



Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova - Republic of Kosovo



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

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

Plant Protection - Phytomedicine/ MSc.

Reaccreditation

REPORT OF THE EXPERT TEAM

April 03; 2024, Prishtina



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Context

Programme Accreditation Procedure at UP Faculty of Agriculture	
Programmes:	Plant Production, BSc, 180 ECTS (Re-accreditation) Plant Protection - Fitomedicine, MSc, 120 ECTS (Re-accreditation) Pomology and Viticulture, MSc, 120 ECTS (Re-accreditation) Urban Agriculture, MSc, 120 ECTS (Re-accreditation)
Site visit on:	03 April 2024
Expert Team:	Dr. Hans Peter Kaul Dr. Reiner Doluschitz Nadia Manzoni, Student Expert
Coordinators of the KAA:	Iirjana Ademaj Ahmeti, KAA Lenda Hyesani, KAA

Sources of information for the Report:

- *Self-Evaluation Report of the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary (FAV)*
- *On-site evaluation meeting 03.04.2024*

Criteria used for program evaluation:

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

Criteria used for program evaluation:

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



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

Abbreviations

EHEA	European Higher Education Area
ET	Expert team
FAV	Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary
HEI	Higher Education Institution
KAA	Kosovo Accreditation Agency
KAA18	KAA Accreditation Manual – 2021
OFQA	Office for Quality Assurance
SER	Self-evaluation report
SWOT	Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
UP	University of Prishtina

1.2 Online evaluation meetings schedule

Time	Meeting	Participants
09:00 – 09:40	Meeting with the management of the faculty where the programme is integrated	
09.40 – 10.10	Meeting with quality assurance representatives and administrative staff	
10:15 – 11:15	Meeting with the heads of the study programme Plant Production, BSc, 180 ECTS (room 1) Dr. Hans Peter Kaul Nadia Manzoni	Sali Aliu Gëzim Hodolli Imer Haziri



10:15 – 11:15	Meeting with the heads of the study programme Plant Protection - Fitomedicine, MSc, 120 ECTS (room 2) Dr. Reiner Doluschitz	Arben Mehmeti Fadil Musa
11:20 – 12:20	Meeting with the heads of the study programme Pomology and Viticulture, MSc, 120 ECTS (room 1) Dr. Hans Peter Kaul	Vahid Avdiu Bedri Dragusha
11:20 – 12:20	Meeting with the heads of the study programme Urban Agriculture, MSc, 120 ECTS (room 2) Dr. Reiner Doluschitz Nadia Manzoni, Student Expert	Mentor Thaqi Muhamet Zogaj
12:20 – 13:20	Lunch break	
13:20 – 14:20	Visiting Facilities	
14:20 – 15:05	Meeting with teaching staff	
15:05 – 15:50	Meeting with students	
15:55 – 16:55	Meeting with graduates and external stakeholders	
16:55 – 17:00	Internal meeting of KAA staff and experts	
17:00 – 17:05	Closing meeting with the management of the faculty and program	

1.3 A brief overview of the institution and program under evaluation

The Faculty of Agriculture was founded on August 26, 1973. The aim of this foundation has been the faster development of the agricultural sector in Kosovo by graduating well educated people with superior qualifications in agriculture. By decision of the Senate of University in Prishtina in 1996, the veterinary section was established with the aim of educating professionals in veterinary medicine that would serve animal health, food industry, food security and food safety in general. In 2001, the Senate of the University of Prishtina approved curricula based on the Bologna Declaration for Bachelor Degree. In 2006 the Faculty Council and its academic



staff proposed expanding the Faculty of Agriculture to the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary (FAV). The proposal became approved by the Senate of the University of Prishtina (UP) and subsequently the Minister of Education, Science and Technology issued an amending Decision no. 883/01-B, on December 2006. The building of Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary is located in the suburb area of Prishtina, Fushë-Kosovo road, close to the high school for Agriculture and Economics. Classes are currently being temporarily relocated to the building of a secondary school, as the former building is being converted for other purposes and the new building is not yet ready for occupancy. In 2023 a total of 2239 students (BSc and MSc) graduated according to the report of the Student Services of FAV. Fifty docents and teaching assistants are employed on full time basis, supported by 38 additional academic staff members from other faculties within University of Prishtina and other public universities of Kosovo. The student numbers of the programs under evaluation are marked in bold in the following Tables.

Number of active students at the Bachelor's level in all programs of FAV

No.	Study Program	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
1	Business Management in Zootechny (Bsc)	41	20	8
2	Animal Production (Bsc)	0	5	6
3	Plant Production (Bsc)	324	200	179
4	Agriculture Economy (Bsc)	379	266	209
5	Food Technology with Biotechnologji (Bsc)	394	366	325
6	Veterinary medicine	205	187	147
	Total	1340	1044	874



Number of active students at the Master's level in all programs of FAV

No.	Study Program	2020/2021	2021/2022	2022/2023
1	Applied Animal Science (Msc)	40	42	37
2	Food Science (Msc)	77	100	82
3	Field Crop and Vegetables (Msc)	40	0	0
4	Plant Science (Msc)	0	0	24
5	Orchards – Vinikulture(Msc)	47	36	31
6	Plant Protection – Phytomedicine (Msc)	37	41	38
7	Agriculture and Food Economy (Msc)	69	50	61
8	Urban Agriculture (Msc)	0	15	24
	Total	310	284	297

The program under evaluation for reaccreditation is a 2-year MSc. study program with 120 ECTS. The number of students on FAV degree programs is generally declining. One important reason for this is the demographic development in Kosovo and the decreasing interest of the young generation in agriculture.

