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Republika Kosova - Republic of Kosovo



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

*University of Prishtina, Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary
(FAV), Prishtina*

Pomology and Viticulture/MSc.

Reaccreditation

REPORT OF THE EXPERT TEAM

23.04.2021, Germany (Hohenheim)



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	2
1. INTRODUCTION.....	3
1.1. Context.....	3
1.2. Online evaluation meeting schedule.....	5
1.3. A brief overview of the institution and program under evaluation.....	8
2. PROGRAM EVALUATION.....	9
2.1. Mission, objectives and administration.....	9
2.2. Quality management.....	Fehler! Textmarke nicht definiert.
2.3. Academic staff.....	Fehler! Textmarke nicht definiert.
2.4. Educational process content.....	Fehler! Textmarke nicht definiert.
2.5. Students.....	Fehler! Textmarke nicht definiert.
2.6. Research.....	Fehler! Textmarke nicht definiert.
2.7. Infrastructure and resources.....	Fehler! Textmarke nicht definiert.
3. OVERALL EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE ET.....	Fehler!
	Textmarke nicht definiert.
4. APPENDICES (<i>if available</i>).....	Fehler! Textmarke nicht definiert.



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Context

Date of site visit: 08.04.2021

Expert Team (ET) members:

- *Prof. Dr. Reiner Doluschitz*

Coordinators from Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA):

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

Sources of information for the Report:

- *Self-Evaluation Report of the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary (FAV)*
- *Online evaluation meeting 08.04.2021*

Criteria used for program evaluation:

- *KAA Accreditation Manual – July 2018*
- *Standards and performance indicators for reaccreditation of MSc programs*
 - **Criteria used for program evaluation:**

<i>CL</i>	<i>Compliance level</i>	<i>%</i>
A	Fully compliant	> 90
B	Substantially compliant	70-90
C	Partially compliant	30-70 ¹
D	Non-compliant	< 30
n.a.	not applicable	

- ¹ 30-60% according KAA Accreditation Manual, corrected to close the gap



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Abbreviations

EHEA	European Higher Education Area
ET	Expert team
FAV	Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary
HEI	Higher Education Institution
KAA	Kosovo Accreditation Agency
KAA18	KAA Accreditation Manual – July 2018
OFQA	Office for Quality Assurance
SER	Self-evaluation report
SWOT	Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
UP	University of Prishtina



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1.2. Online evaluation meetings schedule

Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA)

Site Visit Program

Programme Accreditation Procedure at University of Prishtina

Date: 8th of April 2021

Expert Team

- Prof. Dr. Reiner Doluschitz

Coordinators of 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



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Site Visit Program

8th April

09.00 – 09.40	Meeting with the management of the faculty where the programme is integrated (<i>no slide presentation is allowed, the meeting is intended as a free discussion</i>)
09:45 – 10:30	Meeting with quality assurance representatives and administrative staff
10:30 – 11:10	Lunch Break
11:10 – 12:10	Meeting with the heads of the study programme 1. Plant Protection, MA
12:15 – 13:15	Meeting with the heads of the study programme 2. Fruit and Vineyards, MA
13.20 – 14:00	Meeting with teaching staff
14:05 – 14:45	Meeting with students
14:50 – 15:30	Meeting with graduates
15.35 – 16:15	Meeting with employers of graduates and external stakeholders
16.15 – 16:25	Internal meeting of KAA staff and experts
16:25 – 16:35	Closing meeting with the management of the faculty and program



No	Study programs	Experts	Responsible persons of study programs		
1	Plant Protection, MA (Reaccreditation)	Prof. Dr. Reiner Doluschitz	Arben Mehmeti	Fadil Musa	
2	Fruit and Vineyards, MA (Reaccreditation)	Prof. Dr. Reiner Doluschitz	Vahid Avdiu	Bedri Dragusha	

Other information

Overall instructions for HEIs

1. The students selected for the meeting should reflect a diversity in terms of fields of study, programme, study cycle, year of study, students with special needs if any, etc;
2. The teaching staff selected for the meeting should reflect a diversity in terms of faculties and programmes, full-time and part time, local and international, etc;
3. The students, graduates and employers of graduates should not be employed at the institution;
4. Anyone whose attendance won't be agreed in advance with KAA and the Expert Team will be asked to leave the interview session;
5. Nametags are to be provided for all people attending the meetings.

Contacts of the participants from KAA:

Shkelzen Gerxhaliu – 044 836 831

Arianit Krasniqi – 045 499 951



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

The Faculty of Agriculture, University of Prishtina was founded on August 26, 1973 by a decision of the Assembly. The aim of this foundation has been the faster development of the agricultural sector in Kosovo by graduating well educated people with superior qualifications in agriculture.

In the beginning (from 1975) this faculty offered study programs only in the field of General Agronomy. In the first year a total of 140 Albanian students were enrolled and six Albanian teachers were employed, supported from one collaborator. Later on, due to the great interest and demand for such study, the Faculty of Agriculture was forced to increase the number of students enrolled in the study programs offered by this faculty and the spectrum of study programs as well.

In 2001, the Senate of the University of Prishtina approved lesson plans based on the Bologna Declaration for Bachelor Degree. In 2006 the Faculty Council and its academic staff proposed expanding the Faculty of Agriculture to the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary. The proposal became approved by the Senate of the University of Prishtina (UP) and subsequently the Minister of Education, Science and Technology issued an amending Decision no. 883/01-B, on December 2006.

Currently approximately 1.530 students are enrolled in undergraduate studies and up to 20 students in each master program. Presently the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary offers the following study programs: Agriculture Economics (BSc and MSc), Business Management in Zootechnic (BSc and MSc), Plant Production (BSc), Plant Protection (MSc), Pomology - Viticulture with Horticulture (MSc), Field crop and Vegetables (MSc), Veterinary Medicine, Biotechnology and Food Technology (BSc) as well as a PhD in Food Science and Food Technology within Tempus project “Creating Capacities for reforming PhD studies at University of Prishtina”. Up to now around 2.300 students have been graduated at the levels of Bachelor and Master. A total of 44 teachers and teaching assistants are involved in the teaching process in full time basis and supported by 60 additional academic staff from other Faculties within University of Prishtina and other public universities of Kosovo. In addition, the Academic staff members of the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary are involved in the implementation of basic development and applied research projects, and actively participating in professional collaboration events.

