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UNIVERSITY OF PRISHTINA “HASAN PRISHTINA”

***INTEGRATED WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT MSc
STUDY PROGRAMME***

ACCREDITATION

REPORT OF THE EXPERT TEAM

02th May 2023



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Context

Date of evaluation: 30th of March 2023

Expert Team (ET):

- Prof. Dr. Gábor Dombay
- Expert student Marko Komso

Coordinators from Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA):

- Leona Kovaçi, KAA Officer

Sources of information for the Report:

- Self-Evaluation Report (SER) submitted by UP's Faculty of Civil Engineering;
- Information obtained during the meetings;
- Meetings conducted with the management of the institution and program, quality assurance representatives and administrative, teaching staff, graduates, employers of graduates and external stakeholders;

Criteria used for program evaluation:

- KAA Accreditation Manual 2021



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1.2. Meeting schedule

30th March 2023

Time	Meeting
09:00 – 09:50	Meeting with the management of the faculty where the programme is integrated
09:55 – 10:35	Meeting with quality assurance representatives and administrative staff
10:45 – 11:45	Meeting with the heads of the study programme
11:45 – 12:45	Lunch break (provided at the evaluation site)
12:45 – 13:45	Visiting tour of the facilities and infrastructure
13:45 – 14:30	Meeting with teaching staff
14:35 – 15:15	Meeting with employers of graduates and external stakeholders
15:15 – 15:25	Internal meeting of KAA staff and experts
15:25 – 15:35	Closing meeting with the management of the faculty and program



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

The **Faculty of Civil Engineering (FCE)** as an academic unit of the **University of Prishtina** is a public institution of higher education, which organizes and develops university studies, high scientific and professional work. The main role of a modern academic unit for democratic society, is to provide professional education and upgrades by following contemporary scientific developments in the relevant field of studies.

The FCE The mission of FCE is based on the mission of the University of Prishtina for the development of academic activities, research, scientific work and to create professional staff of higher education for the labor market for the fields of civil engineering in accordance with strategic and developmental interests in country level.

Teaching and research are the main activities of this academic unit. The activity of an academic unit is characterised by the interaction between the teaching and the scientific-research. To achieve the desired results teaching must be inseparable from scientific research.

Within the ongoing activities developed at the FCE, the main focus is on below listed orientations and achievements:

- teaching - learning, which at the same time represent one of two main activities,
- continuous scientific research in the service of society and the country in general,
- professionals compatible with market requirements,
- development of activities required according to the market demands,
- providing services and expertise to third parties,
- research on patent development by academic staff.

The FCE seeks to have a leading role in the development of education, science, society and the economy, as well as to create and support the highest standards in teaching and learning. The FCE seeks to match the European standards and to be fully integrated into the European Higher Education Area according to the Bologna Declaration.

The FCE vision is to create, develop, protect and transmit knowledge through teaching and research work, as well as provide opportunities for all residents of Kosovo, who would benefit from this education throughout their lifelong experience, without any constrains.

In addition, the university level studies within academic units, are able to prepare students to easily adapt to the basic positions at the labour market. At the same time, the university level creates good premises for continuing further studies at higher levels, through easily transferable knowledge in related disciplines.



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The Faculty of Civil Engineering organises study programme at BSc and MSc levels, while currently no Doctoral programme are available yet. FCE Study Programmes are classified at Departments and Levels as in the following:

- Construction (BSc), (MSc)
- Hydrotechnics (BSc), (MSc)
- Geodesy (BSc), (MSc), and
- Environmental Engineering (BSc)

At the Faculty of Civil Engineering the following programme is for accreditation:
- Integrated Water Resources Management MSc. Specialisation: Hydrotechnics

The Integrated Water Resources Management MSc study programme is summarized in the following tables:

Name of Institution:	University of Prishtina
Faculty/Department:	Faculty of Civil Engineering
Main Campus and / or Branch:	Main Campus
If applying for a Branch, please specify the branch:	NA
Study Programme Name:	Programme - Integrated Water Resources Management
Person responsible for the Study Programme:	Prof. Dr. Laura Kusari
Accreditation / Reaccreditation:	Accreditation
Qualification level according to NQF:	Level VII
Academic degree or the name of the academic degree in the diploma:	Master of Science in Integrated Water Resources Management
ECTS:	120
Study programme profile (specializations):	Hydrotechnics
Field of study according to Erasmus Subject Area Codes (ESAC)	06.4
Form of studies:	Regular studies
Minimum duration of studies:	2 years
Number of places for study:	20
Indicate the permanent scientific / artistic staff for the Study Programme (at least 3 PhD):	Prof. Dr. Laura Kusari Prof.Asist.Dr. Lavdim Osmanaj Prof.Asoc. Dr. Figene Ahmedi



