotechnics** (BSc) and (MSc)
- Geodesy (BSc), (MSc), and
- Environmental Engineering (BSc)



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The study programs Constructive, Hydrotechnics, Geodesy and Environmental Engineering, generally consist of the group of general subjects, subjects of professional formative character, integrative, professional, complementary subjects and the work of the Master's degree thesis which is based in the application of acquired knowledge and in preliminary research.

The Hydrotechnics MSc study programme is summarized in the following tables of the **SER**:

<b>Name of institution</b>	University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina"
<b>Faculty / Department</b>	Faculty of Civil Engineering
<b>Main Campus and / or Branch:</b>	The main campus
<b>If applying for a branch please specify the Branch:</b>	
<b>Name of study program:</b>	Hydrotechnics
<b>Person Responsible for the study program</b>	Prof.Ass.Dr. Laura Kushari
<b>Accreditation / Reaccreditation</b>	reaccreditation
<b>Qualification level according to NQF:</b>	Level VII
<b>Academic degree or the name of the academic degree in the diploma:</b>	MSc of Civil Engineering Study Program in Hydrotechnics
<b>ECTS:</b>	120
<b>Study program profile:</b>	Hydrotechnics
<b>Field of study according to Erasmus Subject Area Codes (ESAC):</b>	06.04 (Civil Engineering)
<b>Form of Studies:</b>	Full time
<b>Minimum Duration of Studies</b>	2 years
<b>Number of places for study:</b>	20
<b>Indicate permanent scientific staff for the Study Program (At least 3 PhD)</b>	1 Prof.Asoc.Dr. Laura Kusari 2. Prof.Asoc.Dr. Naim Hasani 3. Prof.Asoc.Dr. Figene Ahmedi





Discipline / Field	Formative activity	ECTS		
		ECTS	Total	%
General subjects	Scientific Research Methodology	3	12	10
	Project Management	3		
	Construction Management	6		
Fundamental hydrotechnical subjects	Hydrology II	6	63	52.5
	River Regulation	6		
	Drainage Engineering	6		
	Geotechnics of Hydrotechnical Structures	3		
	Water Supply of Settlements II	6		
	Drinking Water Treatment Technologies	6		
	Dams	6		
	Sewerage of settlements II	6		
	Water Power Use II	6		
	Wastewater Treatment Technologies	6		
	Integrated Flood Protection	3		
	Application of GIS in Water Management	3		
	Elective Courses	Hydrogeology		
Tunnels		3		
Special Foundations		3		
Water Resources Management		3		
Construction Economics		3		
Ground Water Dynamics		3		
Hydraulic modeling		6		
Diploma	Thesis Work	30	30	25

The MSc in Hydrotechnics program aims to deepen the knowledge by applying the skills acquired during the Bachelor level studies, in the field of Hydraulic Engineering, hydrology and water resources in general. This program also focuses on the development and management of natural resources and watercourses, their quality along the flow as well as addressing the multidisciplinary character of human activities related to water. After the completion of studies MSc in Hydrotechnics,



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the graduates will be prepared professionals for the labor market who have the knowledge and skills to improve the management of human impacts on our water resources and develop methods to improve the effect of wastewater in the environment. The MSc in Hydrotechnics study program prepares professionals who are able to follow and adapt according to the scientific achievements, eventual changes in narrow professional fields as well as technological innovations by placing them in the labor market both locally and internationally.

The graduates in this field will enable the best possible choices for Kosovo's water resources and at the same time will be committed on respecting and meeting environmental criteria. To address these challenges, the MSc in Hydrotechnics study program is designed with an interdisciplinary and integrated approach by providing sustainable human capacity building, the best possible placement for the labor market (based on labor market demands).



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## 2. PROGRAM EVALUATION

*The program evaluation consists 7 sub headings through which the educational process content, students, research and resources are assessed, as well as quality assurance, mission and objectives, according to the requirements of KAA Accreditation Manual 2018.*

### 2.1. Mission, objectives and administration

In 2018 KAA introduced its new accreditation standards which defines the framework of evaluation. Unfortunately the Self Evaluation Report (SER) follows the structure of the Accreditation Manual only as per the 7 groups of standards, but does not address each and every standard respectively, in a systematic manner. It is not obvious to find all the relevant information in the SER, as it is a rather unstructured amalgamation of information. Other faculties of UP (e.g. FME) provide well structured reports for the reaccreditation process, which means that the information about the necessary SER structure exists within UP. This structure should be applied in every faculty to facilitate the evaluation process.

