



University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina”

RE_ACCREDITATION

REPORT OF THE EXPERT TEAM

Engineering Design and Vehicles BSc

Innsbruck & Ljubljana, March 10, 2023

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Context

Date of site visit:

Expert Team (ET) members:

- DI Dr. Andreas Mehrle
- Matej Drobic (student expert)

Coordinators from Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA):

- Ilirjane Ademaj Ahmeti

Sources of information for the Report:

- Self-evaluation report “Engineering Design and Vehicles BSc”, February 2022
- KAA Accreditation Manual 2021
- Syllabi of relevant courses
- Staff CVs (Full time and part time)
- Annex regarding study program tabular data
- Strategic action plan 2023 - 2025

Requested documents:

- Corrected list of academic staff including how much teaching is done in the considered program.
- Protocol of study commission meeting if available
- Protocol of Industrial Board meeting
- KPIs for last 3 years
- Financial plan for next 3 years
- Diploma thesis in electronic form
- Internship report in electronic form
- Evaluation questionnaire for a course and administrative staff
- Quality manual

Criteria used for institutional and program evaluations

- Standards and performance indicators for external evaluations according to the KAA Accreditation manual 2021
- Compliance calculation

1.2. Site visit schedule

Time	Meeting	Participants
09:00 – 09:50	Meeting with the management of the faculty where the programme is integrated	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof. Dr. Ahmet Shala, Dean 2. Mrs. Fatmire Kuçi, FME Secretary 3. Prof. Dr. Ilir Doçi, Vice Dean for Teaching and Student Affairs
09:50 – 10:30	Meeting with quality assurance representatives and administrative staff	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof. Asoc. Dr. Afrim Gjelaj, Vice Dean for Quality Assurance Cooperation with Economy 2. Prof. Asoc. Dr. Xhevahir Bajrami, Vice Dean for Infrastructure and Finance. 3. Msc. Besnik Loxha, Director for Quality Assurance, UP. 4. Msc. Rinor Berisha & Msc. Rifat Krasniqi, Coordinator's for Quality Assurance 5. Msc. Liridon Bytyqi, IT Officer
10:30 – 11:30	Meeting with the heads of the study programme Traffic and Transport, BSc	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof. Ass. Dr. Ramadan Duraku 2. Prof. Ass. Dr. Arlinda Rrecaj 3. Prof. Ass. Dr. Gezim Hoxha
11:30 – 12:00	Lunch break (provided at the evaluation site)	
12:00 – 12:40	Visit to facilities and equipment	Accompanying the visit: Head's of Programmes and Vice Dean's.
12:40 – 13:40	Meeting with the heads of the study programme Engineering Design and Vehicles, BSc	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof. Dr. Naser Lajçi 2. Prof. Dr. Beqir Hamidi 3. Prof. Ass. Dr. Halil Demolli
13:40 – 14:30	Meeting with teaching staff	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof. Dr. Shaban Buza 2. Prof. Asoc. Dr. Ferat Shala 3. Prof. Asoc. Dr. Shpetim Lajqi 4. Prof. Ass. Dr. Shkelzen Shabani 5. Ass. Msc. Liridon Sejdiu 6. Prof. Ass. Dr. Riad Ramadani 7. Dr. Sc. Riad Morina, assistant 8. Ms. Donjeta Sogojeva, assistant part time)
14:30 – 15:20	Meeting with students	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Erita Beka 2. Edin Hadzija 3. Lejla Maliqi 4. Jetmir Tofaj 5. Trimor Rexhepi 6. Florijana Osmanaj 7. Arta Partolla 8. Rinor Krasniqi 9. Albin Musa
15:20 – 16:10	Meeting with graduates	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Festina Bajraktari 2. Vigan Baxhaku 3. Shaban Thaqi 4. Perparim Dragusha 5. Ermira Gashi 6. Dorajet Shabani

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		7. Habib Sahitoli
16:10 – 17:00	Meeting with employers of graduates and external stakeholders	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Avdulla Jasiqi, Metrology Agency of Kosovo 2. Mr. Besim Sahiti, Mercedes Kosovo 3. Mr. Fitim Bajrami, Eurometal 4. Mr. Elmi Konjusha, KEK, Centre for Training 5. Dr. sc. Besim Mustafa, MyMachine 6. Mr. Ismajl Bahtjari, INSI, Prishtine 7. Mr. Zeqir Fetoshi, Select Prima 8. Bujar Istogu, MINT/ASK, Prishtina
17:00 – 17:15	Internal meeting of KAA staff and experts	
17:15 – 17:25	Closing meeting with the management of the faculty and program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof. Dr. Ahmet Shala, Dean 2. Mrs. Fatmire Kuçi, FME Secretary 3. Prof. Dr. Ilir Doçi, Vice Dean for Teaching and Student Affairs 4. Prof. Asoc. Dr. Xhevahir Bajrami, Vice Dean for Infrastructure and Finance. 5. Prof. Asoc. Dr. Afrim Gjelaj, Vice Dean for Quality Assurance Cooperation with Economy

1.3. A brief overview of the institution under evaluation

The Bachelor program Engineering Design and Vehicles is part of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering of University of Prishtina “HASAN PRISHTINA” which is the largest public higher education institution in Kosovo. It meanwhile comprises 17 faculties with more than 30,000 students (almost 2% of Kosovo’s population).