2. PROGRAM EVALUATION

2.1. Mission, objectives and administration

1 Mission, objectives and administration	CL
<i>Standard 1.1. The study program mission is in compliance with the overall mission statement of the institution.</i> The mission of the study program is in line with the missions of FAV and UP as stated in the SER.	A
<i>Standard 1.2. Relevant academic and professional advice is considered when defining the intended learning outcomes which are consistent with the National Qualifications Framework and the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area.</i>	A



<p>The SER claims that this study program is based on the National Qualifications Framework, according to which this study program belongs to its 7th level, which includes the preparation of students for such study levels, specializing in the field of Agriculture. In addition, this field of study is also in line with Erasmus Subject Area Codes (ESAC) points; 01.1.</p>	
<p><i>Standard 1.3. The study program has a well-defined overarching didactic and research concept.</i></p> <p>The SER claims that the program has a clearly defined didactic and research-related concept, but the SER fails to make this overarching concept explicit.</p>	C
<p><i>Standard 1.4. There are formal policies, guidelines and regulations dealing with recurring procedural or academic issues. These are made publicly available to all staff and students.</i></p> <p>Formal policies, guidelines and regulations are established and referenced in the SER. They are made available by the UP-website.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 1.5. All staff and students comply with the internal regulations relating to ethical conduct in research, teaching, assessment in all academic and administrative activities.</i></p> <p>University statutes and a Code of Ethics are in place and referenced in the SER. The ET trusts that staff and students are acting accordingly.</p> <p>The SER indicates that "...Internal regulations and other acts that regulate relationships between staff and between student and staff as well as research ethics are accessible to everyone on the faculty and university web site (Source: https://www.uni-pr.edu/page.aspx?id=1,58&s=Rregullore)."</p> <p>It can be assumed that staff and students are acting accordingly.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 1.6. All policies, regulations, terms of reference and statements of responsibility relating to the management and delivery of the program are reviewed at least once every two years and amended as required in the light of changing circumstances.</i></p> <p>It is claimed in the SER that reviews of policies and regulations are monitored on a regular basis. However, there is no fixed schedule for a regular review.</p>	B



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Overall	B

Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

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



2.2. Quality management

2 Quality management	CL
<p><i>Standard 2.1. All staff participate in self-evaluations and cooperate with reporting and improvement processes in their sphere of activity.</i></p> <p>The SER states and discussions during the site visit confirmed that in each semester each of the academic staff members reports to the department on the progress of the implementation of the syllabus. The Department of Plant protection holds regular meetings at certain times each semester. When the need arises, topics related to the academic work of the department will be discussed.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 2.2. Evaluation processes and planning for improvement are integrated into normal planning processes.</i></p> <p>The FAV has established an Office for Quality Assurance (OFQA) for structured improvement procedures in line with the legal framework such as the Law on Higher Education, the Administrative Instruction on the Accreditation of Higher Education Institutions in Kosovo and the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG). There is an assessment procedure on course level based on electronic questionnaires that students are required to complete as a prerequisite for taking the exam. Teaching staff has access to the results, gives feedback to the students and improves the courses accordingly. The dean intervenes in problem cases. A further element of the evaluation process is the self-evaluation of teaching staff members as mentioned in Standard 2.1.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 2.3. Quality assurance processes deal with all aspects of program planning and delivery, including services and resources provided by other parts of the institution.</i></p> <p>Yes. It is indicated in the SER that "...The Department of Plant protection constantly supporting education quality development through program planning and through ac-</p>	B



<p>cessing support services from other units within the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary in coordination with the academic unit within which it operates and hierarchy up to the highest management of the University of Prishtina.”</p> <p>The on-site evaluation meetings gave the impression that the internal quality assurance system is functional, with clear responsibilities divided at all institution’s levels. The OFQA is involved in all steps of the design of study programs.</p>	
<p><i>Standard 2.4. Quality evaluations provide an overview of quality issues for the overall program as well as of different components within it; the evaluations consider inputs, processes and outputs, with particular attention given to learning outcomes for students.</i></p> <p>The SER states that the Plant protection department has continuously conducted internal research on the lessons quality achieved with master students. The output of quality evaluations is constantly integrated.</p> <p>No specific information is provided how learning outcomes of students or their workload (ECTS) is given attention.</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 2.5. Quality assurance processes ensure both that required standards are met and that there is continuing improvement in performance.</i></p> <p>The Plant protection department in each reaccreditation has achieved its objectives and has respected the suggestions of international quality assurance experts (Chapter 3 in the SER). The study program Plant protection-Phytomedicine is designed to provide students with the latest scientific and technical knowledge in this field, in an interdisciplinary and comprehensive manner. However, there are no indications whether and how continuous improvement in performance is guaranteed and measured.</p> <p>The ET trusts that the OFQA is adequate to ensure that standards are met and an improvement in performance is stimulated.</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 2.6. Survey data is being collected from students, graduates and employers; the results of these evaluations are made publicly available.</i></p> <p>Survey data from students and teaching staff members are systematically collected by questionnaires (s. Standard 2.1, 2.2). Feedback of employers is collected in meetings</p>	B