The mission statements are clearly defined in compliance with the overall mission statement of University of Prishtina although there is no research strategy, no clearly defined research concept for the Hydrotechnics MSc programme. Being a master study programme, research activity is of foremost importance.

As the ET was informed during the meetings professional advice and consultation was taken into account in the creation of the curricula of the programs. Didactic and research concepts are defined. Formal policies, guidelines and regulations are set, although as the concerning documents are in Albanian, the ET cannot examine its content.

Key Performance Indicators are defined and used in the performance evaluation of the programme.



## Compliance calculation

<i>Standard</i>	<b>Compliance</b>	
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<i>Standard 1.1.</i> The study program mission is in compliance with the overall mission statement of the institution.	X	
<i>Standard 1.2.</i> Relevant academic and professional advice is considered when defining the intended learning outcomes which are consistent with the National Qualifications Framework and the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area.	X	
<i>Standard 1.3.</i> The study program has a well-defined overarching didactic and research concept.		X
<i>Standard 1.4.</i> There are formal policies, guidelines and regulations dealing with recurring procedural or academic issues. These are made publicly available to all staff and students.	X	
<i>Standard 1.5.</i> All staff and students comply with the internal regulations relating to ethical conduct in research, teaching, assessment in all academic and administrative activities.	X	
<i>Standard 1.6.</i> All policies, regulations, terms of reference and statements of responsibility relating to the management and delivery of the program are reviewed at least once every two years and amended as required in the light of changing circumstances	X	

**Compliance level:** 83 % - Substantially compliant

### ET recommendations:

- 1. The research aspects of the programme mission should be presented in more clear and detailed way.*
- 2. A detailed strategic research development plan should be prepared for the FCE Hydrotechnics MSc programme, taking into account the scientific requirements of a master programme.*



## 2.2. Quality management

Based on the SER, and also on the discussions with the quality management representatives, quality management is established and functioning within FCE. As the ET already had taken part in evaluations at other faculties of UP, there are a number of areas which are different at this particular faculty and study programme:

1. As it was already outlined in 2.1. of this report, the structure and elaborateness of the SER does not comply with the KAA standards, it is difficult to use for evaluation. Quality assurance should be applied in SER preparations as well, using the already existing report writing knowledge of other faculties of UP. (E.g. FME prepared well structured SERs, including practically all the relevant information for the evaluation, on 160-170 pages. In comparison, this particular SER of the Hydrotechnics MSc programme is 48 page long only.)
2. There are many SWOT analyses included in the SER, complying with the requirements of KAA. Unfortunately many SWOT analyses in the SER identified no weaknesses at all in the examined areas, which is not realistic and not acceptable. These kind of SWOT analyses could support not only the reaccreditation process, but the strategic planning of the faculty, so they should be seriously taken and not only as an administrative burden. This results in non-compliance of standard 2.2.

The basis of the QA is the electronic SEMS system, which can make surveys, evaluation and feedback processes fairly effective, and enables the integration of the actual academic data of the study programs in these processes. Student participation is ensured also by the SEMS system. The survey reports are not public though, which does not comply with KAA requirements (Standard 2.6.).



### Compliance calculation

<i>Standard</i>	<b>Compliance</b>	
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<i>Standard 2.1.</i> All staff participate in self-evaluations and cooperate with reporting and improvement processes in their sphere of activity.	X	
<i>Standard 2.2.</i> Evaluation processes and planning for improvement are integrated into normal planning processes.		X
<i>Standard 2.3.</i> Quality assurance processes deal with all aspects of program planning and delivery, including services and resources provided by other parts of the institution.	X	
<i>Standard 2.4.</i> Quality evaluations provide an overview of quality issues for the overall program as well as of different components within it; the evaluations consider inputs, processes and outputs, with particular attention given to learning outcomes for students	X	
<i>Standard 2.5.</i> Quality assurance processes ensure both that required standards are met and that there is continuing improvement in performance.	X	
<i>Standard 2.6.</i> Survey data is being collected from students, graduates and employers; the results of these evaluations are made publicly available.		X
<i>Standard 2.7.</i> Results of the internal quality assurance system are taken into account for further development of the study program. This includes evaluation results, investigation of the student workload, academic success and employment of graduates.	X	
<i>Standard 2.8.</i> The institution ensures that reports on the overall quality of the program are prepared periodically (eg. every three years) for consideration within the institution indicating its strengths and weaknesses.	X	
<i>Standard 2.9.</i> The quality assurance arrangements for the program are themselves regularly evaluated and improved.	X	

**Compliance level:** 78% - Substantially compliant

### ET recommendations:

- SER should be prepared more detailed, addressing every single standard of KAA Accreditation Manual.*
- SWOT analyses should be prepared more thoroughly, and be integrated in the strategic planning of FCE.*
- Quality evaluations should be made publicly available. A bilingual website for quality management can be a mean for this.*



### 2.3. Academic staff

Based on the staff CVs the ET considers that teaching staff complies with the relevant legal requirements, they possess the necessary qualifications needed for each study program.