8



2. PROGRAM EVALUATION

2.1. Mission, objectives and administration

Mission, objectives and administration	CL
<p><i>Standard 1.1. The study program mission is in compliance with the overall mission statement of the institution.</i></p> <p>There is clear information concerning this issue in the SER: The mission of this program is in full harmony with the mission of the University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina", as stated in its highest legal act - UP statute. (https://uni-pr.edu/inc/doc/statuti1.pdf)</p> <p>As discussed and mentioned in the online evaluation meeting with the Dean and Vice Deans of FAV at UP it can be confirmed that the Vision and Mission of the study program and the one at University level match to a large extent. The missions of the program and the Faculty is mentioned as part of the SER as well as the mission statement of the University.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 1.2. 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.</i></p> <p>The program is structured according Bologna Declaration on vocational education and training and meets the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area.</p> <p>However, the respective answer in the SER to this standard only partly reflects on this issue as follows: “This program is based on the National Qualifications Framework, according to which this study program belongs to its 7th level, which includes the preparation of students for such study levels, specializing in the field of Agriculture. Also, this field of study is also in line with Erasmus Subject Area Codes (ESAC) points; 01.1.”</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 1.3. The study program has a well-defined overarching didactic and research concept.</i></p> <p>It is indicated in the SER that “.....the study program at the master level includes relevant didactic and research methods of this level of study. The study program</p>	C



<p>Pomology and Viticulture is designed to offer students the opportunity to deepen the knowledge on the importance of the agricultural sector a specifically in Pomology and Viticulture in the economic development of Kosovo. By the end of the study, students should be able to understand the main knowledge on horticulture sciences:”</p> <p>However, a well-defined didactic and research concept is not described in detail and the SER fails to portray this as well. However, in the syllabus, some didactic elements are shown.</p> <p>During the Online Site Visit stakeholder-meeting April 8, 2021 it frequently was supported by respective comments that particular under the pandemic the learning platform SEMS gained importance and was promoted to become an essential component of distance teaching.</p>	
<p><i>Standard 1.4. There are formal policies, guidelines and regulations dealing with recurring procedural or academic issues. These are made publicly available to all staff and students.</i></p> <p>The SER indicates that this issue is dealt with at University level (page 14): “Formal policies, guidelines, regulations dealing with procedural issues such as the regulation of this level of study, election and re-election regulations and promotion of academic staff, ethical code, syllabuses, and other relevant documents are public on the website faculty and university and SEMS. These documents are accessible to everyone, including staff and students.(Source:https://www.uni-pr.edu/desk/inc/media/C15E46D5-5159-4E97-B8CB-D69734E39CA4.pdf Regulation for election and re-election regulations and promotion of academic staff.https://www.uni-pr.edu/desk/inc/media/CFEBCD0D-8BC1-462A-8BF6-6C41152AD4B4.pdfEthical code regulation.)”</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 1.5. All staff and students comply with the internal regulations relating to ethical conduct in research, teaching, assessment in all academic and administrative activities.</i></p> <p>Yes, the SER indicates that “...Internal regulations and other acts that regulate relationships between staff and between student and staff as well as research ethics are accessible to everyone on the faculty and university web site. (Source:https://www.uni-pr.edu/page.aspx?id=1,58&s=Rregullore)</p> <p>It can be assumed that staff and students are acting accordingly.</p>	A



<p><i>Standard 1.6. 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.</i></p> <p>It is confirmed in the SER that “.....Policies that include regulations and other legal acts related to the study program and other study programs are monitored by the appropriate faculty and university mechanisms, such as: Quality Assurance Coordinator at Faculty Level, Vice dean for teaching, Vice-Rector for Teaching , the Faculty Council, the Senate and other mechanisms that make decisions for eventual changes in accordance with the competences.”</p>	B
Overall	B

Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

- 1. Formal policies, guidelines and regulations, including internal regulations relating to ethical conduct in research, teaching, assessment in all academic and administrative activities should be placed more prominently in the Universities strategic documents and should be communicated publicly, particularly towards members of academic and teaching staff and in relevant cases should be done periodically on a regular basis.*
- 2. The electronic learning-platform SEMS has been used intensively, supported by the restrictions due to the pandemic. Further intensification in a sustainable way are recommended to implement a comprehensive overarching didactic concept.*



2.2. Quality management

Quality management	CL
<p><i>Standard 2.1. All staff participate in self-evaluations and cooperate with reporting and improvement processes in their sphere of activity.</i></p> <p>Yes. It is confirmed in the SER that “.....the Department of Pomology and Viticulture holds regular meetings at certain times each semester and each academic staff reports to the department on the progress of implementing the topics of the course syllabus and when the need arises, discussing topics related to the academic work of the department.”</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 2.2. Evaluation processes and planning for improvement are integrated into normal planning processes.</i></p> <p>An evaluating process is established based on electronic questionnaires that are filled by the students after the completion of each semester. The SER confirms that the “... Department of Plant protection continuously evaluates the quality of teaching through anonymous questionnaires that are filled by students and staff at the end of the course and then deals with possible deficiencies that may arise by integrating and improving the infrastructure, methodology and new themes in the planning process for the new semester.”</p> <p>Online Site Visit stakeholder-meeting April 8, 2021 with the FAV management revealed that the quality assurance system at UP is regulated by a set of internal regulations and the Regulation on Quality Assurance in line with the legal framework in Kosovo, such as the Law on Higher Education, the Administrative Instruction on the Accreditation of Higher Education Institutions in Kosovo and the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG). The FAV has established an Office for Quality Assurance (OFQA) for structured improvement procedures.</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 2.3. Quality assurance processes deal with all aspects of program planning and delivery, including services and resources provided by other parts of the institution.</i></p> <p>Yes, as is written in the SER “.....the Department of Pomology and Viticulture constantly supporting education quality development through program planning and through accessing support services from other units within the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary in coordination with the academic unit within which it operates and hierarchy up to the highest management of the University of Pristina.”</p>	A



