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Agencija Kosova za Akreditaciju
Kosovo Accreditation Agency



UNIVERSITY OF PRISHTINA
FACULTY OF PHILOSOPHY

SOCIOLOGY MA

RE-ACCREDITATION

DRAFT REPORT OF THE EXPERT TEAM

Prishtina, 30 May 2024

1

Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	3
1.1. Context	3
1.2. Site visit schedule.....	4
1.3. A brief overview of the institution under evaluation	6
2. PROGRAMME EVALUATION: Sociology MA.....	7
2.1. Mission, Objectives and Administration.....	7
2.2. Quality Management	10
2.3. Academic Staff.....	14
2.4. Educational Process Content.....	17
2.5. Students	21
2.6. Research	24
2.7. Infrastructure and Resources	27
3. FINAL RECOMMENDATION OF THE ET	30

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Context

Date of site visit: Friday, 17 May 2024

Expert Team (ET) members:

- Dr. Pavo Barišić
- Dr. Anna Bara (online)
- Dr. Stavros Parlaris (online)
- Juraj Bogat (student expert)

Coordinators from Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA):

- Arianit Kraniqi, KAA Officer

Sources of information for the Report:

- Self-evaluation report (SER) for the Sociology MA
- Additional documentation provided by the Department and Institution (CV's, appendices, syllabi)
- Information gathered during the site visit
- Website of the Faculty of Philosophy <https://uni-pr.edu/page.aspx?id=2,162>
- Strategic Plan of the University of Pristina 2023-2025 <https://uni-pr.edu/desk/inc/media/ADE1AB72-FA19-431B-A776-B8EC1EFC2925.pdf>
- Statute of the University of Pristina <https://arte.uni-pr.edu/desk/inc/media/CCD36F08-590D-4BAC-BF9E-357308547AE1.pdf>

Criteria used for institutional and programme evaluations:

- KAA accreditation manual (updated 2022)
- KAA manual for external evaluation of higher education institutions (2021)
- KAA manual annex 4.3 template for the external review report
- National Qualifications Framework (NQF)
<https://www.etf.europa.eu/sites/default/files/2023-05/Kosovo%202023.pdf>

1.2. Site visit schedule

Time	Meeting	Participants
09:00 – 09:50	Meeting with the management of the faculty where the programmes are integrated (jointly)	Dean Prof. Asoc. Dashmir Berxulli (online) Vice-Dean Prof. Asoc. Muhamet Qerimi Vice-Dean Prof. Asoc. Adem Beha Vice-Dean Ass. Dr. Dorajet Imeri
09:50 – 10.35	Meeting with quality assurance representatives and administrative staff (<i>Jointly</i>)	Besnik Loxha – Office for Academic Development Rita Selimi – Coordinator for Academic Development Lumnije Ahmeti – Faculty Secretary
10:40 – 11:40	Meeting with the heads of the study programmes Archival MA (dr. Anna Bara) Room 1	Prof. Dr. Ibrahim Gashi
	Meeting with the heads of the study programmes Social Work BA (dr. Stavros Parlaris and Juraj Bogat) Room 2	Prof. Dr. Lulzim Dragidella Prof. Asoc. Dr. Vjollca Krasniqi Prof. Ass. Dr. Njomza Llullaku Prof. Ass. Dr. Avdyl Gashi
	Meeting with the heads of the study programmes Sociology MA (dr. Pavo Barisic) Room 3	Prof. Ass. Linda Gusia Prof. Ass Gezim Selaci Prof. Ass Ardian Gola
11:40 – 12:40	Lunch break	
12:40 – 13.25	Visiting Facilities	
13:25 – 14:10	Meeting with teaching staff Archival MA (Anna Bara) Room 1	Prof. Dr. Muhamet Mala, Prof. Dr. Bujar Dugolli, Prof. Asoc. Dr. Muhamet Qerimi, Prof. Asoc. Dr. Selim Bezeraj, Prof. Ass. Dr. Albina Drançolli Ramadani, Prof. Ass. Dr. Arben Hajdari, Prof. Ass. Dr. Kujtime Boshtrakaj Camaj, Prof. Ass. Dr. Mentor Hasani PhDc, Oktaj Hasani
	Meeting with teaching staff Social Work BA Social Work BA (Stavros Parlaris and Juraj Bogat) Room 2	Rita Selimi Besnik Fetahu Ibrahim Krasniqi Basri Kastrati Edin Lahu
	Meeting with teaching staff Sociology MA (Pavo Barisic) Room 3	Prof. Ass. Linda Gusia Dr. Artan Krasniqi PhD/c - Lirika Demiri Prof. Ass. Tahir Latifi PhD/c Agnesa Haxhiu PhD/c Great Avdyli

14:10 – 15:00	Meeting with students and graduates Archival MA (Anna Bara) Room 1	Berat Demolli Fidane Shala Mirvete Maqestena Nexhmije Rexha Luigj Ndreja
	Meeting with students and graduates Social Work BA (Stavros Parlaris and Juraj Bogat) Room 2	Lendita Humolli Ylli Rakipi Fiona Selmani Qendresa Zymeri Eglantina Maloku (exchange)
	Meeting with students and graduates Sociology MA (Pavo Barisic) Room 3	Trina Hoti Bleona Kurti Baroza Berisha Donika Gyargi Erisë Hajrizi Era Kadriu Qëndresë Deda Nazim Zullufi
15:00 – 15:45	Meeting with external stakeholders Archival MA (Anna Bara) Room 1	Habibe Qovanaj (<i>Agjencia Shteterore e Arkivave te Kosoves</i>) Teuta Shala-Peli (<i>Instituti i Historise</i>) Abaz Makolli (<i>Arkivi Komunal i Prishtines</i>) Izet Miftari (<i>Drejtor i DKRS-se ne Vushtrri</i>)
	Meeting with external stakeholders Social Work BA (Stavros Parlaris and Juraj Bogat) Room 2	Mentor Morina (<i>Ministria e Drejtësisë</i>) Blerim Shabani (<i>QPS</i>) Arber Nuhiu (<i>CSGD</i>) Klevis Vaqari (<i>KOMF</i>) Ibadete Krasniqi (<i>OFAP</i>)
	Meeting with external stakeholders Sociology MA (Pavo Barisic) Room 3	Stephanie Schwandner Sievers, <i>Professor – Bournemouth University, UK</i> Jeta Rexha - <i>director of Oral History Kosova</i> Florie Xhemajli - <i>founder of Britmi i Parë</i> Leonida Molliqaj - <i>ÇIKA</i>
15:45 – 15:55	Internal meeting of KAA staff and experts	
15:55 – 16:05	Closing meeting with the management of the faculty and programme	

1.3. A brief overview of the institution under evaluation

Insert general information about the institution, its legal status, its mission, the study programmes it is offering, and others.