with the Advisory Board. However, results are neither publicly available nor presented to the ET.	
<p><i>Standard 2.7. Results of the internal quality assurance system are taken into account for further development of the study program. This includes evaluation results, investigation of the student workload, academic success and employment of graduates.</i></p> <p>The SER states that FAV provides on an annual basis an internal self-evaluation report through the collection of information from the departments in relation to quality in teaching, learning, student engagement in practical teaching, seminar work, extra-curricular learning, and participation in mobility.</p> <p>The discussions with graduates and employers during the on-site visit indicated that the study programs are well matched to the labour market. Further information on the employment rate should be provided.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 2.8. 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.</i></p> <p>Annual self-evaluation reports are prepared by FAV (s. Standard 2.7). SWOT analysis is included in the SERs.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 2.9. The quality assurance arrangements for the program are themselves regularly evaluated and improved.</i></p> <p>The quality assurance processes are regularly evaluated by the KAA and updated according to KAA requirements. The ET trusts that the OFQA is monitored by the UP management.</p>	A
Overall	B

Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:



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- 1. Additional quality parameters of the study program such as number of applications, enrolment, completion rate, duration of the study and grade overview should be included into the QA mechanism and also provided in the SER.*
- 2. Aggregated results of the course evaluations should be provided to the teaching staff, the FAV management and included in the SER.*
- 3. Office for Quality Assurance should be better staffed on UP and FAV level.*



2.3. Academic staff

General remark concerning Standard 3.10 and the meeting with the heads of the study programme:

The SER does not contain any information about rules concerning retired teachers. During the on-site-discussion with the responsible persons for the respective study program it also could not be clarified sufficiently due to the fact that the two representatives became continuously and heavily engaged into personal conflicts and a serious communication had not been possible any more. The ET finally had to terminate the meeting earlier than it had been scheduled.

Academic staff	CL
<p><i>Standard 3.1. Candidates for employment are provided with full position descriptions and conditions of employment. To be presented in tabular form data about full time (FT) and part time (PT) academic/ artistic staff, such as: name, qualification, academic title, duration of official (valid) contract, workload for teaching, exams, consulting, administrative activities, research, etc. for the study program under evaluation.</i></p> <p>It is indicated in the SER and confirmed during the on-site-visit stakeholder-meeting that the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary (FAV) currently has 50 permanent staff, of which 16 serve as full professors, 17 as associate professors, 14 as assistant professors and 2 as teaching assistants. To implement all study programs offered by FAV, 38 additional academic staff is engaged as part-time staff. About 10 professors and teaching assistants have been assigned to implement the proposed study program in Plant protection</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 3.2. The teaching staff must comply with the legal requirements concerning the occupation of teaching.</i></p> <p>The SER states that “...all academic staff from the Department of Plant protection possesses proper documentation as required by applicable regulations approved by the Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA). All the academic staff of the Msc level studies has completed the online forms of the Accreditation Agency (e-accreditation).”</p> <p>However, the ET does not see itself in a position to check this standard and does not regard this as its task either. All academic staff from the Department of Plant Protection</p>	A



<p>possesses proper documentation as required by applicable regulations approved by the Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA).</p>																																					
<p><i>Standard 3.3. Academic staff do not cover, within an academic year, more than two teaching positions (one full-time, one part-time), regardless of the educational institution where they carry out their activity.</i></p> <p>The SER states that “...all academic staff has primary job lecturing at the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary. This can be verified in online staff form at KAA (Kosovo Accreditation Agency).”</p>	A																																				
<p><i>Standard 3.4. At least 50% of the academic staff in the study program are full time employees, and account for at least 50% of the classes of the study program.</i></p> <p>At the Department of Plant protection there are currently five doctors of science (Dr. sc.), two of them with permanent positions which means that Standard 3.4 is about met.</p> <p>The following listing has been shared with the ET as a feedback and reaction: Please find below the names of five responsible staff members of Department of Plant protection.</p>	B																																				
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>No.</th> <th>Name and Surname</th> <th>Scientific degree</th> <th>Akademic title</th> <th>Contract duration</th> <th>Field of work and Research</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1</td> <td>Arben Mehmeti</td> <td>Dr. sc.</td> <td>Prof. Dr.</td> <td>Permanent</td> <td>Plant protection, Food Technology</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>Fadil Musa</td> <td>Dr. sc.</td> <td>Prof. Asoc.</td> <td>Temporary</td> <td>Plant Protection</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td> <td>Sali Aliu</td> <td>Dr. sc.</td> <td>Prof. Dr.</td> <td>Permanent</td> <td>Crop production, Food Technology</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>Mentor Thaqi</td> <td>Dr. sc.</td> <td>Prof. Asoc.</td> <td>Temporary</td> <td>Agriculture mechanization Food Technology</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5</td> <td>Muhamet Zogaj</td> <td>Dr. sc.</td> <td>Prof. Ass.</td> <td>Temporary</td> <td>Crop production, Food Technology</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	No.	Name and Surname	Scientific degree	Akademic title	Contract duration	Field of work and Research	1	Arben Mehmeti	Dr. sc.	Prof. Dr.	Permanent	Plant protection, Food Technology	2	Fadil Musa	Dr. sc.	Prof. Asoc.	Temporary	Plant Protection	3	Sali Aliu	Dr. sc.	Prof. Dr.	Permanent	Crop production, Food Technology	4	Mentor Thaqi	Dr. sc.	Prof. Asoc.	Temporary	Agriculture mechanization Food Technology	5	Muhamet Zogaj	Dr. sc.	Prof. Ass.	Temporary	Crop production, Food Technology	
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<p>In addition, as reported and confirmed by the management of FAV during the on-site visit staff-meeting this requirement is fulfilled.</p>	
<p><i>Standard 3.5. For each student group (defined by the statute of the institution) and for every 60 ECTS credits in the study program, the institution has employed at least one full time staff with PhD title or equivalent title in the case of artistic/applied science institutions.</i></p> <p>The SER states that the criteria of Standard 3.5 is met.</p> <p>It also has been mentioned in the SER: "...The Department of Plant protection continuously supports the needs of academic staff for academic development, such as: exchange of teaching, research projects, participation in scientific conferences, etc."</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 3.6. Opportunities are provided for additional professional development of teaching staff, with special assistance given to any who are facing difficulties.</i></p> <p>The SER claims that "...Academic staff respects fully the working hours and besides teaching, each of the academic staff at least twice a week has consultations with students. Several teaching staff members participated in various trainings as presented in their CVs in Appendix."</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 3.7. The responsibilities of all teaching staff, especially full-time, include the engagement in the academic community, availability for consultations with students and community service.</i></p> <p>It is stated in the SER that each academic year, the University of Prishtina through SEMS makes the assessment of the academic staff.</p> <p>It has been confirmed during the on-site-visit-meeting that teaching staff is engaged in student consultations and community service.</p>	B