<p>Yes. It is indicated in the SER that “... The Department of Plant protection constantly supporting education quality development through program planning and through accessing support services from other units within the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary in coordination with the academic unit within which it operates and hierarchy up to the highest management of the University of Pristina.</p> <p>The Online Site Visit stakeholder-meeting April 8, 2021 gave the impression that the internal quality assurance system is functional, with clear responsibilities divided at all institution’s levels. The OFQA is involved in all steps of the design of study programs.</p>	
<p><i>Standard 2.4. 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.</i></p> <p>Yes, the SER confirms that the Department of Pomology and Viticulture, in its maximum capacity follows strictly the syllabi of accredited subjects at the Accreditation Agency and is continuously integrating the new scientific developments in the field of study.</p> <p>However, it is hardly to see that particular attention given to learning outcomes for students.</p> <p>In addition, further quality parameters of the study program such as number of applications, enrolment, completion rate, duration of the study and grade overview should be more intensively included into the QA mechanism and also provided in the SER.</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 2.5. Quality assurance processes ensure both that required standards are met and that there is continuing improvement in performance.</i></p> <p>It is referred to this continuous improvement process as follows in the SER: “The Pomology and Viticulture department in each reaccreditation has achieved its objectives and has respected the suggestions of international quality assurance experts. The study program Pomology and Viticulture is designed to provide students with the latest scientific and technical knowledge in this field, in an interdisciplinary and comprehensive manner.”</p> <p>The ET trusts that the OFQA is adequate to ensure that standards are met and an improvement in performance is stimulated.</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 2.6. Survey data is being collected from students, graduates and employers; the results of these evaluations are made publicly available.</i></p>	B



<p>Surveys are performed by the students. Further surveys by graduates or employers are not mentioned in the SER. Results are not made publicly available.</p> <p>Majority of these issues is done at University level as the SER states that “...The University of Pristina "Hasan Prishtina" each year prepares electronic questionnaires for students through which it measures quality, complaints, suggestions or students requests and also academic staff performance. The collected data are sent to academic units and then distributed to the academic staff through the department head.”</p> <p>The Online Site Visit stakeholder-meeting April 8, 2021 revealed that UP organizes informal consultations with different stakeholders as graduates or employers, but it is necessary to do this in a formal and regular way, applying periodical surveys. These remaining shortcomings have been confirmed in the stakeholder discussions, particularly by teaching staff, graduates and employers.</p>	
<p><i>Standard 2.7. 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.</i></p> <p>In the SER an annual internal self-evaluation report is mentioned, done by the FAV and comprising quality in teaching and scientific activity of staff. In addition it is stated that data is collected “... in relation to quality in teaching, learning, student engagement in practical teaching, seminar work, extra-curricular learning, and participation in mobility. As part of the academic achievement, the staff evaluation is made for the teaching contributions (external lectures) and scientific contributions (conferences, congresses, and scientific works).”</p> <p>The ET trusts that results of the internal quality assurance system are used by the OFQA to further develop the study program. This was confirmed in the stakeholder-discussions during the online meetings, particularly by teaching staff, graduates and employers.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 2.8. 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.</i></p> <p>Yes, according to the SER “...The department in the three-year period reviews an internal self-evaluation based on the one-year review at the end of the year reflecting the achievements and challenges during the academic year.”</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 2.9. The quality assurance arrangements for the program are themselves regularly evaluated and improved.</i></p>	A



Yes. Given the nature of the study, “the Department of Pomology and Viticulture continually updates the curricula of relevant subjects with the current scientific literature. The Department of Pomology and Viticulture, from the last reaccreditation, has adapted the study programs with the new scientific developments in the field of Pomology and Viticulture”. (SER, pg. 18). “For this reason, the Department has developed numerous collaborations with numerous research, academic and business institutions in the field of Pomology and Viticulture. Aiming to smooth the transition from university to a permanent job positions, the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary in 2017 supported financially by USAID, established the AGRO Job Career Centre, since the establishment 40 young agriculture graduates have been engaged in private agri-business companies.”

Overall

B

Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

1. *Reports of surveys and evaluations should be exemplarily provided as documents in the Appendix of the SER. In case public reports are expected by KAA standards, a link to the respective institution website has to be provided.*
2. *Further quality parameters of the study program such as number of applications, enrolment, completion rate, duration of the study and grade overview (time series of Key Performance Indicators, KPI) should be more intensively included into the QA mechanism and also provided in the SER.*
3. *It has to be ensured that the QA system and the data collection instruments cover the whole range of program activities, including responses and suggestions by graduates and employers.*



2.3. Academic staff

Academic staff	CL
<p><i>Standard 3.1. 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.</i></p> <p>Table 1 and 2 in the SER (pg. 21-22) shows the list of permanent academic staff at the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary, while professor’s workload and engagement are presented in the course syllabus.</p> <p>It had been reported in the stakeholder-discussions during the Online Site Visit stakeholder-meeting April 8, 2021, particularly by teaching staff, that regular competition procedures become applied, including provision of full position descriptions and conditions of employment.</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 3.2. The teaching staff must comply with the legal requirements concerning the occupation of teaching.</i></p> <p>The SER confirms that “..... all academic staff from the Department of Pomology and Viticulture possesses proper documentation as required by applicable regulations approved by the Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA). All the academic staff of the Msc level studies has completed the online forms of the Accreditation Agency (e-accreditation).</p> <p>However, the ET does not see itself in a position to check this standard and does not regard this as its task either. All academic staff from the Department of Plant Protection possesses proper documentation as required by applicable regulations approved by the Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA).</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 3.3. 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.</i></p> <p>The SER states that “... All academic staff has primary job lecturing at the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary. This can be verified in online staff form at KAA (Kosovo Accreditation Agency).</p>	A



