



Republika e Kosovës
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***

Urban Agriculture/MSc

Accreditation

REPORT OF THE EXPERT TEAM

23.07.2020, Bucharest (Romania) and Hohenheim (Germany)



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	11
2.3. Academic staff	14
2.4. Educational process content.....	16
2.5. Students.....	20
2.6. Research.....	23
2.7. Infrastructure and resources	26
3. OVERALL EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE ET.....	28
4. APPENDICES (<i>if available</i>)	29



1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Context

Date of site visit: 25.04.2019

Expert Team (ET) members:

- *Prof. Dr. Reiner Doluschitz*
- *Ms. Oana Sarbu (Student Expert)*

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 23.07.2020*

Criteria used for program evaluation:

- *KAA Accreditation Manual – July 2018*
- *Standards and performance indicators for reaccreditation of MSc programs*

Compliance level CL	Single Grade	Final Grade
Fully compliant	3	=3
Substantially compliant	2	≥2
Partially compliant	1	≥1
Non-compliant	0	<1
Not applicable	n.a.	



Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova - Republic of Kosovo



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

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



Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova - Republic of Kosovo



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

1.2. Online evaluation meetings schedule



Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA)

Online evaluation meeting Program

Programme Re/Accreditation Procedure at Faculty of Agriculture, University of Prishtina

Date: 23rd of July 2020

Expert Team

- Prof. Dr. Reiner Doluschitz
- Ms. Oana Sarbu (Student Expert)

Coordinators of KAA

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

Online evaluation meeting Program

23rd of July



09.00 – 09.30	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 and this applies for each session)</i>
	(Dr. Imer Rusinovci, Acting Dean of FAV; Dr. Mentor Thaqi, Vice dean for education and students affair; Dr. Hajrip Mehmeti, Vice dean for financial issues)
09.35 – 10.35	Meeting with the heads of the study programme
	(Dr. Mentor Thaqi; Dr. Muhamet Zogaj)
10.40 – 11.10	Meeting with quality assurance representatives
	(Besnik Loxha, Director of the Office for Academic Development, Dr. Iliriana Miftari, Coordinator of Academic Development unit at the Faculty of Agriculture)
11.10 – 12.10	Lunch break
12.10 – 12.50	Meeting with teaching staff
	(Dr. Sali Aliu; Dr. Agim Rysha; Dr. Fadil Musa; Dr. Arben Musliu)
12.55 – 13.30	Meeting with stakeholders and employers of graduates
	(Elgen Bokshi & Driard Mehmetaj – stakeholders; Nehat Mjeku & Hartim Gashi - employers of graduates)
13.35 – 13.45	Internal meeting of KAA staff and experts
13.50 – 14.00	Closing meeting with the management of the faculty and program

Nr.	Study programs	Experts	Responsible persons of study programs		
1	Urban Agriculture / University of Prishtina	Reiner Doluschitz Oana Sarbu	1. Mentor Thaqi	2. Muhamet Zogaj	



Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova - Republic of Kosovo



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

Other information

Overall instructions for HEIs:

1. Each meeting should be attended by maximum 6 persons;
2. The students selected for the meeting should reflect a diversity in terms of study cycle, year of study, students with special needs if any, etc;
3. The teaching staff selected for the meeting should reflect a diversity in terms of full-time and part time, local and international, etc;
4. The students, graduates and employers of graduates should not be employed at the institution;
5. Anyone whose attendance won't be agreed in advance with KAA and the Expert Team will be asked to leave the interview session;
6. 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



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 1.300 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 2.239 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.



2. PROGRAM EVALUATION

2.1. Mission, objectives and administration

Standard 1.1. (CL 3) *The study program mission is in compliance with the overall mission statement of the institution.*

As discussed and mentioned in the Online evaluation meeting with the Dean and Vice Deans of FAV at UP the Vision and Mission of the study program and the one at University level match to a large extent. The program's vision is to become the driver of agricultural education by inspiring sustainable living through advanced teaching and research in food, animal and environmental sciences. The mission of the program is to educate and train the next generation of agricultural and veterinary workforce by offering teaching excellence and research in food security and across the interface of animal, environmental, and human health. More detailed objectives include aspects such as quality, creativity and innovation, cooperation, professionalism and diversity. It has been mentioned in the Online evaluation meeting that the title of the study program is regarded to be a very attractive and modern one, particularly focussing on younger generations. However, success also depends on job opportunities after graduation from the program.