Organization of courses by categories

Discipline / Field	Formative activity	ECTS		
		ECTS	Total	%
Fundamental water resources courses	Introduction: IWRM and Water Security	6	33	27.5%
	Hydrology and Hydrometry	6		
	Water Conservation and Water Efficiency	6		
	Flood and Drought Management	3		
	Hydraulic Structures	6		
	Environmental Monitoring and Data Analyses	6		
Natural Sciences related courses	Biophysical Characterisation of Water	6	9	10%
	Ecosystem Based Management	6		
Economy and Legislation	Economics of Water and Financial Instruments for Implementation of IWRM	6	9	7.5%
	Water Legislation and Governance	3		
Informatics	Geospatial Tools for IWRM Implementation	6	6	5%
Social and other	Climate Change: Risk and Resilience	6	12	10%
	Water and Conflicts-Power and Politics in the Water Sector	6		
Elective Courses	Research Methods and Study Design	3	Minimum of elective courses 18	15%
	Project Management	3		
	Meteorology	3		
	Water and Agriculture	3		
	Public Health	3		
	Sustainable Development Goals	3		
	Hydro Informatics/Hydraulic Modeling	3		
	Entrepreneurship	3		
	Watershed Management	3		
Diploma	Internship	10	30	25%
	Thesis Work	20		



Overview of the study programme

Year I							
First Semester I				Hours/ Week			
No.	M/E	Subject	L	E	ECTS	Professor	
1	M	Introduction: IWRM and Water Security	2	1	6	Prof. Ass. Dr. Lavdim Osmanaj	
2	M	Hydrology and Hydrometry	2	2	6	Prof. Ass. Dr. Lavdim Osmanaj	
3	M	Water Economics and Financial Instruments for the Implementation of IWRM	2	2	6	Prof. Dr. Lars Ribbe/ Dr. Sudeh Dehnavi	
4	M	Biophysical Characterization of Water	2	2	6	Prof. Asoc. Dr. Halil Ibrahimimi	
5	E	Research Methods and Study Design	2	0	3	Prof. Dr. Naser Kabashi	
6	E	Project Management	2	0	3	Prof.ass.Dr. Sc. Zijadin Guri	
7	E	Meteorology	2	0	3	Prof. Ass. Dr. Milot Muhaxheri	
<i>In the first semester the student achieves 24 ECTS from the compulsory courses and must choose 6 ECTS from the elective courses (chooses 2 out of 3 elective courses).</i>							
Second Semester II				Hours/ Week			
No.	M/E	Subject	L	E	ECTS	Professor	
1	M	Water Conservation and Water Efficiency	2	2	6	Prof. Asoc.Dr. Figene Ahmedi	
2	M	Environmental Monitoring and Data Analysis	2	2	6	Prof. Asoc. Dr. Mimoza Hyseni Spahiu	
3	M	Water Legislation & Governance	2	0	3	Prof. Dr. Visar Morina	
4	M	Flood and Drought Management	2	0	3	Prof. Dr. Laura Kusari	
5	M	Climate Change: Risk and Resilience	2	1	6	Prof. Dr. Lars Ribbe/ Dr. Sudeh Dehnavi	
6	E	Water and Agriculture	2	0	3	Prof. Dr. Arben Mehmeti	
7	E	Public Health	2	0	3	Prof.Ass. Dr. Naim Jerliu	
8	E	Sustainable Development Goals	2	0	3	Prof. Ass. Dr. Lavdim Osmanaj	
<i>In the second semester the student reaches 24 ECTS from the compulsory courses and must choose 6 ECTS from the elective courses (chooses 2 out of 3 elective courses).</i>							
Year II							
Third Semester III				Hours/ Week			
No.	M/E	Subject	L	E	ECTS	Professor	
1	M	Geospatial Tools for IWRM Implementation	2	2	6	Prof. Asoc. Dr. Përparim Ameti	
2	M	Water and Conflicts-power and politics in the Water Sector	2	2	6	Prof. Ass. Dr. Linda Gusia	