<p><i>Standard 3.4. 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.</i></p> <p>At the Department of Pomology and Viticulture there are currently 3 doctors of science (Dr. Sc.), which means that Standard 3.5 is fully met (Tab. 1 and 2).</p> <p>In addition, as reported and confirmed by the management of FAV during the Online Site Visit stakeholder-meeting April 8, 2021, this requirement is fulfilled.</p>	A																																			
<p><i>Standard 3.5. 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.</i></p> <p>There is no statement in the SER corresponding to Standard 3.2.</p> <p>There is also no such evidence gained in the Online Site Visit stakeholder-meeting April 8, 2021.</p> <p>With respect and as a feedback to the draft report it has been clarified as follows by the representatives of the study program: “Please find below the names of five responsible staff members of Department of Plant protection.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="220 1288 1214 1675"> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Bedri Dragusha</td> <td>Dr.Sc.</td> <td>Prof.Assoc.</td> <td>Viticulture</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Vahid Avdiu</td> <td>Dr.Sc.</td> <td>Prof.Assis.</td> <td>Pomology</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Lavdim Lepaja</td> <td>Dr.Sc.</td> <td>Teaching Assis.</td> <td>Pomology</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Sabri Braha</td> <td>Dr.Sc.</td> <td>Lector</td> <td>Pomology</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>Sami Kryeziu</td> <td>Msc.</td> <td>Teaching Assis.</td> <td>Viticulture</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6</td> <td>Mentor Thaqi</td> <td>Dr.Sc.</td> <td>Prof.Assis.</td> <td>Horticulture</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7</td> <td>Xhevdet Elezi</td> <td>Dr.Sc.</td> <td>Prof.Dr.</td> <td>Soil sciences”</td> </tr> </table>	1	Bedri Dragusha	Dr.Sc.	Prof.Assoc.	Viticulture	2	Vahid Avdiu	Dr.Sc.	Prof.Assis.	Pomology	3	Lavdim Lepaja	Dr.Sc.	Teaching Assis.	Pomology	4	Sabri Braha	Dr.Sc.	Lector	Pomology	5	Sami Kryeziu	Msc.	Teaching Assis.	Viticulture	6	Mentor Thaqi	Dr.Sc.	Prof.Assis.	Horticulture	7	Xhevdet Elezi	Dr.Sc.	Prof.Dr.	Soil sciences”	n.a.
1	Bedri Dragusha	Dr.Sc.	Prof.Assoc.	Viticulture																																
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<p><i>Standard 3.6. Opportunities are provided for additional professional development of teaching staff, with special assistance given to any who are facing difficulties.</i></p>	B																																			



<p>There was no formal procedure reported during the Online Site Visit stakeholder-meeting April 8, 2021. The academic staff taking part in the discussion reported about respective courses, mostly done during visits abroad and in many cases quite some time ago. The SER only indicates that "... Academic staff respects fully the working hours and besides teaching, each of the academic staff at least twice a week has consultations with students."</p> <p>Several teaching staff members participated in various trainings as presented in their CVs in Appendix.</p> <p>The SER reports only rather generally that "..... the Department of Pomology and Viticulture continuously supports the needs of academic staff for academic development, such as: exchange of teaching, research projects, participation in scientific conferences, etc."</p>	
<p><i>Standard 3.7. The responsibilities of all teaching staff, especially full-time, include the engagement in the academic community, availability for consultations with students and community service.</i></p> <p>The SER indicates that "..... Academic staff respects fully the working hours and besides teaching, each of the academic staff at least twice a week has consultations with students."</p> <p>In addition it was confirmed during the Online Site Visit stakeholder-meeting April 8, 2021 that teaching staff is engaged in student consultations and community service.</p> <p>It is stated in the SER that each academic year, the University of Prishtina through SEMS makes the assessment of the academic staff.</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 3.8. 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.</i></p> <p>Each academic year, the University of Prishtina through SEMS makes the assessment of the academic staff.</p> <p>A system of regular evaluation of teaching staff by students is established via the SEMS platform. No information is provided about peer and supervisors' evaluations. The results are visible for the management but are not made publicly available. During the online meetings it was also revealed that no feed-back of the survey is provided to the students.</p>	B



<p>The SER indicates that the Department of Pomology and Viticulture in advance planning enables full implementation of the teaching and adaptation strategies for relevant literature.</p> <p>The ET strongly recommends that this process in future becomes more transparent. The results should always be provided to the respective teaching staff. Staff should reflect on the results of the questionnaire and - even more importantly - to the comments in the free-text section of the questionnaire. Finally, the actions taken and expected impacts should be reported to the students in a feedback-loop to a higher extent.</p>	
<p><i>Standard 3.9. Strategies for quality enhancement include improving the teaching strategies and quality of learning materials.</i></p> <p>Strategy and procedures for improving the quality of teaching and learning materials are not presented in the SER as an answer to standard 3.9. However, the ET assumes that such strategies are available and become applied.</p> <p>With respect and as a feedback to the draft report it has been clarified as follows by the representatives of the study program: “The academic staffs are attending didactic trainings to improve the quality of teaching because they are obliged to attend didactic trainings according to the regulation for the promotion of the academic staff of the University of Prishtina. The didactic trainings for academic staff are organized by the Center of Excellence within the University of Prishtina. Each academic staff during the application process for re-election and promotion under applicable regulations is required to present a certificate for participation in didactic trainings. Also, for the learning materials based on the Regulation for the promotion of the academic staff of the University of Prishtina, each professor must prepare monographs and books for the respective field.”</p>	C
<p><i>Standard 3.10. Teachers retired at age limit or for other reasons lose the status of full-time teachers and are considered part-time teachers.</i></p> <p>The SER does not contain any information about rules concerning retired teachers. This issue has also not been discussed in detail during the Online Site Visit stakeholder-meeting April 8, 2021. However, as it can be taken from the attached CVs, there are teachers in retirement age included in the teaching staff force of the study program under accreditation.</p>	B



With respect and as a feedback to the draft report it has been clarified as follows by the representatives of the study program:

“Academic staff, including professors, retire at the age of 65, but they can only teach up to the age of 70. Also, based on the Statute of the UP if the professor is elected "Professor Emeritus" will have the right to teach and engage in scientific work in accordance with his qualifications and the requirements of the special academic unit up to the age of 70. For this period of accreditation in our department is not employed any retired professor.”