Based on the SER, the academic staff of the Hydrotechnics MSc programme is comprised by 15 professors and assistants, on of them is part time. The 50% criteria for full time staff of Standard 3.4. is fulfilled. 2. Detailed tabular representation of the staff including all important and necessary specified by Standard 3.1. is missing from SER.

The ET was informed during the interviews that UP provides trainings of teaching methodology for staff members having QA issues, which is considered beneficial. (Standard 3.6.)

The SWOT analyses of staff (page 25) defines no weaknesses. It is fairly interesting that FCE is exempt of staff problems, considering some general staff problems at UP's, such as the difficulties of acquiring PhDs in Kosovo, coupled with the ageing nature of teaching staff. The ET emphasizes again the importance of thorough SWOT analyses.

<i>Standard</i>	<b>Compliance</b>	
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<i>Standard 3.1.</i> Candidates for employment are provided with full position descriptions and conditions of employment. To be presented in tabular form data about full time (FT) and part time (PT) academic/ artistic staff, such as: name, qualification, academic title, duration of official (valid) contract, workload for teaching, exams, consulting, administrative activities, research, etc. for the study program under evaluation.		X
<i>Standard 3.2.</i> The teaching staff must comply with the legal requirements concerning the occupation of teaching positions included in the Administrative instruction on Accreditation.	X	
<i>Standard 3.3.</i> Academic staff do not cover, within an academic year, more than two teaching positions (one full-time, one part-time), regardless of the educational institution where they carry out their activity.	X	





<i>Standard 3.4.</i> At least 50% of the academic staff in the study program are full time employees, and account for at least 50% of the classes of the study program.	X	
<i>Standard 3.5.</i> For each student group (defined by the statute of the institution) and for every 60 ECTS credits in the study program, the institution has employed at least one full time staff with PhD title or equivalent title in the case of artistic/applied science institutions.	X	
<i>Standard 3.6.</i> Opportunities are provided for additional professional development of teaching staff, with special assistance given to any who are facing difficulties.	X	
<i>Standard 3.7.</i> The responsibilities of all teaching staff, especially full-time, include the engagement in the academic community, availability for consultations with students and community service.	X	
<i>Standard 3.8.</i> Academic staff evaluation is conducted regularly at least through self-evaluation, students, peer and superiors' evaluations, and occur on a formal basis at least once each year. The results of the evaluation are made publicly available.		X
<i>Standard 3.9.</i> Strategies for quality enhancement include improving the teaching strategies and quality of learning materials.	X	
<i>Standard 3.10.</i> Teachers retired at age limit or for other reasons lose the status of full-time teachers and are considered part-time teachers.	X	

**Compliance level:** 80% - Substantially compliant

**ET recommendations:**

1. *Academic staff evaluation has to be made publicly available.*
2. *Detailed tabular representation of the staff including all important and necessary specified by Standard 3.1. is to be included in the SER.*





## 2.4. Educational process content

The Hydrotechnics MSc programme was reaccredited in 2017. On page 28 the SER quotes from the report: “the academic program Hydrotechnics, Master level meets European standards and corresponds well with international practices. The number and distribution of courses between semesters is adequate, and the ratio between the theoretical and practical part is also adequate.” Unfortunately the quotation includes only the positive opinion of ET, but not any critics. The critics and recommendations in the 2017 report were as follows:

- In the field of hydrology and hydraulics there has been a significant change in the last 3 decades: all relevant calculations are carried out by specific modeling software applications, and the basic, simplified classical engineering methods are neglected. Unfortunately at University of Prishtina in the Hydrotechnics MSc course these contemporary design and modeling methods are not used.
- We advise very strongly, that these contemporary, numerical methods are to be introduced in the courses, with the emphasis on 4 areas: urban runoff, drinking water distribution, groundwater hydraulics and open channel hydraulics.
- Without incorporating these methods in the curricula the remark of the 2014 assessment report, that the curricula is “a little bit old fashioned” can clearly be understood, as it reflects to the water engineering inventory of the 80’s.

The lack of contemporary view in water engineering was already apparent during the 2014 assessment. The ET still does not see any substantial improvement in this field, although one modelling subject was introduced in semester 3. The ET’s advice on the 4 areas is not complied.