Referring to the statements in the Online evaluation meeting the ET can confirm and agreed that UP and its FAV are important national factors, particularly since many regions in Kosovo provide fertile soils and a high density of agribusiness companies as well as a significant share of organic agriculture. Numerous co-operations between UP and FAV and the private sector are established and a quite active stakeholder community is available and contributes to a sustainable development. Such opinion had been mentioned by the stakeholders repeatedly. This holds also true for the co-operation with other Kosovar HEI in the field. However, there are limitations and shortcomings concerning advanced teaching, innovation and research due to insufficient and updated infrastructure, insufficient adequate staff, insufficient utilization of IT, and insufficient English language skills.

Referring to the last year accreditation procedures recommendations, the MSC study Program will be offered completely in English language.

Standard 1.2. (CL 3) *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.*

Particularly from the discussions with the teaching staff and with employers, alumni and stakeholders it could be confirmed during the Online evaluation meeting that there is academic and professional advice included in the definition of learning outcomes. The SER also indicates



that development of the University and its study programs are consistent with the National Qualifications Network and the Framework for Qualifications of the EHEA.

Standard 1.3. (CL 2) *The study program has a well-defined overarching didactic and research concept.*

The question cannot sufficiently be answered since such a concept is not particularly and detailed mentioned in the SER and also did not become completely clear in the discussions with the management of the institution and the academic staff. The structure of the study program “Urban Agriculture” in its current stage is still immature to some extent. Contents of the 3rd and 4th semester are roughly summarized. Besides internship in the 3rd semester one rather unspecific module “Problem Based Learning” (PBL) is offered with 18 ECTS and the 4th semester is completely linked to Master thesis.

However, elements of such an overarching concept are visible in general and independently from this particular study program and include the office at FAV for quality assurance, under the leadership of the coordinator for quality assurance. The aim of this office is to assure that the standards are maintained and the quality of education given to FAV’s students is aligned with set of standards and enhanced further. The quality of provided education is monitored and reviewed under the responsibility of the rectorate. In the last quality assessment OFQA approved that the FAV meets quality standards including the enhancement of learning opportunities. The outcomes of the discussion with respective QA representatives has been quite convincing in this respect.

Standard 1.4. (CL 2) *There are formal policies, guidelines and regulations dealing with recurring procedural or academic issues. These are made publicly available to all staff and students.*
KAA Accreditation Manual – July 2018

The SER contains information about policies, guidelines and regulations dealing with recurring procedural or academic issues. The ET are convinced that such regulations are established at UP.

Standard 1.5. (CL n.a.) *All staff and students comply with the internal regulations relating to ethical conduct in research, teaching, assessment in all academic and administrative activities.*

The respective documents are listed in the SER and are all available in the official website of UP. However, the ET does not see itself in a position to assess the ethical conduct of all staff and students but the ET trusts that staff and students comply with the regulations.

Standard 1.6. (CL 2) *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.*



The SER includes detailed information about those review processes. Such procedures are in place and bodies at different levels are involved, including the vice rector of quality development, the office for academic development, the competent department at faculty level, the senate of UP, the

However, there are compulsory accreditation and re-accreditation procedures established and regularly conducted by KAA on a regular basis. International experts from the respective fields of the study programs are necessarily a backbone-component of such procedures. No confirmation could be found concerning repetitions of at least once in two years.

Compliance level: Substantially compliant (CL 2.4)

ET recommendations:

- 1. The obviously available electronic learning-platform should be used to a larger extent and more frequently to implement an overarching didactic concept.*
- 2. 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.*

2.2. Quality management

Standard 2.1. (CL 3) *All staff participate in self-evaluations and cooperate with reporting and improvement processes in their sphere of activity.*

Teachers met during the Online evaluation discussion seem to be aware of the processes governing the institution and, in particular, those regarding quality assurance.

