


**REPORT
OF
EXTERNAL EVALUATION
FOR
PhD. STUDY PROGRAMMES
AT DOCTORAL SCHOOL
IN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS**

Tiranë, 2015

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'M' followed by a smaller 'M' and a vertical line.

PREAMBLE

I. PRINCIPLES OF THE EXTERNAL EVALUATION PROCESS

- *The External evaluation is an evidence –based process carried out by independent External evaluation Group (EEG)*
- *Information provided by the Higher Education Institution (HEI) is assumed to be factually correct, unless other evidence points the contrary.*
- *The external evaluation is a process of verification of the information provided (mainly by Self Evaluation Report (SER) and the exploration of any matters which are omitted from that documentation.*
- *The level of conformity that is expected is “substantial compliance”, not rigid adherence.*

II. KEY FEATURES OF THE EXTERNAL EVALUATION PROCESS

- *Management of process must be completely independent from the HEI itself*
- *All parts of the process must be transparent (easily open to examination by the APAAL and Accreditation Council).*
- *The Report must be sufficiently detailed to provide satisfactory assurance of the robustness of the external evaluation*
- *The report must provide sufficient, verified information which clearly shows that the criteria have been met*

III. STAGES OF EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE

External Evaluation consists of several stages:

- Approval of the request of the HEI, and establishing timelines Evaluation.
- Decision of PAAHE, for External Evaluation Group (EEG) members and the timeframe of the External Evaluation.
- Establishing the External Evaluation Group (EEG)
- Informing the institution under evaluation about the timeframe of the external evaluation to take place and about the composition of the EEG;
- Contracting the members of the EEG;
- Training the EEG from the PAAHE staff, to help the EEG get to know the Self- Evaluation folder and the raise discussion. Compiling the working plan;
- Preparing of EEG for the site visits to the HEIs;
- Visits of EEG to the HEI;
- Compilation of the Draft of External Evaluation Report by the EEG;
- Send the Draft of External Evaluation Report to the HEI under evaluation;
- Compilation of the Final External Evaluation Report and submission to PAAHE.

IV. CONTENT OF EXTERNAL EVALUATION REPORT (EER)

EER should contain 12 main sections (points). Each section (required to be analyzed) may consist of three parts:

- Description Part

- Measurable indicators part (data, tables, along with Annexes).
- Assessment, according to the Standards

In the description part, according to the Terms of References, the Experts describe the relevant section. In the part of measurable indicators, EER will contain quantitative data, tables, etc., which prove the descriptions. Finally, in the part of assessment, according to quality standards, EER will include specific responses for each criterion/standard¹, and whether it is **fulfilled** or **not**.

EXTERNAL EVALUATION REPORT

FOR STUDY PROGRAM: PhD IN POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

INTRODUCTION

Background and official database on the opening /reorganization of this program study, doctoral school etc. Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG should analyze and evaluate the official documents for licensing this program

MEMBERS OF EXTERNAL EVALUATION GROUP (EEG)

- 1 Prof. Dr. Hans Köchler (Austria)
- 2.....
- 3.....
- 4.....

The undersigned has taken into account the comments of the University.

MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND ADMINISTRATION OF DOCTORAL STUDY PROGRAMS

1. Mission and objectives of doctoral study program

Description part

Terms of reference: *Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG should analyze and evaluate the: aims and objectives of the study program and scientific research, strategies in the short, medium and long terms, the number of students over the years, study programs of third cycle, HEI place (in the national and international contest).*

Epoka University is a private higher education institution established based on the Decision No. 281, dated 12.03.2008, of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania. At the same time, based on the provisions of the Albanian higher education legislation, pursuant to the Ordinance No. 260, dated 07.06.2011, of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Albania, Epoka University has been granted institutional accreditation as well as the accreditation of the Bachelor study programs in Banking and Finance, Economics, Business Administration, Political Science and International Relations, Architecture, Computer Engineering and Civil Engineering offered by the University.

¹ State quality Standards, approved by Order of Minister of education and science, in 2011

Through Ordinance No. 565, dated 19.11.2012, of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Albania, Epoka University has been licensed to offer PhD (Doctorate) study programs as of the 2012-2013 academic year in Architecture, Civil Engineering, Computer Engineering, Economics with a) Economics and b) Banking and Finance Profiles, Business Administration as well as in Political Science and International Relations.

The PhD Program in Political Science and International Relations aims at following the universal approaches in the disciplines of both Political Science and International Relations and also handling academically the conditions and problems peculiar to Albania, Balkans, and European Union and wider region. The aim of the PhD program in Political Science and International Relations is to prepare academicians with specialized knowledge in their fields of interest. The subfields include International Relations, Political Science, European Studies, Balkan Studies and Albanian Politics.

In this context, the target is to contribute to producing knowledge at both local and international level. The PhD Program on Political Science and International Relations at Epoka University provides courses, which are expected to increase the choices of students and to lead them to specialize in the areas selected by them. While the students are taking courses in areas such as Democratization Process in the Balkan Countries, Debates on Current International Issues, Politics of European Integration, Economic Development-Policy Analysis and Industrialization, European Union Law etc., the Program will urge them to develop critical thinking towards their expected works in these areas.

Skills that the PhD will contribute to are: Capacity to analyze World politics in a comparative perspective; capacity to make decisions about the design and management of the policies linked to the various levels and arenas within the EU and Balkans; capacity to work in a team; capacity to communicate orally and in written form in English language; capacity to develop a creative, critical and autonomous thinking.

During the first year of Ph.D., it is required to complete 8 courses (60 ECTS) and during the next two years, thesis work or final dissertation (120 ECTS) should be submitted, and this will result in the completion of a total of 180 ECTS. The Ph.D. study program for full-time students lasts for a minimum of six semesters (three academic years), up to a maximum of eight semesters 8 (four academic years) and for part-time students, it lasts for a minimum of six semesters (three academic years), up to a maximum of twelve semesters (six academic years). Candidates must submit the dissertation within that time-frame, unless they can invoke truly exceptional grounds (for instance a medical emergency) to justify deferring submission. Under certain circumstances, it is possible to spend time away from Tirana to pursue research.


During the first year of the Ph.D. study program, the main focus is on training the students in research methods and deepen their understanding of theory. During the second and the third year of the Ph.D. program, the student continues his or her work under the supervision of his or her advisor. Besides starting preparing the dissertation, Ph.D. seminars and other events are held allowing candidates to benefit from presentations covering a number of areas relevant to their work and to present their own work.

Each candidate is assigned a principal supervisor. He or she helps develop the thesis project through discussion and the review of draft materials presented by the candidates. If deemed necessary, a second supervisor may be assigned to support the work of the candidate.

The number of employees over the academic years is as follows:

Academic year: number of employees

2008-2009: 78



2009-2010: 92
 2010-2011: 112
 2011-2012: 99
 2012-2013: 116
 2013-2014: 142
 2014-2015: 157

The number of PhD students over the academic years is as follows:

Academic year / Total

2012-2013: 2
 2013-2014: 2
 Total: 4

Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution

– Regulation on PhD Study Programs

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards ²
Standard I.1 - General framework	
<p>Criterion 1 The study program of third cycle (doctorate) is a new program or a reorganized program;</p> <p>Criterion 2 If it is reorganized, the extent to which it affected the previous program;</p> <p>Criterion 3 The total number of students studying how doctor eight and number of those who attend this study program each year is in line with the policies of Higher Education Institutions (HEI) where the program is conducted as well as state policy for higher education and scientific research regarding recognition and validation of diploma and number of students studying for doctorate to one scientific mentor;</p> <p>Criterion 4 Doctorate study program is supported by national or international research groups accredited for research in relevant field or fields of studies;</p> <p>Criterion 5 Internal evaluation report of study program of the third cycle is reviewed by the Council of Professors.</p>	<p>The study program is a new program opened in the academic year 2012 – 2013.</p> <p>It is not a reorganized program.</p> <p>At the current state, there Are four students enrolled in the program, all compliant to the regulation and policies of the Higher Education Institutions as well as to the national higher education legislation. The students are enrolled in the academic year 2012-2013 and 2013-2014. There are three full time professors involved in the program. Each of them has no more than two students under his/her supervision, in accordance with the higher education legislation in Albania.</p> <p>The doctorate study is supported by Istanbul University in Turkey and Pamukkale University in Turkey. The institution has greements with 65 universities, 15 companies/institutions and is member of 9 unions.</p> <p>The Council of Professors (CP) evaluates the Annual Internal evaluation report of the PhD study program.</p>

² EEG must writing for the fulfillment of each standard (based on the criterions which are in the left). At the end of their, need to write his opinions (summary), if is fulfill the standards or not.

Conclusions of EEG:

The EEG has evaluated the criteria and standards. The doctorate program has been opened for the first time in the academic year 2012-2013. In this program, three professors are involved, all of whom are full time staff. The professors completed their PhD studies in the United Kingdom and Germany. According to the HEI regulation and in compliance with the regulation of the Ministry of Education and Sports, each full time assistant professor has no more than two students under his supervision . The staff is composed of international professors, all having studied in western countries, with a good background in their respective field of study. Their international experience facilitates a healthy relation and collaboration with research groups in different countries. Two foreign universities (Istanbul University and Pamukkale University) support and evaluate the PhD program. The Council of Professors evaluates the Annual Internal evaluation report of the PhD study program. The criteria are fulfilled.

2. Academic Organisation chart of the Doctoral School

Description part

Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG should analyze and evaluate the: the place of the Doctoral School in the organization chart of the HEI (University / Faculty / Department), data for the academic staff responsible for the doctorate, the number of Full-time Academic Staff (FAS), Part-time Academic Staff (PAS), Administrative employes (AE), teaching coordination with other units.

The PhD program is managed by the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences. The responsible for the ongoing of the program is the Council of Professors.

Organizational chart:

Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences

Dept. of Economic. – Dept. of Banking and Finance – Dept. of Business Admin. – Dept. of Pol. Science and Int. Relations

Number of academic staff (see Table 1):

Faculty staff involved in PhD program:

Number of FAS: total: 12, number of degrees: 12

Number of PAS: Total: 1, number of degrees: 1

Number of AE: Total: 3, number of degrees: 0

Total number: total: 16, degrees: 13

Staff of Pol. Science and Int. Rel. Dept. involved in PhD program:

Number of FAS: Total: 3, number of degrees: 3

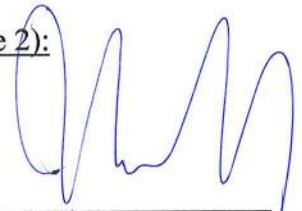
Number of PAS: Total 0, number of degrees: 0

Number of AE: Total: 2, number of degrees: 0

Total number: Total: 5, number of degrees: 3

Council of Professors and the coordinator of the study program (see Table 2):

Name /Surname – Degree – Position (Member / Chairman)



Güngör TURAN – Prof. Dr. – Chairman
 Remzi ALTIN – Prof. Dr. – Member
 Omer EROGLU – Prof. Dr. – Member
 Arif YAVUZ – Prof. Dr. – Member
 Ahmet BARDAKCI – Prof. Dr. –Member
 Ekrem KARAYILMAZLAR – Prof. Dr. – Member
 Bekir ÇINAR – Assoc. Prof. Dr. – Member (until academic year 2014-2015)

Academic coordinator of the PhD program: Asst. Prof Dr Salih ÖZCAN.

Measurable indicators:

- Organizational structure (chart): see above explanation.
- Bodies selected/nominated at all levels: For the time being, the Council of Professors of the Faculty of Economics is responsible for the PhD study program.
- Hierarchical units, decision-making : Organization: Dept. Of Political Science and Int. Relations; management: Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences.
- Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution: List of personnel.
- Academic Structures of doctoral school: see above lists.
- Database of HEI, updating and the responsibility for retaining and sharing information: NA.
- Number of accademic staff (verify the data, according to Table 1 and 2): Verified on site visit.