As an organic continuation of the Hydrotechnics BSc programme, unfortunately the lack of social science subject continue. The prospective hydro engineers will work in society, under legal, economic and managerial requirements. They should be prepared for the socio-economic aspects of the engineers’ work. This, coupled with the lack of modern hydrology-hydraulics approach results in non-compliance of standard 4.2.

The cooperation with companies and institutions regarding to student involvement in internships and site visits is good.



## Compliance calculation

<i>Standard</i>	<b>Compliance</b>	
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<i>Standard 4.1.</i> The study program is modelled on qualification objectives. These include subject-related and interdisciplinary aspects as well as the acquisition of disciplinary, methodological and generic skills and competencies. The aspects refer especially to academic or artistic competencies, to the capability of taking up adequate employment, contributing to the civil society and of developing the students' personality.	X	
<i>Standard 4.2.</i> The study program complies with the National Qualifications Framework and the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area. The individual components of the program are combined in a way to best achieve the specified qualification objectives and provide for adequate forms of teaching and learning.		X
<i>Standard 4.3.</i> The disciplines within the curriculum are provided in a logical flow and meet the definition and precise determination of the general and specific competencies, as well as the compatibility with the study programs and curricula delivered in the EHEA. To be listed at least 7 learning outcomes for the study program under evaluation.	X	
<i>Standard 4.4.</i> The disciplines within the curriculum have analytical syllabuses which comprise at least the following: the discipline's objectives, the basic thematic content, learning outcomes, the distribution of classes, seminars and applicative activities, students' assessment system, the minimal bibliography, etc. The full course description/ syllabuses of each subject/ module should be attached only in electronic form to the self-assessment report for the study program under evaluation.	X	
<i>Standard 4.5.</i> If the language of instruction is other than Albanian, actions are taken to ensure that language skills of both students and academic staff are adequate for instruction in that language when students begin their studies. This may be done through language training prior to the commencement of the program.	X	
<i>Standard 4.6.</i> The student-teacher relationship is a partnership in which each assumes the responsibility of reaching the learning outcomes. Learning outcomes are explained and discussed with students from the perspective of their relevance to the students' development.	X	
<i>Standard 4.7.</i> Teaching strategies are fit for the different types of learning outcomes programs are intended to develop. Strategies of teaching and	X	



assessment set out in program and course specifications are followed with flexibility to meet the needs of different groups of students.		
<i>Standard 4.8.</i> Student assessment mechanisms are conducted fairly and objectively, are appropriate for the different forms of learning sought and are clearly communicated to students at the beginning of courses.	X	
<i>Standard 4.9.</i> Appropriate, valid and reliable mechanisms are used for verifying standards of student achievement. The standard of work required for different grades is consistent over time, comparable in courses offered within a program, and in comparison with other study programs at highly regarded institutions.	X	
<i>Standard 4.10.</i> Policies and procedures include actions to be taken in to dealing with situations where standards of student achievement are inadequate or KAA inconsistently assessed.	X	
<i>Standard 4.11.</i> If the study program includes practice stages, the intended student learning outcomes are clearly specified and effective processes are followed to ensure that those learning outcomes and the strategies to develop that learning are understood by students. The practice stages are allocated ETCS credits and the work of the students at the practical training organisations is monitored through activity reports; students during practice stages have assigned tutors among the academic staff in the study program.	X	
<i>Standard 4.12.</i> In order to facilitate the practice stages, the higher education institution signs cooperation agreements, contracts or other documents with institutions/organisations/practical training units. <i>*To be inserted the overview of the program (with all areas to be filled out).</i>	X	

**Compliance level:** 92% - Fully compliant

**ET recommendations:**

1. *Integrate one socio-economic subject per semester into the curricula, according to the practical needs of a prospective engineer.*
2. *Contemporary, numerical methods are to be introduced in the courses, with the emphasis on 4 areas: urban runoff, drinking water distribution, groundwater hydraulics and open channel hydraulics. The requirements of necessary staff and software development are to be implemented.*



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## 2.5. Students

The Faculty of Civil Engineering (FCE) is led by the objective to put the students in the focus of the studies. The studies are preparing students to easily adapt to the basic positions in the labor market. The SER reports that the master program brings out generation of graduates who are placed in the labor market both domestically and abroad at an extremely satisfactory level while some of them continue their doctoral studies in institutions abroad.