Overall

B

Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

- 1. It is not sufficient to only to claim in the SER that standards are met. There also should be a description of the procedures, how the standards are met.*
- 2. Specific budget allocation and respective incentives to additional professional development of teaching staff is recommended.*
- 3. Even if there are improvements visible compared to earlier evaluations the ET recommends that the staff evaluation should become more transparent, particularly from the viewpoint of students. The results should always be provided to the respective teaching staff as well. Staff should reflect on the results of the questionnaire and give feedback to the students*
- 4. The number of academic staff should be increased; it has been announced during the Online-discussion that this process already has been initiated and started.*
- 5. The communication with job market representatives could be further improved.*



2.4. Educational process content

Educational process content	CL
<p><i>Standard 4.1. 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.</i></p> <p>Yes. The SER clearly addresses this question and states that "...the study program Pomology and Viticulture at Msc.level is modelled on the qualification objectives. These include aspects related to interdisciplinary subjects as well as acquisition of academic skills and competences and the ability to provide adequate employment, contributing to the development of student personality. This study program is balanced between the theoretical and practical part in the field of production fruits and grapes. Students of this study program during the educational process acquire competences in theoretical and practical fields and qualifications that enable them to carry out practical and / or scientific activities. The content of the learning process that includes the subjects of the study program enables students to acquire the necessary knowledge in the field of Pomology and Viticulture."</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 4.2. 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.</i></p> <p>The SER confirms that the study program is in compliance with the European Qualifications Framework for Higher Education Area and the National Qualifications Framework, according to which this study program belongs to its 7th level, which includes the preparation of students for such levels of study. Also, this field of study is also in compliance with Erasmus Subject Area Codes (ESAC) points 01.1. However, due to lack of information, the ET does not see itself in a position to confirm that the study program comprehensively complies with the Framework for Qualifications of the EHEA. First part of Standard 4.2 concerning compliance with National and EU frameworks is already asked and answered in Standard 1.2.</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 4.3. The disciplines within the curriculum are provided in a logical flow and meet the definition and precise determination of the general and specific competencies,</i></p>	B



<p><i>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.</i></p> <p>The curriculum as presented in the SER (pg. 25ff) provides a logical flow of subjects and allows three elective courses. The SER confirms that "... subjects within the curriculum provide a logical flow and meet the definition of general and specific competences as well as compliance with the study program. The disciplines of this study program create the opportunity for students to gain the necessary knowledge and skills in the field of Pomology and Viticulture, which are covered by the content of proposed subjects. Compilation of Master study program Pomology and Viticulture is based upon the program of the International Joint program Tempus project.</p>	
<p><i>Standard 4.4. 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.</i></p> <p>Full subject descriptions/syllabuses for each subject can be found as an attachment to the documentation of the study program Pomology and Viticulture. Syllabus for each subject separately regulate issues of the thematic contents, the way of learning and results, the distribution of obligations including the form of continuous evaluation. For further explanations attached to the SER are all the syllabi of the subjects of this study program.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 4.5. 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.</i></p> <p>Teaching in this program is held in Albanian language, as defined by the Statute of the University of Prishtina, but for interested students we can provide courses in English language</p>	n.a.



<p><i>Standard 4.6. 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.</i></p> <p>Yes, this is comprehensively confirmed in the SER on page 31: “The student-teacher relationship is a partnership in which each one takes the responsibility of achieving the learning outcomes. Learning outcomes are explained and discussed with students from the point of view of their importance in student development. Responsibility for learning outcomes is described in the syllabi of the courses and they are applied throughout the semester. The obligations of students and professors are discussed continuously, thus fulfilling the ongoing assessment.”</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 4.7. Teaching strategies are fit for the different types of learning outcomes programs are intended to develop. Strategies of teaching and assessment set out in program and course specifications are followed with flexibility to meet the needs of different groups of students.</i></p> <p>SER, pg. 31: “Teaching strategies are tailored to each subject, and are explained through syllabuses and professor flexibility based on their experience.”</p> <p>This has also been confirmed in the Online Site Visit stakeholder-meeting April 8, 2021.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 4.8. 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.</i></p> <p>Such mechanisms are developed fairly and objectively, and are suitable for different forms of learning and are clearly communicated to students at the beginning of the courses. Mechanisms are based on the Bologna Charter. At the beginning of each semester, professors distribute subject syllabuses through SEMS (UP Platform), in which the mechanisms and forms of evaluation are clearly explained.</p> <p>The ET assumes and trusts that students under special circumstances (illnesses, disabilities, family situation) would be treated with appropriate flexibility.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 4.9. 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.</i></p>	A



<p>According the SER, "... the student grading system is determined on the basis of Article 109 of the Statute of the University "Hasan Prishtina" and is offered in this form: 10 and 9 (excellent); 8 (very good); 7 (good); 6 (enough); 5 (insufficient). The workload required to achieve a passing grade is consistent, as grades in this study program are evaluated and are built throughout the semester and as such are applied within subject syllabi.</p>	
<p><i>Standard 4.10. Policies and procedures include actions to be taken in to dealing with situations where standards of student achievement are inadequate or inconsistently assessed.</i></p> <p>These issues were not touched in the discussions during the Online Site Visit stakeholder-meeting April 8, 2021. However, the SER includes clear statements for respective regulations: "... In case of insufficient achievements to pass the exam, according to the Statute of the University of Pristina, Section 115, the student has the right to retake an examination which did not pass the exam. According to the Statute, the student has the right to enter three times the exam which has not passed. While the procedure followed in these cases is this student after placing a strong reasoning complain, can be allowed by the dean of the academic unit to take the exam for the fourth time. Then the exam can be held in front of the three-member commission appointed by the dean of the academic unit."</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 4.11. 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 ECTS 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.</i></p> <p>Yes. "The ECTS credits are awarded for the Practice / Exercises part of the course. The part of practice in this study program is covered by practical exercises that are focused on the implementation of the theories taught during lectures. Exercises comprise up to 50 percent of student activity during their assessment and are part of the ECTS credits earned by the courses. The content of courses in this study program at Msc.level includes Internship as compulsory module. Students during the internship</p>	B