As stated in the *Self-Evaluation Report* (SER below) of Sociology MA study programme, the Faculty of Philosophy was founded on 30 October 1960 as the first academic unit of higher education in Kosovo. Its mission consists in the proper education of young people of Kosovo and their preparation to become worthy and useful citizens for the country. The role of the foundation of the Faculty of Philosophy has always been and remains a source of reflection as well as political and social changes in the progress of the country and Kosovo society. The Faculty of Philosophy has been the leader of many vital processes for Kosovo, despite the challenges it faced during its functionality. At the Faculty of Philosophy, there are currently seven departments:

1. Department of History
2. Department of Philosophy
3. Department of Sociology
4. Department of Psychology
5. Department of Political Science
6. Department of Social Work
7. Department of Anthropology.

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

On the University's website it is written that the Faculty of Philosophy <https://uni-pr.edu/page.aspx?id=2,143> offers 13 study programmes to nearly 2,000 students. Out of the total number of programmes, 7 are at the bachelor level, 5 are MSc/MA programmes, and 1 PhD programme. The English version of the Faculty has 2 paths for the study programmes at the Faculty of Philosophy. One is for the MA (<https://uni-pr.edu/page.aspx?id=2,163>) and one for the BA (<https://uni-pr.edu/page.aspx?id=2,162>).

The Expert team (ET below) noted that the sections Master studies and PhD studies on the UP website (<https://uni-pr.edu/page.aspx?id=2,145> and <https://uni-pr.edu/page.aspx?id=2,146>, respectively) are both empty.

Different from that, the SER states that the Faculty has 8 programmes with valid accreditation, 6 programmes in the process of re-accreditation and 1 programme in the process of accreditation. Furthermore, the SER states that the Faculty has 50 professors, 1 lecturer and 14 assistants in full-time employment. Moreover, 22 professors and 14 part-time assistants are engaged in the Faculty.

The ET recommends that the data on study programmes on the website of the University and Faculty should be regularly updated, corrected, supplemented and harmonised with the information in the SER.

2. PROGRAMME EVALUATION

The institutional evaluation consists of 7 subheadings through which the administration, organisation and management of the institution, as well as teaching and research are assessed.

2.1. Mission, Objectives and Administration

(Insert all comments or observations, commendations and suggestions relating to this general area and its allocated standards, as specified in the KAA Accreditation manual. Consideration should be given to the adequacy of processes and results achieved in each of the standards.) (minimum one page)

On the website of the University of Prishtina (UP below) are available the mission and the vision of the UP in both Albanian and English <https://uni-pr.edu/page.aspx?id=2,47/>. The SER describes the mission of the MA Sociology as the only existing programme in sociology in Kosovo. Its objective is to advance and develop studies and research in this discipline. The sociological studies begin with the establishment of University of Prishtina and have since been important contributor in the social and political thought in the country. This MA programme was established in 2007-2008 and has since undergone changes based on collective reflection and prerequisites to improve and respond to local and international changes in how to practice and teach sociology. Centring the programme in social, political and historical context, the Ma Sociology aims at emphasising the importance of producing researched based knowledge. In particular, it aims to create multiple opportunities within the curriculum for students to engage in empirical inquiry that include research design, data collection, analyses, and presentation. The main mission is to create a space to draw from the disciplinary strength to forge through complex social and political context by networking and collaborating with a number of universities, scholars in different research and study centre, locally, regionally and internationally.

When asked by members of the ET during the site visit, the Faculty leadership confirmed that the Development Strategy of the Faculty of Philosophy has expired. The strategy was valid for the period from 2018 to 2023. The reasoning was that there is an ongoing change in the Statute of the UP, which is pending approval by the Parliament, to be followed by a general vote. The new Statute offers substantial changes in the functioning of the UP. These include the provision of space for the creation of institutes that will be associated with the departments, facilitation of the fundraising and publishing, possibilities for hiring researchers, clearer regulations for the promotion, clearer definitions for the roles of the deans. With the new Statute and the ongoing and upcoming reforms, the UP is moving more in a direction of developing into a research institute (and there are already three in place that are directly linked to the UP: Institute of Social Sciences, Institute of Anthropology and Institute of Psychology. Two new institutes had just received approval from the University Senate on the day the site visit took place: Institute of Sociology and Institute of Anthropology).

All employees of the institutions are UP professors. The idea is that in the future, the positions will be announced independently, with institutes remaining as parts of the UP, on their one budgets resulting from the applications for national and international grants. Naturally, educational and teaching components will remain, with the research component being strengthened in parallel.

The members of the ET could convince themselves during the meetings that that the Strategic Plan for the UP 2023-2025 was prepared in consultations with the Faculty members. The MA programme is reassessed internally by the Faculty's Teaching-Scientific Council and by KAA, in accordance with the 2018 provisions of the Administrative Instruction of the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (Art. 21).

The implementation of the Faculty Strategy is monitored on short- and medium-term targets. Outcomes are evaluated, with the actions resulting from the evaluation, such as strong focus on applied knowledge and professional skills. Specifically for the Sociology MA programme, actions comprised an engagement in empirical inquiry that include research design, data collection, analyses, and presentation.

Faculty of Philosophy provides equal opportunities and free of any discrimination for all students regardless of their ethnic, gender, racial, religious differences and their health status as stipulated by the Statute of the University of Prishtina and the applicable national legislation, the. Furthermore, according to the applicable legislation on higher education in the Republic of Kosovo, the Faculty of Philosophy, for each study programme, has the guaranteed quotas for members of minority communities living in Kosovo (10%).

The UP allocates scholarships for students performing excellently. It also offers financial and counselling support to those students who struggle. The infrastructure of the UP is adapted to cater to the needs of the persons with limited physical capacities.

