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Agencija Kosova za Akreditaciju
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**UNIVERSITY OF PRISHTINA
FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY**

ACCREDITATION

**STUDY PROGRAMME
SOCIOLOGY BA**

FINAL REPORT OF THE EXPERT TEAM

8 April 2022, Zagreb



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Context

Date of site visit: 21 March 2022

Expert Team (ET) members:

- Prof Pavo Barišić, PhD

Coordinators from Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA):

- Leona Kovaçi, Senior Officer for Monitoring and Evaluation

Sources of information for the Report:

- Self-Evaluation Report University of Pristina, Faculty of Philosophy, BA Sociology, 2021
- Syllabi
- Staff CVs (Full time, part time)
- Annexes: Model of diploma supplement, Model of syllabus, Sample of employment contract Full Time, Questionnaire model for assessment, Reference list of quality assurance policy documents and regulations of the University of Pristina

Criteria used for institutional and programme evaluations

- KAA Accreditation Manual

1.2. Site visit schedule

Programme Re-accreditation Procedure at University of Pristina Faculty of Philosophy “Hasan Pristina”	
Programme:	Sociology BA
Online site visit on:	21 March 2022
Expert Team:	Prof Dr. Pavo Barišić
Coordinators of the KAA:	Leona Kovaçi, KAA Officer



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Time	Meeting	Participants/Comments
09:00 – 09:45	Meeting with the management of the faculty where the programme is integrated	Dr. Dashamir Bërxulli Dr. Selim Bezeraj Dr. Muhamet Qerimi
09:50 – 10:35	Meeting with quality assurance representatives and administrative staff	MA. Dorajet Imeri Mr. Besnik Loxha Mrs. Lumnije Ahmeti Mr. Mentor Maka
10:40 – 11:40	Meeting with the heads of the study programme	Dr. Agim Hyseni Dr. Fadil Maloku Dr. Linda Gusia
11:40 – 12:40	Lunch break	//
12:40 – 13:25	Meeting with teaching staff	Dr. Shemsi Krasniqi Dr. Gezim Selaci Dr. Ardian Gola MA Artan Krasniqi MA. Lirika Demiri
13:35 – 14:10	Meeting with students	Durim Elshani Eduard Sopaj Urim Sylemani Vlera Sfarqa Saranda Uka
14:20– 15:05	Meeting with graduates	Bleona Kurteshi Qendresa Hyseni Bajram Luzha Egzona Hajrrullahu Ridona Berisha
15:10 – 15:55	Meeting with employers of graduates and external stakeholders	Besa Luci Florie Xhemajl Rita Berisha
15:55 – 16:00	Internal meeting of KAA staff and experts	//
16:00 – 16:10	Closing meeting with the management of the faculty and programme	Dr. Dashamir Bërxulli Dr. Selim Bezeraj Dr. Muhamet Qerimi



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1.3. A brief overview of the institution under evaluation

According to the Self-Evaluation Report (SER), the University of Pristina, Faculty of Philosophy is the first academic unit of higher education in Kosovo. It was founded in 1960. The mission of Faculty is a proper education of the youth of Kosovo. It educates students to be worthy and useful citizens for the country. The Faculty of Philosophy has been the leader of many vital processes for Kosovo, despite the challenges it faced during its operation.

At the Faculty of Philosophy, there are seven departments:

- Department of History
- Department of Philosophy
- Department of Sociology
- Department of Psychology
- Department of Political Science
- Department of Social Work
- Department of Anthropology.

The mission of the Faculty of Philosophy is, through building and strengthening academic staff capacities, enriching the academic tradition with advanced European and international experiences and practices, through expanding cooperation, increasing professionalism, intensifying scientific research, as well as digitalisation of administration and all services for students, to become an academic institution at the level of prestigious international universities, with an emphasis on those of the European Union, as well as to be a serious competitor in the academic market, not only in the region but also beyond.