<p>have assigned professor from academic staff of the Pomology and Viticulture study program.” (SER, page 32).</p> <p>With respect and as a feedback to the draft report it has been clarified as follows by the representatives of the study program:</p> <p>With respect and as a feedback to the draft report it has been clarified as follows by the representatives of the study program: “The most of the basic compulsory and elected courses connected with practical work in the didactic farm of faculty during of three semesters, in other ways we had regular visits, to different companies, state institutions, etc.”</p>	
<p><i>Standard 4.12. 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></p> <p>The SER clearly confirms: “To facilitate the phases of the practice, the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary has signed cooperation agreements with interest groups (annex board)”.</p> <p>As an additional confirmation, stakeholders, employers and graduates mentioned during the Online Site Visit stakeholder-meeting April 8, 2021 that they would be willing to cooperate with students and teaching staff of the proposed study program.</p> <p>With respect and as a feedback to the draft report it has been clarified as follows by the representatives of the study program:</p> <p>With respect and as a feedback to the draft report it has been clarified as follows by the representatives of the study program: “Additionally, the agreements with different stakeholders are listed in Annex V. List of associations, agencies and private companies, which have agreement with Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary.”</p>	B
<p>Overall</p>	B

Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:



2.5 Students

Students	CL
<p><i>Standard 5.1. 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.</i></p> <p>The SER confirms that "...there is an officially acceptable procedure at the institutional level that the study program respects during the organization of student recruitment. Admission requirements are presented fairly and consistently for all applicants. Students are admitted under the rules set by the University of Pristina, with a public announcement of admission contest published through national media by the University itself."</p> <p>This is also prescribed by the corresponding UP regulation.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 5.2. All students enrolled in the study program possess a high school graduation diploma or other equivalent document of study, according to MEST requirements.</i></p> <p>Conditions for admission of young students are set by the University of Pristina, which announces the competition for enrolment of young students. The procedure is open to all interested students regardless their age, ethnicity, religion, and any other marginalized groups interested to apply.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 5.3. The study groups are dimensioned so as to ensure an effective and interactive teaching and learning process.</i></p> <p>The Department of Pomology and Viticulture in order to ensure an effective and interactive process of teaching and learning, decides on a number of no more than 10 students to be enrolled in the first year of studies at the MSc- level. Consequently, the size of student group is the one that provides an effective and interactive process of teaching and learning.</p> <p>Against the background of sufficient resources the ET suggests and recommends on expanding the student number of enrolment to a max. of 20.</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 5.4. Feedback to students on their performance and results of assessments is given promptly and accompanied by mechanisms for assistance if needed.</i></p>	A



<p>The student evaluation mechanisms are based on the Bologna Charter. At the beginning of each semester, professors distribute syllabuses of courses in which are explained clearly mechanisms and the methods for student evaluation.</p> <p>As mentioned in the Online Site Visit stakeholder-meeting April 8, 2021 it can be remarked that students' performance and results of the assessments are immediately available. The assistance mechanism consists of consultations, individual and group ones, in person when possible or online during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	
<p><i>Standard 5.5. The results obtained by the students throughout the study cycles are certified by the academic record.</i></p> <p>The results are recorded and available to the student and potential employers in the Diploma Supplement. Students during the studying process constantly are evaluated for their academic achievements. The final result of their entire academic appraisal includes the collection of 120 credits and the graduation degree at Master level.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 5.6. Flexible treatment of students in special situations is ensured with respect to deadlines and formal requirements in the program and to all examinations.</i></p> <p>Students who are in a delay with their obligations and exams can apply for an additional exam term according to the UP Regulation.</p> <p>The Statute of the University of Prishtina foresees three examination periods within the academic year. However, rectorate in coordination with management of the faculty based on specific student requirements organizes an extra examinations period in terms that suit best the students, especially those who are delayed in fulfilling the obligations they have during lectures.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 5.7. Records of student completion rates are kept for all courses and for the program as a whole and included among quality indicators.</i></p> <p>This standard has not been met entirely. Records of the students' performance for all courses are kept at the Student Office as a whole. The performance has not been included in quality indicators.</p>	C



<p>“Periodically, in co-ordination with the administration, management follows the examination passage, student performance and obligations according to the study levels. From the data provided on examination passage and the achievement of the credits, the indicators of quality are also evaluated as well as stagnation and the steps that needs to be taken to ensure even greater teaching and learning quality in the years to come.” (SER, pg. 35).</p>	
<p><i>Standard 5.8. Effective procedures are being used to ensure that work submitted by students is original.</i></p> <p>Neither UP, nor the FAV have anti-plagiarism software in Albanian language available. In March 2021, the University adopted the Regulation on the procedure and disciplinary phases against students’ misbehaviour that is, among other things, the ground for the plagiarism monitoring and prevention. During online meetings, several groups of interviewees stated that there is a new measure approved to support the originality of the thesis – public publication on the UP web page. In that way, at least the thesis will be under the public eye and therefore more likely original. However, at least the syllabus of courses in their content also addresses the copyright issues.</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 5.9. Students’ rights and obligations are made publicly available, promoted to all those concerned and enforced equitably; these will include the right to academic appeals.</i></p> <p>According to the SER, the student rights and obligations are publicly available and equitably enforced.</p> <p>Based on the Statute, the Regulation and the Code of Ethics, the Department of Plant protection continually shows the rights and obligations of the students. In certain situations, students also use the legal opportunity for academic appeals, respectively, to undergo a specific examination before the members of the commissions set by the academic unit.</p> <p>During the Online Site Visit stakeholder-meeting April 8, 2021 it has been pointed out that there is a student union which provides several services to the students’ rights meeting such as student election for the decision-making processes participation, appeal submission and similar. The union organises the student representatives’ elections to participate in the decision-making processes participating in different Faculty and Study program boards.</p>	B