The meetings confirmed the growing number of publications by the Albanian authors on the subject matter of sociology. The Faculty members have confirmed to act in their decision-making and teaching activities in conformity with the relevant legal provisions.

During the site visit, the expert team gained the impression that a good level of compliance with internal regulations relating to ethical conduct in research, teaching and assessments in most of the relevant areas has been achieved. Code of Ethics is established for academic and administrative staff and students. Continuous evaluation of students and academic staff is an important feature in the implementation of the study programme.

In the conversation with the administrative and academic staff during the site visit, the ET could convince themselves that proposed study programme, Sociology MA, is conceived as a professional degree with mandatory theoretical and practical courses on the sociological research. The development of this MA programme has gone through a careful and well-coordinated and comprehensive process of incorporating multiple pedagogies across the curriculum, including those that support active learning within and beyond the classroom. The programme has proven well-tailored to both the needs of the students as specialists and the needs of the employers. Desk research and consultations with a stakeholders and beneficiaries have confirmed the above.

The Faculty of Philosophy included student representatives in its decisional, executive, and consultative bodies. The mechanism for electing student representatives is clearly explained in internal regulations. There is a democratic, transparent and non-discriminatory election procedure that does not limit students' right to represent and to be represented. The institution is not involved in the process of electing student representatives.

Academic staff and students are made aware of the internal regulations (and other relevant acts) which regulate conduct between staff, the administration, and students. These documents are accessible to all on the web page of the University of Prishtina. The ET confirms that these are clearly visible to the various internal stakeholders involved in the MA study programme in Sociology. Finally, the ET agrees that the programmes of the Faculty of Philosophy under re-accreditation are well established and are being successfully implemented.

<i>Standard</i>	<i>Compliance</i>	
	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Standard 1.1. The study programme mission is in compliance with the overall mission statement of the institution.</i>	<i>X</i>	
<i>Standard 1.2. Relevant academic and professional advice is considered when defining the intended learning outcomes which are consistent with</i>	<i>X</i>	

<i>the National Qualifications Framework and the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area.</i>		
<i>Standard 1.3. The study programme has a well-defined overarching didactic and research concept.</i>	X	
<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>	X	
<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>	X	
<i>Standard 1.6. All policies, regulations, terms of reference and statements of responsibility relating to the management and delivery of the programme are reviewed at least once every two years and amended as required in the light of changing circumstances.</i>	X	

Compliance level: Fully compliant.

ET recommendations:

1. *The ET recommends improving the communication about and the visibility of the MA programme in open access, by adding a direct link to the programme in the “MA section” of the UP website.*
2. *The ET recommends promotion of excellence in teaching and research as a priority with a specific objective to bring a new dynamic to the teaching and research processes.*

2.2. Quality Management

(Insert all comments or observations, commendations and suggestions relating to this general area and its allocated standards, as specified in the KAA Accreditation manual. Consideration should be given to the adequacy of processes and results achieved in each of the standards.) (minimum one page)

According to the SER, the guaranteeing of the quality of programmes at the University of Prishtina is regulated by the Law on Higher Education No. 04/L-037, the Statute of the University of Prishtina and the Regulation on Ensuring Quality and Evaluation at the University of Prishtina. There are two types of evaluations. One is external and deals with the institutional accreditation, while the other one deals with the internal evaluation and the evaluation of the programmes of academic units before they undergo the external evaluation by the international experts.

10

The ET confirms that this is at a high professional level in terms of monitoring different aspects of the educational offerings. The Committee of the Faculty of Philosophy, in accordance with the Statute of the University of Prishtina, has regulations and rules which clearly describes the main aspects of quality assurance. This includes, for example, monitoring of the implementation of the recommendations given by evaluating experts from the Kosovar Agency for Accreditation; and creating opportunities for evaluation from colleagues and students within the Faculty. The ET gained a positive impression from different stakeholders who appeared satisfied with the level of engagement across the quality management criteria.

Specific to the MA programme, the Department of Sociology commits to utilising quality management and evaluation mechanisms. Quality assurance processes ensure that required standards are met and that there is continuing improvement in performance. The Electronic Student Management System (ESMS) represents the main instrument for the internal evaluation of the level of delivery of the course material to the students. The ESMS has software capacities for statistical data generation, which is regularly reviewed by the staff member responsible for the quality assurance within the Faculty of Philosophy. To ensure maximum objectivity in the evaluation of the teaching process and to assess the quality of the educational services delivered, the Faculty of Philosophy uses questionnaires formulated within the UP for academic and administrative staff, as well as students.

The questionnaires are filled in electronic form. Survey data is being collected from students; the results of these evaluations are made available to the UP administrative and teaching staff. The collected data reflect the level of distribution and delivery of the course materials throughout the semester. It also allows to monitor the progress of a particular study programme. The ESMS is deployed at the end of each semester, twice a year in total. In addition to generating comparative data on the evaluation of teaching modules, it automatically distributes the results to the responsible management bodies in the Rectorate and across the Faculties, including the Faculty of Philosophy. This independent and anonymous tool accurately reflects the quality of the teaching process delivered by the academic staff and the advancement of the learning objectives amongst the students.

According to the SER, quality assurance processes encompass all aspects of programme planning and delivery, including academically-relevant services, teaching, and communication with the UP. The information obtained is directed to the Rector's office, where it is analysed, and the findings are sent in an aggregated manner back to the Faculty. Lastly, there are in place procedures on how to deal with not satisfactory evaluations, in which cases the Dean of the Faculty has to be involved.

The SER explains that the Faculty of Philosophy has taken a significant step towards ensuring and enhancing the quality of education by drafting a comprehensive package for internal quality assurance measures. This initiative, set to undergo a voting process and subsequent implementation, reflects the Faculty's commitment to fostering excellence in teaching and

maintaining a prominent position in national and international rankings. Among the various methods employed, Peer-to-Peer evaluation stands out as a crucial component. Through regular observation sessions among academic colleagues, the Faculty not only cultivates a culture of collaboration but also facilitates continuous improvement in teaching methodologies. This approach informs policies geared towards enhancing teaching quality, all while promoting transparent and constructive dialogues between professors and students. The practice of discussing data study results at the beginning of each semester encourages an open exchange of feedback, building trust, and empowering professors to adapt teaching methods based on student input. Recommendations derived from these evaluations play a pivotal role in shaping policies and guiding the Faculty's management, all aimed at creating an enriched learning environment and improving program effectiveness. Additionally, the emphasis on evaluating engaged staff underscores the Faculty's dedication to continuous improvement in teaching standards, shaping management policies, and providing valuable insights for future evaluation committees.