The goals of Faculty of Philosophy are:

- education and upbringing of students in the field of philosophy, sociology, psychology, history, political science, ethnology, archivist and social work;



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- theoretical-practical training of students in the above areas to perform the tasks and obligations for which they are prepared;
- affirmation and implementation of the best achievements in European and world culture and science in the Kosovar society, culture, science and economy;
- scientific research of social phenomena and processes in Kosovo society and beyond;
- cultivating critical and creative thinking in the field of scientific theory and social practice;
- preparation of human resources, for the application of theoretical and humanistic knowledge, in practical life and their training for competition in relevant fields;
- promoting values and civic democracy to the new generation;
- cooperation in teaching, research and publications with sister institutions at national, regional and international level;
- creation of professionally capable and morally responsible staff for the exercise of important social, political and educational-scientific roles and functions in society;
- integration in the European Higher Education Area and achieving student and teacher mobility;
- the interconnection and interdisciplinary nature of the fields of study, within the Faculty of Philosophy and in cooperation with other faculties of the University of Pristina;
- the establishment of competent staff capable of solving theoretical and practical problems related to the Kosovar society, solutions that would contribute to the economic, social, democratic, cultural and educational prosperity of the Republic of Kosovo.

Faculty of Philosophy permanently monitors the developments, both in higher education and in the education market in Kosovo. This monitoring is done through a wide range of uses:

- formal and informal meetings with relevant senior decision-making and policy actors;
- taking part in conferences, seminars and roundtables on higher education in Kosovo, in the region and beyond;
- formal and informal internal academic discussions of the staff of the Faculty of Philosophy;
- invitation for public lectures at the Faculty of Knowledge on Education and other related issues;
- monitoring of prestigious scientific journals for relevant findings to higher education and monitoring of the daily press for articles and analysis dedicated to higher education;
- monitoring in continuity the developments of other levels of education, in order to adapt and advance curricula, academic materials, teaching methodologies and evaluation.

The Faculty of Philosophy has 6 programmes with valid accreditation, 6 MA programmes, as well as 3 programmes at the BA level in the process of accreditation, or re-accreditation.

The Faculty of Philosophy is located on the university campus, close to the National Library of Kosovo, the University Library, the Rectorate of the University of Pristina.



2. PROGRAMME EVALUATION

2.1. Mission, Objectives and Administration

In the SER, the mission of the Bachelor degree of Sociology study programme is described as teaching skills on the essential concepts and competencies, including the ability to make an empirically based argument to collect and analyse data and communicate it effectively. The programme is characterised by a distinct methodological aiming at “centring the programme on context as well as emphasising the importance of producing researched based knowledge”.

At the general level of information provided, the mission of the study programme is in compliance with the overall mission statement of the Faculty of Philosophy and the University of Pristina. In talking to the heads of the study programme and representatives of employers of graduates and external stakeholders, the expert team noticed that graduates are properly prepared to work in schools as well as in a variety of fields such as media world, politics, civil society. They are also well prepared for continuing MA level studies. The administrative and academic staff is enthusiastic and ready to implement recommendations. The management is proactive with the private sector and sends students to do their internships (media houses, NGO-s, schools, etc.). The representatives of media house, research Institute and social network at the meeting confirmed good cooperation with the Department of Sociology and expressed readiness to involve teachers and students in their future plans and projects as well.

Regarding the consistency of the programme with the National Qualifications Framework and the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area, it meets the main criteria. But it should also be noted that the SER does not contain more detailed evidence-based information nor was this issue elaborated in detail during the site visit. In particular, no explicit formulations were offered which would link the intended learning outcomes of the programme to specific level descriptors relevant to the programme.

With regard to the didactic and research concept, the SER contains general statements on didactical approaches and research activities. The study programme provides a well-defined overarching didactic concept. It also trains to create professional and intellectual capacities, capable of taking civic responsibility on social processes.



Formal policies, guidelines and regulations dealing with recurring procedural and academic issues are described in the SER. During the site visit, the faculty management and heads of the programme stressed several times the importance of and their adherence to transparency rules.

