



**AGJENCIA E SIGURIMIT TË CILËSISË NË
ARSIMIN E LARTË**

**Report of the Institutional Accreditation
of Mediterranean University of Albania**

December, 2020

REVIEW TEAM:

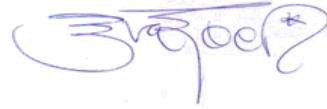
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About this review

The overall aim of Institutional Review is to assess the extent to which Mediterranean University of Albania (MUA) meets the Albanian State Quality Standards which came into force in 2011. Institutional Review is a peer review process with a review team composed of a mix of experienced international higher education reviewers and Albanian reviewers appointed by ASCAL. The review team is led by an experienced Albanian higher education reviewer.

The resulting reports will serve not only for institutional accreditation based on the extent to which the Mediterranean University meets the standards, but will also inform stakeholders, Albanian government, the public and students of how the HEI meets the standards. This report also helps the HEI to identify priorities for enhancement (the process by which higher education providers systematically improve the quality of provision and the ways in which students' learning is supported).

The Albanian State Quality Standards have been grouped under five headings, the Evaluation Areas: The Organisation and its Management; Resourcing; the Curriculum; Teaching, Learning, Assessment and Research; and Students and their Support. This report identifies features of good practice, recommendations, affirmations of actions in progress and weaknesses for each Evaluation Area, together with a judgement as to how well the HEI meets the standards. The judgements that the reviewers may assign are; standards are fully met; standards are substantially met; standards are partly met; or standards are not met.

Finally, the reviewers conclude by recommending a summary judgement to ASCAL and Accreditation Board. This overall judgement is one of four levels:

- **State Quality Standards are fully met**
- **State Quality Standards are substantially met**
- **State Quality Standards are partly met**
- **State Quality Standards are not met.**

As part of the report writing process, ASCAL has provided expert support to the review team by ensuring that the team supports the findings made in the report with evidence, and also by proofreading and summarising the full report for the summary below.

Background of Mediterranean University of Albania

The Mediterranean University of Albania was founded in 2007, by a group of intellectuals, collaborators, professors and experts with long experience in the field of academia and research in Albania and the region. The Mediterranean University of Albania was licensed by the Government as an institution of education and scientific research in 2009 and in the same year has begun its activity in accordance with the Bologna Process. MUA has got its first accreditation in 2012 as a Private high School and then in 2017 has got 3 years of accreditation from ASCAL. MUA operates as a university, based in order no. 273 dated 18.05.2017 from MASR.

The Mediterranean University of Albania as a private higher education institution, has set as its main goal the education of students with a new spirit, which is so necessary for the progress of the individual and at the same time of society.

The Mediterranean University of Albania consists of the Faculty of Economic Sciences, the Faculty of Law and International Relations and Faculty of Psychological, Social and Political Sciences. These faculties organize First Cycle Studies "Bachelor" and Second Cycle "Master of Science" and "Professional Master". There are 18 study programmes; 6 in Bachelor studies, 5 professional master and 7 scientific master. There are in total 9 departments. Faculty of Law and International Relations has 3 departments, Department of International Relations, Department of Public Law and Department of Civil Law. Faculty of Economic Sciences has 4 departments, Department of Banking Finance and Accounting, Department of Economics, Department of Computer Science, Mathematics and Support and Department of Informatics and Scientific Training. Faculty of Psychological, Social and Political Sciences has 3 departments, Department of Political Science, Department of Psychology and Sociology and Department of Public Administration and Elementary Training.

Response to recommendations from the first accreditation

First Recommendation: The institution should clearly and formally define the relations between the Board of the Mediterranean Center, Board of Administration and the Academic Senate as well as to make transparent the issues reviewed and the decisions of the Board of the Mediterranean Center.

The Mediterranean University, has been reorganized in 2017 from Private high school to University. Even though the University has been a project of the Mediterranean center, it is independent in all its decisions regarding the financial and also the academic part. MUA has its approved Statute where all the relations between these two organizations are clearly stated. During the visit at MUA, especially with the Senate and the Administrative board, it has been clear to the EET the responsibilities and the duties of each of them.

This recommendation has been reflected.

Second Recommendation: The institution should develop its information system so the staff and the students can access electronic resources from outside the institution.

MUA has an electronic library from where students and staff can access all the needed literature. During the meeting with the students of the first and second cycle of studies they have positively answered to our questions about the existence of the online literature.

This recommendation has been reflected.

Third Recommendation: The institution should design and establish an effective system and precise procedure for academic progress, qualification and updating of academic staff in the field of teaching, learning and knowledge control.

MUA has a clear system through which they can easily follow the teaching process, also the academic progress of academic staff. Through the academic year students fulfill twice the questionnaire related to the teaching process. Also the head of department does a yearly evaluation on the academic staff. All the results are discussed within the department.