Standard 2.2. (CL 3) *Evaluation processes and planning for improvement are integrated into normal planning processes.*

According to the SER, the quality assurance system at University of Prishtina 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 regulations describe processes, mechanisms, instruments, reporting, data collection, timeframes, responsibilities and units involved in the processes Evaluation



and improvement processes are integral parts of the quality management of the University. The FAV has established the OFQA as a structured procedure for improvement. The ET trusts that these procedures shall be applied to new study programs as well.

Standard 2.3. (CL 3) *Quality assurance processes deal with all aspects of program planning and delivery, including services and resources provided by other parts of the institution.*

Quality assurance processes and management at the overall institutional level are managed by the Office for Academic Development, which closely cooperates with the Central Commission for Quality Assurance and quality assurance coordinators at the faculty level as well as with the Vice-Rector for Development and Quality. 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.

Standard 2.4. (CL n.a.) *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. KAA Accreditation Manual – July 2018*

Learning outcomes will be evaluated on course level by assessment, which includes attendance, homework, interactive exercises, seminar work, tests and final exam - written and oral. Further quality parameters of the study program such as enrolment number, completion rate, and grade overview are not yet available, but the internal QA mechanism established at UP is based on this type of analysis as evidences for continuous improvement at programme and institutional level.

At the moment it remains unclear what the learning outcomes of the 3rd semester are and how they will be evaluated in the framework of the MSc-program Urban Agriculture.

Standard 2.5. (CL 2) *Quality assurance processes ensure both that required standards are met and that there is continuing improvement in performance.*

The ET trusts that the OFQA is adequate to ensure that standards are met and an improvement in performance is stimulated. The UP Internal QA processes provide an overview of quality issues for the overall program as well as for different components within it.

Standard 2.6. (CL n.a.) *Survey data is being collected from students, graduates and employers; the results of these evaluations are made publicly available.*



UP uses regular survey with students and staff. The institution implements semester survey with students, considering teaching processes and students facilities, but the results of the surveys are not made publicly available. Obtained data is collected, stored and processed in the institutional database. Through the Quality Management System (electronic platform), the evaluation process has been significantly facilitated. Statistical analysis are realized for the annual Self-evaluation Report. The University 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.

***Standard 2.7. (CL 3)** 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.*

The ET trusts that results of the internal quality assurance system are used by the OFQA to further develop the study program. Work load is documented in the SER and appears to be adequate. Results of course evaluation, academic success and employment of graduates are not yet available.

***Standard 2.8. (CL 3)** The institution ensures that reports on the overall quality of the program are prepared periodically (e.g. every three years) for consideration within the institution indicating its strengths and weaknesses.*

The system of reaccreditation will ask for such a report, once the program will be established. Examples of SWOT analyses were provided in the SER.

***Standard 2.9. (CL 3)** The quality assurance arrangements for the program are themselves regularly evaluated and improved.*

The QA system and processes are regularly evaluated by the Kosovo Accreditation Agency and updated according to KAA requirements. The ET trusts that the OFQA is supervising, evaluating and improving the internal quality assurance system.

Compliance level: Substantially compliant (2.9)

ET recommendations:

- 1. Publish the results of the satisfaction surveys so that the transparency could become increased and trust in these instruments as well, which can support the institution in safeguarding its response rates;***



- 2. Ensure that the QA system and the data collection instruments cover the whole range of programme's activities (graduates and employers).*

2.3. Academic staff

***Standard 3.1. (CL 2)** 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. KAA Accreditation Manual – July 2018*

A complete list of staff, being involved in the study program, including individual CV has been provided to the ET. However, detailed position descriptions and conditions of employment are still missing. However, the ET trusts that such documents of employment are/ will be provided to candidates by UP.

***Standard 3.2. (CL n.a.)** The teaching staff must comply with the legal requirements concerning the occupation of teaching positions included in the Administrative instruction on Accreditation.*

The ET trusts that academic staff does comply with legal requirements concerning the occupation of teaching positions included in the Administrative instruction on Accreditation. The ET does not see itself in a position to check this standard and does not regard this as its task either.