During the site visit, the experts` team met more master than bachelor students. In general, they are satisfied with the study program. The students shared that it is hard to study during a pandemic. But they are happy that through the online studies, they strengthened their digital skills. When asked whether they can identify the difference between the bachelor and master studies they pointed out that through the master studies they are strengthening their knowledge and get more confidentiality about their knowledge. With the master, we are more completed with our profession, as one master student highlighted.

Moreover, the students highlighted that the best thing in the master program is the available literature that is included in the syllabuses and the possibilities for practice. However, as weakness, they mentioned there is a need more practical work and opportunities for conducting practice outside of the Faculty.

The SER reports that the students have opportunities to apply for scholarships. Such opportunities are offered in the framework of scientific cooperation of the particular University with other international universities.

The FCE organizes study programs at Master of Science levels from the same fields of study programs as in BSc (Construction, Hydrotechnics and Geodesy). As regulated within the Regulation for Master studies, in the master level studies the right to apply have all candidates who have completed the basic studies (bachelor) with credit 240 ECTS (four years of study) for master studies with 60 ECTS or 180 ECTS (three years of study) for studies master 120 ECTS.



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For the enrollment of new students in the Master of Science study programs, a public competition is also announced by the University of Prishtina, where all the criteria and quotas are specified. After the competition announcement, FCE organizes the admission exams according to the imposed criteria. The assessment process includes and evaluates the admission exam and the success from the level of basic studies. The ranking is announced by FCE on their website as well as in hard copy in the faculty` premises. The competition specifies the minimum requirements and evaluation criteria for each academic unit, respectively the study program. From meeting with the heads of the master program the experts learned that the call for new students is during summer since they are giving opportunities for the bachelor students to finish the thesis until the summer and then apply for master studies.

The number of students that are expected to be enrolled is prescribed by the Senate of the University for each study program. For the specific study program that number is 20 students. (Standard 5.1 & 5.2)

In the document Additional information and evidence, for evaluation of study program of BSc and MSc, the table with the number of students shows that in 2019/20, 14 students have been enrolled. This is a significantly lower number of students that have been enrolled in 2018/19 (28- even higher number than the ones prescribed for this program) and a slightly lower number than the ones enrolled in 2017/18. The highest number of graduates are noticed in 2019/20 which is 8. In the previous year, those numbers were reduced by half. The previous evaluation recommended actions related with the low number of graduated students in the MSc degree program. The SER reports that the students in the MSc degree program are highly on-demand in the job market and they are finding their job while on studies. These reasons for drop outs. As reported, there are 120 students who have formalized the projects for the diploma thesis and are waiting for their graduation. This is a concerning fact and the management should make a detailed analysis and address this issue.

Neither the SER nor the additionally provided documents show the planned or expected dimensions of the study groups. The study program does include theoretical and practical parts such as lab works and sometimes presentations and limited teamwork. During the site visit,



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one of the students mentioned that in master they are smaller groups and they can request more from the academic staff. However, such regulation is not prescribed within the Regulation for Master studies. (Standard 5.3.)

The SER reports that all academic staff have a contractual obligation for teaching, administrative matters and consultations with students. Consultations with students are regular, and organized depending on the requirements of students, before exams, after exams, during teaching, during diploma work, during the project work and in cases of particular research. Article 6 from the Regulation of Master studies specify that teaching in master studies is realized in the form of lectures, seminars, numerical / analytical / experimental / laboratory exercises, practical work, fieldwork, artistic work, study visits, discussions, professional consultations, and through independent works of students. (Standard 5.4.)

The results obtained by the students are certified by the academic record as it is explained in the Regulations for Master studies (article 16). The information from the evaluation of students including their grades are available through SEMS. The same system records the competition rates and all the necessary information and data for the students` progress. (Standard 5.5 & 5.7)

Plagiarism as a negative behavior is mentioned in the Code of Ethics. The Regulation for Master studies in its article 30 specifies that the candidate can be challenged if it is found that the work of diploma master is plagiarism, fabrication, or forgery. The SER reports that the responsibility falls on the course holder that the students' work is original. However, there is no electronic system ensuring that the students' work is original. Such a system might be more efficient, even though some steps for regulating plagiarism are taken. (Standard 5.8.)

The University's website is the main tool for information accompanied by information that the students are getting from the academic and administrative staff. The Regulation of Master studies regulates the option for students to submit an appeal against the decision imposed by the organ Faculty bodies related to their rights, obligations and responsibilities. (Standard 5.9)

The possibility for students' transfer between higher education institutions, faculties, and study programs is clearly regulated in the Statute of the University (articles 142, 143, and 155) and in the Regulation of Master Studies (article 10). (Standard 5.10.) The same document also





provides evidence that the Faculty does have flexible treatment of students in special situations. The same was confirmed during the site visit on the meeting with the students. (Standard 5.6.)