3	M	Ecosystem Based Management	2	2	6	Prof. Dr. Ferdije Zhushi Etemi
4	M	Hydraulic Structures	2	2	6	Prof. Dr. Laura Kusari
5	E	Hydro-Informatics/Hydraulic Modeling	1	2	3	Prof. Ass. Dr. Lavdim Osmanaj
6	E	Entrepreneurship	2	0	3	Prof. Ass. Dr. Mjellma Carabregu
7	E	Watershed Management	2	0	3	Prof. Assoc. Dr. Figene Ahmedi
<i>In the third semester the student reaches 24 ECTS from the compulsory courses and must choose 6 ECTS from the elective courses (chooses 2 out of 3 elective courses).</i>						
Fourth Semester IV			Hours/ Week			
No.	M/E	Subject	L	E	ECTS	Professor
1	M	Internship			10	
2	M	Diploma Thesis			20	

The main mission of the Integrated Water Resources Management in Kosovo Programme (MSc IWRM Programme) is to build long-term water resources management capacities at the national and river basin levels, in line with the socio-economic and political priorities of Kosovo and the Balkans, as well as the needs of sustainable development in the future. This is based on the social, economic and political priorities of the Balkan region. This MSc IWRM Programme aims to help replace the current fragmented approach with a more comprehensive and participatory approach to water resources management, in line with the principles of Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and the EU Water Framework Directive (EU WFD).

Since the study programme Integrated Water Resources Management (MSc IWRM) is an interdisciplinary programme, which includes the Department of Hydrotechnics at the Faculty of Civil Engineering at the University of Prishtina as the main provider of the programme, as well as the Department of Biology at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences at the UP and the Faculty of Tourism, Hospitality and Environment Management at Haxhi Zeka University in Peja, all partners have participated in the design of the programme. Therefore the definition of the learning outcomes of the programme is the result of this cooperation and consultation between them.

The development of an interdisciplinary Master's Programme in IWRM (MSc in IWRM) has been identified as a priority as part of an earlier Programme-backed assessment process. Once established the MSc in IWRM will support a significant improvement to the educational offerings in areas related to water resource management for the country, and even prospectively the broader region. It needs to be designed to equip different groups of (water) professionals dealing with/interested in specific aspects of water management with cutting-edge knowledge of the IWRM principles, processes and practices. Spreading this new knowledge among the



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country's professionals is expected to catalyse the transformation of current water management into a modern water governance system, able to bring forward the country's sustainability agenda.

The programme's interdisciplinary approach combines the engineering (such as civil engineering, hydrotechnics, environmental engineering, etc.), natural sciences (such as soil sciences, ecology, chemistry, etc.), social sciences (economics, sociology, political sciences) and humanities (anthropology).

The programme is implemented by the Consortium of Skat Consulting Ltd. Switzerland, and the Austrian Environment Agency (EAA), thanks to generous funding provided by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). In the implementation of educational activities, IWRM benefits from the specialized knowledge and long-term experience of the World University Services (WUS / SHUB) Austria.

Regarding the objectives of the master programme at IWRM, they are based on the education of experts who are engaged and intend to contribute in the field of water management. Since a comprehensive knowledge of future experts is required, then the main objectives of this programme are:

- Establishing a link between theoretical and practical knowledge in the field of IWRM;
- Training of experts with new and comprehensive knowledge in the field of IWRM;
- Creating opportunities to apply IWRM research to future water resources;
- Establishing bridges of cooperation between different areas related to water resources;
- Combining technical knowledge in the field of engineering with managerial, economic and social competencies.



2. PROGRAM EVALUATION

The program evaluation consists 7 sub headings through which the educational process content, students, research and resources are assessed, as well as quality assurance, mission and objectives, according to the requirements of KAA Accreditation Manual 2021.

2.1. Mission, objectives and administration

In 2018 KAA introduced its new accreditation standards which defines the framework of evaluation. The Self Evaluation Report (SER) of UP Integrated Water Resources Management MSc Program follows the structure of the Accreditation Manual, briefly referring to the compliance of each standard. The SER it is clearly written, and includes all of the necessary points needed for the reaccreditation process in sufficient detail.

The mission statements are clearly defined in compliance with the overall mission statement of University of Prishtina.

The Expert Team (ET) was informed during the meetings that there is a strong need in Kosovo for water management professionals, in the public and in the private sector as well. This need was clearly articulated during the stakeholder meeting. UP, in addition to its Hydrotechnics BSc and MSc programmes, intends to provide a multidisciplinary MSc programme in water management to train water professionals to comply with this labour market need.