***Standard 3.3. (CL n.a.)** 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.*

The academic staff having been present during the site visit in the previous year and in the Online evaluation meeting July 23, 2020 fulfills this requirement. However, it is not regarded as a task which could/should be fulfilled by the ET to verify, whether this is true for the entire academic staff.

***Standard 3.4. (CL 3)** 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.*

As reported and confirmed by the management of FAV during Online evaluation meeting, this requirement is fulfilled.



Standard 3.5. (CL 3) *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.*

According to the information provided during last year site visit and the Online evaluation meeting July 23, 2020 this requirement is fulfilled. A substantial number of permanent teaching staff is available at the faculty and linked to the new study program under accreditation and in addition part-time staff and teaching assistants are engaged temporarily.

Standard 3.6. (CL 1) *Opportunities are provided for additional professional development of teaching staff, with special assistance given to any who are facing difficulties.*

There was no formal procedure reported during the Online evaluation meeting July 23, 2020. 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. Some teaching assistants are professionally engaged in HEIs abroad where they have the opportunity to participate in activities for additional professional development. Additionally it is reported in the SER that the academic staff linked to the MSc Urban Agriculture is continuously supported in this respect.

Standard 3.7. (CL 3) *The responsibilities of all teaching staff, especially full-time, include the engagement in the academic community, availability for consultations with students and community service.*

According to the information provided during the Online evaluation meeting July 23, 2020 this requirement is generally fulfilled. The academic staff taking part in the Online evaluation meeting July 23, 2020 discussions reported that they offer such kind of consultancy for students on a regular basis. However, due to the pandemic situation the frequency of such consultation shrunk down to about one per two weeks.

Standard 3.8. (CL 2) *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.*

There is a formal procedure established for academic staff evaluation done by students. This is based on a standardized questionnaire which is filled in anonymously. Under the use of the University electronic learning platform. However, as it has been reported during the site visit last year and the Online evaluation meeting July 23, 2020 the QFQA reports the results only to the dean who forwards these results to teaching staff only in cases of insufficient performance of respective staff. A feedback procedure directing reports to the students is missing.



As already done last year, 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.

Standard 3.9. (CL 2) Strategies for quality enhancement include improving the teaching strategies and quality of learning materials.

See Standard 3.8

Standard 3.10. (CL n.a.) Teachers retired at age limit or for other reasons lose the status of full-time teachers and are considered part-time teachers.

The SER does not contain information about rules concerning retired teachers. This issue has also not been discussed during the Online evaluation meeting July 23, 2020 in detail.

Compliance level: Substantially compliant (CL 2.7)

ET recommendations:

- 1. Following the recommendations from last year site visit, the ET recommends that the staff evaluation should become even 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 - even more important - 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.*

2.4. Educational process content

Standard 4.1. (CL 2) 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 KAA Accreditation Manual – July 2018 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.



The SER briefly indicates that the qualification objectives of the study program in terms of disciplinary, methodological and generic skills and competencies become made available to students. However, no respective information is provided about the labor market. and it has been mentioned at several points during the Online evaluation meeting July 23, 2020 that there is quite particular and specific knowledge and qualified graduates needed in the field of Urban Agriculture. However, it seem to be enough study programs on common agricultural aspects already operational. The ET also explicitly asked for scientific publications in which clear definitions of "Urban Agriculture" in the sense of the proposed study program are given already in last year site visit. So far no such specific publications have been provided to the ET and the outcome of the Online evaluation meeting July 23, 2020 has been that a broader definition has to be applied to describe what is understood by "Urban Agriculture" in the specific situation of Kosovo and for the purpose of this study program. The potential for acquisition of disciplinary, methodological and generic skills and competencies is rather low in the study program under accreditation.

Standard 4.2. (CL 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.*

The SER confirms that this is correct and this request is fulfilled. It indicates that the study program under accreditation is also in compliance with the Erasmus Subject Area Code (ESAC; points 01.2. However, the study program at its current development stage does only provide detailed information about the first year of the study program. Rather general and condensed information is provided for the 2nd year. During the Online evaluation meeting it came out that project work for the 3rd semester (Problem Based Learning (PBL, 18 ECTS) and a MSc-thesis for the 4th semester would be foreseen. However, no clear ideas about structure and organization of the PBL work were expressed. 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.