The syllabuses do include consultation hours with the academic staff. The academic staff during the site visit shared that due to the pandemic they are conducting the consultation hours with the students online usually with a group of students. In certain cases, they were doing consultation directly with the students in the labs. No evidence showing that the Faculty has developed a tutorial system (Standard 5.11)

The Faculty should take steps for introducing more students' services, such as tutorial system and system for assistance and more international exchange program. It is important to highlight that students shared that the labs are more appropriate for bachelor studies than for master studies. The Faculty should take this into consideration.

### Compliance calculation

<i>Standard</i>	<b>Compliance</b>	
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<i>Standard 5.1.</i> There is a clear and formally adopted admission procedure at institutional level that the study program respects when organising students' recruitment. Admission requirements are consistently and fairly applied for all students.	X	
<i>Standard 5.2.</i> All students enrolled in the study program possess a high school graduation diploma or other equivalent document of study, according to MEST requirements.	X	
<i>Standard 5.3.</i> The study groups are dimensioned so as to ensure an effective and interactive teaching and learning process.	X	
<i>Standard 5.4.</i> Feedback to students on their performance and results of assessments is given promptly and accompanied by mechanisms for assistance if needed.	X	
<i>Standard 5.5.</i> The results obtained by the students throughout the study cycles are certified by the academic record.	X	
<i>Standard 5.6.</i> Flexible treatment of students in special situations is ensured with respect to deadlines and formal requirements in the program and to all examinations.	X	
<i>Standard 5.7.</i> Records of student completion rates are kept for all courses and for the program as a whole and included among quality indicators.	X	



<i>Standard 5.8.</i> Effective procedures are being used to ensure that work submitted by students is original.		X
<i>Standard 5.9.</i> Students' rights and obligations are made publicly available, promoted to all those concerned and enforced equitably; these will include the right to academic appeals.	X	
<i>Standard 5.10.</i> The students' transfer between higher education institutions, faculties and study programs is clearly regulated in formal internal documents.	X	
<i>Standard 5.11.</i> Academic staff is available at sufficient scheduled times for consultation and advice to students. Adequate tutorial assistance is provided to ensure understanding and ability to apply learning.	X	

**Compliance level:** 91% - Fully compliant

**ET recommendations:**

- 1. The master level students should be provided with more practice and programs that will be helpful for them. This can be achieved through the Industrial Board and the involvement of its members in the study programs.*
- 2. The Faculty management together with the QA staff should take serious measures to address the issue with the low number of graduates. Adding a tutorial system might help.*
- 3. The Faculty should consider procuring an electronic system for ensuring that the students' work is original.*





## 2.6. Research

The SWOT analysis in chapter 4.1.6. of SER defines one weakness about research, namely the financial decentralization for research dedicated to academic staff. Whatever it is supposed to mean, the weaknesses of research activity of FCE with special regards to the Hydrotechnics MSc programme are more extensive than that. The weaknesses defined during the BSc SWOT analyses are even more apparent in the MSc programme.

The ET has expressed a number of times during previous evaluations at UP, that a clear and specific research strategy has to be created. Although, according to SER, the University has a Research Development Plan, it has clearly not been broken down to faculty level, nor even further to departmental level, with study program specializations. Research activity is still based on individual initiatives, which are although beneficial, are not subsequent and fairly accidental. This shortcoming unfortunately is well reflected by the teaching staff's CVs: there are only a very few publications from the recent years. According to the role of universities in research, scientific and technical development, and also the KAA standard requirements, UP, including its FCE should put a significant effort to bring up its research and publication activity to a higher level.

The research requirements of an MSc programme are higher, as a master programme is the prerequisite of prospective PhD studies. These research related issues are crucial in the case of the MSc programme.

### Compliance calculation

<i>Standard</i>	<b>Compliance</b>	
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<i>Standard 6.1.</i> The study program has defined scientific/applied research objectives (on its own or as part of a research centre or interdisciplinary program), which are also reflected in the research development plan of the institution; sufficient financial, logistic and human resources are allocated for achieving the proposed research objectives.		X