Table 1

Doctoral School University/ Faculty	Number of FAS		Number of PAS		Number of AE		Total number	
	Total number	Number of Degrees	Total number	Number of Degrees	Total number	Number of Degrees	Total number	Number of Degrees
	12	12	1	1	3	0	16	13
Department	3	3	0	0	2	0	5	3

- Council of Professors and the coordinator of the study program

Table 2

Name /Surname	Degree	Position (Member / Chairman)
Güngör Turan	Prof. Dr.	Chairman
Remzi Altin	Prof. Dr.	Member
Omer Eroglu	Prof. Dr.	Member
Arif Yavuz	Prof. Dr.	Member
Ahmet Bardakci	Prof. Dr.	Member
Ekrem Karayilmazlar	Prof. Dr.	Member
Bekir Cinar	Assoc. Prof. Dr.	Member

- Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
Standard III.1 - Management and financing tools for doctorate study program	
<p>Criterion 1 Unit that organizes doctorate study program has accredited two first cycles of studies in the field, in which it offers the doctorate study program;</p> <p>Criterion 2 Unit that organizes the doctorate study program has adequate administrative premises to realize its good functioning;</p> <p>Criterion 3 In order to carry out the doctorate study program, the unit that proposes its opening engages the necessary personnel, ranging from teaching secretary that follows the third cycle progress;</p> <p>Criterion 4 Responsible bodies for its supervision are established in doctorate study program regulation;</p> <p>Criterion 5 Board of Professors, which is responsible for organizing and supervising doctorate study program has a sufficient number of members that cover all its issues. Minimum number of professors in PC should be 7 (seven). Board of Professors may be also raised to the level of higher education institution, when its main units do not meet the required number of full-time professors;</p> <p>Criterion 6 Board of Professors of the main unit that organizes and manages the doctorate study program meets periodically throughout the year;</p>	<p>The Department of Political Science and International Relations that organizes the PhD program has accredited the first two cycles of studies in the field, based on Ordinance No. 260, dated 07.06.2011 (accreditation of achelor), and Ordinance No. 338, dated 14.08.2012 (accreditation of Master of Science and Professional Master.</p> <p>The Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences is responsible for the management of the PhD program in Political Science and International Relations. It has adequate administrative premises such as study rooms, laboratories and auditoriums.</p> <p>The Faculty has engaged the necessary administrative personnel to support the ongoing doctorate program such as the Department and Faculty Coordinators.</p> <p>Pursuant to the Regulation on PhD study programs, the responsible body for the supervision is the Council of Professors (CP), which Holds regular meetings.</p> <p>The CP has seven members, six of them holding the title of Prof. Dr. and one holding the title Assoc. Prof. Dr.</p> <p>The CP meets at least once at the end of every semester to evaluate the progress report of each PhD student.</p>
<p>Conclusions of EEG:</p> <p>The EEG has evaluated the criteria and the standards that the HEI should fulfill in order to provide a doctorate program. The doctorate program is under the responsibility of the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences. This faculty has the duty to monitor and provide all the necessary support for the correct working process of the doctorate program. The faculty provides services oriented to students such as Admission Office, Registrar's Office, Library and facilities such as rooms for lesson and seminars, computer lab and study room. The CP is the body in charge to evaluate the quality of the program and evaluate the progress of each student enrolled in the program. This council gathers not less than 2 times a year (after each semester) and has regular contact with supervisors for any issue that may rise during the year. The criteria are fulfilled.</p>	

3. Quality of academic and administrative (support) staff

Description part

Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG should analyze and evaluate the: dates for qualifications of academic staff, FAS/PAS/AE rate, Academic Staff/student rate;

work load for FAS, PAS and AE; staff recruitment criteria; Contracts, data base for human resource; etc.

According to the Regulation "On PhD study programs", it is required that the Council of Professors (CP) should be composed by 7 persons in total (at least 5 of them should have the Prof.

Dr. title). Thus, the CP complies with this requirement, as follows:

1. Güngör TURAN – Prof. Dr.
2. Remzi ALTIN - Prof. Dr.
3. Omer EROGLU – Prof. Dr.
4. Bekir ÇINAR –Assoc. Prof. Dr. (only until 2014-2015)
5. Arif YAVUZ – Prof. Dr.
6. Ahmet BARDAKCI – Prof. Dr.
7. Ekrem KARAYILMAZLAR – Prof. Dr.

At the same time, the academic staff/student ratio has been respected, while full-time members of the academic staff have not supervised simultaneously more than two students each. The members of the CP, coordinators of the programs and supervisors in each respective program have submitted their file of the documents to the Human Resource Office which makes them eligible for being hired as academic staff in the institution.

The teaching staff for the program PhD in Political Science and International Relations is composed of three full-time Lecturers, one faculty coordinator and one department coordinator.

The ratio FAS/PAS is 3/0, the ratio FAS/AE is 3/2 and the rate PAS/AE is 0/2.

The ratio academic staff/student is $3/4=0.75$.

The workload for Lecturers who supervise PhD candidates is one hour per week for a meeting to discuss the progress on thesis.

The academic staff recruitment criteria are as follows:

- Personnel needs are outlined by Department-Faculty-Rectorate.
- Human Resources Office (HRO) prepares the announcements.
- Announcements are published on various channels.
- The candidates submit a file containing CV, diploma and qualifications to the HRO and then HRO transmits this file to the respective Department/Faculty.
- Applications are assessed in advance by a jury composed of three members elected by the Administrative Board of the Faculty concerned.
- The Jury assesses the appropriateness of applications to the vacant position.
- The Administrative Board of the Faculty evaluates the jury reports.
- The Administrative Board of the Faculty takes the decision.
- Decision of Administrative Board of University.
- Written Proposal to Higher Board of University.
- Final approval of University Higher Board
- The candidate provides the required documents mentioned in the Staff Info Form and signs the work contract.
- HRO prepares the assignment letter to be signed by the Rector.
- HRO informs all the staff through e-mail on the new assignment.
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The work contracts prepared by Human Resources Office are two types, full-time contracts

which are signed for a one year period and part-time contracts which are signed on a semester basis.

Measurable indicators:

- EEG should analyze and evaluate some datas such as:
 - Number of professors; 0
 - Number of associate professors: 1
 - Number of doctoral degree holders (or PhD): 2 (3 including associate professor)
 - Number of assistants: 3
 - Number of administrative and support staff (lab assistants, technicians, administrative staff etc): 1
- Verify the data, according to Table 3

Table 3

Institution / Basic Unit / Doctoral School							
	Full-time Academic Staff (Name/Surname)	Position in the Department	Degree	Part-time Academic Staff (Name/Surname)		Degree	Institution where he/her works full time
1	Salih Ozcan	Head of Dept.	Assist. Prof. Dr.	1	-		
2	Bekir Cinar	Head, Center for European Studies	Assoc. Prof. Dr.	2	-		
3	Avdi Smajljaj	Lecturer	Dr.	3	-		

- Qualification data and reports between them (verify the data, according to Table 4)

Table 4

Academic and administrative staff	FAS	PAS		FAS/PAS rate
		Albanian	Foreign (invited)	
Professors	0	0	0	
Associate Professors	1	0	1	
Doctor Degree or PHD degree (taken at European Universities)	2	1	1	
Administrative employees	1			

- Data by age (verify the data, according to Table 5)

Table 5

Academic and administrative staff	Data by age (years old)							
	(36-45)		(46-55)		(56-65)		(66-68)	
	FAS	PAS	FAS	PAS	FAS	PAS	FAS	PAS
Professors	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Associate Professors	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Doctor Degree or PHD degree (taken at European Universities)	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Administrative employees	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution

Information on academic staff

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
Standard I.1 - General framework	
Criterion 1 The number and level of researchers engaged in this program constitutes a guarantee for program implementation (60% of them should be internal academic staff, engaged in research and holders of academic titles "Professor", "Associate Professor" or scientific degree "Doctor" or "PhD" awarded in universities well known in the world for quality and rich research and publishing activities in the relevant field;	In this program, three academic staff members are involved. Three of them are full-time staff members, out of whom one has the title of Assoc. Prof. Dr. and two of them have the title Assist. Prof. Dr. They completed their PhD studies in United Kingdom and Germany. The staff is composed of national and foreign international professors, all having studied in western countries, with a good background in their respective field of study.
Standard II.1 - Capacities for scientific research	
Criterion 1 The institution that offers programs of study of third cycle (doctorate), has sufficient academic staff with scientific titles and degrees; Criterion 2 The institution has sufficient administrative and research structures for activities provided in the study program to conduct research. The institution may organize joint programs of doctorate study with one or more other institutions, based on agreements between them;	The institution has a sufficient number of academic staff with academic titles and degrees. The institution has well-qualified staff and a good administrative structure and research facilities to support doctoral studies. Epoka University has agreements with other institutions that involve co-supervision of PhD students.
Conclusions of EEG: The program has three full-time staff. They can supervise up to two students each. In total, the current staff can supervise six students. Up to ten students can be enrolled in the program. The institution fulfills the criteria.	

4. Facilities, infrastructure, logistics and other services of doctoral program

Description part

Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG should analyze and evaluate the: infrastructure, material resources, logistics and other services, information technology (IT), libraries, other services for students.

The undersigned has visited all the buildings and rooms used for the PhD program and has inspected the library and computer rooms and inquired about IT infrastructure.

Student facilities

– Student Affairs Information System (SAIS) is an interactive system where the students can manage most of their procedures within the computer medium. Students can access SAIS

webpage (from URL <https://sais.epoka.edu.al/>) or simply by following the SAIS link present within the Quick Links of Epoka Home Page. From the login page using the Student ID number and password, students can access SAIS main page. In the main page are included information regarding students credential information, messages, registered courses, Grades, Attendance, Department Courses, Exam Dates, Transcript, Grade Calculation, Weekly Schedule, Attendance and similar pages which are related with the student academic status.

– Learning Management System (Moodle) is the University's supported Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) -a web environment designed to provide students and their lecturers and tutors with a range of tools to support learning and teaching.

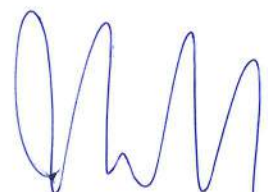
– Turnitin software helps the students to understand and avoid plagiarism and develop students understanding of how to cite sources as part of an academic argument. The system looks for similarity to other documents and then provides the student with an originality report. From this, students can identify where the student might have quoted or paraphrased without referencing and also where student may have referenced correctly but relied too heavily on others' work without their own analysis of ideas.

– Library Resources and Services: Students will have access to the University Library print and virtual collections. Of the virtual resources, the University Library subscribed to the following database: Elsevier Science Direct, JSTOR. On October 2014, Epoka University was granted full membership at JSTOR, a shared digital library created in 1995 that includes more than 2,000 academic journals. JSTOR found to help libraries and academic publishers transition their activities from print to digital operations, to expand access to scholarly content around the world and to preserve it for future generations. Furthermore JSTOR first started thinking about data and text mining back in 1999, when they learned that Fred Shapiro was using JSTOR to find the earliest known uses of words that pre-dated the record of first uses of terms from the Oxford English Dictionary. In 2008, JSTOR introduced the 'Data for Research' (DfR) service, a free data mining tool for journal content on JSTOR. Every member of Epoka staff can access JSTOR's collections by going to <http://www.jstor.org/> and searching or browsing for content that focus on anthropology, archaeology and related fields – 247 journals with every single article in full.

General and social facilities

- Meeting Room: The equipped modern meeting room of Epoka University is available for departmental meetings and presentations.
- Classrooms: Several classrooms are used for theoretical lectures
- Auditoriums: There are two auditoriums used for theoretical lectures.
- Conference Room: High capacity modern conference room of Epoka University is available for the departmental conferences.
- Library: The equipped modern library of Epoka University is available for students to study individually or in groups and to assist on their online researches of subscribed databases.

Measurable indicators:



- EEG should analyze and evaluate: the Facilities, infrastructure and logistics for doctoral school (verify the data, according to Table 6)

Table 6

Facilities for doctoral school or study program	Number or Square m ²
Auditoriums	130.5
Classrooms	453.5
Laboratories	78
Computer/internet laboratories	78
Library buildings	322
Corridors / halls	2707.4
University sports facilities	463
Buildings for tertiar services	56
Rooms for student government activities	97
Recreational facilities such as cafeterias / fast-food/etc	337
Toilets for students	309
Logistics Room (for photocopying machines, etc.)	85
Officies for Dean/ Chancellory/etc	86
Administrative offices	148.5
Department offices	130.5
Quality Assurance Unit Office	50
Meeting halls	98.37
Toilet units for staff	213
Toilet units for students	309
Graduate studies office	10.67
Rate m²/per student	217

- EEG should analyze and evaluate other logistics database, as:

- number of PC for doctoral students (including doctoral students): 82
- number of PC furnished labs per students: 2
- number of PC for academic staff: 83
- number of PC for administration: 47
- number of printers for each one: 15
- number of photocopying machines for each one: 15
- number of overhead projectors: --
- number of video-projectors: 26
- number of scanners: 9

- Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution

No documents were taken.