During the site visit, the expert team gained the impression that a good level of compliance with internal regulations relating to ethical conduct in research, teaching and assessments in most of the relevant areas has been achieved. Code of Ethics is established for academic and administrative staff and students. Continuous evaluation of students and academic staff is an important feature in the implementation of the study programme. The academic staff confirmed that there is no appropriate programme for checking graduate theses against plagiarism.

Several review processes and regulation mechanisms responsible for evaluating policies in different time frames are mentioned in the SER and discussed during the site visit. Department of Sociology holds regular meetings and at least once a year holds an extended meeting (at the end of the academic year), where it discusses various issues related to the programme implementation, terms of reference, regulations, statements of responsibility.

Standard	Compliance	
	Yes	No
Standard 1.1. The study program mission is in compliance with the overall mission statement of the institution.	X	
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.	X	
Standard 1.3. The study program has a well-defined overarching didactic and research concept.	X	
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.	X	
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.	X	
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.	X	



Compliance level: Fully compliant.

ET recommendations:

- *Fulfilment of evaluation standards should be substantiated through evidence-based, empirically testable statements.*
- *Institutional structure and reward system should support quality teaching as well as faculty research careers.*

2.2. Quality Management

The SER contains a description of how quality management at the university works and which instruments it contains. During the conversation with the QA staff, the expert team was informed that the below listed practises are implemented.

- Quality management is integrated into the life cycle of the programme.
- For assessing the quality of programmes and services, the Senate approved three sets of measuring instruments: questionnaires for academic staff, questionnaires for administrative staff, and questionnaires for students.
- At the end of each semester through anonymous feedback forms, students assess the teaching and learning process for each course.
- From the academic year 2021/2022, quality assessment questionnaire has become mandatory and is conducted at the end of each semester.
- A process for ongoing strategy improvement has been developed.
- Department of Sociology has regular meetings. At least once a year, it holds an extended meeting (at the end of the academic year), where it discusses various issues related to the programme implementation, terms of reference, regulations, statements of responsibility.
- The Department makes plans for the improvement of its programme in accordance with the Statute of UP and its accompanying legislation.

QA revised comprehensively learning outcomes together with the faculty.

The Department of Sociology ensures that it continuously respects all the criteria set by the KAA regarding the quality component. Consequently, it has respected the recommendations



required to achieve the standards by international accreditation experts in every accreditation and re-accreditation.

The electronic system enables an evaluation, which can deliver the results promptly.

While it was stated in the SER that evaluation and planning for improvement processes are integrated into the normal planning processes, no detailed evidence has been provided on how this is achieved practically and on which concepts or methodologies the quality assurance system is based on.

The expert team was informed that the low percentage of students participating in the survey (due to lack of willingness to respond to the questionnaires, lack of seriousness in filling out questionnaires, etc.) does not show real quality assessment results. Therefore, from this academic year, questionnaires are made mandatory to have more data to collect and analyse.

The academic staff is sometimes not sufficiently informed about the results of student evaluations of their teaching.

A specific COVID19 impact evaluation was not conducted.

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



<i>Standard 2.8.</i> The institution ensures that reports on the overall quality of the program are prepared periodically (eg. every three years) for consideration within the institution indicating its strengths and weaknesses.	X	
<i>Standard 2.9.</i> The quality assurance arrangements for the program are themselves regularly evaluated and improved.	X	

Compliance level: Substantially compliant.

ET recommendations:

- 1. Given that mandatory evaluation questionnaires have been introduced from the current academic year, it is recommended that a detailed and in-depth analysis of such a procedure should be made in several cycles.*
- 2. Discussion of the course evaluation results with the students.*
- 3. Publication of evaluation results from the general surveys. Summary of these results for the public. In particular, make clear what changes have been brought about by evaluation results.*
- 4. Establishment of alumni tracking and the corresponding integration into institutionalised surveys.*

2.3. Academic Staff

The academic staff employed in the Department of Sociology, within which this programme is implemented, carries out their full time (FT) activity in full compliance with the statutory provisions. The regular staff is engaged for lectures.