This recommendation has been reflected.

Forth Recommendation: The institution should design and implement an integration strategy for its academic, scientific and administrative staff, in particular to support its internationalization strategy.

MUA has its own Internationalization strategy which is an important document of this institution. In this document they have reflected their future plans in possible relations with national and international partners. During the visit the Review team has seen all the progress that this institution has accomplished since 2017. MUA has been partner and also leader in several projects with national and international partners.

This recommendation has been reflected.

Fifth Recommendation: The institution should design and implement a life and health insurance policy for local and visiting staff and students, as well as develop a plan for the quality of students' cultural and sports life.

The university has worked to increase the students' cultural life. During the meetings with the students they have mentioned several social activities organized by MUA.

This recommendation has been reflected.

Summary report

The Mediterranean University, has developed the self-evaluation report, prepared by the self-evaluation team. The self-evaluation team included senior staff, academic and administrative staff and also a student. Drafts of SER were circulated for comment within the University being finalised and approved by the Rector and Senate. This is the first periodic accreditation process for MUA. In 2017 this University has completed the first accreditation process and with decision no. 43, dt, 13.7.2018 of the Accreditation Board, Mediterranean University got 3 (three) years of accreditation.

The SER provided an introduction to the operation of the University. The SER was supported by evidence, and more targeted evidence was supplied prior to and during the review. The evidences were available in English and in Albanian. Overall the review team found the SER to be a helpful document upon which to build the review.

The review visit took place over two days. The review team was made up by one senior higher education reviewer from Albania and one experienced higher education member from Kosovo higher education institution. The review team was supported by a Review Manager provided by ASCAL, the agency responsible for reviews of higher education in Albania. The review team was provided with a self-evaluation report and a portfolio of supporting evidence weeks in advance of the review visit, and supplemented by additional documentation requested. Over 70 documents were considered, which enabled the team to familiarise themselves with the structure, policies, management procedures, facilities, teaching and research activity at the University. Evidence considered included the Statute of the University, Academic Regulations, Annual Reports, admission and orientation procedures, the range of external agreements, examples of programme information and evidence from deliberative meetings.

Several meetings took place during the two days of the review visit which allowed the review team to gain a clearer understanding of responsibilities, procedures and the views of staff and students. The review team met with the Rector, senior staff, students, academic staff, administrative and support staff, alumni, and representatives of local and partner organisations. Notes were taken at all meetings. As part of a tour of the University the review team viewed libraries, computer rooms, laboratories, teaching spaces, administrative areas and all the other facilities of MUA. Having reviewed all evidence available, the team reached the conclusions set out below.

The University **fully meets** the standards for Organisation and its Management. The organisation of the University is defined within its Statute and Regulations, and established procedures and protocols are followed for formal meetings. The University has done good progress in meeting the requirements of law 80/2015. The review team finds that MUA has build up a good collaboration with public and private institutions for

students support during the practical training and also for their future employment. The Statute, as the fundamental document that determines the basic norms and rules of MUA functioning and activities, is done in compliance with MUA mission, vision and objectives. The statute is compiled based on in Law No. 80\2015 “On the Higher Education and Scientific Research in Higher Education Institutions in the Republic of Albania”, Article 33. The MUA Statute is refreshed and approved with Verdict of the Senate no. 6, date 19.05.2017.

The University **substantially meets** the standards for Resourcing. The responsibilities for resources are clearly set out in the Statute and Regulations of the University and are carried out appropriately through the Rectorate, Senate and Administration Board. The review team confirmed that the University has generally appropriate and effective systems and processes for managing both its human and physical resources. MUA should continue to increase the building spaces for the students to intend a maximum value for area space for one student. Also, MUA has still no financial autonomy at Department level.

The Mediterranean University **fully meets** the standards for the Curriculum. Programmes are offered in the two cycles of study and reflect the University's mission and its position in the local region and labour market. Study programmes are clearly defined, and appropriate and timely information is given to students. The review team emphasizes the fact that MUA has data of former students ALUMNI in order to provide a fit back for study programs.

The Mediterranean University of Albania **fully meets** the standards for Teaching, Learning, Assessment and Research. The University has a developing research agenda. Teaching is managed appropriately. The University applies a continuous improvement of teaching quality including new and senior staff. The review team identified the fact that MUA provides considerable capacity for the completion of practical and professional training of the students within the premises of the MUA as well as in cooperation with some other local institutions, whether public or private.

The University **fully meets** the standards for Students and their Support. The University provides guidance, advice and tutorial and other support to prospective and current students and, where possible, to students with additional needs or from disadvantaged minorities. A well-resourced library is available to students. The review team affirmed the efforts made by the University for the preparation of Alumni database.