The Faculty of Mechanical Engineering (formerly Faculty of Machinery) currently offers 5 undergraduate and 5 graduate studies in the fields of

- Traffic: Traffic and Transport (BSc), Road Traffic (MSc)
- Automotive: Engineering Design and Vehicles (BSc & MSc)
- Mechatronics: Mechatronics (BSc & MSc)
- Industrial Engineering: Production and Industrial Engineering with Management (BSc & MSc)
- Energy Engineering: Thermoenergetics and Renewable Energy (BSc & MSc)

The Engineering Design and Vehicles MSc program has been accredited but did not start yet due to lack of students. Notably, there is currently no PhD study program offered by the faculty.

Students intake in the Bachelor increased from 169 in 2021/22 to 204 in 2022/23 considering 4 of the 5 BSc programs. For Production and Industrial Engineering with Management (BSc) no data is available.

At faculty level mission and objectives are well balanced between academic excellences, (inter)national visibility and economic impact. Examples of objects are:

- Improving the quality of teaching
- Improvement of scientific research work
- Preparation of students for the labour market
- Cooperation with national, regional and international universities.

The program Engineering Design and Vehicles (BSc) was initially accredited 2010 under the name of Construction and Mechanization for three years and thereafter re-accredited three times for 3 years each. The last accreditation expired in 2022 but has been prolonged by Kosovo Accreditation Agency for another year supposedly due to limited accreditation capacities during the Corona pandemic.

2. PROGRAM EVALUATION

In the SER the mission of the study program Engineering Design and Vehicles is not given explicitly but in a rather descriptive way. As a reaction of the draft report, the panel was provided with:

“The mission of the study program Engineering Design and Vehicles - Bsc is to prepare students with competencies based on labor market demands and to enable them to continue their studies at other levels by implementing quality teaching methodologies and new technologies, interconnection of theory with practice, scientific research and activities.”

Therefore it is a further specification of the faculties mission (which in turn narrows down the university’s mission) reduced to the needs of the labour market. In this respect, it reminds a lot of the approach of a university of applied sciences. Students, graduates and employers confirm that this is not just a mere claim but reflected in the curricula, teaching style and lab endowment.

In interviews, relevant stakeholder attested their involvement in curriculum design and the consideration of proposed modifications. In addition, recommendations from previous evaluation reports like focus on English language, introduction of management skills and offering electives have been followed. Together with formal aspects such as effort calculation in ECTS or issuing of a diploma supplement the learning outcomes are consistent with the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area.

An overarching didactic and research concept in the sense of coordinated courses drawing a red line through the curriculum, identification of specific (in the sense of non-generic) learning goals or a multi-semester project, could not be identified. Instead, the separation between theoretical and practical content was mentioned in the SER as well as during the interview with the program responsables. However, the strong focus on implementation competence and involvement of students in research can be seen as first step in this direction.

Guidelines and regulations are comprehensive and published on the web page of University of Prishtina. As stated by quality officers, program responsables and students’ small issues are solved internally whereas substantial violations (albeit rare) are discussed by a study commission. Thesis are routinely checked with a plagiarism software but no provisions were taken yet against AI-assisted text production.

Rubrics for grading are not used but at the same time considered unnecessary due to close coordination between professors and clear distribution of responsibilities in courses where more than one teacher is involved. Students confirmed co-authorship on scientific papers

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generated from their theses. Although in the SER the revision of regulations is mentioned to be executed as part of the re-accreditation process (on average once in three years), in the interviews a yearly rhythm was claimed. There is evidence of at least one occasion when regulations for promotion were changed almost instantly after an issue was raised.

2.1. Mission, Objectives and Administration

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

Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

1. *It is recommended to explicitly and concisely state the program's mission.*
2. *It is recommended to introduce rubrics, which support and homogenize grading.*
3. *It is recommended to identify learning goals on program level from which an overarching didactical and research concept can be deduced.*

2.2. Quality Management

University of Prishtina in general and the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering in particular has developed an impressive amount of regulations, which is supervised by various academic bodies. Evaluations are performed regularly and for each course individually. Evaluation also includes administrative staff. As far as could be identified by the evaluators, all staff participates in the improvement process. It was e.g. stated that also the compilation of the SER for re-accreditation was a team effort.