The following table is based on the **List of full time academic staff for the proposed programme (Professors and assistants).**

	Name	Surname	Date of birth	Date of employment	Last promotion	Title
	Agim	Hyseni	24.05.1957	24.09.1980	30.01.2004	Ordinary professor
	Fadil	Maloku	06.04.1958	18.10.2001	05.03.2023	Associated professor
	Shemsi	Krasniqi	25.10.1961	01.09.1988	07.02.2024	Professor assistant
	Gëzim	Selaci	01.07.1977	01.07.2009	22.11.2021	Professor assistant

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	Linda	Gusia	15.02.1978	05.10.2007	31.01.2023	Assistant
	Artan	Krasniqi	12.09.1985	16.09.2015	23.07.2021	Assistant

Over 60% of the academic staff in the Sociology are full-time employees and full-time staff of the Faculty of Philosophy. All academic staff acts in accordance with legal requirements.

The cooperation within the University of Pristina offers possibilities for staff development. Elements and processes for an academic career are sufficiently described in the SER.

The small number of professional staff in the Department causes teacher overload. On the one hand, this limits their professional development. On the other hand, it also affects the quality of teaching.

In addition, as confirmed in an interview during the on-site evaluation, some lecturers will soon be leaving the faculty. Therefore, it is necessary to hire new teachers in order to be able to carry out and develop this study program to high international educational standards. Otherwise, the academic staff will be deprived of certain opportunities for further professional development if there are not enough full-time teachers (Standard 3.6).

In the SER the Faculty of Philosophy describes the typical academic activities sufficiently. However, the number of published papers of academic staff could be improved. The reasons for the current situation can be explained by several factors. First, pandemic conditions and increased pressure on teachers to teach online should be considered. But on the other hand, the lecturers confirmed in conversation with the expert team that there are not enough funds for the professional development of academic staff (Standard 3.7).

Standards	Compliance	
	Yes	No
<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>	X	
<i>Standard 3.2. The teaching staff must comply with the legal requirements concerning the occupation of teaching positions included in the administrative instruction on Accreditation.</i>	X	



<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>	X	
<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>	X	
<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>	X	
<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>		X
<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>	X	
<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>	X	
<i>Standard 3.9. Strategies for quality enhancement include improving the teaching strategies and quality of learning materials.</i>	X	
<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>	X	

Compliance level: Fully compliant.

ET recommendations:

1. *Academic staff needs to participate more in research by reducing teaching loads.*
2. *The development of academic staff should be enabled through financial support for greater participation in international conferences and scientific events.*
3. *Academic staff should be stimulated to publish more.*
4. *It needs to be recognised and rewarded successful teaching practices and research.*

2.4. Educational Process Content

The curriculum covers a broad range of qualifications required to work as bachelor of sociology in public institutions, large private enterprises and in the field of civil society. As an undergraduate programme it is oriented towards both theoretical and practical courses and contents. The study programme's focus is clear. The central aspect of the programme is to



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enable students to teach sociology and related subjects in schools as well to work in different areas of social life. The programme also aims to develop specific basic skills through different practicum courses, where students design and conduct various research projects and present their findings publicly. In recent years, students have presented their research work in local media. They are part of various local and international organisations, such as Centre for Gender Studies, Kosovo2.0, CEL, Foundation 17, GAP Institute, Britmi Institute etc.

The study programme is in line with the National Qualifications Framework and the Qualifications Framework of the European Higher Education Area. The study methods are described in the syllabuses for each course. In general, the programme focuses on problem-solving skills, case studies, project work, problem-based learning, and simulated learning. Regarding the teaching methodology, all courses include innovative and creative teaching techniques, such as PowerPoint presentations, close reading of academic articles, screening of films/documentaries, and inviting guest lecturers. In addition, in specific courses, students are encouraged to conduct research projects in the form of community interventions. Practical work is part of courses: Quantitative Methods, Qualitative Methods, Sociological Practicum, Gender Studies, Sociology of Culture, and Public Sociology. For this reason and due to other technical, administrative, and ethical implications (payment, etc.), practical work is not included as a separate course in the programme.