It was stated during the meeting that the collected data from students, graduates, and employers are not made publicly available, due to GDPR rules and restrictions. However, the University Annual Report is public and contains some (study process) relevant information about the UP's students and graduates. The main indicator of quality assessment is employment. The Centre for Career Development (CDC) – a unit of the Academic Development Office at the UP – prepares students for the labour market and provides training sessions, including in soft skills development. It provides students with opportunities for personal and professional development through information, counselling, training, and career guidance. Beneficiaries of CDCs services are: UP students and graduates, high school students considering study opportunities at the UP, UP faculty members, organizations, and employers. CDC organises career fairs and round tables. It invites companies to partake and meet with the students as potential employees, offers advice on finding employment, publishes announcement of job vacancies, honorary jobs and internships for students, and serves as a liaison office with the students and graduates of the UP. Regular and frequent evaluations of the market needs may be considered as an added value activity for connecting academia with the market.

The role of the Ethics Committee should be acknowledged. The Committee helps to uphold academic integrity by reviewing cases of alleged misconduct, provides guidance and oversight on ethical issues, and demonstrates the University's commitment to ethical practices. It also contributes to the overall compliance of the UP's operations with the Quality Assurance regulations.

During the meeting with quality assurance team, the question of fairly high rate of dropout from the UP – not specific to the Sociology MA programme – was discussed, with reportedly up to 50 % of students not arriving to the graduation. This trend emerged recently, and the team intends to analyse the available data to understand why numbers are what they are. This trend is most visible at the technical faculties and is linked to the fact that students find

12

employment after 2 years of studies, thus looking both the interest and the motivation to continue. While social sciences seem to be more resilient in this regard, the Faculty of Philosophy is working to improve its response through a targeted strategy that helps to convince students to carry on with their studies until a completion of a degree. As a mitigation strategy, a rule is in place, which provides for a possibility to take the exam up to 3 times. Erasmus+ programme is another tool to mitigating this trend, as it represents an attractive option for the students.

<i>Standard</i>	<i>Compliance</i>	
	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Standard 2.1. All staff participate in self-evaluations and cooperate with reporting and improvement processes in their sphere of activity.</i>	X	
<i>Standard 2.2. Evaluation processes and planning for improvement are integrated into normal planning processes.</i>	X	
<i>Standard 2.3. Quality assurance processes deal with all aspects of programme planning and delivery, including services and resources provided by other parts of the institution.</i>	X	
<i>Standard 2.4. Quality evaluations provide an overview of quality issues for the overall programme 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>	X	
<i>Standard 2.5. Quality assurance processes ensure both that required standards are met and that there is continuing improvement in performance.</i>	X	
<i>Standard 2.6. Survey data is being collected from students, graduates and employers; the results of these evaluations are made publicly available.</i>		X
<i>Standard 2.7. Results of the internal quality assurance system are taken into account for further development of the study programme. 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 programme 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 programme are themselves regularly evaluated and improved.</i>	X	

Compliance level: *Substantially compliant.*

ET recommendations:

1. *The ET recommends to establish forums for Faculty or Department members to share their experiences and solutions related to quality management.*
2. *The ET recommends to inform the students regularly regarding the results of the survey of their opinion and of the measures taken by University based on them.*
3. *The ET recommends to consider the creation of an alumnae organisation to maintain the relation with the graduates and conduct regular, organised consultation of their opinion.*
4. *The ET recommends to develop mechanisms to gather feedback from external partners and stakeholders in order to create stronger bonds with local community.*
5. *The ET recommends to establish a recognition and reward system to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of individuals and teams towards improving quality.*

2.3. Academic Staff

*(Insert all comments or observations, commendations and suggestions relating to this general area and its allocated standards, as specified in the KAA Accreditation manual. Consideration should be given to the adequacy of processes and results achieved in each of the standards.)
(minimum two pages)*

According to the SER, the academic staff employed in Department of Sociology, within which the MA study programme is implemented, carries its activities in full compliance of statutory provisions of University of Prishtina. The SER lists ten permanently employed professors and two assistants. Of these, one professor is employed as a retiree, one currently serves as ambassador to Japan, and one has a dual status.

By reviewing the submitted documentation, the ET came to the conclusion that the academic staff comply with legal requirements. It has adequate professional training, in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Instruction of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology 2018. The Department of Sociology has provided sufficient full-time staff with appropriate academic qualifications in accordance with the provisions of the UP Statute and current legislation.

The cooperation within the University of Prishtina offers possibilities for staff development. Elements and processes for an academic career are sufficiently described in the SER. However, the reduced number of professional staff in the Department causes teacher overload. As confirmed in the on-site visit, at the Department of Sociology, several prominent professors have retired in recent years. A generational change is happening. That is why it is necessary to

invest additional efforts in the employment and education of teaching staff. It is recommended to hire new teachers in order to be able to carry out and develop this study programme to high international educational standards. Otherwise, the academic staff will be deprived of certain opportunities for further professional development.

In the SER the Faculty of Philosophy describes the typical academic activities sufficiently. However, the number of published papers of academic staff could be improved. As a good step in that direction should be mentioned that the academic staff confirmed in conversation with the ET that thanks to new support measures for research activities, projects and international cooperation at the level of the Ministry as well as the University of Prishtina, the possibilities of financial support have now increased considerably for the professional development of academic staff.

The Department of Sociology constantly provides opportunities and creates conditions in favour of capacity building and quality in teaching and research for its staff. According to the SER, this objective has been achieved through the organisation of professional pedagogical training. Also, majority of the academic staff has travelled within the Erasmus+ programme more than once and had the opportunity to observe up close universities from the European Higher Education and gain knowledge and models of good practice that directly and indirectly influence professional development. Academic staff also participate in conferences, symposiums, and other scientific and artistic activities, where they share their experiences and receive valuable feedback on enhancing their performance. In addition, academic staff are encouraged to publish their research activities in high quality journals and publishing circles.