That the results of the evaluations are routinely used for the normal planning process is claimed in the SER. However, no such indication could be found. Anecdotal evidence from the interviews rather supports a system of quick fixes on demand. Although this seems to serve the purpose, it does not qualify as systematic approach.

Professors are usually assigned to study programs but routinely teach also in others. Evaluations of courses consequently is collected and processed at the faculty level in the dean's office. As previously mentioned this concerns also the performance of administrative staff. However, publication of the latter could not be proven, nor is it claimed.

Quality evaluations indeed consider a variety of processes and outputs. Those are mainly numeric like repetition and attendance numbers. It is surprising that no further actions were considered given that passing rates seem to be below 50%. Learning goals seem to be verified only via the assessments in the courses themselves.

Employers and graduates confirm that feedback leads to continuous improvement of the program. To this end, an advisory board consisting of professionals from relevant industries was founded. Recently also an alumni association was established although this is little known among graduates. This is in line with the observation that recommendations of previous were followed to a large extend.

In order to calculate student workload, the ECTS system is used. In the syllabi, ECTS calculations are given and look sensible. Notable exceptions are the internship (2 ECTS) and the diploma thesis (3 ECTS) which according to the information of the program responsables occupy 1 and 2 month respectively and hence should be assigned approximately 7 ECTS and 14 ECTS respectively.

Since the program has never been re-accredited for more than three years, it is automatically ensured that a report on overall quality is prepared within this period. Re-assessment of the quality procedures is performed centrally by University of Prishtina.

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 (e.g. 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. *It is recommended to increase awareness of the alumni association.*
 2. *It is recommended to integrate evaluation and improvement processes into normal planning.*
- It is strongly recommended to assign adequate ECTS amounts to the internship and the thesis.*

2.3. Academic Staff

In the respective chapter of the SER the number of full-time affiliated academic staff is mentioned to be 20. To the understanding of the evaluation team, only three of them (denoted “Program carrier”) plus the head of the program (“Program leader”) are assigned exclusively (or at least principally) to the program. Their actual teaching load typically is more than the requirement of UP of 6 hours per semester and year. However, comparison with the curriculum table later in the SER reveals that some of them do a significant part of teaching also in other programs (Traffic and Transport). Although sharing of resources in principle is a good idea this erodes the position of “Program carrier”.

All of them (program responsables and the head of the department) are hired based on a permanent contract and hold the title of an associate full professor. Among the other 16 full-time faculty members there are full professors (permanent contract), associate professors (4 years contract) and assistants (4 years contract). Responsibilities of the academic staff seems to vary – in terms of both teaching load and administrative activities.

There are also 8 part time faculty members mentioned with a 1-year contract each. It is unclear whether they are classical part time employees or external lecturers. The scientific title and teaching load suggest the former. The curriculum indicates that 4 subjects are held by external lecturers teaching in the program. In the other direction at least partly UP staff has part time teaching contracts at other institutions.

Recruitment is done in the course of a rigorous process taking into account educational, scientific, research and community service aspects which was mentioned to be little flexible and often hindering for the build-up of faculty. This is all the more a problem, since the FME does not provide a PhD program (For “Engineering Design and Vehicles” a corresponding master program is accredited but has only started half a year ago). Once hired, staff receives didactic training supporting the preparation of courses from the Center for Teaching Excellence.

The staff is encouraged to publish scientific work but financial support is only provided for one publication per year. Conference visits are not covered and has to be paid by the staff from other sources. There are programs for staff mobility like ERUSMUS, Fulbright or similar but more such possibilities are requested.

As written previously course evaluations are done on a regular basis. It was mentioned in the interviews with the teaching staff that these serve as basis for a feedback discussion with the superior. It is explicitly stated in the SER that evaluation results are considered among other also for promotion.

Standard	Compliance	
	Yes	No
<i>Standard 3.1.</i> Candidates for employment are provided with full position descriptions and conditions of employment. To be presented in tabular form data about full time (FT) and part time (PT) academic/ artistic staff, such as: name, qualification, academic title, duration of official (valid) contract, workload for teaching, exams, consulting, administrative activities, research, etc. for the study program under evaluation.	x	
<i>Standard 3.2.</i> The teaching staff must comply with the legal requirements concerning the occupation of teaching positions included in the Administrative instruction on Accreditation.	x	
<i>Standard 3.3.</i> Academic staff do not cover, within an academic year, more than two teaching positions (one full-time, one part-time), regardless of the educational institution where they carry out their activity.	x	
<i>Standard 3.4.</i> At least 50% of the academic staff in the study program are full time employees, and account for at least 50% of the classes of the study program.	x	
<i>Standard 3.5.</i> For each student group (defined by the statute of the institution) and for every 60 ECTS credits in the study program, the institution has employed at least one full time staff with PhD title or equivalent title in the case of artistic/applied science institutions.	x	
<i>Standard 3.6.</i> Opportunities are provided for additional professional development of teaching staff, with special assistance given to any who are facing difficulties.	x	
<i>Standard 3.7.</i> The responsibilities of all teaching staff, especially full-time, include the engagement in the academic community, availability for consultations with students and community service.	x	
<i>Standard 3.8.</i> Academic staff evaluation is conducted regularly at least through self-evaluation, students, peer and superiors' evaluations, and occur on a formal basis at least once each year. The results of the evaluation are made publicly available.	x	
<i>Standard 3.9.</i> Strategies for quality enhancement include improving the teaching strategies and quality of learning materials.	x	
<i>Standard 3.10.</i> Teachers retired at age limit or for other reasons lose the status of full-time teachers and are considered part-time teachers.	x	