The programme's focus provides a logical flow and leads to the development of general and specific learning outcomes in the curriculum. The programme offers elective courses for individual student focus.

Syllabuses of the curriculum are well documented. The structure of the syllabi is standardised and sufficiently described by the faculty staff members. The programme meets the European standards required by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Kosovo and the Kosovo Accreditation Agency.

The foreign language skills are not regulated by the Faculty of Philosophy. Students are expected to have intermediate knowledge of the English language. Part of the study and examination literature is given in foreign languages. However, there is no prescribed method of testing knowledge or training students in foreign languages.

Teaching strategies consist of different teaching methods described and customised for the courses and documented in the syllabuses.

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All courses of the programme respect the defined practices to provide an evaluation that promotes learning and evaluates the achievements of students in comparison to the expected results with valid and reliable grades. An overall assessment monitoring is established, which generates a report for every assessment.

The Programme does not mandate internships. Internships are done on a voluntary basis. Though, so far, the majority of students take on internships based on the recommendation of the Department.

The Department of Sociology has an experience cooperating with institutions, organisations and practical training units. Representatives of employers in the interview during the visit confirmed that they have concluded internship contracts.

Standards	Compliance	
	Yes	No
<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>	X	
<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>	X	
<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, 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>	X	
<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>	X	



<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>		X
<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>	X	
<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>	X	
<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>	X	
<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>	X	
<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 students inconsistently assessed.</i>	X	
<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 ETCS credits and the work of the students at the practical training organizations is monitored through activity reports; students during practice stages have assigned tutors among the academic staff in the study program.</i>	X	
<i>Standard 4.12. In order to facilitate the practice stages, the higher education institution signs cooperation agreements, contracts or other documents with institutions/organizations/practical training units.</i>	X	

Compliance level: Fully compliant.

ET recommendations:

- ET encourages the Faculty of Philosophy to test the foreign language knowledge of students during the first and second semester and help them with additional literature in their domestic language if the students' knowledge is not sufficient.*



2. *ET recommends that funding be provided within the Faculty or University for the updated literature on specific sociological subjects as well as for the translation of key literature into Albanian.*
3. *ET recommends that for the study of sociology, as one of the basic and unique studies at the University of Pristina, a doctoral procedure be initiated in order to complete the educational cycle according to the Bologna system.*

2.5. Students

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 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.

At the beginning of each academic year, within the general competition of the University of Pristina for the admission of new students, the competition for this programme will be announced. The competition will contain complete information about the competition, evaluation, and admission procedure in the Bachelor of Sociology study programme. After the official announcement of the results of the entrance test, students have the right to appeal which are reviewed by the entrance examination commission within the Department of Sociology.

Assessment mechanisms are based on the Bologna charter. Students’ academic performance is evaluated in various forms and systematically. After each assessment, students have the opportunity to review and discuss their work with their teachers, during consultations hours. All classes have mandatory intermediate exam, grades and detailed feedback are provided to students. Grades are calculated as follows:

Grade	Points/%	Definition
10	90-100 p.	(outstanding performance without errors)
9	80-89 p.	(above the average standard but with minor errors)
8	70-79 p.	(generally sound work with some errors)



- 7 60-69 p. (fair but with significant shortcomings)
- 6 50-59 p. (performance meets the minimum criteria)
- 5 49 and below (fail: some or considerable further work is required).

The Faculty of Philosophy established different regulations to deal with academic misconduct, including plagiarism and other forms of cheating: Code of Ethics for Academic Staff, Code of Ethics for Students, Code of Ethics for Non-Academic Staff. The Faculty of Philosophy does not have a plagiarism detection software, but they control the paper handed by students very strictly.