The ET finds the multidisciplinary approach of the study programme fairly interesting, and in many ways beneficial in the field of water management. The cooperation between the different faculties and institutions in the programme is a progressive way of dealing with labour market needs. Nevertheless, as the programme is a Master of Science programme, it is not to be forgotten, that besides the social, legal, economic and public health aspects the focus of the programme must be of technical, of engineering disposition.



As the ET was informed during the meetings professional advice and consultation was taken into account in the creation of the curricula of the programs, in a multidisciplinary way. Didactic and research concepts are defined. Formal policies, guidelines and regulations are set.

Compliance calculation

<i>Standard</i>	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: 100% - Fully compliant



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ET recommendations:

1. *Given its multidisciplinary approach, the study programme will be accredited as a Master of Science programme. This has to be taken into account during the implementation of the programme, and also in the student admission criteria.*
2. *The FCE will have to find a balance between the IWRM MSc programme and its existing Hydrotechnics MSc programme. The IWRM MSc cannot substitute the more technically oriented Hydrotechnics MSc programme which provides specialized water engineers for Kosovo. The introduction of this new study programme must not lead to the termination of the Hydrotechnics MSc programme. It will be a task for the FCE to create a synergy between these two programmes, by not forgetting their roles and their complementary nature.*



2.2. Quality management

The University of Prishtina has a fairly elaborate and effective quality assurance system and apparatus. This proposed study program is not exempt of that.

The quality management system has several strengths, including the use of SEMS to monitor the teaching process and student services. Communication with students is also a strength, as is the prompt provision of quality services to both students and instructors. The system also allows for the monitoring and management of teaching and learning quality through periodic evaluations. Additionally, satisfactory administrative services are provided to the academic unit through SEMS. There are no identified weaknesses in the quality management system. Opportunities for improvement include administrative capacity building and the use of SEMS for continuous monitoring and improvement. Threats to the system include challenges related to staff promotion, recruitment, and potential budget cuts.

Compliance calculation

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

Compliance level: 100% - Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

- 1. The most relevant Key Quality Indicators used in the QA process should be included in the SER in the future. This would provide more tangible basis for the future re-accreditation process.*
- 2. This study programme involves several academic institutions and units. UP, as the host of the programme will have to deal with the QA procedures of the involved institutions, and integrate it in the quality assurance requirements of the IWRM MSc programme. These harmonisations should be investigated in the future re-accreditation audits.*



2.3. Academic staff

Based on the staff CVs the ET considers that teaching staff complies with the relevant legal requirements, they possess the necessary qualifications needed for the study programme.

The SER contains the required summary table (Table 5) of the teaching staff, clearly indicating full time and part time occupations. Based on the SER, the academic staff of the Environmental Engineering programme is comprised of 19 full time and 2 visitor academic personnel. Given the multidisciplinary nature of the programme the full time academic personnel is of 8 different academic institutions. Based on this data 90% of the academic staff is full time employee, hence the 50% criteria for full time staff of Standard 3.4. is fulfilled. Out of the 18 full time staff 15 persons are scientifically qualified (Dr.Sc.), which is the ET considers a satisfactory quality indicator.

The SER provides information about trainings organized for the academic staff, which are mostly related to teaching methodology, but not professional development. The ET thinks that the Faculty should elaborate a professional development plan for its existing staff into its development strategy. Due to the involvement of several academic units, the FCE, as the host of the programme will have the task to effectively communicate its personnel development needs to the involved institutions.

Compliance calculation

<i>Standard</i>	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: 100% - Fully compliant

ET recommendations:

- 1. Elaborate professional staff development plan of the existing staff is to be integrated in the strategic development plan.*
- 2. The cooperation of several academic institutions of the programme should include cooperation in the field of academic staff development. The ET suggests to create a clear development strategy in this regard.*



2.4. Educational process content

The IWRM MSc programme aims to educate and develop needed qualified personnel who will be responsible for optimal planning, design, operation and management of the water resources systems. The educated personnel in this area will be responsible for creating the best possible solutions for water resources problems while considering the environmental criteria. To address all these challenges and to provide solutions, the IWRM MSc programme offers an interdisciplinary and integrated approach, to deliver the needed capacity building in this field.

The ET considers that the proposed curricula corresponds to the objectives of the study programme. The curricula is of multidisciplinary nature, a combination of technical and social subjects. The ratio of scientific/technical and social courses is adequate, the emphasis is still on the technical side of water management. As the study programme is a Master of Science (and not Master of Art) programme, the ET considers this technical focus vital, which is not to be forgotten in the future.

The curricula takes into account the necessities that Kosovo faces due to recent and prospective developments. The courses cover most major areas of water resources management, with a multidisciplinary approach.