Compliance level: Fully compliant

ET recommendations:

1. *It is strongly recommended to offer a PhD program at FME.*
2. *It is strongly recommended that program carriers/responsibles also do the majority of their teaching in the respective program.*

2.4. Educational Process Content

The curriculum covers a broad range of qualifications required to work in the field of engineering and vehicle design as well as to continue study in this field on master level. As an undergraduate program it follows the qualification objectives well and has a well-designed upgrade of study subjects during the semesters. Professional internship and diploma thesis writing are carried out in the last semester of the third year. The definition of the learning outcomes at the program level corresponds to level 6 of the European Qualifications Framework in general.

During interviews, students and faculty representatives confirmed that after finishing this study programme, students have no problems getting a job in the field of engineering design and vehicles, both in the private and public sector. Although they got sufficient theoretical background for bachelor level study, they wish to get also more practical knowledge, to be even better prepared for the labour market. Representatives from the faculty also mentioned that they have some difficulties as some students get a job after completing bachelor study and therefore do not continue to study on master level. Some students work and study at the same time.

The horizontal and vertical distribution of courses is logically connected, appropriate and follows the progress of students' knowledge during all six semesters of bachelor study. Overall, the intended general learning outcomes at the program level are presented in five short paragraphs, which contain a sufficient number of comprehensible specificities. Specific programme learning outcomes are listed in 17 paragraphs.

In both the meetings with professors and students, the information received about the student-teacher relationship was congruent. Students appreciated the availability of teachers for consultation, they can contact them via e-mail, Viber and personally. Students also emphasized the readiness of teachers to give additional support when necessary. The communication of learning objectives at the beginning of semester for all courses was confirmed by students, too.

The syllabi do not contain all the expected elements - the discipline's objectives, the basic thematic content, learning outcomes, the distribution of classes, seminars and applicative activities, students' assessment system, teaching methodologies and the minimal bibliography. Assessment methods are missed for almost all subjects as well as detailed teaching plan for all weeks of the semester. For some subjects, basic study literature is outdated, especially in the fast-developing fields, where it does not represent recent developments. Furthermore, courses "English Language 1" and "English Language 2" syllabi are the same and the same applies to "German Language 1" and "German Language 2", where the second one is the exact copy of first one, including incorrect listing of the subject "German Language 1". All courses are taught

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in Albanian, however, for foreign students teaching language is English. They participate in the same classes as other students and follow the lecture with the help of other students that translate the content to English and have also consultations after the lectures.

Teaching strategies are clearly defined and thus suitable for undergraduate studies to meet the needs of different groups of students. They are mostly conducted in the form of lectures ex-cathedra, but many innovative approaches are also included such as seminar works, field visits, case studies etc. During pandemic most of lectures were held online, but at least exercises were held on-site in smaller groups observing all regulations, but after pandemic they went back to on-site study process as online teaching is not so effective and in this field of study a hands-on experience is necessary.

Student assessment mechanisms are mostly not defined in syllabi. However, average passing rate at exams is under 42 %, but during interviews students confirmed that in most of cases this is fault of students as some subjects requires more time of study. The reason is also poor basis of knowledge from secondary schools and expectations of students that study will be easier. However, in general they didn't complain about assessment mechanisms.

Provisions for fair verification of student achievement were presented in a comprehensible way and its implementation was confirmed in the meeting with students and graduates. Also, the workload can be regarded as feasible from the students' perspective, but they are not familiar with the meaning of ECTS system. We recommend the faculty to make students more aware of the ECTS credit points meaning and the expected workload for each course, as this is the only way they will be able to provide realistic feedback about the actual workload.

For objections of students against inadequate or inconsistent assessment, they do not have official procedure, but all complains in past years were solved promptly and successfully in informal way. Nevertheless, for the further development of the program, it would be necessary to regulate this with suitable rules and procedures.

Study programme includes mandatory professional internship which is provided by various institutions und companies. Students confirmed, that it is not hard to get an internship placement and, although faculty can help in case student cannot find internship on his/her own, this is not a common case. During the practical training students have mentors from faculty – those mentors are normally also later supervisors for bachelor thesis as the nature of professional practice is normally closely related to the Diploma Thesis. Student's internship is facilitated by the University Office for professional practice and is credited with 2 ECTS credits. However, the duration of the study practice and number of ECTS credits do not match. Faculty has signed cooperation agreements with various institutions und companies, but, in case students want to do professional internship at some different companies, is opened also for their choices and signs new agreements.