The level of engagement by the academic community with students is very high. The SER refers that teaching staff has, as per their contracts, dedicated time for student consultations. There is also a good degree of community service both internally and externally. The ET commends this academic service and encourages academic staff to continue this service not only internally but externally with strategic stakeholders in Kosovo and internationally.

According to the SER, the Faculty has implemented a structured and systematic approach to self-evaluation, emphasising the main importance of ensuring and enhancing the quality of its academic staff, courses, and programmes. The assessment of academic staff is regularly conducted through student evaluation, peer evaluation, and supervisor evaluation.

The ET was informed that academic staff is also evaluated by students where the questionnaires are completed electronically and managed by SEMS at the level of the University of Prishtina Rectorate. These questionnaires have been made obligatory and the staff and management is able to effectively assess the quality of academic teaching through a greater sample of student input. The ET considers it a positive development.

The Faculty is also well equipped to ensure that the Sociology MA programme monitors and develops the quality of teaching. There is a Coordinator for Academic Development, who along with the Dean, can take substantial measures to improve teaching strategies and teaching materials through requests for improvement and updating of syllabus in line with the latest publications. The ET believes that the periodic external evaluation of the programme could also ensure a high degree of quality control and where necessary improvement measures.

According to the SER, the regulation of employment relations between academic and administrative staff are provided by the provisions of the UP Statute. It is prescribed that staff in regular employment may not have any other contract of full-time employment at any other university, and the retirement age of academic staff is 65 years. If a staff member, for personal reasons, even before retirement, resigns to being a regular, then, as needed and able, he may be hired as a part time staff member. Also, according to the provisions of the UP regulations, it is permitted to hire a retired academic staff up to the age of 70.

<i>Standard</i>	<i>Compliance</i>	
	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<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 programme under evaluation.</i>	X	
<i>Standard 3.2. The teaching staff must comply with the legal requirements concerning the occupation of teaching positions included in the Administrative instruction on Accreditation.</i>	X	
<i>Standard 3.3. Academic staff do not cover, within an academic year, more than two teaching positions (one full-time, one part-time), regardless of the educational institution where they carry out their activity.</i>	X	
<i>Standard 3.4. At least 50% of the academic staff in the study programme are full time employees, and account for at least 50% of the classes of the study programme.</i>	X	
<i>Standard 3.5. For each student group (defined by the statute of the institution) and for every 60 ECTS credits in the study programme, the institution has employed at least one full time staff with PhD title or equivalent title in the case of artistic/applied science institutions.</i>	X	

<i>Standard 3.6. Opportunities are provided for additional professional development of teaching staff, with special assistance given to any who are facing difficulties.</i>	X	
<i>Standard 3.7. The responsibilities of all teaching staff, especially full-time, include the engagement in the academic community, availability for consultations with students and community service.</i>	X	
<i>Standard 3.8. Academic staff evaluation is conducted regularly at least through self-evaluation, students, peer and superiors' evaluations, and occur on a formal basis at least once each year. The results of the evaluation are made publicly available.</i>		X
<i>Standard 3.9. Strategies for quality enhancement include improving the teaching strategies and quality of learning materials.</i>	X	
<i>Standard 3.10. Teachers retired at age limit or for other reasons lose the status of full-time teachers and are considered part-time teachers.</i>	X	

Compliance level: *Substantially compliant.*

ET recommendations:

1. *The ET recommends that the results of the evaluation that are regularly conducted be made publicly available in an appropriate form.*
2. *The ET recommends that academic staff should be regularly renewed and employed so that there is no excessive teaching load that can have a negative effect on the scientific and professional development of the staff.*
3. *The ET recommends that measures to promote academic staff and increase their international cooperation capabilities should be carefully continued and improved.*

2.4. Educational Process Content

(Insert all comments or observations, commendations and suggestions relating to this general area and its allocated standards, as specified in the KAA Accreditation manual. Consideration should be given to the adequacy of processes and results achieved in each of the standards.) (minimum two pages)

Relying on the SER, accompanying documents and discussions during the site visit, the ET concluded that the MA programme in Sociology contains satisfactory preparation for students to become informed active citizens. A wide range of sociological and interdisciplinary courses

is supposed to enlarge the professional competence of the programme. It allow students to learn by making connections between ideas and concepts across different fields and disciplines that figures in the programme. This enables students to take part and apply the knowledge gained in different fields of study to deepen their learning experiences.

The ET welcomes particularly that this MA programme has elaborated interdisciplinarity in an appropriate way. It enables students to build their own pathway by choosing courses, which make sense to them. The programme offers a number of skills modules that are sufficiently transferable to different job market settings. Moreover, it enables students to move within the European study area. The learning objectives that figure in this programme are a roadmap how to achieve the programme goals and figure in the specific teaching objectives. Through an analysis of the SER, meetings with stakeholders and from an examination the relevant documents and curriculum, the ET found it positive that the MA in Sociology has been developed in full accordance with the standards of the European Higher Education Area.

The ET noted that not all courses developed the seven learning outcomes, according to the SER, as prescribed in the KAA criteria. Some of them listed only three learning outcomes, such as for example: I.1 Empirical research methods, I.2. Epistemology of social science etc.

The ET was impressed during the site visit in conversation with students and graduates of sociology studies. They showed not only a high level of knowledge acquired during their studies, but also concrete engagement in social issues and affaires. Some of them gained excellent experiences at universities abroad, where they continued further studies and training and obtained doctorates. Most students are involved in research projects during their studies.

The SER confirms that the MA Sociology study programme has been elaborated in accordance with the standards set out by the Kosovo Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and the ESG standards described in the manual of the Kosovo Accreditation Agency. It has provided an overview of the courses to be offered over the six semesters along with a list of lectures to be delivered in each course and a reading list. The ET can only confirm that it exists a good degree of cohesion between the modules and the teaching staff. The programme contains specific details of its components and about the opportunity it offers after they have finished their studies.

According to the findings of the ET, the teaching strategies reflect satisfactorily the different abilities of the students. The ET evaluates positively that the course syllabi are elaborated in accordance with the MA level of studies. In the conversation during the site visit, the students expressed to the ET their desire for a greater choice of teaching courses. They expressed requests to enable them to attend certain courses related to their studies at other study departments within the Faculty, but also more broadly at the level of the entire University. Therefore, the ET does not consider that it was a good decision to reduce the number of elective courses offered in the Sociology MA programme.