<i>Standard</i>	Compliance	
	Yes	No
<i>Standard 5.1.</i> There is a clear and formally adopted admission procedure at institutional level that the study program respects when organizing students' recruitment. Admission requirements are consistently and fairly applied for all students.	X	
<i>Standard 5.2.</i> All students enrolled in the study program possess a high school graduation diploma or other equivalent document of study, according to MEST requirements.	X	
<i>Standard 5.3.</i> The study groups are dimensioned so as to ensure an effective and interactive teaching and learning process.	X	
<i>Standard 5.4.</i> Feedback to students on their performance and results of assessments is given promptly and accompanied by mechanisms for assistance if needed.	X	
<i>Standard 5.5.</i> The results obtained by the students throughout the study cycles are certified by the academic record.	X	
<i>Standard 5.6.</i> Flexible treatment of students in special situations is ensured with respect to deadlines and formal requirements in the program and to all examinations.	X	
<i>Standard 5.7.</i> Records of student completion rates are kept for all courses and for the program as a whole and included among quality indicators.	X	
<i>Standard 5.8.</i> Effective procedures are being used to ensure that work submitted by students is original.		X
<i>Standard 5.9.</i> Students' rights and obligations are made publicly available, promoted to all those concerned and enforced equitably; these will include the right to academic appeals.	X	
<i>Standard 5.10.</i> The students' transfer between higher education institutions, faculties and study programs is clearly regulated in formal internal documents.	X	



<i>Standard 5.11.</i> Academic staff is available at sufficient scheduled times for consultation and advice to students. Adequate tutorial assistance is provided to ensure understanding and ability to apply learning.	X	
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Compliance level: Fully compliant.

ET recommendations:

1. *The Faculty of Philosophy is recommended to establish a system and effective procedures to ensure that work submitted by students is original.*
2. *It is recommended to introduce additional courses in the first semesters for students who do not have enough pre-university education.*

2.6. Research

The Faculty of Philosophy has the Development strategy 2018-2023 and the Action plan for the implementation of the Strategy. Research objectives and the dynamics of the realisation of the activities in the achievement of the objectives are defined with these strategic documents. In terms of financial, logistical and human resources the Department of Sociology makes regular requests for additional resources. The decision for them is made at the central level of the university. The staff and the Department mainly provide funding for research projects from donors or in application to various international and local grants. Experienced staff in this regard supports the youngest staff in compiling and developing research projects. The staff of the Department of Sociology during the years 2019 to 2021 is involved in three international research projects and has one research grant from US embassy for research. Students are involved in all these projects.

However, it should be noted that the potential researches that could be undertaken for certain modules of this curriculum are limited due to poor financial support. The expert team was informed during the site visit that national budget lines for scientific research funding are almost non-existent. It is therefore recommended that the Faculty of Philosophy and the University of Pristina advocate a more substantial allocation for science at the national level.

The issue of promotion of teaching staff is regulated through a mandatory requirement for scientific research and publication in journals with international credibility. The Statute of the



University of Pristina sets the criteria for staff evaluation and promotion. Finishing studies and research activities and publishing them in internationally recognised and credible scientific journals serve as an evaluation of staff performance. Department staff participate regularly to the scientific sessions, symposiums, conferences and round tables which are of interest for the profession and the community.

The overview of the scientific publications of the academic staff of the Department of Sociology for the last 5 years shows that the research results could be increased. Some of the research papers are older than 3 or even more years. The expert team highly recommends publishing research papers frequently and proposes not only to request it from the University of Pristina but also to apply for funds from other sources. Publishing research papers is something that spreads and enhances the knowledge of professors and is also useful for the education of students.

Students are engaged in research projects. Many studies have so far been done in collaboration with students due to the lack of funding for studies at the national level. However, their engagement is within professional and human considerations, as students cannot engage in dimensions that normally require financial compensation, though their contributions are translated as a constitutive part of the final evaluation of their performance.