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
Standard II.2 - Didactic basis and technical support	

<p>Criterion 1 Students admitted in the third cycle study program have necessary conditions to realize the study program with academic and research character;</p> <p>Criterion 2 Doctorate studies program provides harmonization of students' goals in scientific-research field, approved research projects and, at its conclusion, even the possibility of academic career and employment;</p> <p>Criterion 3 A scientific library with publications in hardcopy and electronic form and complete IT infrastructure is available to students of third cycle study program;</p> <p>Criterion 4 Students have sufficient technical support for scientific research development;</p> <p>Criterion 5 Researches that include laboratory researches are supported by sufficient scientific laboratory basis.</p>	<p>Necessary conditions for the accomplishment of the PhD study program are established for the students.</p> <p>The PhD studies program enables coordination and provides harmonization of students' research goals. The different project in the respective courses are often directly related to their future career perspective.</p> <p>The library has an adequate book collection in the respective areas of research. The books are properly inventoried according to subject areas and topics. These books are mainly in three languages: Albanian, English and Turkish. The library's collection is enriched by acquisitions and donations from various individuals and legal entities. The Library also has a JSTOR subscription. There is also a subscription with the Thomson Reuters Eikon platform.</p> <p>The site visit revealed, however, that returned books were not speedily reintroduced into the system. The organizational process must be improved.</p> <p>Students have access to facilities such as two computer laboratories and one electronic laboratory.</p> <p>Programs offered by the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences do not have a technical nature, requiring laboratory experimentation.</p>
<p>Conclusions of EEG:</p> <p>The PhD studies program is compliance with the requirements as defined by the criteria. The number and size of classrooms are sufficient. The video supervision of all classrooms is questionable. The students have access to a large number of scientific documents and literature in the library (on site and online). State of the art IT equipment is also available and the students are supported by qualified technical staff. What needs to be improved is the administration book loan system of the library.</p>	

5. Financing and management of financial resources

Descriptions part

Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG should analyze and evaluate the: financial resources, data over the years, expenditures, costs per students, financial auditing, managing capacities.

Every year, the institution allocates a fund to cover expenses of research projects including the doctorate students. During the academic year 2013-14, the amount allocated was 20.000 EUR. At the same time, the institution supports the participation of its academic staff in conferences, symposia and other scientific meetings. During the 2013-2014 academic year this support amounted to 7.190 EUR. Furthermore, Epoka University grants encouragement payment with regard to the publications of academic staff members. During the 2013-2014 academic year, this support amounted to 25.460 EUR. Epoka University organizes scientific conferences and workshops on a regular basis. For conference organization in the academic years 2012-2013 and 2013-2014, the institution has spent an amount of 13.532 EUR:

2013-2014 academic year expenses on international conferences: 4th International Conference on European Studies - ICES 2013: 4565 EUR; Challenges of Innovative Enterprises in the Global Competitive Market 2014 - ISCoIE 2014: 550 EUR; 2012-2013 academic year expenses on International Conferences: International Balkan Annual Conference - IBAC 2012: 978 EUR; Education Conference: 7.989 EUR.

Measurable indicators:

- EEG should analyze and evaluate the Financial resources, data over the three years (verify the data, according to Table 7)

Table 7

RESOURCES FROM:	For three or four years (as the PhD study program continues)
NON-PUBLIC FUNDS:	
Central government	-
Local government	-
NON-PUBLIC FUNDS:	
Grants on research and contracts	EUR 30.436 (2011-12), EUR 21.485 (2012-13)
Consultations, services	-
All kinds of tuition fees	EUR 1.423.885 (2011-12), EUR 1.645.000 (2012-13), EUR 1.696.200 (2013-14)
Sponsorships	-
Donations, assurance activities, foundations etc.	-

- EEG should analyze and evaluate the Costs for students and their mobility costs; 2011-2012 Academic year 1.816 EUR per student; 2012-2013 Academic year 2.049 EUR per student; 2013-2014 Academic year 1.446 EUR per student.

- Transparency and internal financial control, audit and outcomes; Epoka University is a part of Turgut Özal Education Company located in Tirana Albania. Turgut Özal Company conducts annual audit reports and the recent audit report of 2013 is available at the Finance Office.

- Financial management capacity; Financial issues and budget of the company are managed by the Finance Office in the head office of the company located in Tirana. The Epoka university budget deficit is covered by the company's internal resources.

- Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution;
 - o 2014-2015 Academic Year: Scientific Research Budget Line

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
Standard I.1 - General framework	

Criterion 1 Doctorate study program is supported by a sufficient budget for research;	The available budgetary means are sufficient.
Standard II.1 - Capacities for scientific research	
Criterion 1 External funding received for scientific research is indicative of high level research activity and they are administered for the progress of relevant study program.	According to information provided in Table 7, there is a considerable amount of external funding. This is also proof of the quality of the research undertaken in the framework of the PhD program.
Standard III.1 - Management and financing tools for doctorate study program	
Criterion 1 Financial budget of doctorate study program is sufficient to achieve research objectives for each doctorate student; Criterion 2 Financial budget distribution structure of doctorate study program matches with scientific research policy and needs.	The current funds cover all needs in terms of publication, participation in conferences and scientific meetings, and costs for equipment. The budget distribution corresponds to the institution's research policy and requirements.
Standard III.3 - Financing of doctorate study program	
Criterion 1 Number of research works funded by the ministry; Criterion 2 Distribution of funds to host and supervision teams of scientific research works is done in a balanced way; Criterion 3 Number of research works funded under national research projects, benefited by scientific supervisors of doctorate students for this study program; Criterion 4 Number of research works funded under international research projects benefited by scientific supervisors of doctorate students for this study program;	No funding by Ministry yet. The allocation of funds is supervised by the Faculty and the financial office, which ensures a balanced distribution among research projects. There are not yet research projects funded under national research networks. There are no internationally funded research projects at present.
Conclusions of EEG: The institution allocates funds to cover expenses of research projects including the doctoral studies on an annual basis. During the academic year 2013-14 the amount allocated was 20.000 €. Expenses for participation in conferences and scientific meetings and publications are covered by additional funds. For conference organization in the academic year 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 the institution spent an additional fund of 13.532 €. On an overall basis, funding is adequate at the present initial stage. In future, possibilities of external funding will have to be explored more vigorously.	

6. Internal Quality Assurance System (IQAS)

Description part

Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG should analyze and evaluate the: Internal Monitoring for Quality Assurance Unit (IQAU), its functions in doctoral programs, self-assessment and continuous quality improvement.

In accordance with the requirements of Albanian legislation on the Higher Education and the provisions of the Statute and the Basic Regulation of Epoka University, the Academic Evaluation and Quality Improvement Board has been established in the institution. The establishment and operation of this Board is regulated in details by Directive "On the Academic Evaluation and Quality Improvement at Epoka University". This directive aims at the regulation of the education evaluation process, teaching, research and every service offered by Epoka University; development of the quality; establishment of the internal quality

control system, its application, development and evaluation, the approval of the quality indicators in the context of the “external evaluation” and the conduct of the necessary preparations during this process. In this context, the Academic Evaluation and Quality Improvement Board (AEQIB), represents the central unit of the Internal Quality Assurance System at Epoka University. AEQIB is responsible for:

- a) In the context of the coordination of the strategic planning at Epoka University, the Board performs the administration of all work in this context and the publication of results on the academic and administrative services evaluation, quality improvement and approval of the quality standards, all this in accordance with the strategic plan and objectives of the University;
- b) the Board administers the work in the context of internal evaluation in the University and prepares or supervises the preparation of the self-evaluation report;
- c) Makes the necessary preparations for the external evaluation of Epoka University, and is at the disposal of the institution or organization performing the external evaluation for every necessary information;
- d) Reviews all the work in the context of the quality improvement which can be taken as examples and models, and disseminates them to the other academic units;
- e) Coordinates the fulfillment of the internal control of standards, and in accordance with the legal framework at Epoka University, prepares the Action Plan of Internal Control and if necessary defines the new standards for the University;
- f) Defines the mission and vision of the University as well as the short-term, mid-term and long-term strategic objectives of the University;
- g) Identifies the situation and performance indicators concerning strategic areas and issues;
- h) Prepares the strategic programs of the projects and activities;
- i) Defines the objectives and strategies of the institution;
- j) Gives directives on the fulfillment of the strategic plan and action plan of the institution;
- k) Develops improvement activities and periodic monitoring of all the institution;
- l) Prepares extra recommendations on the basic and performance indicators included in the directive of the AEQIB on the quality improvement and strategic planning of the academic and administrative units.

The number of members of AEQIB is defined by the Senate. AEQIB members are elected by the Senate for a period of two years. The Senate also elects among the members of the Board the Head of the AEQI Board who chairs the Board. In case the Head of the AEQI Board is not present at the meeting, the Board is chaired by the most senior member of academic staff. At Epoka University, AEQIB was established by the Decision No. 2, dated 26.03.2009 of the Epoka University Senate. In accordance with the new criteria defined in the Guidelines on the establishment and functioning of the Internal Quality Assurance Systems in the Higher Education Institutions and the Handbook on Internal Quality Assurance in Higher Education Institutions, approved in October, 2012 by the Public Accreditation Agency for Higher Education (PAAHE), the necessary amendments were carried out in the Directive "On the Academic Evaluation and Quality Improvement at Epoka University". The number of the members of the AEQIB at Epoka University is defined by the Senate of Epoka University. Among the members of the Board there must be at least one member of academic staff from each Faculty holding at least the “PhD” degree and without managing duties, two members from the administrative staff, the head of the Student Council, one alumnus and an external expert with distinguished experience in the labor market. According to these amendments, the AEQIB was re-established by the Decision No. 1, dated 22.04.2013 of the Epoka University Senate. The members of the AEQIB are listed in the Table below. In January 2010, Epoka University obtained the ISO 9001: 2008 certificate on Quality Management Systems. Currently, the Epoka University has renewed the certificate, which according to the criteria of

ISO is performed every three years. The last external audit in the framework of ISO has been conducted in March 2014. To supervise the correct implementation of all processes and procedures provided by ISO, Epoka University has established the Internal Audit Group, which by performing periodic audits twice a year, ensures the implementation of the processes and procedures of the institution.

Measurable indicators:

EEG should analyze and evaluate the quantitative data for IQAU, as:

- How many surveys are made with students?: 17
- How many students were surveyed?: 4
- How many surveys are processed, and what problems are issued? NA
- Which have been the next steps? The limited number of PhD students at the Department of Political Science and International Relations constitutes an obstacle towards obtaining statistically significant results from the surveys. The AEQI Board has proposed the revision of the survey format for PhD students so as to increase the qualitative aspect of such surveys.

At the end of each academic semester, all students at Epoka University fulfill through the electronic system the surveys about the evaluation of the lecturer of each course (Annex 6). The content of the surveys is standard and consists of evaluation by the student of 14 components with a range from 1 (lowest rating) to 4 (highest rating). A copy of the survey is attached. Completing the survey is completely confidential and so each student is required to fulfill the survey in order to be able to view in the electronic system the final mark obtained for the respective course. Upon the completion of the survey, the electronic system shows the average evaluation for every course lecturer as an overall result and the result for each component of the survey, showing the rankings of the course lecturer on the Department and Faculty level. The results of the surveys are forwarded to the Rector's Office by the Registrar's Office. The Rector, after examining the results of the surveys, forwards them to the AEQIB, which performs data analysis for each course and lecturer and comes with recommendations to the Rector. Through the conduct of meetings, the Rector ensures that AEQIB's recommendations regarding the improvement of the teaching are applied at the Faculty and Department. At the same time, at the end of each academic semester, AEQIB performs a quantitative and qualitative analysis of the student results and it comes with respective recommendations, with a special emphasis on the identification of issues and areas that require further improvement. It should be emphasized that at Epoka University, each student is subject to at least a mid-term exam (Mid-term) and the final exam for each course where the respective grade is given. At the same time, based on the syllabus approved by the respective department, the evaluation of assignments, semestral projects or similar educational activities and active participation at courses can affect a student's final grade. A very efficient method to monitor the quality of teaching at Epoka University is also the periodical hearing of the explanation of the courses in the auditorium by the lecturer, which is carried out by the respective Dean of Faculty or Head of the Department. At the same time, it should be noted that Epoka University drafts at the end of each academic year a self-evaluation report, which is submitted to the Higher Board of the University. Epoka University has also drafted self-evaluation reports in the context of the process of external evaluation and accreditation of the institution and programs of the first, second and third

cycle, in accordance with the provision of the Albanian legislation on the higher education. Within these processes managed by PAAHE, the External Evaluation Groups established for this purpose have prepared the External Evaluation Reports, which have evaluated in very positive terms the quality of teaching, scientific research and services to the students and community conducted by Epoka University and have also submitted recommendations for further improvement in identified areas. Copies of these reports are available at the Rector's Office. At the same time, in the context of ISO certification for Quality Management Systems, the Internal Audit Group conducts periodic audits in each academic and administrative unit of the University, as well as prepares the Internal Audit Report, which is shared with the Rector's Office and related units in order to fill the gaps identified and solve the problems observed in the respective units. In order to ensure the awareness of all academic and administrative staff on the importance of acquiring a quality culture by each unit of Epoka University, the Internal Audit Group conducts periodic informative and training seminars for the staff of the institution, regarding the various quality components and the importance that carries quality assurance in general and the Quality Management Systems in particular.