<p><i>Standard 3.8. Academic staff evaluation is conducted regularly at least through self-evaluation, students, peer and superiors' evaluations, and occur on a formal basis at least once each year. The results of the evaluation are made publicly available.</i></p> <p>A system of regular evaluation of teaching staff by students is established via the SEMS platform. No information is provided about peer and supervisors' evaluations. The results are visible for the management but are not made publicly available. Publishing individual results for the open-public would also not be acceptable due to privacy rights.</p> <p>During the on-site-visit meetings it was also revealed that no feed-back of the survey is provided to the students.</p> <p>The SER indicates that the Department of Plant protection in advance planning enables full implementation of the teaching and adaptation strategies for relevant literature.</p> <p>The ET strongly recommends that this process in future becomes more transparent.</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 3.9. Strategies for quality enhancement include improving the teaching strategies and quality of learning materials.</i></p> <p>Strategy and procedures for improving the quality of teaching and learning materials are not presented in the SER as an answer to standard 3.9.</p> <p>However, the ET assumes that such strategies are available and become applied.</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 3.10. Teachers retired at age limit or for other reasons lose the status of full-time teachers and are considered part-time teachers.</i></p> <p>The SER does not contain any information about rules concerning retired teachers. During the on-site-discussion with the responsible persons for the respective study program it also could not be clarified sufficiently due to the fact that the two representatives became continuously and heavily engaged into personal conflicts and a serious communication had not been possible any more. The ET finally had to terminate the meeting earlier than it had been scheduled.</p>	B



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

Overall

B

Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

1. *Specific budget allocation and respective incentives to additional professional development of teaching staff is recommended.*
2. *Even if there are improvements visible compared to earlier evaluations the ET recommends that the staff evaluation should become more transparent, particularly from the viewpoint of feedbacks to students. The results should always be provided to the respective teaching staff as well. Staff should reflect on the results of the questionnaire and give feedback to the students*
3. *The communication with job market representatives could be further improved.*
4. *The work environment at the FAV should be substantially improved, significant efforts need to be made to provide a collaborative culture that rewards collegiality, open dialogue, feedback culture and quality enhancement.*

2.4. Educational process content

Educational process content

CL

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.

B



<p>Yes. The SER clearly addresses this question and states that “...the study program Plant protection-Phytomedicine at MSc level is modelled on the qualification objectives. This study program is balanced between the theoretical and practical part in the field of Plant protection. Students of this study program during the educational process acquire competences in theoretical and practical fields and qualifications that enable them to carry out practical and / or scientific activities. enables students to acquire the necessary knowledge in the field of Plant protection”.</p>	
<p><i>Standard 4.2. The study program complies with the National Qualifications Framework and the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area. The individual components of the program are combined in a way to best achieve the specified qualification objectives and provide for adequate forms of teaching and learning.</i></p> <p>The SER confirms that the study program is in compliance with the European Qualifications Framework for Higher Education Area and the National Qualifications Framework, according to which this study program belongs to its 7th level, which includes the preparation of students for such levels of study. Also, this field of study is in compliance with Erasmus Subject Area Codes (ESAC) points 01.1. However, due to lack of information, the ET does not see itself in a position to confirm that the study program comprehensively complies with the Framework for Qualifications of the EHEA. First part of Standard 4.2 concerning compliance with national and EU frameworks is already answered in Standard 1.2.</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 4.3. The disciplines within the curriculum are provided in a logical flow and meet the definition and precise determination of the general and specific competencies, as well as the compatibility with the study programs and curricula delivered in the EHEA. To be listed at least 7 learning outcomes for the study program under evaluation.</i></p> <p>The curriculum as presented in the SER provides a logical flow of subjects and allows six elective courses.</p> <p>The SER confirms that “... Subjects within the curriculum provide a logical flow and meet the definition of general and specific competences as well as compliance with the study program. The disciplines of this study program create the opportunity for students to gain the necessary knowledge and skills in the field of Plant protection, which</p>	B