18

The SER confirms that the number of students who speak English is high at the Department of Sociology. The ET considers that this is a good basis to be able to study relevant literature in foreign languages. English literature is given to students in different study fields. Thus, it is possible to compensate for the lack of professional literature in the Albanian language. Most of the syllabuses contain relevant international literature. Furthermore, there are two mandatory English language courses in the programme. The Faculty of Philosophy is also considering the possibility to introduction of a second foreign language, in parallel with English.

However, the ET observed that the study program neglects the cultivation of other foreign languages such as French, German, Spanish and Italian. Therefore, the ET recommends that much more effort be invested in learning other foreign languages. Because in this way the mobility of both students and teaching staff can be increased. It is also useful for better study of professional literature in other languages.

The ET considers that there is a well-elaborated and professional system for student assessment within the programme. The courses satisfactorily explain the evaluation criteria and passing the courses. However, the area of improvement arises regarding the engagement of students with learning outcomes. A more comprehensive and proactive approach to address it could be highlighting the explicit link between assessments and learning outcomes within the syllabi. By this the Faculty can empower students with a clearer understanding of how course content aligns with their academic goals. This measure could also foster a culture of proactive engagement and self-directed learning among students within the programme.

The ET could be convinced in a conversation with the academic staff and students that mechanisms for assessing achievement are sufficiently evident throughout the course. The ET drew a conclusion that the assessment methods are comparable to the assessment in the subjects within the programme and to other programmes in the Faculty of Philosophy and the University of Prishtina.

According to the SER and as the ET saw on its site visit, the study programme includes practice stages. As part of their Internship module, students are expected to complete their internship in a public or private institution, in or outside Kosovo. Students are free to choose their own host institution. Academic research is a crucial aspect of the internship. For all internships conducted, students are therefore required to submit an overview of their experience. This overview should include an abstract of its scholarly relevance. The ET welcomes that the University of Prishtina already has an office in charge of internships that aims to facilitate student's findings of internships. According to the SER, the University has signed agreements with different government institutions for internships. This is supposed to help students to gain work experience related to the programme and develop an advanced understanding of the nexus between theory and practice.

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

<i>within a programme, and in comparison with other study programmes at highly regarded institutions.</i>		
<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 KAA inconsistently assessed.</i>	X	
<i>Standard 4.11. If the study programme 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 programme.</i>	X	
<i>Standard 4.12. In order to facilitate the practice stages, the higher education institution signs cooperation agreements, contracts or other documents with institutions/organisations/practical training units.</i>	X	

Compliance level: Fully compliant.

ET recommendations:

1. *The ET recommends that all learning courses elaborate at least seven learning outcomes as prescribed by the KAA criteria.*
2. *The ET recommends a larger offer of elective courses within the programme at the Department of Sociology.*
3. *The ET recommends to introduce the possibility that students can attend certain courses at other departments within the Faculty, but if possible also more broadly at the level of the entire University.*
4. *The ET recommends that the MA Sociology programme should continue to develop the strategy of learning more foreign languages for both students and academic staff.*
5. *The ET recommends that funding be provided for the updated literature on specific sociological subjects as well as for the translation of key literature into Albanian.*

2.5. Students

(Insert all comments or observations, commendations and suggestions relating to this general area and its allocated standards, as specified in the KAA Accreditation manual. Consideration should be given to the adequacy of processes and results achieved in each of the standards.) (minimum two pages)

The admission process is transparent and equal for all candidates with the requirements for admission being publicly available well ahead of time. The process is well defined by the

21

Faculty and University. Students who are enrolled possess the required qualifications which are determined by the University and the Faculty. Study groups are dimensioned properly and there are no obstacles in this manner which would interfere with the flow of the educational process.

Student rights are positively met and students have their representatives in all functioning bodies of the Faculty. Student results and the academic record is kept digitally in SEMS system. Students have the opportunity to transfer to other institutions and the Faculty can accommodate students from other institutions from abroad.

Student-teacher relationships are extremely pleasant and professional, and the ET is under a major positive impression in that regard. The professors are not just teaching, they are mentoring and raising prominent young professionals. They observe their students and act according to their needs and their learning styles. The professors demonstrated several techniques which they apply to different types of students. Students receive prompt feedback and are given advice when needed, they are included in projects and activities, and they receive a lot of support in general from their teachers. Through the professors, the students also can get internships and later employment at relevant institutions where they leave a very positive impact.

The ET recognises the efforts, motivation and eagerness of the professors carrying out this programme, but more importantly, the students recognise and appreciate them as well. Students feel safe, aware of their growth as both professionals and academic citizens, which would not be possible without teaching staff. Even though literature may be scarce, the professors go above and beyond in order to provide quality to their teaching. Keep up the good work!

The one thing that the ET recommends is to obtain plagiarism software which may further increase the quality of the studies. While there is some free software that may be used, having licensed software provides a lot of additional options and possibilities and it is generally more attentive with works submitted.

Another thing the ET recommends is to incorporate AI models into the teaching process. Students will use it and it will be used in a lot of ways in the future and therefore it might be beneficial to consider in which way it may be incorporated and used in educational purposes.

Finally, at the meetings during the site visit, the ET asked heads of the Faculty and Department as well as students for an explanation of the large drop out of students. Many of the enrolled students do not finish their studies. This number has been increasing dramatically in recent years. There are several justified reasons for this phenomenon. However, it turned out that there are no detailed analyses at the level of Department of Sociology and the Faculty level of the reasons for interrupting studies and leaving the University. The ET could not find evidence

that records of student completion rates are kept for all courses and for the programme as a whole and included among quality indicators.