EEG should analyze and evaluate the analyses for *Internal quality control*, as:

o Responsibilities in monitoring and quality management, until the department level
Members of AEQIB/ their duties/ term in office

1. Assist. Prof. Dr. Arban Uka / Head / 15.07.2013 – current
2. Assist. Prof. Dr. Eglantina Hysa / Member / 28.10.2013 – current
3. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Yavuz Yardım / Member / 03.11.2014 – current
4. Ms. Nilüfer Çalışkan / Member / 03.11.2014 – current
5. Mr. Eduart Shehu / Member (Employer) / 22.04.2013 – current
6. Mr. Idaver Sherifi / Member (Alumni) / 01.12.2014 – current
7. Mr. Taulant Kastrati/ Member (Head of Student Council) / 26.01.2015 - current

- o Self assessments conducted, and their results: NA
- o Quality improvement policies, on the basis of periodic self-assessment: NA
- o The results of the audit and preview external assessment:
For details cf. Internal Audit Report mentioned below
- o Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution:
 - Internal Audit Report (Jan 12-17, 2015)
 - Internal audit annual plan (Jan 12-17, 2015)

STUDY PROGRAM

7. Study program, its organization

Description part

Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG **should analyze and evaluate the:** Title of Diploma (in Albanian and English), mission and objectives of the

research program, the organization of the first year in doctorate school, the curriculum content of all its elements (subjects / modules, corresponding credits, sharing teaching hours per study forms, classes in /outside of auditorium under the forms of teaching), literature and other auxiliary materials, etc.

During the first year of Ph.D. it is required to complete 8 courses (60 ECTS) and during the next two years, thesis work or final dissertation (120 ECTS) should be submitted, and this will result in the completion of a total of 180 ECTS. The PhD study program for full-time students lasts for a minimum of six semesters (three academic years), up to a maximum of eight semesters (four academic years) and for part-time students, it lasts for a minimum of six semesters (three academic years), up to a maximum of twelve semesters (six academic years). Candidates must submit the dissertation within that time-frame, unless they can invoke truly exceptional grounds (for instance a medical emergency) to justify deferring submission. Under certain circumstances, it is possible to spend time away from Tirana to pursue research. Upon the fulfillment of all graduation requirements, the student is granted the PhD degree in Political Science and International Relations. During the first year of the PhD study program, the main focus is on training the students in research methods and stage of theoretical deepening. During the second and the third year of the PhD program the student continues their work under the supervision of their advisor. Besides starting preparing the dissertation, there are PhD seminars and other events, allowing candidates to benefit from presentations covering a number of areas relevant to their work, to present their own work. Each candidate is assigned a principal supervisor. He or she helps develop the thesis project through discussion and the review of draft materials presented by the candidates. If deemed necessary, a second supervisor may be assigned to support the work of the candidate. Academic plan for the first Year, the division of subjects in credits, and according to the forms of teaching (see Table 8).

Measurable indicators:

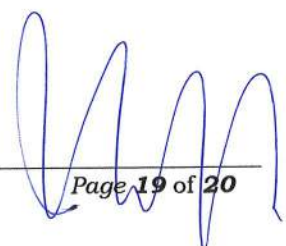
Analyses and evaluation for: general elements of the study program:

- Duration: not less than 3 years
- Year for advancing theoretical studies (1 year or 60 ECTS)
- Search / Creation: at least 2 years
- Thesis (within 4 years of enrollment)

Analyses and evaluation for: academic curriculum plan of the first year, the division of subjects in credits, and according to the forms of teaching (verify the data, according to Table 8)

Table 8

Year I	Semester	Credits (ECTS)	Hour in week	Academic Curriculum Plan				Total In class Individual student	Final exam
				Lecture (hour)	Seminar (hour)	Laboratory (hour)	Practice (hour)		



	Subjects/ Modules				Total credits			Total credits			Total credits	In class	Individual student work	Total credits					
					In class	Individual student work		In class	Individual student work					In class	Individual student work				
1	Research Methods in Social Sciences	1	7.5	3	32	2	16	8	1	8	No lab			8	1	8	3	48	1
2	Democracy Theory and Practice	1	7.5	3	32	2	16	8	1	8	No lab			8	1	8	3	48	1
3	World Politics	1	7.5	3	32	2	16	8	1	8	No lab			8	1	8	3	48	1
4	European Security and Defense	1	7.5	3	32	2	16	8	1	8	No lab			8	1	8	3	48	1
5	Democratization in Europe	1	7.5	3	32	2	16	8	1	8	No lab			8	1	8	3	48	1
6	International Law	1	7.5	3	32	2	16	8	1	8	No lab			8	1	8	3	48	1
7	International Relations Theory	1	7.5	3	32	2	16	8	1	8	No lab			8	1	8	3	48	1
8	Political Theory	1	7.5	3	32	2	16	8	1	8	No lab			8	1	8	3	48	1
9	Comparative Political Studies on the Balkan Countries	1	7.5	3	32	2	16	8	1	8	No lab			8	1	8	3	48	1
10	Political Economy of Western Europe	1	7.5	3	32	2	16	8	1	8	No lab			8	1	8	3	48	1
11	International Terrorism	1	7.5	3	32	2	16	8	1	8	No lab			8	1	8	3	48	1
12	NATO in the 21st Century	1	7.5	3	32	2	16	8	1	8	No lab			8	1	8	3	48	1
13	Democratization Process in the Balkan Countries	1	7.5	3	32	2	16	8	1	8	No lab			8	1	8	3	48	1
14	European Union Law	1	7.5	3	32	2	16	8	1	8	No lab			8	1	8	3	48	1
15	International Organizations	1	7.5	3	32	2	16	8	1	8	No lab			8	1	8	3	48	1
16	Economic Development, Policy Analysis and Industrialization	1	7.5	3	32	2	16	8	1	8	No lab			8	1	8	3	48	1
17	Comparative Politics	1	7.5	3	32	2	16	8	1	8	No lab			8	1	8	3	48	1
18	Politics of European Integration	1	7.5	3	32	2	16	8	1	8	No lab			8	1	8	3	48	1

Analyses and evaluation for Academic Curriculum Plan, related to the relevant academic staff (verify the data, according to Table 9)

Table 9

Subject/Module	Responsible professor/s (Name Surname)	Title/degree	Department	FAS or PAS
1. Research Methods	Umat Ryskulov	Assist. Prof. Dr.	Banking and	FAS

	in Social Sciences			Finance	
2.	Comparative Politics	Salih Özcan	Assist. Prof. Dr.	Political Science and International Relations	FAS
3.	Politics of European Integration	Youssoufi	Assoc. Prof. Dr.	Political Science and International Relations	FAS
4.	European Security and Defense	Youssoufi	Assoc. Prof. Dr.	Political Science and International Relations	FAS
3.	Politics of European Integration	Youssoufi	Assoc. Prof. Dr.	Political Science and International Relations	FAS

5.	Political Economy of Western Europe Integration	Avdi Smajlaj	Dr.	Political Science and International Relations	FAS
6.	Comparative Political Studies on the Balkan Countries	Avdi Smajlaj	Dr.	Political Science and International Relations	FAS
7.	International Relations Theory	Youssoufi	Assoc. Prof. Dr.	Political Science and International Relations	FAS
8.	Political Theory	Salih Özcan	Assist. Prof. Dr.	Political Science and International Relations	FAS
9.	Democracy: Theory and Practice	Salih Özcan	Assist. Prof. Dr.	Political Science and International Relations	FAS
10.	World Politics	Avdi SmajlajYoussoufi	Dr.	Political Science and International Relations	FAS
11.	Democratization in Europe	Salih Özcan	Assist. Prof. Dr.	Political Science and International Relations	FAS
12.	International Law	Clirim Toci	Dr.		
13.	International Terrorism	Islam Jusufi	Assoc. Prof. Dr.		
14.	NATO in the 21st Century	Islam Jusufi	Assoc. Prof. Dr.	Political Science and International Relations	FAS
15.	Democratization Process in the Balkan Countries	Salih Özcan	Assist. Prof. Dr.	Political Science and International Relations	FAS
16.	European Union	Clirim Toci	Dr.		

	Law				
17.	International Organizations	Avdi Smajlaj	Dr.	Political Science and International Relations	FAS
18.	Economic Development, Policy Analysis and Industrialization	Gungor Turan	Prof. Dr.		

- EEG should analyze and evaluate the: the syllabuses for each subject, with all the elements:

The Department provided a complete list of syllabuses, with course outline, learning outcomes, contribution to program competencies, evaluation method, ECTS Workload. The syllabuses meet the requirements of research-oriented teaching and are in conformity with European standards.

- EEG should analyze and evaluate: the procedures followed for the research project, proposed by candidates:

(1) The supervisor is responsible for the manuscript being accepted as a dissertation. S/he ensures that the dissertation meets the standards that can in general be applied to a dissertation.

(2) Before approving the manuscript as a dissertation, the supervisor assesses the text submitted with particular regard to the requirements stipulated in the concerned legal acts and regulations.

(3) If in the opinion of the supervisor, the manuscript meets the required standards and qualifies as proof of competence of independent research, the supervisor will then give his approval.

- EEG should analyze and evaluate the second year of PhD: (Research/Creation), as database for institutions in/outside the country, where students have completed their scientific research, such as:

- university / research center and development of a University
- Institute / non-academic research unit
- Foundation / public entity / private entity
- Hospital structure
- Other

Name / Surname / University

1. Reina Shehi / Sabanci University / M.A
2. Anjeza Bojaxhiu / Massachusetts University / M.A
3. Eglantina Farruku / Epoka University / M.A
4. Erind Elmazaj / Padova University Italy / M.A.

- Analyses and evaluation of third year of PhD: Research/creation/data processing /publication of articles /presentations to international conferences
- Data for publications / references of students;

- Data for Magazines, publishing entities where these articles are published

NAME/ SURNAME / TYPE OF CONFERENCE

Anjeza Bojaxhiu / “Serbia’s Security Dilemma through the Lenses of Critical Security Studies”, Conference “Challenges of Transition: The Post-Communist Experience(s)” held at the Faculty of Political Science, University of Bucharest, Romania, May 30–31, 2014.

Anjeza Bojaxhiu / "Can there be an Islamic Democracy. The Case of Turkey", International Conference on Economic and Social Studies at International Burch University in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, April 24-26, 2014.

Anjeza Bojaxhiu / “An Evaluation of EU’s involvement in state-building. The Case of the Palestinian Territory”, Third International Young Researchers Conference on Law at the University of Beder in Tirana, Albania, April 18-19, 2014.

Anjeza Bojaxhiu / Crisis Prevention and Peace Building: the Role of Religion and Spirituality in Israel/Palestine”, International Conference on Humanities at the University of Beder in Tirana, Albania, May 17-19, 2013.

Anjeza Bojaxhiu / “Can Shariah Law be reconciled with International Human Rights?”, International Young Researchers Conference on Law at the University of Beder in Tirana, Albania, May 19-20, 2013.

Reina Shehi / “Constructing a Conflict Resolution Foreign Policy: Albania-Greece Relations”, International Turgut Ozal Congress on Business, Economics and Political Science, Ankara, Turkey, November 1-3, 2013

Reina Shehi / “Loyalty to National Identity”, International Conference on Economic and Social Studies, Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina, April 24-26, 2014

- EEG should analyze and evaluate the: doctoral thesis and its presentation: no dissertation yet presented
- Relevant documentation, received in visits to the institution:
 - PhD Progress Reports by Reina Shehi, Eglantina Farruku, Anjeza Bojaxhiu
 - Syllabuses for each subject

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
Standard I.4 - Design and realization of theoretical course of third cycle studies (Doctorate)	
Criterion 1 Programs of third cycle studies include 60 credits for theoretical organized studies;	The students complete not less than 60 ECTS credits, 1,500 hours study time. The duration of classes is 60 minutes. During the first year of the PhD program, the student is engaged in the first stage’s courses for theoretical experiences and writing
Criterion 2 Theoretical organized studies anticipate balanced ratio of classes for academic and scientific	

<p>general and specific training; Criterion 3 Detailed teaching program is approved pursuant to bylaws in force;</p> <p>Criterion 4 Theoretical doctorate course is evaluated with a general theoretical examination in relevant field of study, organized by Dean's office and Professors' Council, with a commission consisting of 5 (five) professors in the relevant research field or approximate to it. Candidates who achieve over 80% points are allowed to attend the doctorate research studies. Those who do not reach this result receive a certificate for conducted modules, together with accumulated credits and interrupt doctorate studies.</p>	<p>a literature review on the chosen topic. Opening of the PhD study program in Political Science and International Relations is based on the Ordinance No. 565, date 19.11.2012, of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Albania. The Regulation "On Doctorate (PhD) study programs at Epoka University" is based on the Law No. 9741, dated 21.05.2007, "On Higher Education in the Republic of Albania", as amended, on the Council of Ministers Decision No. 864, dated 05.12.2007 "On the opening of Doctorate (PhD) study programs at public institutions of higher education and the stipulation of conditions to be fulfilled by the student regarding the obtaining of the diploma related to the "Doctor of Philosophy" (PhD) scientific degree", as amended, on the Council of Ministers Decision No. 467, dated 18.07.2007 "On the stipulation of criteria and procedures concerning the scientific and pedagogical qualification of the academic staff", on the license granted by the Council of Ministers Decision No. 281, dated 12.03.2008, "On the licensing of the Private Institution of Higher Education "Epoka" Institution of Higher Education", on the Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 553, dated 22.08.2012 "On the naming as "Epoka" Private University of "Epoka" Institution of Higher Education, on the Ministry of Education and Science Directive No. 5, dated 22.01.2008 "On the opening, termination and reorganization of PhD study programs", as amended, on other related legal acts as well as on the Statute and on the Basic Regulation of this institution.</p> <p>The Council of Professors consists of all the full-time professors of the faculty. The minimum number of members of the CP should be seven, from whom five should have the "Prof. Dr." title. The student has the obligation to attend at least 80% of the theoretical and the research courses held as well as laboratories. If the students fail to comply with the above condition, they have to retake the course with all the relevant obligations. Students who at the end of the second semester have a CGPA of at least 3.00 and no FD or FF grades are considered to have successfully completed the theoretical stage of the PhD study program.</p>
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Standard II.3 - Drafting and approval of proposed research project