Standard	Compliance	
	Yes	No
<i>Standard 4.1.</i> The study program is modelled on qualification objectives. These include subject-related and interdisciplinary aspects as well as the acquisition of disciplinary, methodological and generic skills and competencies. The aspects refer especially to academic or artistic competencies, to the capability of taking up adequate employment, contributing to the civil society and of developing the students' personality.	x	
<i>Standard 4.2.</i> The study program complies with the National Qualifications Framework and the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area. The individual components of the program are combined in a way to best achieve the specified qualification objectives and provide for adequate forms of teaching and learning.	x	
<i>Standard 4.3.</i> The disciplines within the curriculum are provided in a logical flow and meet the definition and precise determination of the general and specific competencies, as well as the compatibility with the study programs and curricula delivered in the EHEA. To be listed at least 7 learning outcomes for the study program under evaluation.	x	
<i>Standard 4.4.</i> The disciplines within the curriculum have analytical syllabuses which comprise at least the following: the discipline's objectives, the basic thematic content, learning outcomes, the distribution of classes, seminars and applicative activities, students' assessment system, the minimal bibliography, etc. The full course description/ syllabuses of each subject/ module should be attached only in electronic form to the self-assessment report for the study program under evaluation.		x
<i>Standard 4.5.</i> If the language of instruction is other than Albanian, actions are taken to ensure that language skills of both students and academic staff are adequate for instruction in that language when students begin their studies. This may be done through language training prior to the commencement of the program.	x	
<i>Standard 4.6.</i> The student-teacher relationship is a partnership in which each assumes the responsibility of reaching the learning outcomes. Learning outcomes are explained and discussed with students from the perspective of their relevance to the students' development.	x	
<i>Standard 4.7.</i> Teaching strategies are fit for the different types of learning outcomes programs are intended to develop. Strategies of teaching and assessment set out in program and course specifications are followed with flexibility to meet the needs of different groups of students.	x	
<i>Standard 4.8.</i> Student assessment mechanisms are conducted fairly and objectively, are appropriate for the different forms of learning sought and are clearly communicated to students at the beginning of courses.		x
<i>Standard 4.9.</i> Appropriate, valid and reliable mechanisms are used for verifying standards of student achievement. The standard of work required for different grades is consistent over time, comparable in courses offered	x	

within a program, and in comparison with other study programs at highly regarded institutions.		
<i>Standard 4.10.</i> Policies and procedures include actions to be taken in to dealing with situations where standards of student achievement are inadequate or KAA inconsistently assessed.	x	
<i>Standard 4.11.</i> If the study program includes practice stages, the intended student learning outcomes are clearly specified and effective processes are followed to ensure that those learning outcomes and the strategies to develop that learning are understood by students. The practice stages are allocated ETCS credits and the work of the students at the practical training organisations is monitored through activity reports; students during practice stages have assigned tutors among the academic staff in the study program.		x
<i>Standard 4.12.</i> In order to facilitate the practice stages, the higher education institution signs cooperation agreements, contracts or other documents with institutions/organisations/practical training units. <i>*To be inserted the overview of the program (with all areas to be filled out)</i>	x	

Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

1. *Complete the syllabi with all required information: 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.*
2. *Update the basic study literature for all courses, especially for those with fast-developing content.*
3. *Check and correct the content of syllabi for "English Language 1", "English Language 2" "German Language 1" and "German Language 2" that there will be visible vertical upgrade of the course.*
4. *Make students more aware of the ECTS credit points meaning and the expected workload for each course, as this is the only way they will be able to provide realistic feedback about the actual workload.*
5. *Recheck and correct the number of ECTS credits for professional internship that will match the actual duration (student's workload).*

2.5. Students

The admission of new students is done according to the rules of the UP Statute and the public competition announced in the daily press and online on the website of the University of Pristina. The basic criteria for registering students in the Bachelor program are clearly regulated in the Regulations for Bachelor studies and are published on university webpage and thus well-known to students. All applicants must take the entrance exam covering general and professional topics (e.g. Maths).

Documentation requirements are regulated according to the Regulations of Bachelor Studies and the Competition announced by UP. Students must possess valid high school graduation diplomas or other equivalent study documents in accordance with the requirements according to MEST. All requirements are published on university webpage and thus well-known to students.

Within new re-accreditation Engineering Design and Vehicles - Bachelor program, are planned 80 students to be enrolled. The students are divided into study groups depending on the type of activity. Subgroups can consist of up to 15 students for laboratory exercises and up to 30 students for theoretical exercises and ensure an effective and interactive teaching and learning process.