<p><i>Standard 5.10. The students' transfer between higher education institutions, faculties and study programs is clearly regulated in formal internal documents.</i></p> <p>The Regulation 2/111 of 14.7.2017 of UP defines procedures for the students' transfer within the University programmes. The AP study program follows it.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 5.11. 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.</i></p> <p>“The academic staff is obligated to publish the consultation schedule at least twice a week. Also, the academic staff has published an electronic address that also used to communicate with students via e-mail. Also, a great deal of communication is done through closed groups set on Facebook, where students receive notifications, materials and literature that can be provided electronically. The academic staff publishes materials and information related to the teaching process also in the Electronic Management System for Students SEMS.” (SER, pg. 36)</p>	B
Overall	B

Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

1. *The University shall launch the policy to make students' theses available to the public in order to discourage possible plagiarism. Additionally, the Faculty should organise workshops for the staff and students on the awareness raising about plagiarism and its consequences for the future of the students or an academic staff committing it.*
2. *Consultation process (teacher – student or student - student) should be able to provide records on number of students seeking for the assistance per week, duration of the consultation and its outcome on the students' performance.*
3. *Post-evaluation action plan design and implementation is compulsory, at least once per year, for the academic staff to improve the teaching process and the knowledge transfer for the teaching staff towards the students.*
4. *The number of students to be enrolled in the first year could be increased to a number of max. 20 if job market conditions allow such expansion; however, the decision about enrolment should remain to be demand driven.*



2.6 Research

Research	CL
<p><i>Standard 6.1. 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.</i></p> <p>The FAV has adopted the Strategic plan for the period 2018 - 2022, which contains 7 goals and 28 priority measures. The document presents indicators planned for all department units and study programmes as a cumulative value. Therefore, the indicators on the study programme level are not available. The SER refers to financial and logistical support for research in this program which is lacking. However, the policies for promoting scientific research within the university are included within the Strategic Education Plan in Kosovo, the National Science Program in the Republic of Kosovo, the Strategy for scientific research and development, etc.</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 6.2. 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.</i></p> <p>According to the SER “Inclusion of teaching staff in research activities and their performance in relation to academic promotion are specified in regulation no. 465, dated 02.03.2018 of the University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina" and Administrative Instruction 1/2018 of the Ministry of Education Science and Technology for the recognition of international publication platforms and journals.”</p> <p>With respect and as a feedback to the draft report it has been clarified as follows by the representatives of the study program: “During the Online Site Visit stakeholder-meeting April 8, 2021 interviewees expressed their effort as minimum of 6 hours per week is dedicated to teaching and the rest to the research.”</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 6.3. 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.</i></p>	A



<p>Yes. Clear policies are established containing definitions and measures. The SER mentions the national legislation.</p>	
<p><i>Standard 6.4. The academic staff has a proven track record of research results on the same topics as their teaching activity.</i></p> <p>Respective data can be found on the CVs of the academic staff also declared electronically in Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA).</p> <p>The academic staff provided enough evidence regarding this standard. The grade is not the highest because several CVs are outdated or insufficiently filled in. The SCOPUS database provides some verification. Several information contained in the CVs is not available in English language. Therefore, it was not easy to verify them.</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 6.5. 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.</i></p> <p>“The academic staff of Pomology and Viticulture department is consistently committed to publishing its research work in international scientific journals, which are indexed in the platforms which are also recommended by the University of Pristina (UP) Regulation and the Administrative Instruction (AI) of Ministry of Education Science and Technology (MEST). Data on these activities of department academic staff are published in their CVs which are also uploaded to the KAA's electronic system.” (SER, pg. 39).</p> <p>The supporting documents (CVs) of the academic staff satisfy this standard.</p> <p>With respect and as a feedback to the draft report it has been clarified as follows by the representatives of the study program: “To verify the much easy the publications in different journals, participation in conferences, congress etc. we have prepared the additional document for each staff from the plant protection department with the required information.”</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 6.6. Research is validated through: scientific and applied research publications, artistic products, technological transfer through consultancy centres, scientific parks and other structures for validation.</i></p>	B



<p>Research in the scientific context is part of the ongoing research of departmental academic staff and associates, published in journals in accordance with MEST regulations and AI. However, the SER does not provide enough information for this standard.</p>	
<p><i>Standard 6.7. 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.</i></p> <p>Each regular staff member has published on average more than two scientific research publications in the last three years. Data on these publications can be found in the academic staff CVs. (SER, pg. 40).</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 6.8. Academic and research staff publish under the name of the institution in Kosovo they are affiliated to as full time staff.</i></p> <p>In all research papers published by the academic staff it becomes clear that they are part of the University of Pristina. Also in most online platforms of credible scientific publications, staff members have to declare their job position.</p> <p>The University of Prishtina has in recent years provided its staff with access to a scientific platform that can serve academic staff to be better informed about the latest scientific knowledge and research in relevant fields. To encourage staff participation in research and participation in conferences, UP has also established a special office called, the Office for Research and Sponsored Projects of UP.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 6.9. 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.</i></p> <p>There is no evidence supporting this statement in the SER. Also the Online Site Visit stakeholder-meeting April 8, 2021 did not contribute further evidence. However, “In Kosovo, the intellectual property aspect is protected by the Law on Copyright and Related Rights adopted by the Assembly of Kosovo. The aspects of this law include the intellectual property of UP staff and students.” (SER, pg. 40).</p> <p>With respect and as a feedback to the draft report it has been clarified as follows by the representatives of the study program:</p>	n.a.