<p>Criterion 1 Applicant who requires to be admitted to doctorate studies program has submitted the request for a particular research area and this has been discussed with him in the interview;</p> <p>Criterion 2 Scope of research is selected in such a way that doctorate studies program can support it;</p> <p>Criterion 3 Proposal is approved by Professors' Council if criteria prescribed and announced in regulation of doctorate studies are met. The following should be also confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Duration of study program; b) Modalities of verification of research or creative activity of doctorate students; c) Manner of final presentation of scientific research result that doctorate student will 	<p>Criterion 1: According to the application criteria, the applicant who requires to be admitted to the doctoral studies program submits the request for a particular research area through a research proposal, which is discussed with him/her in the interview with the respective scientific committee.</p> <p>Criterion 2: Scope of research is selected based on the supervisors' specialization and the needs of market for further research;</p> <p>Criterion 3: Candidates for the degree of PhD shall normally be registered for a continuous period of not less than 3 years and no more than 4 years full-time study. The duration of a part-time PhD degree will be dependent upon the time to be committed by the candidate for study but shall normally be not less than 3 years and no more than 6 years. Extensions to the duration of a PhD degree to permit further supervised research may be considered only in exceptional circumstances. (1) Candidates shall submit electronic and paper copies of a</p>
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achieve;

dissertation embodying the results of the research undertaken during the degree. The dissertation may embody reprints of published material, must be free from restrictions on publication, and must be presented and bound in a satisfactory manner.

(2) The University shall have the right to retain both copies.

Matter which has been included in a dissertation or report submitted in support of a successful application for a degree or qualification of any university or professional or learned body must not be embodied in the dissertation submitted for the degree, except that such matter: a) If unpublished, may be reported in sufficient

detail to enable the work done during and for the purpose of the degree to be fairly evaluated; or b) If published, may be mentioned for purposes of reference in the same way as publications by other workers. In either case the fact of the previous submission of such matter must be made clear at all relevant points in the dissertation.

(3) Work to be embodied in the dissertation should be reported concisely.

(4) All dissertations must be written in English; quotations, however, may be given in the language in which they were written. In exceptional circumstances a candidate may be granted permission to submit a dissertation written in a language other than English where the nature of the research makes this appropriate.

(5) PhD dissertations should be submitted in accordance with the information set out in the University's Guidance for the Presentation of Theses. Candidates submitting their PhD in alternative format should submit their dissertations in accordance with the information set out in the University's Guidance for the Presentation of Theses.

Criterion 4 A member of academic staff with the title "Professor", "Associate Professor" or with scientific degree "Doctor" or ("PhD") awarded in the scientific field in which doctorate student follows the studies in universities known in the world, for quality and rich researching and publishing activities in the relevant field, is appointed by Board of Professors to supervise and support student's research work;

Criterion 4: Doctorate (PhD) candidates are supervised by the academic staff of the particular discipline of the Doctorate (PhD) study program, holding the "Professor Dr." or "Associate Professor Dr." title or the "Doctor" (PhD) scientific degree acquired in Western universities, as defined by the respective Directive of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Albania. The scientific supervisor holding the "Professor Dr." academic title and employed full time, can supervise simultaneously no more than five PhD candidates. The scientific supervisor holding the "Associate Professor Dr." academic title and the scientific supervisor holding the "Doctor" (PhD) scientific degree acquired in Western universities, who are employed full-time, can supervise simultaneously no more than two PhD candidates. The scientific supervisor holding the "Professor Dr." academic title and employed part-time, can supervise only one PhD candidate.

Criterion 5 Doctorate student presents to Board of Professors the research development plan, designed by him and discussed with his supervisor;

Criterion 5: The supervisor guides the PhD candidate to the best of his ability in completing the dissertation. The supervisor draws up a supervision plan in discussion with the PhD candidate within six weeks of his appointment and sends a copy to the CP. This plan provides for regular consultation between supervisor and candidate as well as a written report thereof.

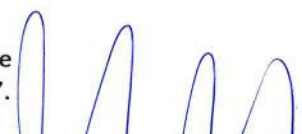
Criterion 6 Supervisor has advised repeatedly the students that he supervises for didactic duties and research activities as well as research methodology to ensure the progress of his studies in this program.

Standard II.1 - Capacities for scientific research

<p>Criterion 1 A third cycle study program (doctorate) is integrated in research activity of Higher Education Institutions;</p>	<p>The study program is strictly related to the research activities managed by the institution and its staff members.</p>
<p>Standard II.4 - Doctorate student's supervision and continuous evaluation of progress of doctorate studies</p>	
<p>Criterion 1 Scientific supervisor of student is responsible for directing, advising, assessment of student's needs and for developing and monitoring progress of student's research work. He has the academic title "Professor", "Associate Professor" or the scientific degree "Doctor" or ("PhD") awarded in Western universities and has a rich research and publishing activity;</p> <p>Criterion 2 All scientific supervisors have had the expertise, instruction and proper guidance for their role in realization of scientific research project of doctorate students;</p> <p>Criterion 3 Scientific supervisors work to update their knowledge and skills, based on institutional arrangements in order to enable the exchange of best practices and providing advice to support students effectively;</p> <p>Criterion 4 Board of Professors selects scientific supervisors, capable to supervise doctorate students' research work, based on assessment of their publishing and research activities inside and outside the country;</p> <p>Criterion 5 The main scientific supervisor and the other supervisor (when program of doctorate studies is offered by more than one university) guarantee that doctorate students receive sufficient support and guidance to facilitate their work to achieve success;</p> <p>Criterion 6 In all cases, the student must have only one identified contact point, who should be his main supervisor. If his main supervisor is not available, the student must know who will be the person to replace him;</p> <p>Criterion 7 University ensures that supervisor has enough time to supervise doctorate student; If the main leader is unable to continue supervision of student, or will be absent for a considerable period, he should be replaced by another his main supervisor before the period of awarding the diploma for scientific degree "Doctor";</p> <p>Criterion 8 If relationship student-supervisor does not function well, at the request of student or his supervisor, supervisor is changed, provided that this</p>	<p>Criterion 1: Doctorate (PhD) candidates are supervised by the academic staff of the particular discipline of the Doctorate (PhD) study program, holding the "Professor Dr." or "Associate Professor Dr." title or the "Doctor" (PhD) scientific degree acquired in Western universities, as defined by the respective Directive of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Albania. The scientific supervisor holding the "Professor Dr." academic title and employed fulltime can supervise simultaneously no more than five PhD candidates. The scientific supervisor holding the "Associate Professor Dr." academic title and the scientific supervisor holding the "Doctor" (PhD) scientific degree acquired in Western universities, who are employed full-time, can supervise simultaneously no more than two PhD candidates. The scientific supervisor holding the "Professor Dr." academic title and employed part-time, can supervise only one PhD candidate;</p> <p>Criterion 2: The supervisors have the necessary expertise to supervise the students in a correct way based on their participation in projects and their contribution in related literature.</p> <p>Criterion 3: Academic staff of the University is encouraged to make scientific and research work in accordance with their professional skills and duties arising from the strategy of the niversity. Each member of the academic staff is evaluated once a year for their contribution to scientific activity. (Annex 2) Accordingly, the supervisors of the department do their best on keeping and transferring their up to date knowledge to their students.</p> <p>Criterion 4: The CP, based on the student interest and skills assigns a specific supervisor to the student. The student research filed meet the supervisor expertise so he/she has all the necessary qualification for qualitative supervision and support;</p> <p>Criterion 5: The supervisor guarantees the student sufficient support and guidance in their research topic and this process is monitored by the CP.</p> <p>Criterion 6: The student has one main supervisor. He/she may ask the additional support from any member of our staff. In case of missing contact with the supervisor they inform the head of the department and the dean of the faculty who manages the study program.</p> <p>Criterion 7: In case the main supervisor has no enough time to advise the student or has any other problem that lead in non follow up of the student improvements, he is replaced with another one;</p> <p>Criterion 8: If the student-supervisor relationship does not function well, at the request of student or his supervisor, the Scientific Committee of the study program by the approval of the</p>

<p>does not affect the project progress;</p> <p>Criterion 9 Clear and transparent procedures are set for verification of knowledge or periodic evaluation of student (for example, an annual review by a panel called for this purpose or by a special commission set up by Professors' Council);</p> <p>Criterion 10 Doctorate student and his supervisor should be present during this process. The manner and periods of verification of knowledge or periodic evaluation of doctorate student are stipulated and specified in the beginning of doctorate studies program;</p> <p>Criterion 11 Continuous evaluation conclusions for realization of scientific research project of program of doctorate studies are clear and transparent including suspension, extension or withdrawal from doctorate studies;</p> <p>Criterion 12 Meetings between supervisors and doctorate students are documented, especially during the review of progress reports.</p>	<p>CP proposes another supervisor.</p> <p>Criterion 9: The Scientific Committee of the study program shall in respect of candidates admitted for degrees by research obtain a per semester's report by the respective supervisor as to whether their progress has been satisfactory and this report is approved by the CP.</p> <p>Criterion 10: In each 6 month period, the CP evaluates the students' progress reports in the doctoral study program. The students have to present the development of the dissertation also in front of the CP and informed about their participation in the conferences and their publications.</p> <p>Criterion 11: If the Scientific Committee finds consecutively two times that the reports on the candidate's progress are unsatisfactory, it shall have the power to recommend to the CP that their candidature for the degree be terminated. It is the duty of every candidate whose performance has been or is likely to be impaired by any circumstances to inform the Head of the Scientific Committee and the Head(s) of the relevant Department(s) accordingly in writing at the earliest opportunity, but in any case not later than the date on which the candidate submits the dissertation for examination.</p> <p>Criterion 12: Meetings between supervisors and doctorate students are documented (an attendance procedure is being held), especially during the review of progress reports.</p>
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Standard II.5 - Final evaluation of students in this cycle of studies

<p>Criterion 1 Student provides evidence that he has acquired:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Profound knowledge in relevant scientific field; Profound knowledge in some areas approximate to it; Professional skills in using modern technology to solve critical problems related to his field of scientific research; Innovation, to expand and update existing knowledge; Autonomy, scientific, professional integrity and dedication for development of new ideas that encourage scientific research; <p>Criterion 2 Student provides evidence that he has brought original scientific products, scientific works of a high scientific level through conducted scientific research, some of which have deserved or deserve publication in scientific national and international magazines;</p> <p>Criterion 3 Final evaluation of doctorate students is based above all on an assessment of their scientific research product;</p> <p>Criterion 4 On the basis of an agreement reached in the phase of the study program approval, scientific research result is presented as a dissertation thesis, or cumulative with 3 scientific articles published in international journals with impact factor coefficient above 1;</p> <p>Criterion 5 In case of doctorate examination with dissertation thesis, doctorate student meets the following conditions:</p>	<p>Criterion 1: There is no PhD candidate at the final evaluation stage yet.</p> <p>Criterion 2: See Art. 24, 25, 26, 28 of the Regulation "On PhD study programs".</p> <p>Criterion 3: See Art. 28, Art.42/3 and Art. 43 of the Regulation "On PhD study programs".</p> <p>Criterion 4: Refer to the Art. 25, 26 and 39 of the Regulation "On PhD study programs".</p> <p>Criterion 5: Refer to the Art. 28 of the Regulation "On PhD study programs".</p> 
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- a) He has realized as first author at least three scientific papers or presentations (poster), of which two papers or presentations are held in a international scientific event, in a western country (symposium, conference, congress), accepted on the basis of a preliminary scientific assessment, published in "Proceedings", indexed with an ISBN code;
- b) He has published as first author, at least three scientific articles in scientific journals. At least two of the articles have been published or accepted for publication in well-known western journals with editorial board;
- c) He has prepared and presented to Faculty Board of Professors the dissertation, along with a summary, approved by scientific supervisor. Structure of dissertation and its summary are defined in doctorate study regulation;

Criterion 6 Board of Professors defines two or three opponents, one of which is from outside the institution. Opponents are also members of the jury to assess dissertation. They have required academic titles and rich research and publishing activities inside and outside the country in the relevant field of study in which program doctorate studies is offered;

Criterion 7 Opponents who have had a substantial involvement in the work of doctorate student, or whose work is the very focus of research project;

Criterion 8 A dissertations copy is given to every opponent, giving enough time to read it and to write a separate report. Opponents should not communicate among themselves, with doctorate student or its scientific supervisor during this period. Opponents must verify the authenticity of data used in dissertation, observance of scientific research practice as well citations of scientific research works and articles of other authors;

Criterion 9 Opponents express clearly that scientific paper is free of plagiarism. If they notice and find that this has happened, they ask for termination of dissertation assessment;

Criterion 10 Dissertation is accompanied by a summary, about 10 pages in English. This review is published in the official website of the institution, in the section designated for information for this study;

Criterion 11 Scientific supervisor of the student should not be an opponent;

Criterion 12 When opponents have completed their reports, they are called by the Dean and Head of Board of Professors to agree to conduct oral

Criterion 6: See Art. 41/2 of the Regulation "On PhD study programs".