<p>are covered by the content of proposed subjects. Compilation of Master study program Plant protection-Phytomedicine is based upon the program of the International Joint program Tempus project (Annex I).”</p>	
<p><i>Standard 4.4. The disciplines within the curriculum have analytical syllabuses which comprise at least the following: the discipline’s objectives, the basic thematic content, learning outcomes, the distribution of classes, seminars and applicative activities, students’ assessment system, the minimal bibliography, etc. The full course description/ syllabuses of each subject/ module should be attached only in electronic form to the self-assessment report for the study program under evaluation.</i></p> <p>Full subject descriptions/syllabuses for each subject can be found as an attachment to the documentation of the study program Plant protection-Phytomedicine. Syllabus for each subject separately regulates issues of the thematic contents, the way of learning and results, the distribution of obligations including the form of continuous evaluation. For further explanations attached to the SER are all the syllabi of the subjects of this study program.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 4.5. If the language of instruction is other than Albanian, actions are taken to ensure that language skills of both students and academic staff are adequate for instruction in that language when students begin their studies. This may be done through language training prior to the commencement of the program.</i></p> <p>The SER clearly indicates that teaching in this program is held in Albanian language, as defined by the Statute of the University of Prishtina.</p>	n.a.
<p><i>Standard 4.6. The student-teacher relationship is a partnership in which each assumes the responsibility of reaching the learning outcomes. Learning outcomes are explained and discussed with students from the perspective of their relevance to the students’ development.</i></p> <p>Yes, this is comprehensively confirmed in the SER and also confirmed during the on-site interview session with students.</p>	A



<p><i>Standard 4.7. Teaching strategies are fit for the different types of learning outcomes programs are intended to develop. Strategies of teaching and assessment set out in program and course specifications are followed with flexibility to meet the needs of different groups of students.</i></p> <p>The SER claims that “...Teaching strategies are tailored to each subject, and are explained through syllabuses and professor flexibility based on their experience.”</p> <p>This has also been confirmed in the on-site visit.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 4.8. Student assessment mechanisms are conducted fairly and objectively, are appropriate for the different forms of learning sought and are clearly communicated to students at the beginning of courses.</i></p> <p>SER: “Such mechanisms are developed fairly and objectively, and are suitable for different forms of learning and are clearly communicated to students at the beginning of the courses. Mechanisms are based on the Bologna Charter. At the beginning of each semester, professors distribute subject syllabuses through SEMS (UP Platform), in which the mechanisms and forms of evaluation are clearly explained.”</p> <p>The ET assumes and trusts that students under special circumstances (illnesses, disabilities, family situation) would be treated with appropriate flexibility.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 4.9. Appropriate, valid and reliable mechanisms are used for verifying standards of student achievement. The standard of work required for different grades is consistent over time, comparable in courses offered within a program, and in comparison with other study programs at highly regarded institutions.</i></p> <p>According the SER, “... the student grading system is determined on the basis of Article 109 of the Statute of the University "Hasan Prishtina" and is offered in this form: 10 and 9 (excellent); 8 (very good); 7 (good); 6 (enough); 5 (insufficient). The workload required to achieve a passing grade is consistent, as grades in this study program are evaluated and are built throughout the semester and as such are applied within subject syllabi.”</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 4.10. Policies and procedures include actions to be taken in to dealing with situations where standards of student achievement are inadequate or inconsistently assessed.</i></p>	B



<p>These issues were not sufficiently touched in the discussions during the on-site-visit discussions. However, the SER includes clear statements for respective regulations: “... In case of insufficient achievements to pass the exam, according to the Statute of the University of Pristina, Section 115, the student has the right to retake an examination which did not pass the exam. According to the Statute, the student has the right to enter three times the exam which has not passed. While the procedure followed in these cases is this student after placing a strong reasoning complain, can be allowed by the dean of the academic unit to take the exam for the fourth time. Then the exam can be held in front of the three-member commission appointed by the dean of the academic unit.”</p>	
<p><i>Standard 4.11. If the study program includes practice stages, the intended student learning outcomes are clearly specified and effective processes are followed to ensure that those learning outcomes and the strategies to develop that learning are understood by students. The practice stages are allocated 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.</i></p> <p>Yes. Staff from the study program confirms that “The internship is a compulsory course and the student has practice 6 hours per week during the third semester, which can be realised in farms, companies, state institutions, etc., and earns 6 ECTS and finally students prepare the report that is evaluated by three professors.”</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 4.12. In order to facilitate the practice stages, the higher education institution signs cooperation agreements, contracts or other documents with institutions/organisations/practical training units.</i></p> <p>The SER clearly confirms: “To facilitate the phases of the practice, the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary has signed a cooperation agreement with main stakeholders.” As an additional confirmation, stakeholders, employers and graduates mentioned during the on-site-visit that they would be willing to cooperate with students and teaching staff of the proposed study program.</p>	B
<p>Overall</p>	B



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Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