Students are evaluated for their performance as well as being notified of the evaluation results in a continuous and completely transparent manner. During the interviews, students had no complaints about it.

The university has established an Electronic Management System for Students (SEMS). A corresponding documentation about the SEMS system is available and can be viewed by everyone. Here, the individual achievements of the students are recorded, as well as their presence in the courses. A corresponding system based on RFID ID cards is used, in which students log in when entering the room; the same applies to the teachers. This enables automatic recording of students present in the lesson as well as generates an electronic attendance report that replaces the hard copy student lists used so far. The student has no right to be absent more than three times; otherwise he/she loses the right to enter the exam for that course. The results obtained by students are stored also physically to be protected and archived as well as available for the needs of the student, professor, administration, and management of the University.

The following methods are used to determine academic achievement: Exam; Tests; Seminar work; Professional practice; Practical test during exercises; Homework; Attendance; Interactivity; or interpretation and presentation of other works. Each of these represents a part of assessment, and the result of each contributes to the final grade. Also, one academic year has three regular exams periods with possible additional examine terms. Students have the right

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to enter the same exam three times. If the exam is not passed after the third time, the evaluation is done by commission. In special cases students have the possibility of increased duration of studies as well as exam deadlines which is in accordance with the University statute. All of these special cases are addressed to Faculty's Studies Council.

Student grades or other assessment, are systematized as a whole for all subjects in SEMS in the overview of grades, which serves as an indicator of quality but also as a general assessment for students in particular. Professors are aware of the completion rates and are also familiar with reasons for such percentage.

There is adequate systematic check for plagiarism in submitted works or final papers through "plagiarism check" platform. Appropriate measures have also been taken to ensure the integrity, quality, and ethical aspects of research work, which is taken care of by ethical and disciplinary commissions at the Faculty level, where any possible violation is reported and dealt with in accordance with the applicable regulations at the UP level.

As provided by the UP Statute, students are informed in time and widely about their rights and obligations, as well as about the possibilities of the relevant bodies in case they are not treated fairly and equally. During the interviews students have no complaints about it. All appeals were successfully solved informally in the past. Students have their own organization – the Student Parliament, which is represented in the University and FME Bodies and represents the students' interests. In faculty Senate there are 7 students, representing the student voice. Students are active also in quality committee and some other committees and are recognized as active representatives.

All rights and obligations of students are publicly available. The transfer of students is regulated according to the normal legal provisions and other statutory provisions of the University. There is a special regulation for the transfer of ECTS credits. During the discussions, the students also confirmed their familiarity with these possibilities. After the impressions the experts can confirm that, the students' transfer between higher education institutions, faculties and study programs is clearly regulated in formal internal documents.

According to the available documents and after the discussions at the university, the evaluators can also state that the lecturers are accessible to the students and can be approached for problems. Students can contact them personally or via e-mail and Viber. They are also available for additional consultations, which the students praised.

Standard	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 organising students' recruitment. Admission requirements are consistently and fairly applied for all students.	x	
<i>Standard 5.2.</i> All students enrolled in the study program possess a high school graduation diploma or other equivalent document of study, according to MEST requirements.	x	
<i>Standard 5.3.</i> The study groups are dimensioned so as to ensure an effective and interactive teaching and learning process.	x	
<i>Standard 5.4.</i> Feedback to students on their performance and results of assessments is given promptly and accompanied by mechanisms for assistance if needed.	x	
<i>Standard 5.5.</i> The results obtained by the students throughout the study cycles are certified by the academic record.	x	
<i>Standard 5.6.</i> Flexible treatment of students in special situations is ensured with respect to deadlines and formal requirements in the program and to all examinations.	x	
<i>Standard 5.7.</i> Records of student completion rates are kept for all courses and for the program as a whole and included among quality indicators.	x	
<i>Standard 5.8.</i> Effective procedures are being used to ensure that work submitted by students is original.	x	
<i>Standard 5.9.</i> Students' rights and obligations are made publicly available, promoted to all those concerned and enforced equitably; these will include the right to academic appeals.	x	
<i>Standard 5.10.</i> The students' transfer between higher education institutions, faculties and study programs is clearly regulated in formal internal documents.	x	
<i>Standard 5.11.</i> Academic staff is available at sufficient scheduled times for consultation and advice to students. Adequate tutorial assistance is provided to ensure understanding and ability to apply learning.	x	

Compliance level: Fully compliant

ET recommendations:

1. *Accurately define the criteria for each course in the syllabus (including the required percentages for each grade) as for some courses this is missing.*
2. *Monitor the causes of a relatively low completion rate and look for effective ways to raise it.*

2.6. Research

The study program Engineering Design and Vehicles is a bachelor study programme where students gain basic knowledge. Within the FME, research is done in the existing laboratories of FME as well as in cooperation with the economy. Research staff performs research in two FME laboratories - Vehicle Laboratory and Measurement Laboratories. Within these laboratories, laboratories from other study programmes and partners from industry the research objectives are achievable. Furthermore, the study program has well defined scientific/applied research objectives.