<p>“As we mentioned during the meeting April 8, 2021 within our department, we have included case studies for some courses where students conduct research to solve farmers' problems, where in most cases they are based on the works we have researched. Also we are the main reference point for the advice of many farmers in the fruticulture and viticulture sector.”</p>	
<p><i>Standard 6.10. Policies are established for ownership of intellectual property and clear procedures set out for commercialization of ideas developed by staff and students.</i></p> <p>In Kosovo, the intellectual property aspect is protected by the Law on Copyright and Related Rights adopted by the Assembly of Kosovo. The aspects of this law include the intellectual property of UP staff and students.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 6.11. Students are engaged in research projects and other activities.</i></p> <p>According to the Online Site Visit stakeholder-meeting April 8, 2021 findings, students’ theses are based on the research. The participants stated that there were opportunities for students to participate in research activities. The SER has not provided any additional evidence supporting this standard.</p> <p>“At this level, the practical aspect of the study involves mainly student work in the field of study, which is also realized through various research projects either within the university or other relevant organizations.” (SER, pg. 40).</p>	B
<p>Overall</p>	B

Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

1. *Each Academic staff member should have developed their own plan of research and teaching activities, implement it and monitor its implementation. The Plan should include no. of paper planned to publish, no. of workshops attendance with presentations and participation per year and the planned trainings for professional advancement. Cumulative plan for the academic staff should be available for the next reaccreditation.*
2. *Teaching staff should more intensively involve students in the research activities. Publications should be listed.*



2.7 Infrastructure and resources

Infrastructure and resources	CL
<p><i>Standard 7.1. 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.</i></p> <p>The building spaces allocated for the Department of Pomology and Viticulture provides solid conditions for the development of this study program. As confirmed in the Online Site Visit stakeholder-meeting April 8, 2021, a new Faculty building and an UP experimental farm in direct neighbourhood will provide excellent conditions for the study program in the near future. Permanent teaching staff is available and accomplished by temporary staff. However, increasing the number of staff, particularly permanent staff would positively contribute to the programs quality and attractiveness.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 7.2. 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.</i></p> <p>Investment and financial policies are regulated at higher levels of the management including the level of the academic unit and the University. However, the aspect for guaranteeing the basic infrastructure and operational expenditure for the program is included within the budget of the University of Prishtina, which is allocated by the Assembly of Kosovo with the budget law as well as with the revenues generated by the institution.</p> <p>It should be mentioned that it has been contributed to the Online Site Visit stakeholder-meeting April 8, 2021 that budget allocation and control to the departmental levels would provide more flexibility to management and decision making.</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 7.3. 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:</i></p> <p><i>Standard 7.3.</i></p> <p><i>a) owned or rented spaces adequate for the educational process;</i></p>	B



<p><i>b) owned or rented laboratories, with the adequate equipment for all the compulsory disciplines within the curriculum, wherever the analytical syllabus includes such activities;</i></p> <p>UP provides an adequate, clean, attractive and well-maintained physical environment for its building, particularly the new building which is short before moving in.</p> <p><i>c) adequate software for the disciplines of study included in the curriculum, with utilization licence;</i></p> <p>The basic work programs, such as Microsoft Office programs, and different software are programs used in this curriculum and the University through its IT Officers offers these programs licensed for use in the case of this study program. It has to be mentioned that use of UP learning platform (SEMS) has significantly increased during recent years, partly as a consequence to pandemic restrictions.</p> <p><i>d) library equipped with reading rooms, group work rooms and its own book stock according to the disciplines included in the curricula.</i></p> <p>The library equipment and book stock are rather limited at departmental and Faculty levels. Further adequate and easily accessible support services through Central University Library as well as Academic Unit Libraries with reading rooms and book stock seems to be available at UP-level.</p>	
<p><i>Standard 7.4. 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.</i></p> <p>The ET trusts that the number of seats in the lecture rooms, seminar rooms and laboratories in the new university building will be sufficient. Stronger shortcomings would rather be expected concerning laboratory space.</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 7.5. The education institution's libraries must ensure, for each of the study programs:</i></p> <p><i>a) a number of seats in the reading rooms corresponding to at least 10% of the total number of students in the study program;</i></p> <p><i>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;</i></p>	B



<p><i>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;</i></p> <p><i>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;</i></p> <p><i>e) a sufficient number of subscriptions to Albanian and foreign publications and periodicals, according to the stated mission.</i></p> <p>Basic and supporting literature are stated in the syllabus of each subject and as such are accessible to students by the professors at the beginning of each course.</p> <p>The library situation could be evaluated during previous site-visits by the ET in earlier years. There it has been demonstrated, that there is fairly free access to the central unit of the library as well as in the academic units. Free access is provided to electronic books, bibliographic references, bibliometric information, scientific databases. The libraries offer quiet learning environments, extensive print and electronic collections and helpful staff to support students and teachers. The situation even should improve after moving into the new building.</p>	
<p><i>Standard 7.6. The infrastructure and facilities dedicated to the implementation of the program is adapted to students with special needs.</i></p> <p>The buildings currently in use are not suitably adapted for students with physical disabilities and also, learning resources for special needs (as blindness, deafness etc.) are not available. At least partial improvements can be expected after moving into the new building.</p> <p>In general, the infrastructure aspect for students with special needs is lacking, but this competence is outside of this study program, it is the responsibility of the Faculty and the University.</p>	C
<p>Overall</p>	B

Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

- 1. A detailed budget has to be presented for the study program;*
- 2. Ensure appropriate provision for learning resources is made for students and staff with disabilities or difficulties*
- 3. Additional investments in IT-resources is recommended*



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

3 OVERALL EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE ET

In conclusion, the Expert Team considers that the study program **Pomology and Viticulture/ MSc.**, offered by the University of Prishtina is **substantially compliant** with the standards included in the KAA Accreditation manual and, therefore, recommends **to reaccredit** the study program for a duration of **3 years** with a number of **20** students max. to be enrolled in the program.

Expert Team

Member

Prof. Dr. Reiner Doluschitz

April 30th, 2021

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Date)