No further recommendations



2.5 Students

Students	CL
<p><i>Standard 5.1. There is a clear and formally adopted admission procedure at institutional level that the study program respects when organising students' recruitment. Admission requirements are consistently and fairly applied for all students.</i></p> <p>Conditions for admission of students are set by the University of Prishtina, which announces the competition for enrolment of students publicly. The procedure is open to all interested students. The SER states that the admission of students for studying at a MSc level at the Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary is based on the success in the admission test and the score earned in graduation test, as prescribed in the UP regulations.</p> <p>Students who have completed BSc studies in related fields, such as Plant production and Agro-economy, are favoured when applying for the MSc in Plant protection-Phytomedicine and the rectorate sets additional conditions for students who have completed other study programmes. This practice means that admission criteria are not equally and fairly applied to all students.</p>	C
<p><i>Standard 5.2. All students enrolled in the study program possess a high school graduation diploma or other equivalent document of study, according to MEST requirements.</i></p> <p>The students admitted to the programme possess a high school graduation diploma, as per UP regulation.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 5.3. The study groups are dimensioned so as to ensure an effective and interactive teaching and learning process.</i></p> <p>The size of the student groups at MSc level is manageable and conducive to interactive teaching and learning.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 5.4. Feedback to students on their performance and results of assessments is given promptly and accompanied by mechanisms for assistance if needed.</i></p>	A



<p>The course syllabi are distributed in a timely manner at the beginning of the semester and syllabi contain information about the expectations from students and the evaluation methods. The expert team was not able to assess in detail to what extent the assessment is given promptly and discussed with the students, but we heard no complaints from students.</p>	
<p><i>Standard 5.5. The results obtained by the students throughout the study cycles are certified by the academic record.</i></p> <p>The results are recorded and available to the student and potential employers in the Diploma Supplement. Students during the studying process constantly are evaluated for their academic achievements. The final result of their entire academic appraisal includes the collection of 120 credits and the graduation degree at Master level.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 5.6. Flexible treatment of students in special situations is ensured with respect to deadlines and formal requirements in the program and to all examinations.</i></p> <p>There are reportedly measures in place that allow students to apply for additional exam repetition dates, should they not be able to attend the examinations or should they need to retake exams for justifiable reasons. However, the expert team is unable to assess to what extent these measures meet the needs of students in special situations.</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 5.7. Records of student completion rates are kept for all courses and for the program as a whole and included among quality indicators.</i></p> <p>The process of monitoring progress and completion rates and using these informations for strategic planning does not appear to be established or used in internal quality assessment.</p>	C



<p><i>Standard 5.8. Effective procedures are being used to ensure that work submitted by students is original.</i></p> <p>No evidence has been provided to support the claim that there is a software in use at the university to check the originality of the work submitted by students.</p>	C
<p><i>Standard 5.9. Students' rights and obligations are made publicly available, promoted to all those concerned and enforced equitably; these will include the right to academic appeals.</i></p> <p>According to the SER, the rules around student rights and obligations are publicly accessible and equitably enforced. Based on the Statute of UP, the Regulation and the Code of Ethics, the FAV continually shows the rights and obligations of the students. In certain situations, students also use the legal opportunity for academic appeals, respectively, to undergo a specific examination before the members of the commissions set by the academic unit.</p> <p>On the day of the site visit, the students had lecture-free days due to the student union elections taking place, however very few students that the expert team met had voted. Other students expressed support for the work of the student union, suggesting that they feel well represented, supported and that the student voices are heard and taken seriously.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 5.10. The students' transfer between higher education institutions, faculties and study programs is clearly regulated in formal internal documents.</i></p> <p>The transfer of students between higher education institutions, faculties and study programs is regulated at University level, with Regulation 2/111 of 14.7.2017, which is public on the University web site.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 5.11. Academic staff is available at sufficient scheduled times for consultation and advice to students. Adequate tutorial assistance is provided to ensure understanding and ability to apply learning.</i></p>	B



<p>The academic staff publishes materials and information related to the teaching process in the Electronic Management System for Students SEMS, however the expert team was not able to verify to what extent the system is utilised by students and staff for communication and learning processes. The communication seems to run via closed Facebook groups which is not an ideal platform for this purpose. Students report to the expert team that professors are readily available for consultation and feedback, in case required by the students.</p>	
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<p>Overall</p>	<p>B</p>
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Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

- 1. The admission procedures should be equal for students of all BSc study programmes.*
- 2. The Faculty should organise workshops for the staff and students on the awareness raising about dangers of plagiarism and unethical behaviour in the academic setting.*
- 3. Student progress and completion rates should be reported by programme regularly to the quality assurance bodies of the faculty and used in decision-making and curriculum adaptation.*
- 4. Efforts of academic staff and students to get engaged in international research projects and international collaborations with private business and undertake applied research should be systematically encouraged, supported and promoted for the benefit of both staff, students and the Faculty itself.*
- 5. Promote interinstitutional agreements with universities abroad in order to facilitate and encourage international incoming mobility of students from abroad.*