Standard 4.3. (CL 2) *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.*

The courses of the first year are provided in a logical flow, in 1st semester the majority of compulsory modules, in 2nd semester about 50% elective modules. Learning outcomes are listed for each of the courses in the syllabus. However, a list of 7 general learning outcomes



for the entire study program is not provided. In addition, such description has not been found for the 3rd semester module PBL (18 ECTS).

Standard 4.4. (CL 2) *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.*

The individual course descriptions were attached and comprise: course objectives, learning outcomes, thematic content, teaching methods, students' assessment system and bibliography. The quality of course descriptions differs among the various courses. In addition, such description has not been found for the 3rd semester module PBL (18 ECTS). Literature lists are short in many cases and frequently in Albanian language, which is less appropriate for an English-speaking program.

Standard 4.5. (CL 2) *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.*

The SER clearly indicates that the language of instruction will be English. This has been confirmed in the Online evaluation meeting. It became visible in the Online evaluation meeting, that translation has been partly required when discussing with the teaching staff. The ET strongly recommends additional language training for the teaching staff. On the other hand English proficiency of the students during the the last year site visit discussions has been excellent.

Standard 4.6. (CL 2) *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.*

Since the study program is not yet operational, Standard 4.6 cannot be commented to a full extent. Learning outcomes are described in the syllabus. The ET trusts that the degree of achievement of the learning outcomes would be verified in students' assessments and discussed in individual consultations, when the program would be implemented. It is indicated in the SER that the obligations of students and professors will be discussed continuously, thus fulfilling the ongoing assessment.



Standard 4.7. (CL 1) *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.*

The ET assumes and trusts that students under special circumstances (illnesses, disabilities, family situation) would be treated with appropriate flexibility, when the program would be implemented.

Standard 4.8. (CL 2) *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 the courses.*

Since the study program is not yet operational, Standard 4.8 cannot be commented to a full extent. Based on the experiences made with other study programs at FAV/UP the ET assumes and trusts that the assessments would be communicated at the beginning of the course and would be conducted fairly and objectively during and at the end of the course. It is indicated in the SER that 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.

Standard 4.9. (CL 2) *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.*

Since the study program is not yet operational, Standard 4.9 cannot be commented to a full extent. Based on the experiences made with other study programs at FAV/UP the ET trusts that verification of students would be done properly and comparable to courses offered within a program, and in comparison with other study programs at highly regarded institutions. As it is indicated in the SER, 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.

Standard 4.10. (CL 2) *Policies and procedures include actions to be taken to dealing with situations where standards of student achievement are inadequate or KAA Accreditation Manual – July 2018 inconsistently assessed.*

The SER confirms that such regulations are laid down in the statutes of FAV/UP (Statute of the University of Prishtina, Section 15. According to this regulation students have the right to retake an examination.



Standard 4.11. (CL 2) *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.*

In the 3rd semester an internship (12 ECTS) and one additional module on problem based Learning (PBL, 18 ECTS). However, neither contents and learning outcomes, nor appropriate partner institutions and companies are defined yet. However, a rather general interest and willingness of stakeholders and employers could be discovered in respective discussions.

Standard 4.12. (CL 2) *In order to facilitate the practice stages, the higher education institution signs cooperation agreements, contracts or other documents with institutions/organisations/practical training units.*

Cooperation agreements with stakeholders of the labor market are not addressed in the SER. However, stakeholders, employers and alumni mentioned during the Online site discussion that they would be willing to cooperate with students and teaching staff of the proposed study program. This holds also true for Master-thesis support and supervision. However, the labor market became not completely clear in the discussion.