Summary of findings

Good practice

- Mediterranean University of Albania has a very strong collaboration with national and international private institutions for students support during the practical training and also for their future employment. (**Chapter III Standard III.3**)
- Technical preparation of the area spaces in the classrooms, equipped with strong WiFi provider, cameras and hardware's create a good practice for teaching staff from University building. (**Chapter III Standard VII.2**)

Weaknesses

- There is no financial autonomy at Department level. (**Chapter III Standard VI.1**)

Recommendations

- Continue development to increase the building spaces for the students to intend a maximum value for area space for one student. (**Chapter III, Standard V.1**)
- MUA should find a way to create the financial autonomy at the base unit. (**Chapter III Standard VI.2**)

Affirmation of action being taken

- The MUA Building has good technical performances for university purposes.
- The University has data of former students ALUMNI in order to provide a feedback for study programs. (**Chapter I, Standard I.9**)
- The University is encouraging engagement and participation in national and international conferences. (**Chapter II Standard I.8**)
- The preparation of Alumni regulation and improving the University alumni database by the Career Counseling office (**Chapter I Standard III.9**).

Summary of judgements for each Evaluation Area

1. The Standards for the Organization and its Management are **Fully met**
2. The Standards for Resourcing are **Substantially met**
3. The Standards for the Curriculum are **Fully met**
4. The Standards for Teaching, Learning, Assessment and Research are **Fully met**
5. The Standards for Students and their Support are **Fully met**

Summary judgement

The review team recommends to the Accreditation Board, that the Mediterranean University of Albania, has **Fully met** the State Quality Standards.

Evaluation Area 1: The Organisation and its Management

1.1 Mediterranean University of Albania, carries out its academic and scientific activity based on the legal acts in force, on its statute, and on all other acts approved by MUA governing bodies and authorities. It is a private higher institution and has started its activity in 2009. **[SER pg.6]** The Statute is the fundamental document that determines the basic norms and rules of MUA functioning and activities, in compliance with its mission, vision and objectives. The statute is compiled based on in Law No. 80\2015 “On the Higher Education and Scientific Research in Higher Education Institutions in the Republic of Albania”, Article 33. The MUA Statute is refreshed and approved with Verdict of the Senate no. 140, date 26.03.2018. **[A1]** This document regulates the University’s teaching, scientific and administrative activities, in compliance with its mission and objectives and extends its regulatory affects to all the governing structures. **[M1, SER pg. 16] Chapter III Standard I.1**

1.2 The organization and management of MUA are ensured by collegial bodies and are carried out in compliance with the legal framework in force. The highest decision-making bodies are the Academic Senate and the Board of Administration, which make possible the administration of the academic and financial activity of the university. **[A1, A7, A8]** Other collegial structures, academic and administrative governing authorities operate at the University, in accordance with the legal and sublegal acts in force. The Academic Senate, as the highest collegial decision-making body, decides on the most important strategic planning of the institution in the fields of teaching, scientific research and gives its approval on administrative and financial matters. This body functions according to the MUA Statute, which stipulates all its competencies **[A1]**. It meets periodically, usually once per month, or more, and issues its respective decisions. The Board of Administration, as a collegial decision-making body supervises and controls the university’s activity, regarding administrative, financial, and assets management of the institution. The Board of Administration functions based on its Regulation, meets periodically and issues respective decisions **[A8, M9]. Chapter III Standard I.2**

1.3 The collegial bodies of MUA meet periodically, in accordance with the provisions of the specific regulations for their functioning. The Senate, as the highest academic collegial body of the University, carries out its activity in regular meetings **[A1, B2, M2]**. The Academic Senate carries out its functions in cooperation with other MUA collegial bodies. It cooperates with the Board of Administration and other collegial bodies on approving the University's statute and regulation, medium- and long-term strategic planning on teaching and scientific research development, MUA budget, etc. Furthermore, the Board of Administration, as a collegial body responsible for the financial administration of the institution, cooperates with the Academic Senate on drafting and approving the annual budget and the medium-term budget based on the proposals made by the main units and basic units, on the strategic plan on institutional development and on the medium-term budget program **[A7, A8, M2, M9, M3]**. The decisions taken by the collegial bodies (Academic Senate, Rectorate, Board of

Administration) are protocolled and are passed on to the respective structures for implementation, in line with the decision's scope.