The expert team encourages the Faculty of Philosophy to improve capacities for requesting national and international research grant applications.

Standards	Compliance	
	Yes	No
<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>	X	
<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>	X	
<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>	X	
<i>Standard 6.4. The academic staff has a proven track record of research results on the same topics as their teaching activity.</i>	X	



<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>	X	
<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>	X	
<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>		X
<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>	X	
<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>		X
<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>	X	
<i>Standard 6.11. Students are engaged in research projects and other activities.</i>	X	

Compliance level: Substantially compliant.

ET recommendations:

1. Faculty of Philosophy should improve capacities for requesting national and international research grant applications.
2. It is recommended that the staff publishes more scientific papers.
3. Establishing a strategy for publishing papers.
4. ET recommends having a strategy for applying for research funds.

2.7. Infrastructure and Resources

The evaluation of infrastructure and resources was made based on the information received from the SER and the information declared by the participants in the meetings during the online accreditation. According to these sources, it seems that the space is appropriate for the development of educational activities. The Faculty of Philosophy contains classrooms, a



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reading room, library, working cabinets for the teaching staff, labs, wide classrooms equipped with computers, also suitable for socialising.

There would only be a recommendation to explore the possibility of opening a cafeteria or space where students and teachers could socialise informally.

However, the information gathered shows that the internet connection in the teaching rooms which facilitates the process of teaching is flawed. It was also mentioned that access to electronic platforms, for students in order to use relevant literature, then special software programmes for analysing data in the field of social sciences is limited.

The students have explained during the site meeting that they use a library at the faculty and one which is located within a two-minute walk from the faculty. The faculty library has over 11,000 copies catalogued by departments. In general, the literature available at the faculty library meets the curriculum needs of existing programmes. However, the information in the SER shows that the faculty library is no longer connected to any regional or European library network and as a consequence the students do not have the opportunity to use online literature.

It should be noted that the building of the faculty is suitably adapted for students with physical disabilities. The three floors of building are accessible by elevator. The ground floor and the main entrance are accessible by all equipment of persons with special needs. On the ground floor, the sanitary nodes are equipped with toilets for persons with special needs.

There is a videoconferencing equipment for streaming video lectures. Adequate computer equipment is available and accessible for teaching, staff and students throughout the institution, and technical support is available for staff and students using information and communications technology

During the meetings with the management, students, and the staff, the ET found out that the institution provides an adequate and well-maintained physical environment for its students and staff. Adequate computer equipment is available and accessible for staff and students throughout the institution, and technical support is available for staff and students using information and communications technology.

It should be noticed at the end a lack of recreational spaces for staff and students within the campus.

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<i>Standard</i>	Compliance	
	Yes	No
<i>Standard 7.1.</i> The adequate long-term implementation of the study program is ensured in quantitative terms as regards premises, human resources and equipment. At the same time, it is guaranteed that qualitative aspects are also taken into account.	X	
<i>Standard 7.2.</i> There is a financial plan at the level of the study program that would demonstrate the sustainability of the study program for the next minimum three years.	X	
<i>Standard 7.3.</i> The higher education institution must demonstrate with adequate documents (property deeds, lease contracts, inventories, invoices etc.) that, for the study program submitted for evaluation it possesses the following, for the next at least three years: 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; c) adequate software for the disciplines of study included in the curriculum, with utilization licence; d) library equipped with reading rooms, group work rooms and its own book stock according to the disciplines included in the curricula.	X	
<i>Standard 7.4.</i> The number of seats in the lecture rooms, seminar rooms and laboratories must be related to the study groups' size (series, groups, subgroups); the applicative activities for the speciality disciplines included in the curricula are carried out in laboratories equipped with IT equipment.	X	
<i>Standard 7.5.</i> 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 speciality literature, enough to cover the disciplines within the curricula, out of which at least 50% should represent book titles or speciality 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.		X
<i>Standard 7.6.</i> The infrastructure and facilities dedicated to the implementation of the program is adapted to students with special needs.	X	



Compliance level: Substantially compliant.