Compliance level: Partially compliant (CL 1.9)

ET recommendations:

- 1. A clear definition and common understanding of what 'Urban Agriculture' means in the context of Kosovo must be further developed since it came out during the Online site discussion that a rather broad definition would be needed.*
- 2. An accreditation of the study program can only be made, when the full description of the 2-years study program, particularly for the 3rd and 4th will be available.*

2.5. Students



Standard 5.1. (CL 3) *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.*

Standard 5.10. (CL 3) *The students' transfer between higher education institutions, faculties and study programs is clearly regulated in formal internal documents.*

Standard 5.9. (CL 3) *Students' rights and obligations are made publicly available, promoted to all those concerned and enforced equitably; these will include the right to academic appeals.*

The evaluation process has confirmed the presence of information, outside the documents supplied in advance of the visit, that demonstrate institution-wide arrangements for student admissions, rights of representation, student's transfer, student feedback via 'satisfaction surveys', what students can expect during the studies, what is expected of them and what support can be provided if something goes wrong.

Standard 5.2. (CL 3) *All students enrolled in the study program possess a high school graduation diploma or other equivalent document of study, according to MEST requirements.*

All students who will be enrolled in the study programme must own a bachelor degree.

Standard 5.3. (CL 3) *The study groups are dimensioned so as to ensure an effective and interactive teaching and learning process.*

With 20 students per academic year, ET considers that the master study programme will ensure an effective and interactive teaching and learning process.

Standard 5.4. (CL 3) *Feedback to students on their performance and results of assessments is given promptly and accompanied by mechanisms for assistance if needed.*

The ET assumes that students will get feedback on their results according to UP internal regulations in QA.

Standard 5.5. (CL 3) *The results obtained by the students throughout the study cycles are certified by the academic record. KAA Accreditation Manual – July 2018*

The results obtained by the UP's students throughout the study cycles are certified by the academic record.

Standard 5.6. (CL 2) *Flexible treatment of students in special situations is ensured with respect to deadlines and formal requirements in the program and to all examinations.*



The only one support mentioned as flexible treatment of students in special situations is *three examinations period* (SER – page 33). ET considers that UP has to improve its strategy into support students in special situations.

Standard 5.7. (CL 3) *Records of student completion rates are kept for all courses and for the program as a whole and included among quality indicators.*

According to the information provided, there are processes in place to collect and analyse data referring to the student progression and drop-out rates. The institution collects also data on students' satisfaction with their programmes, the learning resources, and administration and support services. The ET assumes that the situation at the master programme level will be part of the institution's procedures.

Standard 5.8. (CL 1) *Effective procedures are being used to ensure that work submitted by students is original.*

The UP established different regulations to deal with academic misconduct, including plagiarism and other forms of cheating. Until then, there are no procedures in place to guarantee the originality of the submitted work. The institution is relying that it will be the teachers themselves that can identify plagiarism in students' work, projects and thesis. As confirmed during the meeting with teaching staff, they did not implement a clear plagiarism prevention strategy in their teaching processes. As the master programme *Urban agriculture* will be conducted in English, software such as Turnitin may be used.

Standard 5.11. (CL 3) *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.*

The members of the teaching staff and the management of the program confirmed in the interviews that time is available for individual counselling.

Compliance level: Substantially compliant (CL 2.7)

ET recommendations:

1. *Ensure different ways to support students in special situations;*
2. *Regulate alternative mechanisms to ensure the originality of the work submitted by students as prevention activities, dedicated workshops, courses etc.*



2.6. Research

Standard 6.1. (CL 2) *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.*

Neither information about research objectives for the specific study program nor a research strategy of UP is provided. In the SER (page 36) it is indicated that financial and logistical support for research in this program is lacking. Several comments in the Online evaluation discussions were quite contradictory in this respect: FAV board representatives have been quite more optimistic than teaching and academic staff concerning amount and availability of research budget. However, representatives from Agribusiness industry and other relevant fields for the MSc-program Urban Agriculture indicated during the site visit to have significant research needs in numerous fields and subjects and could provide some financial support as well. The majority of academic staff interviewed during the site-visit expressed interest in research and they are aware of the linkage between research and the highly requested higher level scientific publications. The ET strongly recommends to put research more in the center of strategic considerations and to establish incentives and procedures to allow and foster high-level research activities.