The performance of FME staff in research and research projects is an integral part of their habilitation procedures, which includes participation in research projects, works published in scientific journals, and participation in International Conferences. The criteria for staff evaluation and promotion are set out in the Regulation on Selection Procedures for Appointment, Not Appointment and Advancement of Academic Personnel at the University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina" (2019). On FME webpage research subsection all researchers are presented with links to their profiles as well as all domestic and international institutions they cooperate with. The discussion with academic Faculty members during the site visit showed that academic staff is informed about the criteria for evaluating and promoting staff and considers them achievable. Faculty also gives them financial support to attend conferences and/or publish papers in scientific journals, but funds are highly limited as well as funds for the research.

The staff of the Engineering Design and Vehicles educational program conducts research mainly in the FME laboratories. During the period 2017-2022, about 35 scientific works from the field of Engineering Design and Vehicles have been published in indexed and peer-reviewed journals and international conferences.

The SER didn't provide information for the 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. However, policies are regulated in the level of the University of Prishtina.

Each Teaching Staff collects and save their research data and submits it for publication, usually in International Indexed Journals. The works published in indexed peer-reviewed international journals are at least from the wider field of their teaching activity and the teaching subjects they hold.

During the period 2017-2022, the academic staff of FME participated in about 20 International Scientific Conferences in the field of Engineering Design and Vehicles held in different countries around Europe.

Within the framework of FME, research is carried out in the 13 existing laboratories as well as in cooperation with industry. Research results are published in international scientific journals and at conferences, but no technological transfer through consultancy centres, scientific parks and other structures for validation was detected in SER and during the site visit.

During the period 2017-2022, most have produced at least an average of one scientific/applied research publication or artistic outcome/product per year for the past three years. However, in the Scopus database and from staff CVs after reviewing all researchers, we found that some researchers do not meet this condition - some have been completely inactive in the research field for some time, while others do not meet the required average number of papers.

The entire academic staff of FME has published under the name of the institution of the University of Pristina "HASAN PRISHTINA" (Faculty of Mechanical Engineering).

During interviews students confirmed that majority of academic staff include up-to date content, relevant for their field, however, in some cases they also have to study old literature, which is already out of date. Therefore, we suggest that faculty finds the way to encourage all academic staff to follow the research and development in their field also through updating the content of the course.

Standard	Compliance	
	Yes	No
<i>Standard 6.1.</i> The study program has defined scientific/applied research objectives (on its own or as part of a research centre or interdisciplinary program), which are also reflected in the research development plan of the institution; sufficient financial, logistic and human resources are allocated for achieving the proposed research objectives.	x	
<i>Standard 6.2.</i> Expectations for teaching staff involvement in research and scholarly activities are clearly specified, and performance in relation to these expectations is considered in staff evaluation and promotion criteria.	x	
<i>Standard 6.3.</i> Clear policies are established for defining what is recognized as research, consistent with international standards and established norms in the field of study of the program.		x
<i>Standard 6.4.</i> The academic staff has a proven track record of research results on the same topics as their teaching activity.	x	
<i>Standard 6.5.</i> The academic and research staff publish their work in speciality magazines or publishing houses, scientific/applied/artistic products are presented at conferences, sessions, symposiums, seminars etc. and contracts, expertise, consultancy, conventions, etc. are provided to partners inside the country and/or abroad.	x	

<i>Standard 6.6.</i> Research is validated through: scientific and applied research publications, artistic products, technological transfer through consultancy centres, scientific parks and other structures for validation.		x
<i>Standard 6.7.</i> Each academic staff member and researcher has produced at least an average of one scientific/applied research publication or artistic outcome/product per year for the past three years.		x
<i>Standard 6.8.</i> Academic and research staff publish under the name of the institution in Kosovo they are affiliated to as full time staff.	x	
<i>Standard 6.9</i> Academic staff are encouraged to include in their teaching information about their research and scholarly activities that are relevant to courses they teach, together with other significant research developments in the field.		x
<i>Standard 6.10.</i> Policies are established for ownership of intellectual property and clear procedures set out for commercialization of ideas developed by staff and students.		x
<i>Standard 6.11.</i> Students are engaged in research projects and other activities.	x	

Compliance level: Partially compliant

ET recommendations:

1. *Provide clear policies for defining what is recognized as research, consistent with international standards and established norms in the field of study of the program.*
2. *Establish clear policies for intellectual property rights and clear procedures set out for commercialization of ideas have to be developed by staff and students.*
3. *Encourage the academic staff to achieve at least required number of scientific/applied research publication or artistic outcome/product per year in three years.*
4. *We suggest that faculty finds the way to encourage all academic staff to follow the research and development in their field also through updating the content of the course.*

2.7. Infrastructure and Resources

The facilities of UP have improved significantly since the last visit of the evaluators in 2017. Both, in terms of new buildings as well as in improvement of the old ones. Currently the buildings FME comprise 2 amphitheatres with 250 m² each, 12 classrooms with averagely 50 m², 11 labs with averagely 50 m² and a library of 180 m². Although 14 rooms for lectures could be considered little for 10 programs with a total of 25 annual groups, students confirmed that this currently is not an issue. That might become a problem with the ramp up of new programs.