Criterion 7: See Art. 41/2 of the Regulation "On PhD study programs".

Criterion 8: Refer to the Art. 41/2 of the Regulation "On PhD study programs".

Criterion 9: See Art. 23/1 of the Regulation "On PhD study programs". At the same time, the Turnitin software is used by the academic staff to check the originality of the research work carried out by students of all cycles, including PhD students.

Criterion 10: According to Art. 24/3 of the Regulation "On PhD study programs",

all dissertations at Epoka University are written in English. At the same time, based on Art. 4.3.3 of the Regulation "On ethics in research and publishing activities", approved by the Ordinance No. 105, dated 23.03.2012, of the Minister of Education and Science, all PhD dissertations should be published in an integral form in the official website of the institution.

Criterion 11: From the provisions of Art.41/2 of the Regulation "On PhD study programs", it can be derived that the scientific supervisor of the student cannot also act as an opponent.

Criterion 12: See Art. 42 of the Regulation "On PhD study programs".

examination;

Criterion 13 It is recommended, that a jury member of doctorate examination be from universities known in the world for quality and rich research and publishing activities in the relevant field, which has at least the scientific degree "Doctor" awarded in the scientific field in which doctorate student follows the studies and over 5 years academic and research experience. This criterion may not be applied to Albanological sciences. Assessment of doctorate student in examination is made open by consensus, provided that all members are pronounced for a passing grade. Even if one member has evaluated doctorate student by convincing arguments, with a failing grade, the final outcome will be failing;

Criterion 14 Opponents submit to dean of unit that organizes the program of doctorate studies and chairperson of doctorate examination jury a copy of their individual reports;

Criterion 15 Dissertation defense for obtaining the diploma for scientific degree "Doctor" is public. It is announced at least 4 weeks before and it is done in the presence of department interested members, students and teachers in the relevant Higher Education Institution;

Criterion 16 Evaluations that opponents can make include: granting diploma of scientific degree "Doctor", or resubmission of written scientific research paper after completion of their recommendations, or a further extension of study program, or denial of diploma for scientific degree "Doctor";

Criterion 17 A copy of dissertation of student who received a diploma for scientific degree "Doctor" is deposited in library of faculty, research institute, university research centers, university where study program is carried out and scientific paper and a copy in National Library. Scientific degree "Doctor" is not issued without dissertation being deposited in aforementioned institutions, published in paper and on disk (CD) and without making it public in the official website of respective higher education institution;

Criterion 18 Scientific degree "Doctor" is not issued without being registered in National Register of

Criterion 13: According to Art. 41/3 of the Regulation "On PhD study programs", one of the Jury members can be chosen among lecturers who hold the "Doctor" degree, coming from universities known in the world for quality and rich research and publishing experience in the respective field and having at least five years of academic and research experience in the field on which the student has prepared his dissertation. It should be stated that the greatest majority of the academic staff members currently supervising or who are available to supervise PhD students at Epoka University come from universities known in the world for quality and rich research and publishing activities in the relevant field, which has at least the scientific degree "Doctor" awarded in the scientific field in which doctorate student follows the studies and over five years academic and research experience. According to Art. 43 of the Regulation "On PhD study programs", the PhD Jury takes the decision by a majority of votes. The PhD Jury submits its decision to the CP which takes the final decision on the awarding of the doctorate. According to Art. 4 of the Regulation "On the organization and functions of the Council of Professors", decisions of the CP are taken by a simple majority. Decisions of the CP should be approved by the Dean.

Criterion 14: It can be derived from the provisions of Art. 40 and 41/2 of the Regulation "On PhD study programs", that the opponents submit to the CP through the Dean of Faculty that organizes the program of doctorate studies and to the PhD Jury through the respective Head of Department a copy of their individual reports.

Criterion 15: According to Art. 3/h of the Regulation "On PhD study programs", the PhD dissertation defense is public. All interested staff members and students of Epoka University can participate in the PhD dissertation defense.

Criterion 16: See Art. 42/3 of the Regulation "On PhD study programs".

Criterion 17: Regarding the submission of the PhD dissertation in printed and electronic copies to the Library and other relevant units of the University, refer to Art. 39/2, 44/1, 44/3 and 45 of the Regulation "On PhD study programs". At the same time, based on Art. 4.3.3 of the Regulation "On ethics in research and publishing activities", approved by the Ordinance No. 105, dated 23.03.2012, of the Minister of Education and Science, all PhD dissertations should be published in an integral form in the official website of the institution.

Criterion 18: Based on the provisions of the Albanian higher education legislation in force,

Doctorates of Securities Commission Academic Assessment (KVTA) in MES	which is binding upon Epoka University, the PhD/Doctor degree cannot be issued without being registered in the National Register of Doctorates in the Commission on the Assessment of Academic Titles at the Ministry of Education and Sports (MES).
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Conclusions of EEG:

The first year of the PhD program is composed of 60 ECTS in total. The entire program has in total 180 ECTS and the duration of minimum 3 years. The teaching program is according to the bylaws in force. Regarding the drafting and the approval procedure of the proposed research project by the applicant, it should be said that all the applicants have to submit their request to the respective department together with a short research proposal. The applicant has to choose the topic within the specialization areas of the academic staff that the department of Political Science and International Relations has. The proposal is initially approved by the respective members of the Scientific Committee of the department, which is then followed by an acceptance from the CP. The student is informed about the criteria that should be met before the application and is free to choose his/her advisor based on their research area after a discussion with the respective professor. Each professor in the department of Political Science and International Relations publishes regularly a list of his/her own research topics and (if available) the existing and future research projects. After acceptance, the PhD student has regular meetings with his/her supervisor (which are well documented) and submits reports regarding the improvements in his/her research topic. The student advisors direct, advice and assess the development and improvement of their student research topic. All the professors of the department who supervise PhD students have completed their PhD in Western Universities and have a rich research and publishing activity. They at least have the 'Doctor' degree and have the necessary expertise to supervise the students in a correct way and keep them up to date regarding their research fields. The PhD student should have a good communication and regular contact with the advisor. In case the main supervisor does not have enough time to advise the student or has any other problem that leads in non-efficient follow-up of the student improvements, he is replaced with another one. Furthermore, in case the student-advisor relationship does not function well, a substitution is done upon a request by the supervisor or the student depending on the situation.

The study program meets the standards according to the above criteria – under the condition that all modules according to the curriculum are regularly taught and the vacancies (see Table 9) (including those after the departure of Prof. Bekir Cinar) are quickly filled.

Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution

8. Teaching – Learning outcome (in first year)

Description part

Terma reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG should analyze and evaluate the: organization, teaching methods, quality of workload and realisation of it, teaching technologies, internal evaluation of teaching, students' participation in the activities of the doctoral school, control of student knowledge, student scientific leadership etc.

The studies are detailed and well structured (see data on curriculum etc.). Teaching methodology and evaluation meets international standards. Data on students are still limited because of the limited number. The 2 students interviewed seem to take a very active role in terms of scientific leadership etc.

Measurable indicators:



- EEG should analyze and evaluate the student's workload, forms of teaching (verify the data, according to Table 10)

Table 10

Forms of teaching	Class hours for
Lecture	48 class hours
Seminars	-
Exercises	-
Laboratories	-
Practice for subjects	-
Professional practice	-
Etc.	139.5 class hours

- EEG should analyze and evaluate the policies for Learning Outcomes control (verify the data, according to Table 11)

Table 11

Learning Outcomes control	in %
Active participation in lectures, seminars, etc.	NA
Implementation of obligations (laboratory course tasks, essays)	NA
Intermediate tests	NA
Final exam	NA
Etc	
In total	100%

- EEG should analyze and evaluate the: students's participation in the research activities of the University/Faculty/etc. (verify the data, according to Table 12)

Table 12

HEI scientific activity	Number of students activated
For individual Papers of Lectures	NA
For scientific projects of Faculty / Department / Doctoral School	NA
For research projects, in collaboration with other	NA

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
Standard I.2 - Continuous increase of theoretical level and promotion of students' team work are targets of a study program of third cycle, doctorate.	
Criterion 1 Level of scientific research development helps in student training to complete the study program successfully; Criterion 2 Students have the opportunity to participate in various research activities closely related to the specific area in which they	Criterion 1: Criterion is fulfilled. Criterion 2: Students are encouraged to participate in various scientific activities, but their participation is limited due to lack of funding; this results in low

attend doctorate studies, which help him/her to be trained for:

- a) Acquisition of research methodologies for independent creative activities, such as scientific articles, presentations, standard approach for references, bibliography, indexes and content writing as the basis for doctor a thesis processing;
- b) Independent work in laboratory;
- c) Use of information resources (e.g. libraries and Internet) and information management;
- d) Use of modern technologies for public presentations;
- e) Acquisition of advanced methods of analysis and data processing;
- f) Learning and mastery of specialized terminology associated with the research field of doctorate student;

Criterion 3 Doctorate students participate in foreseen activities young and their research work.

A doctorate student is free to participate as a listener or as a speaker in:

- a) Lectures;
- b) Seminars;
- c) Interdisciplinary debates, organized in the framework of doctorate study program;
- d) Other possibilities of learning such as following presentations of post doctorate students and research projects, even when it is not related directly to the student's research interest.
- e) Scientific mentors advise students to take part in scientific activities and conferences that help them in their scientific research;

Criterion 4 Students have gained skills for appropriate communication with a scientific level (*Student's communication skills include: the competency to write clearly and with an appropriate style, use of persuasive arguments and clear articulation of ideas before the public concerned; the ability to debate and support others, involved in teaching, supervision or demonstrations*);

Criterion 5 Students have acquired the ability to communicate correctly with others, and necessary skill for a scholar, but also in other situations (*being able to develop and maintain cooperation and working relationships with others, awareness that their behavior affects them and others and be willing to listen, to give and to take reactions and responses with sharpness*);

Criterion 6 Development of communication skills of doctorate students encouraged them to be engaged in teaching in study programs of first and second cycle (e.g. by engaging in teaching as lecturers, in support of professors guiding their thesis).

participation and low-follow up of the latest knowledge. However, students have access to information management and information resources through the library and its online resources.

Team working is still problematic within the university because of low national and international project participation and lack of well-established research groups.

Criterion 3: Doctorate students are encouraged to participate in scientific events such as lectures, seminars, debates, mentorships etc. The department is inviting lecturers and researchers from the field and organizes conferences related to political science, international relations and other related areas.

Criterion 4: During the study program students acquire the necessary skills for appropriate scholarly communication. The participation in scientific meetings, conferences, and presentations of papers and their publication enable them to acquire these skills.

Criterion 5: PhD students have good communications skills and are highly motivated. Activities such as seminars, discussion groups, forums, conference participation facilitate the development of their ability to communication in the vsolarly field. Engagement with academic texts and the research methods and academic English courses contribute to scholarly written skills.

Criterion 6: PhD students are encouraged to participate in some lectures with their professors by supporting them or lecturing themselves in study programs of the first cycle.

Conclusions of EEG:

The Department of Political Science and International Relations at Epoka University has many professors who obtained their degrees abroad and have good publishing activities. They encourage and try to support PhD students to participate in various scientific activities. There are a number of local and regional international conferences with modest fees where students can participate. Epoka has co-sponsored international conferences periodically where students can present their work without a fee or with a minimum fee. Numerous international academic journals accept articles without a fee. Through Epoka's library, students have also access to JSTOR, and SPSS. Furthermore, to increase the knowledge sharing and cooperation with well-established researchers and universities, the Department is inviting lecturers and researchers from the field and organizes bi-yearly conferences related to political science, international relations, European studies and international political economy. Ph.D. students are encouraged to participate in some lectures with their professors by supporting them or even in lecturing themselves in study programs of first cycle. The criterion is fulfilled.