<i>Standard 6.2.</i> Expectations for teaching staff involvement in research and scholarly activities are clearly specified, and performance in relation to these expectations is considered in staff evaluation and promotion criteria.		X
<i>Standard 6.3.</i> Clear policies are established for defining what is recognized as research, consistent with international standards and established norms in the field of study of the program.	X	
<i>Standard 6.4.</i> The academic staff has a proven track record of research results on the same topics as their teaching activity.	X	
<i>Standard 6.5.</i> The academic and research staff publish their work in speciality magazines or publishing houses, scientific/applied/artistic products are presented at conferences, sessions, symposiums, seminars etc. and contracts, expertise, consultancy, conventions, etc. are provided to partners inside the country and/or abroad.	X	
<i>Standard 6.6.</i> Research is validated through: scientific and applied research publications, artistic products, technological transfer through consultancy centres, scientific parks and other structures for validation.		X
<i>Standard 6.7.</i> Each academic staff member and researcher has produced at least an average of one scientific/applied research publication or artistic outcome/product per year for the past three years.		X
<i>Standard 6.8.</i> Academic and research staff publish under the name of the institution in Kosovo they are affiliated to as full time staff.	X	
<i>Standard 6.9.</i> Academic staff are encouraged to include in their teaching information about their research and scholarly activities that are relevant to courses they teach, together with other significant research developments in the field.	X	
<i>Standard 6.10.</i> Policies are established for ownership of intellectual property and clear procedures set out for commercialization of ideas developed by staff and students.	X	
<i>Standard 6.11.</i> Students are engaged in research projects and other activities.	X	

**Compliance level:** 64% - Substantially compliant

**ET recommendations:**

- In the framework of UP's Research Development Plan, create a detailed research strategy and research development plan for the Faculty, specifying the involvement of every department, emphasizing co-operations and possible synergies. Every study program is to be integrated in the research development plan, giving specific and realistic directions.*



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2. *The management of the Faculty should establish funding opportunities, and effectively support the departments and the staff to establish and carry out research projects, in accordance with the research development plan.*
3. *The Faculty should create a publication strategy within the framework of the research strategy. As KAA standards put an emphasis on the publication activity, the Faculty must take consider it a crucial strategic question in the reaccreditation procedures in the future.*



## 2.7. Infrastructure and resources

University of Prishtina has put a significant effort to improve its infrastructural condition during the last years. There has been substantial reconstructions in the main Faculty building and the laboratory building. The ET appreciates this effort, and can see the commitment from the management of the university.

Present report was written during the covid pandemic, lockdown situation has been going on around the world for more than a year. UP and FCE adapted well to these dire restrictions, and carry out online teaching activity successfully.

The video presentation shared with the experts' team presents premises with different types of rooms for studying, classrooms, amphitheatres, halls, labs, and cabinets for the academic staff where they can prepare their research and teaching plans.

The adequate long-term implementation of the study program is ensured, due to the fact that the Faculty is an entity of the University. The premises, human resources, and equipment are also ensured having in mind the number of academic staff, the labs, and others.

From the video presentation and the SER, the experts were informed that the Faculty owns the following laboratories: Laboratory for building materials; Bitumen and Asphalt section; Geodesy Laboratory; Hydrotechnics Laboratory; Geomechanics Laboratory. In addition to this, the Faculty has an outdoor experimental investigation place. During the site visit the experts` learned that new equipment is integrated within the labs and now can be used. However, the master students pointed out that the equipment within the laboratories is more for bachelor studies than for master studies. The licensed software Autocad was procured and is included in the curriculum.

The building has a library equipped with reading rooms most of which in the Albanian language. The SER reports several weaknesses related to the literature available in the library. In specific, there is a lack of professional textbooks in the library. However, the Faculty has access to ScienceDirect digital library, the Central National Library through the LibApps platform created by the University of Prishtina within the Erasmus + project, "Library Network Support Services". A need for building the Technical Library in the future was reported.



Finally, the SER reports a lack of space for independent study by students and a lack of relaxing and recreational spaces for students. (Standard 7.1 & 7.3& 7.4)

The video presentation does not show reading rooms within the library. In addition, it should be specified that the SER reports the creation of spaces for students' own learning as an opportunity. The Faculty should explore different ways to expand the place for reading. (Standard 7.5)

Among the additionally provided documents, the Faculty has submitted a planned budget from 2021-2023. Although in Albanian the document provides a plan for financial stability for the particular program. It should be underlined that the same document for the financial plan is submitted for the bachelor and for the master studies. However, the experts` are concerned regarding the financial stability of the program having in mind the trend of decreasing the number of students. A mitigation plan is needed as insurance. (Standard 7.2.)

There is no evidence that the infrastructure and facilities are adapted to students with special needs. The video does not show available elevator within the building neither access for students with special needs in the entrance. (Standard 7.6.)