<i>Standard</i>	<i>Compliance</i>	
	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Standard 5.1. There is a clear and formally adopted admission procedure at institutional level that the study programme respects when organising students' recruitment. Admission requirements are consistently and fairly applied for all students.</i>	X	
<i>Standard 5.2. All students enrolled in the study programme possess a high school graduation diploma or other equivalent document of study, according to MEST requirements.</i>	X	
<i>Standard 5.3. The study groups are dimensioned so as to ensure an effective and interactive teaching and learning process.</i>	X	
<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>	X	
<i>Standard 5.5. The results obtained by the students throughout the study cycles are certified by the academic record.</i>	X	
<i>Standard 5.6. Flexible treatment of students in special situations is ensured with respect to deadlines and formal requirements in the programme and to all examinations.</i>	X	
<i>Standard 5.7. Records of student completion rates are kept for all courses and for the programme as a whole and included among quality indicators.</i>		X
<i>Standard 5.8. Effective procedures are being used to ensure that work submitted by students is original.</i>	X	
<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>	X	
<i>Standard 5.10. The students' transfer between higher education institutions, faculties and study programmes is clearly regulated in formal internal documents.</i>	X	
<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>	X	

Compliance level: Fully compliant.

ET recommendations:

- 1. The ET recommends that records of student completion rates should be kept for all courses and for the programme as a whole and included among quality indicators.*

2. *The ET recommends that the MA Sociology study programme should focus its research among main issues on considering the reasons for the increased drop out of students and the trend of leaving the university and the country itself.*
3. *The ET recommends to obtain a fully licensed plagiarism software.*
4. *The ET recommends to implement AI in teaching and learning process.*

2.6. Research

*(Insert all comments or observations, commendations and suggestions relating to this general area and its allocated standards, as specified in the KAA Accreditation manual. Consideration should be given to the adequacy of processes and results achieved in each of the standards.)
(minimum two pages)*

During the on-site visit, the ET discussed with the heads of the Faculty about the outdated Development Strategy 2018-2023, which is referred to by the Sociology MA study programme in the SER. The management of the Faculty explained that the new strategic document is in the phase of acceptance by the University bodies. Research objectives and the dynamics of the realisation of the activities in the achievement of the objectives are defined also in the outdated strategic document of the institution. The ET recommends that an updated development strategy be adopted as soon as possible.

In the SER, among others, the following weaknesses of the programme are listed: weak budget allocations for national research, insufficient capacities for requesting international grant applications, limited access to electronic resources, limited access to international libraries, lack of funding for scientific research and participation in international conferences.

However, based on the information on the site visit, the ET came to the conclusion that significantly larger funds for scientific research are provided by new strategic funding at the University of Prishtina. It is therefore recommended that the Faculty of Philosophy develops a more substantial allocation of resources for research at the institutional level.

The issue of promotion of teaching staff is regulated through a mandatory requirement for scientific research and publication in journals with international credibility. The Statute of the University of Prishtina sets the criteria for staff evaluation and promotion. Finished studies, research activities and publications in internationally recognised and credible scientific journals serve as an evaluation indicators of staff performance. The definitions for the quality criteria of the staff are also provided by the document of the Accreditation Manual of KAA. The ET confirms that teaching staff are obliged to engage in research and wider academic activity which is also a basic criterion for their promotion through the academic system.

Department staff participates regularly in the scientific sessions, symposiums, conferences and round tables which are of interest for the profession and the community.

The University of Prishtina has regulated the issue of evaluating the professional and scientific contribution of the teachers. In particular, the issue of publishing in local and international journals with impact factor is regulated. However, the ET warns that an excessive teaching load with reduced research funding can lead to weaker scientific achievements. That is why it is necessary to establish a satisfactory balance between teaching and research of employed academic staff.

According to the SER, the academic staff of the Department of Sociology has conducted research activities with content that is directly or indirectly related to their field of teaching activity. The range of scientific activities is indeed considerable and wide ranging. The ET recommends the Faculty to continue developing support measures for scientific projects and international research cooperation.

An examination of the research abstracts showed that academic staff are productive scientists. The number of published articles and book chapters is respectable. The engaged scholars are connected to the national and international scholar community. The promotion is well established and appropriate linked to publishing production.

Particularly important to the institution is the fact that the academic staff is encouraged and free to include their published work in their course syllabus. The ET could prove that this is the case in many of the courses that were reviewed in this accreditation procedure. It significantly improves the research-led teaching practice where teaching staff are experts in the fields that they are teaching in the MA.

According to the SER, the University has clearly defined the rules regarding the ownership of scientific creation and has also imposed punitive measures for its misuse. There is a law for the protection of intellectual property and copyright.

In conversation with academic staff, the ET came to the conclusion that teachers' salaries are not appropriate in relation to the demands of scientific work and advancement as well as in relation to other professions and do not adequately cover the increasing cost of living. Allegedly, they have not been raised for some time. That is why the ET recommends to the governing departmental and university bodies to take measures recommends administrative bodies to adjust salaries to the requirements of the scientific and teaching profession.

The ET could not obtain more detailed insight that policies are established for ownership of intellectual property and that the system of regulations is adequately elaborated. From this, the ET concluded that the protection system should be further developed to be protected by legal and administrative regulations and clear procedures set out for commercialisation of ideas developed by staff and students.

25

The ET received considerable data in the discussion on the meeting on how many students are actually involved in research projects and other activities in the MA study programme of Sociology. The ET listened with respect to the arguments presented by the visiting professor from the University of Portsmouth about the fruitful international cooperation and excellent achievements of students from the Department of Sociology. In the five-year period between 2018 and 2023, 62 mobilities of academic staff and students between the University of Prishtina and the University of Portsmouth were realised within the framework of the Erasmus+ programme. The ET has gained considerable positive insight about the involvement of students in research projects and international exchanges and cooperation.

Standard	Compliance	
	Yes	No
<i>Standard 6.1. The study programme has defined scientific/applied research objectives (on its own or as part of a research centre or interdisciplinary programme), which are also reflected in the research development plan of the institution; sufficient financial, logistic and human resources are allocated for achieving the proposed research objectives.</i>	X	
<i>Standard 6.2. Expectations for teaching staff involvement in research and scholarly activities are clearly specified, and performance in relation to these expectations is considered in staff evaluation and promotion criteria.</i>	X	
<i>Standard 6.3. Clear policies are established for defining what is recognized as research, consistent with international standards and established norms in the field of study of the programme.</i>	X	
<i>Standard 6.4. The academic staff has a proven track record of research results on the same topics as their teaching activity.</i>	X	
<i>Standard 6.5. The academic and research staff publish their work in speciality magazines or publishing houses, scientific/applied/artistic products are presented at conferences, sessions, symposiums, seminars etc. and contracts, expertise, consultancy, conventions, etc. are provided to partners inside the country and/or abroad.</i>	X	
<i>Standard 6.6. Research is validated through: scientific and applied research publications, artistic products, technological transfer through consultancy centres, scientific parks and other structures for validation.</i>	X	
<i>Standard 6.7. Each academic staff member and researcher has produced at least an average of one scientific/applied research publication or artistic outcome/product per year for the past three years.</i>	X	
<i>Standard 6.8. Academic and research staff publish under the name of the institution in Kosovo they are affiliated to as full-time staff.</i>	X	
<i>Standard 6.9/6.8. Academic staff are encouraged to include in their teaching information about their research and scholarly activities that are relevant to courses they teach, together with other significant research developments in the field.</i>	X	