Standard 6.2. (CL 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.*

The SER indicates that clear policies for determining and defining what is known as Research are specified in regulation no. 465, dated 03.02.2018 of the University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina" and Administrative Instruction 1/2018 of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology for the recognition of platforms and international journals with peer review. In the Online evaluation discussions it became obvious that evaluation procedures for staff do not contain information about scientific performance criteria and during the site visit it was not mentioned that those criteria are considered in staff evaluation and promotion criteria.

Standard 6.3. (CL 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.*



Clear policies for determining and defining what is known as Research are specified in regulation no. 465, dated 03.02.2018 of the University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina" and Administrative Instruction 1/2018 of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology for the recognition of platforms and international journals with peer review.

Standard 6.4. (CL 2) *The academic staff has a proven track record of research results on the same topics as their teaching activity.*

Publication track records of 11 members of the teaching staff are listed in their CVs. Research is performed on locally relevant topics and outcomes are published as conference proceedings and in predominantly regional journals. A number of articles of the teaching staff can be found in international data bases like SCOPUS. Publications on the specific field of Urban Agriculture have not been found in the publication lists.

Standard 6.5. (CL 2) *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.*

The publication activity is already addressed in Standard 6.4.

Standard 6.6. (CL 2) *Research is validated through: scientific and applied research publications, artistic products, technological transfer through consultancy centres, scientific parks and other structures for validation.*

Infrastructure such as scientific parks or consultancy centers are neither described in the SER nor have been a topic during the discussions in the Online evaluation discussion. However, such procedures should become developed by the institution and not by specific study programs and established by following a consistent research strategy which has to be set up and agreed on prior to this.

Standard 6.7. (CL 2) *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.*

This requirement is fulfilled by the members of the teaching staff. Unfortunately, Standard 6.7 is not addressing the expected or confirmed quality of publications. To the opinion of the ET, one publication per year in an international peer reviewed journal should be required. Following the recommendations from last year accreditation procedure and report a table has been



prepared where the number of “refereed journal articles”, “other journal articles” and “conference proceedings” is listed for all members of the teaching staff in an improved but still not satisfactory way.

Standard 6.8. (CL 3) *Academic and research staff publish under the name of the institution in Kosovo they are affiliated to as full time staff.*

The ET trusts that academic and research staff is publishing under the name of UP. Random sampling has been positive.

Standard 6.9. (CL n.a.) *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.*

The ET trusts that the teaching staff is integrating own research outcomes as much as available into teaching as this is the regular way of teaching at an University. However, there is quite substantial potential for increasing quantity and improving quality in this respect.

Standard 6.10. (CL n.a.) *Policies are established for ownership of intellectual property and clear procedures set out for commercialization of ideas developed by staff and students.*

The ET assumes that regulations about intellectual property are laid down in the regulations of UP, but the SER is not referring to it.

Standard 6.11. (CL 2) *Students are engaged in research projects and other activities. KAA Accreditation Manual – July 2018*

The SER contains only information on the 1st and 2nd semester. An internship of 12 ECTS credits is placed in the 3rd semester as well as a module on Problem Based Learning (PBL, 18 ECTS) and could be probably used for research. During the Online evaluation discussions it was mentioned that the 4th semester is reserved for the M.Sc. thesis, where research should be performed. Also in the discussion with stakeholders, employers and alumni interest in applied research has been expressed.

Compliance level: Substantially compliant (CL 2.2)

ET recommendations:



- 1. The ET recommends to present the research objectives for the study program and the research strategy of UP in the SER in more detail.*
- 2. The ET recommends to put research more centrally in the focus of all kind of strategic considerations, particularly also in the teaching contents and to establish incentives and procedures to allow and foster high-level research activities in the field of Urban Agriculture.*
- 3. The ET recommends that validation procedures for scientific outputs should become developed and established following a consistent research strategy which has to be set up and agreed on prior to this.*
- 4. The ET recommends the study plan has carefully to be revised and a completed version comprising four semesters will be presented, showing the research involvement of the students, particularly in Semester 3 (Internship and module PBL) and 4 (Master thesis and respective supervision and consultation).*

2.7. Infrastructure and resources

First of all, ET should mention the fact that regarding the learning resources and facilities, the evaluation was made on the basis of the information received from the institution and those declared by the participants in the meetings during the Online evaluation discussion.