The ET considers that there is one area of water management which should be included in the group of fundamental water resources courses, namely water and wastewater treatment technologies (Standard 4.3). This technical knowledge is fundamental in managing the water quality aspects of water resources. (The topic is although referred in the elective Public Health course, but this MSc programme requires more detailed elaboration of technologies and their effect on water quality.)

The curricula has courses dealing with the concept of water security, but it seems that it is exempt of the concept of water safety. As the water safety concept has been a central focus of drinking water supply in the last two decades, with several impacts on operational and management practices, it should be included (Standard 4.3.).

The fourth semester of the programme includes an internship and the diploma thesis. The ET welcomes the idea of the obligatory internship.



Compliance calculation

<i>Standard</i>	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	X	



assessment set out in program and course specifications are followed with flexibility to meet the needs of different groups of students.		
<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 within a program, and in comparison with other study programs at highly regarded institutions.	X	
<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.	X	

Compliance level: 92% - Fully compliant

ET recommendations:

- 1. Water and wastewater treatment technologies subject should be included in the fundamental courses.*
- 2. Water safety concept should be included.*
- 3. The multidisciplinary approach of the programme is fairly progressive. Although a priori the curricula seems to be an adequate combination of courses, only future re-accreditation audits will be able to validate if programme complies with its mission and objectives.*



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2.5. Students

Admission to the Integrated Water Resource Management Master's Programme is conducted through an exam after a public announcement made by the University of Prishtina in conjunction with the academic unit. The announcement outlines the admission criteria. The University Senate is responsible for determining the number of candidates to be admitted in the first year, in accordance with the UP Statute and taking into account the Faculty Council's proposal for the MSc in IWRM programme. All applicants are subject to consistent and fair admission requirements.

As the ET already emphasized in Chapter 2.1. of this report, given its multidisciplinary approach this IWRM MSc is still a Master of Science (and not Art) programme. This fact has to be taken into account in the admission criteria, which should be Bachelor of Science degree.

The total number of enrolled students is projected to be 20 students for each academic year. This number may vary depending on the requirements of employers and the interest of students in the coming years.

The number of enrolled students in the corresponding Hydrotechnics MSc program fluctuated in the last 23 years: 14, 7, 20. Graduation numbers were very low: 3, 8, 9. Considering these fairly low numbers the ET has concerns about the necessity to introduce one more study programme in this field. Instead of creating a completely new MSc programme, the revision of the Hydrotechnics MSc programme could have been an other option. Nevertheless the ET accepts this choice of UP as a strategic response to the labour market needs of Kosovo.

In terms of SWOT analysis for students, the strengths include transparent and published procedures for admission of new students, a significant number of bachelor level students potentially continuing to the master's level, small groups in lectures and exercises/practices for higher efficiency, involvement of students at all levels of decision-making in UP, and administrative support during their studies. However, the weaknesses include lack of



professional counselling for students with emotional problems, absence of medical professionals on the university campus, and lack of scholarships for master studies. In terms of opportunities, students can participate in ERASMUS mobility programmes, take part in lectures and practical trainings organized by educational support institutions, and develop knowledge and skills for independent research. On the other hand, the threats include insufficient support for science and research in the country and student mobility to other universities due to prolonged visa procedures.

Compliance calculation

<i>Standard</i>	Compliance	
	Yes	No
<i>Standard 5.1.</i> There is a clear and formally adopted admission procedure at institutional level that the study program respects when 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	



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<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: 100% - Fully compliant

ET recommendations:

- 1. Admission criteria should be equivalent to BSc level.*
- 2. Professional counselling for students with emotional problems should be provided by the University.*
- 3. University of Prishtina lacks sport activities for students. University sport clubs are an integral part of university life, this area should be targeted and developed by the management of the university.*



2.6. Research

For the IWRM MSC programme UP has signed a cooperation agreement for implementation with The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), through Integrated Water Resource Management-Kosovo programme, which is also the financier of the programme. The programme IWRM-K has assigned the budget of 150, 000 euros for the MSc in IWRM programme implementation. This budget is dedicated to the improvement of the infra-structure for the learning and improving e-learning.

IWRM-K programme has signed another agreement with TH Köln, with a 49,300 euros dedicated to the support of MSc in IWRM through the accreditation process, lectures, internship and diploma thesis. The programme aims to build professional capacity in the field of sustainable management of water resources at the national level. Also, the investment from SDC will be offered for hydrotechnics and environmental engineering laboratories, for equipment and for support of scientific research.