Staff is located in a total of 28 cabinets. It was mentioned during the visit that the Mechatronics program will move into a still to be erected building opening further space for the other programs. All buildings are in the possession of UP and therefore available long-term. The newer buildings as well as the main building possess ramps for students with limited mobility and elevators but this is not yet standard.

The lecture rooms as well as the labs are persistently equipped with video beamers presentation/instrumentation computers. Other outfit is older but adequate. Lab equipment is either very old or very recent. Especially the training boards with installations of car subsystems and cutaway models of engines are very impressive. This shows the efforts that have been made during the last 5 years to modernize instrumentation and tools. In addition, licenses for the most common engineering codes like MATLAB, LabVIEW, ANSYS and COMSOL are available via student licenses.

A financial plan for the coming three years was not provided in the SER but only a gross sum of 400.000 € for the entire FME is mentioned. It is unclear whether this includes salaries of staff or is available for investments. In the strategic action plan 2023 - 2025 various investments are mentioned like

Modernization of labs (40.000 €)

Development of campus infrastructure (20.000 €)

Improvement of the existing infrastructure with respect of persons with special needs (60.000 €)

and similar. However, to call this a financial plan would be exaggerated.

Upon request a financial plan for the years 2021 until 2025 was presented which budgets yearly infrastructure investments of approximately 1,000,000 € mainly in the re-equipment of existing and installation of new laboratories. The panel assumes that this is the more recent and relevant document.

The library has seats for 180 students which is far more than 10% of FME's students. A provided table lists more than 400 books with most of them being in Albanian language, although also titles in English (mainly IT), German and French are available.

Standard	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 utilisation 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 recognised 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;	x	

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

3. *It is recommended to share labs even stronger between study programs in order to benefit from recent investments*
4. *It is recommended to develop a more detailed investment plan for the next accreditation period.*
5. *It is recommended to continue renovate the premises.*

3. FINAL RECOMMENDATION OF THE ET

First of all the panel members would like to mention how much they are impressed by the hospitality, dedication and responsiveness of the team of the Engineering Design and Vehicles BSc program. This is reflected in the high standard of the SER, quality of the responses during the visit and the amount of additional data provided upon request.

After careful study of the documentation, a full day of interviews and internal coordination, the panel unanimously came to following assessment of the standards under consideration

Standard	Compliance
Mission, objectives and administration	Substantially compliant
Quality management	Substantially compliant
Academic staff	Fully compliant
Educational process content	Substantially compliant
Students	Fully compliant
Research	Partially compliant
Infrastructure and resources	Substantially compliant
Overall compliance	Substantially compliant

Additional to the recommendations written directly at the end of the respective standards, the panel would like to add following comments:

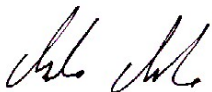
1. Although the overall quality of the SER is high, its parts achievements are claimed but not documented. If the evidence is already included in the SER the amount of additionally requested information together with the corresponding stress for the faculty could be reduced significantly.

2. The KPIs of the program do not only serve the SER but can provide insightful and important information for the management. Hence, it should be by default compiled on a periodic basis. Therefore it is surprising that it is not included in the original SER but has to be requested explicitly.
3. The program homepage is little informative except for the offered study programs themselves. Information on scientific publications, research expertise, news or activities would potentially increase the attractiveness for the broader public in general and students and academic partners in particular.
4. The members of the expert group were positively surprised by the faculty's as well as the student's proficiency of English. It is a pity that this is not reflected in an offer of engineering content lectures in this language which has the potential to boost international exchange.
5. It was observed that UP has introduced a digital learning platform (SEMS). This path should be continued and enriched by further elements of a virtual learning experience for students.


In conclusion, the expert team considers the program Engineering Design and Vehicles BSc to be **substantially compliant** according to the standards of Kosovo Accreditation Agency for the accreditation of study programs. It is recommended to leave the quota of enrolment at **80** students per year. Due to the significant efforts made so far and the necessity for effects of further changes to manifest themselves, we recommend a re-accreditation period of **five years**.

Expert Team

Member

	Dr. Andreas Mehrle	12.3.2023
(Signature)	(Print Name)	(Date)

Member

	Matej Drobníč	10.3.2023
(Signature)	(Print Name)	(Date)