The Faculty`s premises have free WiFi in all parts. Part of the premises of the Faculty was renovated two years, but part still remains not renovated.

### Compliance calculation

<i>Standard</i>	<b>Compliance</b>	
	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>
<i>Standard 7.1.</i> The adequate long-term implementation of the study program is ensured in quantitative terms as regards premises, human resources and equipment. At the same time, it is guaranteed that qualitative aspects are also taken into account.	X	
<i>Standard 7.2.</i> There is a financial plan at the level of the study program that would demonstrate the sustainability of the study program for the next minimum three years.	X	



<p><i>Standard 7.3.</i> The higher education institution must demonstrate with adequate documents (property deeds, lease contracts, inventories, invoices etc.) that, for the study program submitted for evaluation it possesses the following, for the next at least three years:</p> <p>a) owned or rented spaces adequate for the educational process;</p> <p>b) owned or rented laboratories, with the adequate equipment for all the compulsory disciplines within the curriculum, wherever the analytical syllabus includes such activities;</p> <p>c) adequate software for the disciplines of study included in the curriculum, with utilisation licence;</p> <p>d) library equipped with reading rooms, group work rooms and its own book stock according to the disciplines included in the curricula.</p>	X	
<p><i>Standard 7.4.</i> The number of seats in the lecture rooms, seminar rooms and laboratories must be related to the study groups' size (series, groups, subgroups); the applicative activities for the speciality disciplines included in the curricula are carried out in laboratories equipped with IT equipment.</p>	X	
<p><i>Standard 7.5.</i> The education institution's libraries must ensure, for each of the study programs:</p> <p>a) a number of seats in the reading rooms corresponding to at least 10% of the total number of students in the study program;</p> <p>b) a number of seats in the group work rooms corresponding to at least 10% of the total number of students in the study program;</p> <p>c) their own book stock from Albanian and foreign speciality literature, enough to cover the disciplines within the curricula, out of which at least 50% should represent book titles or speciality courses of recognised publishers, from the last 10 years;</p> <p>d) a book stock within its own library with a sufficient number of books so as to cover the needs of all students in the cycle and year of study the respective discipline is provided for;</p> <p>e) a sufficient number of subscriptions to Albanian and foreign publications and periodicals, according to the stated mission.</p>		X
<p><i>Standard 7.6.</i> The infrastructure and facilities dedicated to the implementation of the program is adapted to students with special needs.</p>		X

**Compliance level:** 67% - Substantially compliant



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**ET recommendations:**

- 1. A mitigation plan is needed as insurance for the financial stability is needed. The Faculty management is encouraged to explore and detect additionally funding from the possibilities for research and cooperation with the industry through the Industrial Board*
- 2. The infrastructure and facilities should be adapted to students with special need.*
- 3. Continue the effort to develop laboratory equipment.*



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

Based on the evaluation of the actual KAA standards, the compliance level of the programme is as follows:

Standard	Compliance level	
1. Mission, objectives and administration	83%	Substantially compliant
2. Quality management	78%	Substantially compliant
3. Academic staff	80%	Substantially compliant
4. Educational process content	92%	Fully compliant
5. Students	91%	Fully compliant
6. Research	64%	Substantially compliant
7. Infrastructure and resources	67%	Substantially compliant
<b>Overall compliance</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>Substantially compliant</b>

**In conclusion, the Expert Team recommends to re-accredit Hydrotechnics MSc study programme for a duration of 3 years, with the provision of 20 students enrolled per year.**

Expert Team

Chair

**Prof. Dr. Gábor Dombay**

03.05.2021.

Member

**Marija Vasilevska**

03.05.2021.





#### 4. APPENDICES

##### **Compliance level assessment calculation**

In order to assess the compliance level of each general area the following guidelines were used, as required by the KAA Accreditation manual:

1.1. fully compliant – all the standards included in a particular general area are met. If the institution exceeds the standards and meets some of the performance indicators, commendations are appropriate. This recognition provides the institution motivation to pursue even greater levels of excellence in their quality management practices;

1.2. substantially compliant –above 60 – 90% of the standards included in a particular general area are met, while the others are not yet in line with stated expectations. Also, there is potential for requirements of the standards not to be satisfied before the next review (examples may include the loss of key faculty members due to retirements, declining student enrolment, or projected reductions in financial or personnel resources, and others);

1.3. partially compliant - 30 – 60% of the standards included in a particular general area are met. Also, the institution lacks the strength of compliance with the standards to ensure that the quality of the institution will not be compromised;

1.4. non-compliant – less than 30% of the standards included in a particular general area are met. The institution does not satisfy the requirements of the standards.