9. Doctoral students

Description part

Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG should analyze and evaluate the: academic criteria and procedures for enrollment of doctoral student, quality of students enrolled, the number of students enrolled and who has finished in years, average duration of doctoral studies (in years), statistics, collaboration with students who have received diploma, student's information.

Academic criteria and procedures for enrolment of doctoral student:

Eligibility to apply to the PhD Program:

The persons who are eligible for admission to the PhD program should:

- have obtained a Master of Science/Master of Arts, integrated second cycle studies or any other equivalent diploma in the field of the Doctorate (PhD) program or in a close field previously defined in the requirements established by the respective of the Scientific Committee;
- have a CGPA of at least 2.70 out of 4.00 or 8 out of 10 from the Master of Science/Master of Arts, integrated second cycle studies or any other equivalent diploma in the field of the Doctorate (PhD) program or in a close field previously defined in the requirements established by the respective Scientific Committee or an equivalent CGPA;
- Applicants must demonstrate that they have reached the minimum acceptable level of proficiency in use of the English language:
 - having studied undergraduate degree in English; or
 - having obtained a TOEFL IBT score of at least 70; or
 - having obtained the equivalent score for the internationally recognized English Language Exams as stipulated in the Directive of the Minister of Education and Science No. 14, dated 28.03.2011 "On the recognition of English language exams for the second and third cycle study programs".

Enrolment procedures:

1. For enrolment at the PhD programs, the applicant should submit the following documents to the Admission Office:

- An original or a notarized copy of the Master of Science/Master of Arts, integrated second cycle studies or any other equivalent diploma translated into English and Albanian languages

- Official transcript of the first cycle (Bachelor) study program or any other equivalent study program in which are defined all the courses and grades taken by the candidate translated into English and Albanian languages;
- Official transcript of the Master of Science/Master of Arts, integrated second cycle studies or any other equivalent study program in which are defined all the courses and grades taken by the candidate translated into English and Albanian languages;
- If the candidate has completed the Master of Science/Master of Arts, integrated second cycle studies or any other equivalent study program in a foreign institution, he must also submit the notarized copy of the document on the equivalence of the said studies by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Albania translated into English language;
- TOEFL score or score from one of the internationally recognized English Language Exams as stipulated in the Directive of the Minister of Education and Science No. 14, dated 28.03.2011 "On the recognition of English language exams for the second and third cycle study programs";
- Two academic reference letters for the applicant;
- Curriculum Vitae;
- A PhD proposal in area on which the applicant would wish to prepare his/her dissertation.

2. The Admission Office checks the submitted documents according to formal criteria; if the all required forms and documents have been submitted, then the Admission Office submits the applicant's file to the respective Scientific Committee for evaluation.

3. The Scientific Committee proposes the admission to PhD programs based on applicants':

- academic success in the graduate and undergraduate program;
- level of English language proficiency,
- interview conducted with the respective Scientific Committee.
- other documents which may be requested by the Scientific Committee.

4. The Scientific Committee submits its proposal about the prospective students for approval to the CP.

5. After the approval/disapproval from the CP, the respective faculty submits the decision for each applicant to Admission Office.

6. Admission Office after the submission of the decisions regarding the acceptance of the applicants by respective faculties, in order to finalize the registration, submit to the Registrar's Office the respective file of students who are accepted to study the PhD program.

The PhD student file contains:

- Decision for the acceptance of the applicant
- Required documents
- Admission Form for PhD Study program, signed by Admission Office and Finance Office

Quality of students enrolled, the number of students enrolled and who has finished in years, average duration of doctoral studies (in years), statistics, and progress report:

Academic Year 2012-2013:

No. of students: 2;

CGPA of previous studies: Student 1: 68.33 – Merit (British system) equivalent to 80/100;

Student 2: 3.93/4;

CGPA at EPOKA: Student 1: 3.5/4; Student 2: 3.3/4.

Academic Year 2013-2014:

No. of students: 2;

CGPA of previous studies: Student 1: 26.41/30 (Italian system), equivalent to 88.01/100;

Student 2: 3.75/ 4 ;

CGPA at EPOKA: Student 1: 1.13/4; Student 2: Thesis.

Collaboration with students who have received diploma, student's information:

The PhD program in Political Science and International Relations at Epoka University has not yet awarded any doctorate.

Measurable indicators:

- EEG should analyze and evaluate the statistical data for doctoral students:
 - The total number of PhDs students and the number for each year: two students enrolled during 2012-2013 academic year; two students enrolled during 2013-2014 academic year.
 - The number of PhDs students coming from outside of the university: 1.
 - Number of graduates each year: no graduate yet.
 - The average duration of doctoral studies and what has been the trend of this indicator: The regular duration of PhD studies is three academic years. There is no trend yet because no student has completed the PhD studies yet.
 - Number and percentage of students, who have interrupted his doctoral studies: One student has interrupted the studies at PhD study program (25 %).
 - Number and percentage of students, who come from Kosovo, Albanian territories, as well as from the Albanian diaspora: 0
 - Number and percentage of foreign students, who come from the Balkan region: 0
 - Number and percentage of students, who come from EU countries: 0
 - Number and percentage of students, who come from other countries of the world: 0

- EEG should analyze and evaluate the information for the mobility of doctoral students at universities abroad: No student enrolled in the PhD program in Political Science and International Relations has yet undertaken studies at foreign universities.

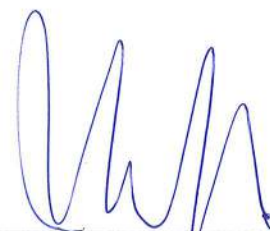
- Analyses and evaluation of data for the final evaluation of doctoral students:

One student was eligible for a full exemption and one was eligible for a partial exemption of the first stage, which is a focus on training in research methods and stage of theoretical gaining, and they have directly passed to the second stage, writing the dissertation. There is just one student in the first stage, whose CGPA is 1.13 (from a maximum of 4.00).

- Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution:

PhD Progress Reports by three students

Evaluation according to the Standards



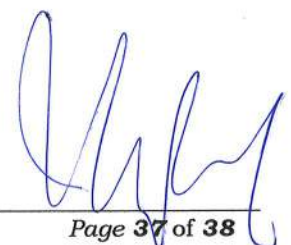
Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
Standard I.3 - Admission of students in a doctorate study program	
<p>Criterion 1 The student admitted to doctorate study program has completed second study cycle with average grade (> 80% of points) and was awarded the university degree "Master of Science"/ "Master of Fine Arts" or an equivalent degree, following completion of university studies that include a scientific thesis evaluated with 30-40 ECTS;</p> <p>Criterion 2 Candidate who applies to continue the third cycle program, the doctorate, has profound theoretical knowledge in the relevant field of study. Some basic knowledge that doctorate student has is:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Creative thinking; Development of critical sense about research; Connections between different fields of research; Skills developed for solving problems arising during research work; Competence to manage research complexity and to propose new ideas in research field; <p>Criterion 3 The student admitted to doctorate study program is ready to apply in practice the knowledge gained from research in relevant field of studies;</p> <p>Criterion 4 Student owns the English language certified in the international level, at least "C1", based on internationally recognized tests and a second foreign language as French, German, Italian, Spanish or Russian. In social sciences it may be Latin, Ancient Greek, Persian or other languages needed for research in the area;</p> <p>Criterion 5 Professors' Council set the criteria for admission to program of doctorate studies contained in regulation of doctorate program of studies;</p> <p>Criterion 6 The applicant has received detailed information about doctorate program of study, before being admitted into it. He is fully informed regarding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Duration of study program; Conditions that student should meet before appearing in doctorate exam; Support that institution provides to the student through administrative and research structures for activities envisaged in the study program (laboratories, libraries, etc.). 	<p>Criterion 1: In accordance with the Law, the applicants who are eligible for admission to the PhD programme should have a CGPA of at least 2.70 out of 4.00 or 8 out of 10 from the Master of Science/Master of Arts, integrated second cycle studies or any other equivalent diploma in the field of the Doctorate (PhD) program or in a close field previously defined in the requirements established by the respective Scientific Committee or an equivalent CGPA, following completion of university studies that include a scientific thesis evaluated with 30-40 ECTS.</p> <p>Criterion 2: In accordance with the Albanian Law, the applicants who are eligible for admission to the PhD programme should have obtained a Master of Science/Master of Arts, integrated second cycle studies or any other equivalent diploma in the field of the Doctorate (PhD) program or in a close field previously defined in the requirement established by the respective Scientific Committee. A doctoral candidate has profound theoretical knowledge in the relevant field of study, creative thinking, and connections between different fields of research.</p> <p>Criterion 3: The PhD research is conducted according to the rules of conduct for academic practice within the University and according to the rules of conduct and/or the professional code which applies to professional conduct for the relevant academic field.</p> <p>Criterion 4: According to the Regulation of Epoka University on "PhD Studies" article 8, point c), students are accepted upon submitting evidence of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - having obtained an undergraduate degree in English; or - having obtained a TOEFL IBT score of at least 70; or - having obtained the equivalent score for the internationally recognized English Language Exams as stipulated in the Directive of the Minister of Education and Science No. 14, dated 28.03.2011 "On the recognition of English language exams for the second and third cycle study programs". <p>Criterion 5: The Council of Professors of Epoka University Sets the criteria for admission to the programs of doctorate studies that are in line with the regulations of the Ministry of Education and Sports and with the regulation of PhD study program of Epoka University.</p> <p>Criterion 6: The applicants are fully informed regarding of the doctorate study program, Epoka University Regulation "On PhD study programs" published at http://epoka.edu.al/mat/regulations/regulation-on-phd-study-programs.pdf. There the students have all the information on the duration of the study program, the requirements that they have to complete and the information on the supporting academic and administrative structure that is existent in the institution.</p>

<p>d) Modalities of exercise of research or creative activity of doctorate students, especially with regard to preparation of doctorate thesis;</p> <p>Criterion 7 Admission criteria include also interviews and supports that can be provided by references and additional documents;</p> <p>Criterion 8 Admission policies include also doctorate admission exam.</p>	<p>Criterion 7: Based on the Regulation “On PhD study programs”, Article 10, all the admission criteria are listed. In order to better identify the students interests and to better match the his/her interests with the research of the academic staff that would supervise the student the Scientific ommittee conducts an interview.</p> <p>Criterion 8: Admission policies include also doctorate admission criteria such as interview. Based on the Regulation “On PhD study programs”, Article 10, 4.c. Scientific Committee conducts an interview with the Applicants.</p>
<p>Standard III.2 - Quantitative aspects of doctorate study program</p>	
<p>Total number of registered doctorate students and doctorate number for each year;</p> <p>Number of registered doctorate students coming from outside the unit that has opened the doctorate study program;</p> <p>Number of diplomas issued to receive "Doctor" degree for each year;</p> <p>Average duration of doctorate studies and trend of this indicator;</p> <p>Number and percentage of those who gave up doctorate studies in the level of study program.</p>	<p>2012-13: 2 (two); 2013-14: 2 (two); Among the 4 (four) students enrolled in the program 1(one) is full time academic staff of the faculty, 1 (one) is part time academic staff; 1 (one) is full time administrative staff and 1 (one) is not part of the university; 0;</p> <p>There are no graduated students yet.</p> <p>1 (25%).</p>
<p>Standard III.4 - Internationalization of doctorate study program</p>	
<p>Number, expressed in percentage, of registered doctorate students coming from Kosovo and other areas where Albanians live and Albanian Diaspora;</p> <p>Number, expressed in percentage, of registered doctorate students coming from Balkans region.</p> <p>Number, expressed in percentage, of registered doctorate students coming from the EU countries;</p> <p>Number, expressed in percentage, of registered doctorate students coming from other countries of the world;</p>	<p>0%</p> <p>0%</p> <p>0%</p> <p>0%</p>
<p>Conclusions of EEG:</p> <p>The academic criteria and procedures for enrollments of doctoral students fulfill the requirements. Quality of students enrolled in the PhD program of Political Science and International Relations is satisfying. Three students had to attend the courses of the doctorate program and two of them had satisfactory performances. Currently, three of them have submitted the first progress reports. The Council of Professors has evaluated these reports as satisfactory. No student has yet finished the dissertation. Internationalization of studies is still not satisfying. The standards are partially fulfilled.</p>	

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH POLICIES

10. Research in doctoral school and involvement of doctoral students

Description part



Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG should analyze and evaluate the: research policies of HEI /Doctoral School, publications over the years, acquired and implemented projects, participation of doctoral student in activities at home and abroad, the activities organized by the unit, etc..