ET recommendations:

1. *Establishing space where students and staff could socialise informally.*
2. *Internet connection in the teaching rooms for facilitating the process of teaching.*
3. *The access to electronic platforms for students in order to use relevant literature.*
4. *Special software programmes for analysing data in the field of social sciences.*
5. *Recreational spaces for staff and students within the campus.*

3. FINAL RECOMMENDATION OF THE ET

The ET would like to commend the Dean, the Faculty management, the heads of the study programme, the academic staff, the employers and external stakeholders, the students and the graduates of the Faculty of Philosophy Department of Sociology for the well-prepared online meetings during the site visit as well as for their open discussion on issues raised in the evaluation.

The ET finds that the objectives of the Sociology BA study programme are well defined and are in full harmony with the mission of the Faculty of Philosophy and the University of Pristina. Graduates are properly prepared to work in schools as well as in a variety of fields such as media world, politics, civil society. They are also appropriately educated for continuing MA level studies. The administrative and academic staff is enthusiastic and ready to implement any recommendations. The management is proactive with the private sector and sends students to do the internships in media houses, civil sector, schools, etc.

The learning outcomes are at a decent level as far as the expert team opinion is considered. The programme meets well the criteria of the National Qualifications Framework and the Qualifications Framework in the European Higher Education Area. The academic references and network are well elaborated. The study programme provides a well-defined overarching didactic concept. It also trains to create professional and intellectual capacities, capable of taking civic responsibility on social processes.

In addition to these and other positive achievements, there are some minor shortcomings in the implementation of the study programme, that the expert team points out. The main two



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shortcomings stand out: overburdening of academic staff with teaching activities due to lack of the teaching staff in general, and insufficient financial support for the research.

The ET recommends to the Faculty, University and Government of Kosovo to establish regularly support of the scientific research. It will be crucial for the future development of the study programme to use and concentrate the teaching resources in order to acquire the necessary financial means to tie the academic staff in a sustainable manner. Faculty members who are receiving research funds have to be financially and institutionally awarded for their scientific achievements. They have to be able to take sabbaticals and to devote themselves to their research. The ET recommends that teaching staff should be rewarded for their publications with greater international visibility.

The ET recommends increasing support allocations for organising public events to stimulate public debates on sociological issues and to promote the study programme of BA in Sociology. For achieving greater publicity about departmental research activities, it is recommended that a separate faculty home page with research section, identifying priority research directions for each programme is created. Information about student opportunities for applying for independent research grants and funds from the external donors should be included into the same dedicated area.

The ET recommends to the Faculty of Philosophy as an important task to further improve the level of the foreign language knowledge by the students participating in the study programme Sociology. In this respect could be highly recommended to the Faculty of Philosophy to cooperate intensively with the Faculty of Philology to improve the foreign languages competence of students as well as of the teaching staff. It is recommended that every student should be obliged to attend at least one or two courses which are taught in foreign languages during a BA-programme. If every BA-thesis has to include a foreign language summary, such measures would help to improve the language skills.

Among the innovations of the Sociology BA study programme, the ET especially wants to praise the introduction of the subject Sociology of Sports. This should be an incentive for the Faculty of Philosophy to introduce certain forms of sports and recreational content in its studies, as the established practice at European and American universities.

Final finding

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The Bachelor of Science in Sociology study programme, offered by the University of Pristina, Faculty of Philosophy as such and the given infrastructure as verified on the online site visit as well as in the examination of the documents, is fully compliant with the standards included in the KAA Accreditation Manual.

Final recommendation

The expert team recommends to the KAA to accredit the Sociology BA study programme for a duration of 5 years with 100 students per year to be enrolled on the programme.

Expert Team

Chair

Prof Pavo Barišić, PhD

4 April 2022

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Date)