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2.6 Research

Research	CL
<p><i>Standard 6.1. The study program has defined scientific/applied research objectives (on its own or as part of a research centre or interdisciplinary program), which are also reflected in the research development plan of the institution; sufficient financial, logistic and human resources are allocated for achieving the proposed research objectives.</i></p> <p>The SER indicates that "...Financial and logistical support for research in this program is lacking. However, the policies for promoting scientific research within the university are included within the Strategic Education Plan in Kosovo, the National Science Program in the Republic of Kosovo, the Strategy for scientific research and development, etc."</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 6.2. Expectations for teaching staff involvement in research and scholarly activities are clearly specified, and performance in relation to these expectations is considered in staff evaluation and promotion criteria.</i></p> <p>According to the SER "Inclusion of teaching staff in research activities and their performance in relation to academic promotion are specified in regulation (Source: https://www.uni-pr.edu/desk/inc/media/C15E46D5-5159-4E97-B8CB-D69734E39CA4.pdf), University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina" and Administrative Instruction 1/2018 of the Ministry of Education Science and Technology for the recognition of international publication platforms and journals.</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 6.3. Clear policies are established for defining what is recognized as research, consistent with international standards and established norms in the field of study of the program.</i></p> <p>Yes. Clear policies are established containing definitions and measures. The SER refers to the national legislation as follows: Source: https://www.uni-pr.edu/desk/inc/media/C15E46D5-5159-4E97-B8CB-D69734E39CA4.pdf, of the University of Prishtina "Hasan Prishtina" and Administrative Instruction 1/2018 of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology for the recognition of platforms and international journals with peer review.</p>	A



<p><i>Standard 6.4. The academic staff has a proven track record of research results on the same topics as their teaching activity.</i></p> <p>The data can be found on the CVs of the academic staff also declared electronically in Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA). However, several information contained in the CVs is not available in English language. Therefore, it was not easy to verify them.</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 6.5. The academic and research staff publish their work in speciality magazines or publishing houses, scientific/applied/artistic products are presented at conferences, sessions, symposiums, seminars etc. and contracts, expertise, consultancy, conventions, etc. are provided to partners inside the country and/or abroad.</i></p> <p>The academic staff of Plant protection department is consistently committed to publishing its research work in international scientific journals, which are indexed in the platforms which are also recommended by the University of Pristina (UP).</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 6.6. Research is validated through: scientific and applied research publications, artistic products, technological transfer through consultancy centres, scientific parks and other structures for validation.</i></p> <p>Research in the scientific context is part of the ongoing research of departmental academic staff and associates, published in journals in accordance with MEST regulations and AI. However, the SER does not provide sufficient respective information for seriously evaluating this standard.</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 6.7. Each academic staff member and researcher has produced at least an average of one scientific/applied research publication or artistic outcome/product per year for the past three years.</i></p> <p>Each regular staff member has published on average more than two scientific research publications in the last three years. Data on these publications can be found in the academic staff CVs.</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 6.8. Academic and research staff publish under the name of the institution in Kosovo they are affiliated to as full time staff.</i></p>	A



<p>SER indicates “...In all research papers published by the academic staff it becomes clear that they are part of the University of Pristina. Also in most online platforms of credible scientific publications, staff members have to declare their job position.”</p> <p>The University of Prishtina has in recent years provided its staff with access to a scientific platform that can serve academic staff to be better informed about the latest scientific knowledge and research in relevant fields. To encourage staff participation in research and participation in conferences, UP has also established a special office called, the Office for Research and Sponsored Projects of UP.</p>	
<p><i>Standard 6.9. Academic staff are encouraged to include in their teaching information about their research and scholarly activities that are relevant to courses they teach, together with other significant research developments in the field.</i></p> <p>There is no evidence supporting this statement in the SER. Also the on-site-visit did not contribute further evidence.</p> <p>The following message can be taken from the previous accreditation procedure: “..... we [staff from the department of Plant protection and Phytomedicine] have included case studies for some courses where students conduct research to solve farmers' problems, where in most cases they are based on the works we have researched. Since the researches that we carry out are also based on the requests of farmers, companies, etc.”</p>	B
<p><i>Standard 6.10. Policies are established for ownership of intellectual property and clear procedures set out for commercialization of ideas developed by staff and students.</i></p> <p>“In Kosovo, the intellectual property aspect is protected by the Law on Copyright and Related Rights adopted by the Assembly of Kosovo. The aspects of this law include the intellectual property of UP staff and students.”</p> <p>This is reported in the SER and had been confirmed during the on-site-visits discussions.</p>	A
<p><i>Standard 6.11. Students are engaged in research projects and other activities.</i></p> <p>The SER does not contain any information concerning this standard.</p> <p>During the on-site-visit it had been reported by the students that MSc.-theses are based on their research. The participants stated that there were opportunities for students to</p>	B



participate in research activities. The SER has not provided any additional evidence supporting this standard.	
Overall	B

Compliance level: Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

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



2.5. Infrastructure and resources

In terms of infrastructure, FAV is in a critical, ongoing exceptional situation. Lectures are currently being temporarily relocated to the building of a mathematical secondary school, as the former building is being converted for other purposes and the new building is not ready for occupancy. Due to official safety requirements, modifications to the building are necessary. FAV expects the building to be completed and ready for occupation by September 2024. Respective progress became visible to the ET comparing the situations end of Feb. and beginning of Apr. 2024. However, the ET cannot evaluate the standard on the basis of expected future conditions, but solely on the basis of the actual situation as it was found on February 28 and 29, 2024 during the site visit.