Standard 7.1. (CL 3) *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.*

A new building and an university farm in direct neighborhood provide excellent conditions for the study program. Permanent teaching staff is available and accomplished by temporary staff.

Standard 7.2. (CL 1) *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.*

The SER does not contain a financial plan at the level of the study program. A budget of FAV of 120,000 EUR – 150,000 EUR for services and material has been mentioned in the SER. Allocations to study programs is not indicated, but in the next year the program's development will be supported by the TEMPUS Project Budget.



Standard 7.3. (CL 2) *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:*

a) owned or rented spaces adequate for the educational process;

b) owned or rented laboratories, with the adequate equipment for all the compulsory disciplines within the curriculum, wherever the analytical syllabus includes such activities;
KAA Accreditation Manual – July 2018

During the meetings, the ET found out that the institution provides an adequate, clean, attractive and well-maintained physical environment for its building. The college has laboratories, with the basic equipment (it should be improved) and adequate software for the disciplines of study included in the curriculum. Additionally, online teaching equipment should be expanded and completed.

c) adequate software for the disciplines of study included in the curriculum, with utilization licence;

SER provides information about basic software usually used in higher education institutions. Considering the adequate software for the disciplines from the program's curriculum, the only point to mention is that if needed they can be installed by the IT officers.

d) library equipped with reading rooms, group work rooms and its own book stock according to the disciplines included in the curricula.

UP provides adequate and easily accessible support services through Central University Library as well as Academic Unit Libraries with reading rooms and book stock according to the disciplines included in the curriculum.

Standard 7.4. (CL 2) *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 specialty disciplines included in the curricula are carried out in laboratories equipped with IT equipment.*

The ET trusts that the number of seats in the lecture rooms, seminar rooms and laboratories in the new university building are sufficient.

Standard 7.5. (CL 2) *The education institution's libraries must ensure, for each of the study programs:*



a) a number of seats in the reading rooms corresponding to at least 10% of the total number of students in the study program;

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;

c) their own book stock from Albanian and foreign specialty literature, enough to cover the disciplines within the curricula, out of which at least 50% should represent book titles or specialty courses of recognized publishers, from the last 10 years;

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;

e) a sufficient number of subscriptions to Albanian and foreign publications and periodicals, according to the stated mission.

In the central unit of the library as well as in the academic units, is allowed free access to electronic books, bibliographic references, bibliometric information scientific databases. The libraries offer inspiring learning environments, extensive print and electronic collections and helpful staff to support students and teachers.

Standard 7.6. (CL 2) *The infrastructure and facilities dedicated to the implementation of the program is adapted to students with special needs.*

The buildings are not suitably adapted for students with physical disabilities and also, learning resources for special needs (as blindness, deafness etc.) are not available.

Compliance level: Substantially compliant (CL 2.0)

ET recommendations:

- 1. A detailed budget has to be presented for the study program;*
- 2. Laboratory equipment has to be improved as well as Online teaching equipment;*
- 3. Ensure appropriate provision for learning resources is made for students and staff with learning disabilities or difficulties.*

3. OVERALL EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE ET

(Insert overall observations referring to the evaluation process, the quality at study program level, approach to the site visit, etc.)



In conclusion, the Expert Team considers that the study program Urban Agriculture (MSc.) offered by the University of Prishtina, Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary is still partially presented in a somehow immature state. However, the level of compliance with the KAA standards significantly increased since last year accreditation in many respects. Therefore, Expert Team recommends **to accredit the study program for 3 (three) years under conditions, for 20 students per academic year**. The conditions can be drawn from the recommendations provided by the ET for each section of standards. As the proposed study program will be part of a Tempus project, the ET recommends to further work on the program and to fulfil the conditions with respective documentation in a thoroughly revised SER at the next possible dead line.

4. APPENDICES *(if available)*

Expert Team

Member

	Prof. Dr. Reiner Doluschitz	August 03, 2020
(Signature)	(Print Name)	(Date)

Member

	Oana Sarbu	August 03, 2020
(Signature)	(Print Name)	(Date)