The ET considers these opportunities very beneficial for the future, which could enhance and enrich the MSc programme, and hopefully lead to valuable scientific results and publications. Present evaluation is based on this positive assumption.

Compliance calculation

<i>Standard</i>	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: 82% - Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

- 1. Create a detailed research strategy and research development plan for the study programme, with special attention to its multidisciplinary nature.*
- 2. The management of the Faculty should cooperate with the academic institutions involved in the programme, in order to establish and carry out research projects, in accordance with the research development plan.*
- 3. The Faculty should create a publication strategy within the framework of the research strategy. As KAA standards put an emphasis on the publication activity, the Faculty must take consider it an important strategic question in the reaccreditation procedures in the future.*



2.7. Infrastructure and resources

During the site visit the ET was impressed to see all the developments that has been carried out at the campus of FCE, including the faculty building and laboratory renovations. The infrastructural conditions have been vastly improved. UP has been dedicating a significant effort to renovate and upgrade its building infrastructure in the last years. The ET could see the improvement of the building conditions, also development of facilities for students with special needs.

It is important to emphasize the hydraulic laboratory development, which was realized in the framework of the industrial cooperation and support of the proposed IWRM MSc programme. Hopefully the laboratory development will continue in the future.

Compliance calculation

<i>Standard</i>	Compliance	
	Yes	No
<i>Standard 7.1.</i> The adequate long-term implementation of the study program is ensured in quantitative terms as regards premises, human resources and equipment. At the same time, it is guaranteed that qualitative aspects are also taken into account.	X	
<i>Standard 7.2.</i> There is a financial plan at the level of the study program that would demonstrate the sustainability of the study program for the next minimum three years.	X	
<i>Standard 7.3.</i> The higher education institution must demonstrate with adequate documents (property deeds, lease contracts, inventories, invoices etc.) that, for the study program submitted for evaluation it possesses the following, for the next at least three years: a) owned or rented spaces adequate for the educational process; b) owned or rented laboratories, with the adequate equipment for all the compulsory disciplines within the curriculum, wherever the analytical syllabus includes such activities; c) adequate software for the disciplines of study included in the curriculum, with utilisation licence;	X	



d) library equipped with reading rooms, group work rooms and its own book stock according to the disciplines included in the curricula.		
<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; e) a sufficient number of subscriptions to Albanian and foreign publications and periodicals, according to the stated mission.	X	
<i>Standard 7.6.</i> The infrastructure and facilities dedicated to the implementation of the program is adapted to students with special needs.	X	

Compliance level: 100% - Substantially compliant

ET recommendations:

1. *Continue the development of the hydraulic laboratory, primarily by its integration in research projects.*



3. OVERALL EVALUATION AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE ET

Based on the evaluation of the actual KAA standards, the compliance level of the programme is as follows:

Standard	Compliance level	
1. Mission, objectives and administration	100%	Fully compliant
2. Quality management	100%	Fully compliant
3. Academic staff	100%	Fully compliant
4. Educational process content	92%	Fully compliant
5. Students	100%	Fully compliant
6. Research	82%	Substantially compliant
7. Infrastructure and resources	100%	Fully compliant
Overall compliance	96%	Fully compliant

In conclusion, the Expert Team recommends to *accredit the Integrated Water Resources Management MSc study programme for a duration of 3 years, with the provision of 20 students enrolled per year.*

Expert Team

Chair

Prof. Dr. Gábor Dombay

02.05.2023.

Member

Marko Komso

02.05.2023.



4. APPENDICES

Compliance level assessment calculation

In order to assess the compliance level of each general area the following guidelines were used, as required by the KAA Accreditation manual:

1.1. fully compliant – all the standards included in a particular general area are met. If the institution exceeds the standards and meets some of the performance indicators, commendations are appropriate. This recognition provides the institution motivation to pursue even greater levels of excellence in their quality management practices;

1.2. substantially compliant –above 60 – 90% of the standards included in a particular general area are met, while the others are not yet in line with stated expectations. Also, there is potential for requirements of the standards not to be satisfied before the next review (examples may include the loss of key faculty members due to retirements, declining student enrolment, or projected reductions in financial or personnel resources, and others);

1.3. partially compliant - 30 – 60% of the standards included in a particular general area are met. Also, the institution lacks the strength of compliance with the standards to ensure that the quality of the institution will not be compromised;

1.4. non-compliant – less than 30% of the standards included in a particular general area are met. The institution does not satisfy the requirements of the standards.