<i>Standard 6.10. Policies are established for ownership of intellectual property and clear procedures set out for commercialization of ideas developed by staff and students.</i>		<i>X</i>
<i>Standard 6.11. Students are engaged in research projects and other activities.</i>	<i>X</i>	

Compliance level: Fully compliant.

ET recommendations:

1. *The ET recommends that an appropriate protection system should be further developed to protect the commercialisation of ideas developed by staff and students by legal and administrative regulations and clear procedures.*
2. *The ET recommends establishing and developing a strategy for applying for research funds at the institutional and international level.*
3. *The ET recommends creating a regulation and annually rewarding researchers for significant works published in publications with high international scientific impact.*
4. *The ET recommends to adjust salaries to the demanding requirements of the scientific and teaching profession.*

2.7. Infrastructure and Resources

(Insert all comments or observations, commendations and suggestions relating to this general area and its allocated standards, as specified in the KAA Accreditation manual. Consideration should be given to the adequacy of processes and results achieved in each of the standards.) (minimum one page)

During the meetings with the Faculty management, students, and the staff, the ET found out that the infrastructural conditions on the premises are relatively renewed and somewhat adequate. However, there is still much to be done. For example, a lot of “wear and tear” is present throughout the premises. It appears as the Faculty is lacking a person or two who would take care of infrastructural maintenance and small repairs. Those are just details and in no way do they contribute to the learning process, yet the impression the ET got is that the building itself is poorly maintained.

All financial plans are made at the level of the University and therefore the Department has little or no jurisdiction over it. All the premises are owned by the University and give to the Department.

The classrooms are spacious with lots of light, modern equipment (Smart Boards) and adequate number of seating places. Moreover, some of the classrooms are designed as big auditoriums with several writing surfaces, smart boards, projectors etc.

Currently, library seems to be a major issue in this institution. The ET believes that the representatives of the Faculty are well aware of this, and from the information during the site visit, it is planned to make certain improvements in this regard. The ET must state out that the current library setting is not satisfactory – while there are some work desks set inside the library, there is not enough room to study or work on a project, there are no electrical outlets at the desks, no adequate lighting. The library fundus cannot easily be browsed since the space between bookshelves is too narrow. The library should be priority for the Faculty management, but also for the University, since this type of library cannot be combined with the idea of Academia and Higher Education Institution in today’s world. The ET is aware that this is a major issue that cannot be solved in a short period of time and that the Department nor even Faculty cannot do it on their own. Thus, we strongly advise to make an appeal towards the University and the Ministry of Education and all other instances which are relevant in this regard.

Besides the library as a physical space, the Faculty Library as a place of learning and research remains not connected to any regional or European library network, thus limiting students and academic staff in gaining access to online sources and secondary literature. The ET recommends allocation of funds towards this academically-relevant service.

The ET recognises that the Faculty is putting efforts into transforming the premisses into a pleasant habitat for students with the introduction of several relaxation zones throughout the hallways. They will serve as a meeting place for students, for relaxing after a lecture or even for group work (however, this does not annulate the lack of group workspace in the library).

Finally, the premises are equipped with ramps and an elevator for students with mobility difficulties. And from the perspective of the emotional support, the new University strategy addresses these situations and is setting the grounds for opening a Counselling Centre which will be available to all students, with professional staff working there.

<i>Standard</i>	<i>Compliance</i>	
	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
<i>Standard 7.1. The adequate long-term implementation of the study programme 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>	X	

<p><i>Standard 7.2. There is a financial plan at the level of the study programme that would demonstrate the sustainability of the study programme for the next minimum three years.</i></p>	<p>X</p>	
<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 programme 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></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></p> <p><i>c) adequate software for the disciplines of study included in the curriculum, with utilisation licence;</i></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></p>	<p>X</p>	
<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>X</p>	
<p><i>Standard 7.5. The education institution's libraries must ensure, for each of the study programmes:</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 programme;</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 programme;</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>X</p>
<p><i>Standard 7.6. The infrastructure and facilities dedicated to the implementation of the programme is adapted to students with special needs.</i></p>	<p>X</p>	

Compliance level: Substantially compliant.

ET recommendations:

1. *The ET recommends to modernise the library as both a physical and educational space.*
2. *The ET recommends enabling access to electronic platforms for students in order to use relevant literature.*
3. *The ET recommends the acquisition of special software programmes for analysing data in the field of social sciences.*
4. *The ET recommends to increase the maintenance level to mitigate or at least to repair the wear-and-tear.*

3. FINAL RECOMMENDATION OF THE ET

The study programme MA in Sociology as such and the given infrastructure as seen in the on-site-visit and in the examination of the documents is fully compliant with the standards included in the KAA Accreditation manual.

STANDARD	COMPLIANCE LEVEL
1. Mission, objectives, and administration	Fully compliant
2. Quality management	Substantially compliant
3. Academic staff	Fully compliant
4. Educational process content	Fully compliant
5. Students	Fully compliant
6. Research	Fully compliant
7. Infrastructure and resources	Substantially compliant
OVERALL COMPLIANCE	Fully compliant

Compliance level: Fully compliant.

The Expert Team considers that the study programme Sociology MA offered by the Faculty of Philosophy at the University of Prishtina is *fully compliant* with the standards included in the *KAA Accreditation manual* and, therefore, recommends re-accrediting the study programme.

Student quota recommended: 40-50.

Duration: 5 (Five) Years.

Expert Team

Chair



Dr Pavo Barišić

30 May 2024

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Date)

Member



Dr Anna Bara

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Date)

Member



Dr Stavros Parlalis

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Date)

Member



Juraj Bogat

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Date)