Epoka University promotes the participation of academic staff and at the same time of the students which are willing to be involved in the scientific activities of educational institutions all around the world. The University is strongly supporting the scientific publications of its lecturers by awarding those in financial terms and encourages highly qualified researchers to conduct joint research activities. The objectives of Epoka University are: to encourage publications by faculty members and students, to organize conferences in the premises of Epoka University or elsewhere, supporting lecturers to participate in national and international conferences, establishing academic journal of the Faculty. In the list of publications by our staff together with the bachelor and master program students, the relative scientific contribution of PhD students is small as the PhD program is recently opened and the number of PhD students is still small. The PhD students have produced scientific papers published already in international journals (see Table 13). PhD students participated in international conferences, workshops and realized some other scientific activities. Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences has organized 11 international conferences. Some of the conferences have been organized in cooperation with other universities or research centers. There are around 100 publications in scientific proceedings, presentations or posters in an international scientific activity such as symposium, conference, congress, and submit a considerable number of scientific articles in scientific journals with impact factor. (Annex 9.A and Annex 9.B)

Measurable indicators:

- EEG should analyze and evaluate: data for research (verify the data, according to Table 13)

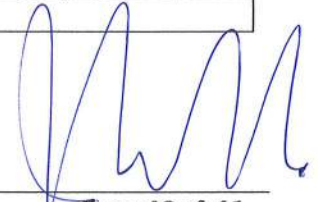
Table 13

Planned activities, individual and institution, who are involved in doctoral students	Number	The titles of scientific journals, projects, research activities
1. Publications, where students have scientific articles	7	1. Bojaxhiu, Anjeza (April, 2013). "Can Shariah Law be Reconciled with International Human Rights?", International Young Researchers Conference on Law at the University of Beder in Tirana, Albania. 2. Bojaxhiu, Anjeza (May, 2013). Crisis Prevention and Peace Building: the Role of Religion and Spirituality in Israel/Palestine. International Conference on Humanities at the University of Beder in Tirana, Albania. 3. R.Zenelaj Shehi & C.Baltaci, "Democracy Promotion in Albania" Electronic Journal of Social Sciences; 2013, Vol. 12 Issue

			<p>44, p1-16.</p> <p>4. R. Zenelaj Shehi, “Mediation in Regional Ethnic Conflicts: The Role of EU in Kosovo”, National Question in Central Europe: Democratic Responses to Unresolved National and Ethnic Conflicts, Institute for Cultural Relations Policies, Budapest; Hungary, March 2013</p> <p>5. R. Zenelaj Shehi, Constructing a Conflict Resolution Foreign Policy: Albania-Greece Relations, International Turgut Ozal Congress on Business, Economics and Political Science, Turgut Ozal University, Ankara; Turkey, October 2013</p> <p>6. E. Elmazaj, "Electoral Engineering in Albania since 1991", 2nd International Balkan Annual Conference (Tirana 11-14 October 2012) organized by Istanbul University with the collaboration of Tirana University and Epoka University.</p> <p>7. E. Elmazaj, "Challenges of Local Democracy in Albania", Research paper submitted for the 4th International Conference on European Studies (ICES'13) on “Social, Economic and Political Transition of Balkans”, (Tirana 8-9 November 2013) organized by Epoka University.</p>
2.	Research projects, acquired by leading professors or doctoral students	2	<p>Bekir Cinar, Transparency of the Public Administration of Albania.</p> <p>Salih Ozcan, Political Perceptions and Participation of University Students in Albania, Kosovo and Macedonia</p>
3.	Projects Implemented	1	Albanian Public Perceptions of Socio-Cultural and Foreign Policy Issues, December 2011
4.	Scientific activities organized by the HEI	10	1. First International

			<p>Conference on Management and Economics - ICME 2008</p> <p>2. 1st International Conference on Balkan Studies 2008 - ICBS 2008</p> <p>3. 2nd International Conference on European Studies -ICES 2009</p> <p>4. Albanian Foreign Policy - AFP 2011</p> <p>5. The 3rd International Conference on European Studies -ICES 2011</p> <p>6. International Student Conference on Economics and Finance -ISCON 2011</p> <p>7. International Balkan Annual Conference - IBAC 2012</p> <p>8. Education Conference</p> <p>9. 4th International Conference on European Studies -ICES 2013</p> <p>10. Challenges of Innovative Enterprises in the Global Competitive Market 2014 - ISCoIE 2014</p>
5.	Participants in scientific activities	NA	<p>PhD students have to participate in the scientific activities especially during the thesis preparation. According to Regulation "On PhD Study Programs", Article 28, students should have conducted as first author at least three scientific proceedings, presentations or posters in an international scientific activity (symposium, conference, congress) and submit three scientific articles in scientific journals. Based on the above mention Regulation, all the PhD students have conducted scientific proceeding as it is a requirement for the graduation.</p>
6.	Students involved in research	NA	<p>PhD students have to be involved in research during the thesis preparation</p>
	etc		

Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution



Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
Standard II.1 - Capacities for scientific research	
<p>Criterion 1 A third cycle study program (doctorate) is integrated in research activity of Higher Education Institutions;</p> <p>Criterion 2 The institution has the capacity to perform supervision of each doctorate student in research activities and respective didactic duties;</p> <p>Criterion 3 Academic staff must show achievements in the research field through such creative activities as: presentations, scientific publications, magazines, books or monographs;</p> <p>Criterion 4 Indicators of high level research activity are publications that contain statements from publishing and scientific research activity by other scholars outside doctorate study program, especially international, regarding the outcome of scientific research in the institution that offers doctorate programs;</p>	<p>Criterion 1: The study program is strictly integrated to the activities of the Higher Education Institutions;</p> <p>Criterion 2: The staff involved in the supervision of the doctorate students has the capacity required for a qualitative guidance;</p> <p>Criterion 3: The academic staff is active in the research activities such as publishing and participating in scientific meetings. Academic staff of the University is encouraged to undertake scientific and research work in accordance with their professional skills and duties arising from the strategy of the University. Each member of the academic staff is evaluated once a year for their contribution to scientific activity;</p> <p>Criterion 4: Students and professors in of doctorate program have been participating in international conferences and also been active in the organization of conferences. They have been involved in projects proposals and implementation of these projects, directly related to their specialization. (More details in Table 13.)</p>
<p>Conclusions of EEG:</p> <p>The staff involved in the supervision of the doctorate students has the required qualification for the guidance of PhD students. The number of PhD students per supervisor does not exceed the limits set by the Ministry of Education and Sports. The academic staff and students have participated in scientific conferences and in the organization of such conferences in their institution. They have been involved in projects proposals and implementation of these projects which have been directly related to their specialization. The PhD study program in Political Science and International Relations fulfills the above mentioned criteria.</p>	

11. National and international cooperation, in function of doctoral study

Description part

Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG should analyze and evaluate the: Doctoral School's cooperation with institutions /national or international research organizations, invited academic staff, etc..

The Doctoral School is cooperating with a considerable number of research institutions in Albania and abroad the details of which are listed below.

Measurable indicators:

- EEG should analyze and evaluate: the national and international cooperation (verify the data, according to Table 14)

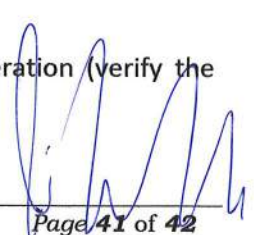


Table 14

Scientific activities in the framework of international cooperation		
1	Number of students participating as partners in national and international projects	-
2	Number of Students participating in scientific activities, outside of HEI / presentations abroad	3
3	The number of foreign lecturers, who are invited to teaching	-
4	The number of classes held by invited foreign lecturers	-
5	Number of participants in training, in the field of abroad research	-
6	Mobility of students to and from HEI	-
7	The number of international awards in the field of research	-

- EEG should analyze and evaluate: the Cooperation with scientific institutions (verify the data, according to Table 15)

Table 15

Institutions and scientific organizations the institution is cooperating with	
	Type of cooperation
Istanbul University	Cooperation between faculty staff in the offering of PhD study programs at Epoka University
Pamukkale University	Cooperation between faculty staff in the offering of PhD study programs at Epoka University
Erciyes University	Cooperation between faculty staff
Yildiz Technical University	Organization of conference
University of Aleksander Moisiu	Organization of Conference
University of Texas	Cooperation between faculty staff
Polytechnic University of Tirana	Organization of conference
University of Prishtina	Organization of conference
Izmir Katib Celebi University	Organization of conference
Suleyman Demirel University	Organization of conference
University of Tirana	Organization of conference
Celal Bayar University	Organization of conference
University of Gaziantep	Organization of conference

- Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution

– International Relations Office / List of Agreements

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
Standard III.4 - Internationalization of doctorate study program	

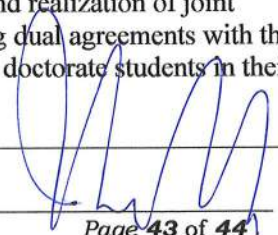
<p>Criterion 1 Doctorate study program encourages doctorate mobility by paying a considerable amount of expenditures for academic training outside doctorate study program;</p> <p>Criterion 2 Doctorate study program encourages mobility of doctorate students by paying a considerable amount of expenditures for presentation of research results in national and international scientific activities (symposium, conference, congress);</p> <p>Criterion 3 The institution has an agreement, at least with one Western university, guaranteeing programs of exchange of academic staff and doctorate students and realization of joint research projects. For Albanological Sciences cooperation could also be with a Higher Education Institution or research centre in Kosovo and lands where Albanians live;</p> <p>Criterion 4 Doctorate study program creates the necessary space to develop joint doctorate study programs with homologous universities in the region, Europe and beyond;</p> <p>Criterion 5 Doctorate study program provides for 3-4 modules (not less than 15 ECTS) to be conducted, organized in theoretical studies and doctorate students have the exam by professors of partner universities, known in the world, for quality and research, publishing activities in the relevant field of study. Exception cited in criterion 7 applies for Albanological Sciences;</p> <p>Criterion 6 Doctorate study program promotes involvement of professors from foreign universities as scientific supervisors or as scientific collaborators of doctorate students.</p>	<p>Criterion 1: Doctorate study program encourages doctorate mobility by having dual agreements with the universities abroad and the business partners within and outside of Albania. All these cooperation agreements help the doctorate students in their research and academic training;</p> <p>Criterion 2: Doctorate study program encourages mobility of doctorate students (if they are part of academic staff in our university) by paying a considerable amount of expenditures for presentation of research results in national and international scientific activities (symposium, conference, congress). Each PhD student who is part of our university staff has an annual amount of money that can be used for the expenses in the participation of scientific activities.</p> <p>Criterion 3: The institution has agreement with 65 universities, around 70 % of them being Western countries, 15 companies/institutions and is member of 9 unions. The institution is getting direct support from Pamukkale University and Istanbul University (from Western countries) (See Annex 10.A and 10.B). All these agreements guarantee programs of exchange of academic staff and doctorate students and realization of joint research projects. The institution has supported and is supporting its staff that have participated in international projects both financially and allowing extensive administrative leaves;</p> <p>Criterion 4: Doctorate study program creates the necessary space to develop joint doctorate study programs with homologous universities in the region, Europe and beyond (a total of 65 universities) through mobility and recognition of credits. The program allows also the possibility for coadvisors from other universities.</p> <p>Criterion 5: The largest part of the theoretical courses at the PhD program in Political Science and International Relations are conducted by foreign academic staff members who have completed their studies in universities known in the world for the quality of research and publishing activities in the relevant field of study.</p> <p>Criterion 6: Pamukkale University and Istanbul University represent two foreign higher education institutions that support Epoka University concerning the conduct of PhD studies, by offering scientific supervisors or scientific collaborators of doctorate students.</p>
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Standard II.1 - Capacities for scientific research

<p>Criterion 1 The institution has agreements with other academic or research institutions at home and abroad, supporting the exchange of academic staff and doctorate students and academic and research activities of doctorate school;</p>	<p>The University has 65 agreements with academic or research institutions at home and abroad, supporting the exchange of academic staff and doctorate students and academic and research activities of the doctorate school.</p>
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Conclusions of EEG:

The institution has agreements with 65 universities, 15 companies/institutions and is member of 9 unions. All these agreements guarantee programs of exchange of academic staff and doctorate students and realization of joint research projects. The doctorate study program encourages doctorate mobility by having dual agreements with the universities abroad and the business partners within and outside of Albania, helping the doctorate students in their research and academic training. The institution fulfills all the relevant criteria.



SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths

1. Commitment to quality of PhD students (strict selection criteria)
2. Innovative curriculum
3. Well-established cooperation and exchange with foreign universities
4. Strong interdisciplinary element of studies

Weaknesses

1. Lack of professorial staff (full professors)
2. Limited funds for research

Opportunities

1. University cooperation between Balkan area and European Union area
2. Contribution to civil society debates and democratization processes in the region

Threats

1. Impact of economic situation (domestic / international) on availability of funding
2. Lack of research funding (esp. domestically)
3. High number of private universities (unequal competition in terms of quality standards)

Recommendations

1. The curriculum should also specifically include United Nations studies



2. The department should establish a specialized journal (political science and international relations) with an international editorial board of distinguished scholars

External Evaluation Group:



Prof. Dr. Hans Köchler