7 Infrastructure and resources	CL
<p><i>Standard 7.1. The adequate long-term implementation of the study program is ensured in quantitative terms as regards premises, human resources and equipment. At the same time, it is guaranteed that qualitative aspects are also taken into account.</i></p> <p><u>Premises (D)</u></p> <p>The mathematical secondary school, which serves as emergency accommodation, does not fulfil the requirements of university teaching and research in terms of room layout and technical equipment. The staff is currently accommodated in temporary offices with two to four desks for two to four persons per room as it has been reported at the meetings during the on-site-visit. The laboratories are still at the former location, which means longer journeys through the city between laboratory exercises and lectures. Furthermore, the laboratories are too small in general.</p> <p><u>Human resources (B)</u></p> <p>Permanent teaching staff is available and accomplished by a high number of temporary staff members. The number of permanent staff members should be increased to ensure long-term continuity of the programs.</p> <p><u>Equipment (C)</u></p> <p>In general, the laboratories have basic equipment that is suitable for training students. In some cases, state-of-the-art analysers are available, they were provided by international cooperation programs. A well-equipped computer room for PC-based practicals is available.</p>	C



<p><i>Standard 7.2. There is a financial plan at the level of the study program that would demonstrate the sustainability of the study program for the next minimum three years.</i></p> <p>The SER does not contain an updated financial plan at the level of the study program. Investment and financial budgets and policies are regulated at higher levels of the management at FAV and UP. A budget plan of FAV in the Annex is copied and pasted from an outdated SER. However, it is indicated in the SER and confirmed during the site visit that budget allocated is sufficient for delivering the study program.</p>	C
<p><i>Standard 7.3. The higher education institution must demonstrate with adequate documents (property deeds, lease contracts, inventories, invoices etc.) that, for the study program submitted for evaluation it possesses the following, for the next at least three years:</i></p> <p><i>a) owned or rented spaces adequate for the educational process;</i> s. Standard 7.1 (Premises)</p> <p><i>b) owned or rented laboratories, with the adequate equipment for all the compulsory disciplines within the curriculum, wherever the analytical syllabus includes such activities;</i> s. Standard 7.1 (Equipment)</p> <p><i>c) adequate software for the disciplines of study included in the curriculum, with utilization licence;</i> The SER provides information about basic software usually used in higher education institutions.</p> <p><i>d) library equipped with reading rooms, group work rooms and its own book stock according to the disciplines included in the curricula.</i> UP provides adequate and easily accessible support services through Central University Library with reading rooms and book stock according to the disciplines included in the curriculum. It is not confirmed yet whether FAV still has its own library and where this currently is accommodated. As mentioned by the students at the meetings, there are sufficient desk places in the library for concentrated learning.</p>	C



<p><i>Standard 7.4. The number of seats in the lecture rooms, seminar rooms and laboratories must be related to the study groups' size (series, groups, subgroups); the applicative activities for the speciality disciplines included in the curricula are carried out in laboratories equipped with IT equipment.</i></p> <p>See Standard 7.1</p>	D
<p><i>Standard 7.5. The education institution's libraries must ensure, for each of the study programs:</i></p> <p><i>a) a number of seats in the reading rooms corresponding to at least 10% of the total number of students in the study program;</i></p> <p><i>b) a number of seats in the group work rooms corresponding to at least 10% of the total number of students in the study program;</i></p> <p><i>c) their own book stock from Albanian and foreign speciality literature, enough to cover the disciplines within the curricula, out of which at least 50% should represent book titles or speciality courses of recognised publishers, from the last 10 years;</i></p> <p><i>d) a book stock within its own library with a sufficient number of books so as to cover the needs of all students in the cycle and year of study the respective discipline is provided for;</i></p> <p><i>e) a sufficient number of subscriptions to Albanian and foreign publications and periodicals, according to the stated mission.</i></p> <p>The library situation is only briefly addressed in the SER. The time scheduled for the site visit did not allow to verify the standard of the libraries. Furthermore, the ET does not see it as its task to verify the quality of the library according to the listed in-depth criteria. This would be a task for librarians.</p>	n.a.
<p><i>Standard 7.6. The infrastructure and facilities dedicated to the implementation of the program is adapted to students with special needs.</i></p> <p>The buildings currently in use are not suitably adapted for students with physical disabilities. Learning resources for students with special needs are not available.</p>	D
<p>Overall</p>	D

Compliance level: Non-compliant



ET recommendations:

1. *Infrastructure has to be improved in a sustainable way, particularly permanent buildings, rooms and laboratories.*
2. *A detailed budget has to be presented for the study program*
3. *Laboratory equipment has to be improved*
4. *Electronic access to scientific literature has to be provided comprehensively (databases like SCOPUS)*

3. OVERALL EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE ET

In conclusion, the Expert Team considers that the study program M.Sc. Agriculture and Food Economics offered by the University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina”, Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary is *substantially compliant* with Standards 1-6, but *non-compliant* with Standard 7 (Infrastructure and resources) as included in the *KAA Accreditation manual* and, therefore, recommends *not to accredit* the study program before the new premises are completed and occupied.



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Expert Team

Chair

Prof. Dr. Reiner Doluschitz

2024-05-02

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Date)

Member

Prof. Dr. Hans-Peter Kaul

2024-05-02

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Date)

Member

Nadia Manzoni, Student Expert

2024-05-02

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Date)