The Department is the basic unit which enables and carries out the constructive discussion among members of the academic staff. The department meeting is led by the head of the department/vice head of department and throughout it, matters are addressed, tasks on teaching, the study program, scientific research activities carried out by the department members are monitored and appointed, and also the relationship with the students is addressed. **[M3, M10]. Chapter III Standard I.3**

1.4 Mediterranean University functions in compliance with the legal basis in the field of higher education, based on which it has drafted its internal functioning acts that guarantee external and internal autonomy of the institution. Internal autonomy is ensured by the university's Statute and Regulations, which define the organizational and functioning rules of the institution and periodic institutional evaluations. **[A1]** One of the mechanisms established to ensure and guarantee internal supervision and assessment is the Internal Insurance Unit of Quality Standards, which is a permanent committee within MUA. **[A13] Chapter III Standard I.4**

1.5 MUA has its own institutional Strategic Plan for 2018-2023, as a response to the obligations set forth in Law No.80/2015 "On Higher Education and Scientific Research in the Higher Education Institutions in the Republic of Albania". The Strategic Plan determines the main aspects of the institution that require further development, such as: teaching and studying, internationalization and mobility, research, social engagement, staff and infrastructure. The measures for fulfilling the strategic objectives, in compliance with the mission, objective and development platform of MUA and funding resources, is described in this document. **[A4, M1] Chapter III Standard I.5**

1.6 Pursuant to Article 32 of Law No.80/2015, for each academic year, all higher education institutions submit the annual reports on their activity, financial situation, forecast on academic staff engagement, school tuitions for the following years to the relevant ministry. The annual report submitted periodically, assess the effectiveness of teaching and research at the MUA's main units in compliance with the standards. The MUA Rectorate has submitted its Annual Report on the Academic, Scientific Research and Financial Activities of the University **[A15]**. This report was presented by the Rectorate during the Academic Senate meeting and became an object of discussion among academic and administrative staff and students **[M1, M2]**. Based on the findings of the report, the Rectorate takes measures on improving the progress problems of the institution in general or in specific aspects, and also determines the responsible structures for their fulfilment. **Chapter III Standard I.6**

1.7 MUA's organization enables academic freedom, financial, organizational, in compliance with the legislation in force. MUA is organized in main units (faculties/institutes) and basic units (departments/scientific). **[A2, A11]** The organization of MUA is in accordance with the requirements of Law No. 80/2015 and to benefit the fulfilment of the institution's mission and objectives. The University is composed of 3 main units which are further organized in basic units. The main units are Faculty of

Economics, Faculty of Law and International Relations Faculty of Psychological, Social and Political Sciences. **[SER page 17, M1, M11]**

1.8 MUA has also its own website, which provides information on offered study programs, lesson, information on academic staff, reports of rectorate meetings, verdicts of the Academic Senate, verdicts of the Board of Administration, projects, mobility opportunities, etc. [<https://www.umsh.edu.al/>] **Chapter III Standard II.1**

1.9 The Collegial bodies of the MUA are: Academic Senate, Board of Administration, Academic Staff Assembly, Ethics Council, Rectorate and Dean's Office. These bodies operate in compliance with Law No.80/2015 "On Higher Education and Scientific Research in Higher Education Institutions" and are bodies which take important decisions or give recommendations for the activity of MUA, main units (faculties) and basic units (departments), according to the statute and regulations provisions. **[A1, M1, M2, M9] Chapter III Standard II.3**

1.10 MUA has started to monitor the employment of its graduates through the years, by maintaining contacts with recent graduates. They have started to create a database in several departments in order to check how their curricula fits the labour market. This process is supervised by the Career Consulting and Alumni. Still there is a lot of work to do for complete this database. During the meeting with alumni they were asked if the university has collected any data from their employment and positive answer was given. **[M6]** The institution is continuously informed about regional economic development through various sources of information, as well as through collaborations with other institutions or by attending conferences addressing development problems. MUA has conducted a labour market study which helps them to set priorities on the new study programs or reorganisation of the existing study programs, for the years 2018-2019 and 2019-2020. **[A20, M1] Chapter III Standard III.1**

1.11 MUA pays special importance to cooperation with other institutions by being active in this aspect, through cooperation as a partner in various projects and through close interaction with higher education institutions. In its activity, MUA has tried to find a balance between competitiveness and cooperation, inside the country and regarding international relations. In its Strategic Plan 2018-2023 and in the Internationalization Strategy, MUA clearly determines the further internationalization plan development of medium and long-term partnerships and cooperation. **[A4, A6, M1] Chapter III Standard III.2**

1.12 MUA collaborates with several institutions for providing services to students, within the framework of professional practices (with Bank of Tirana, second level banks, Municipality of Tirana, People's Advocate, National Chamber of Notaries, NGOs, etc.), providing student accommodation during their practical hours. Also, during the meetings with students, alumni and partners it has been clear that MUA has taken measures to build up a good collaboration with public and private institutions. **[M4, M5, M6] Chapter III Standard III.3**

1.13 MUA has shown to have a good approach towards students and staff mobility in the framework of collaboration within different international agreements. During the meetings with staff and students there have been given examples of exchange

experiences with different European universities within the ERASMUS programs. During this time MUA to the Pandemic situation the mobilities has stopped, but still during the meetings with the international office it has been clear the good work that this university is doing towards the internalization. **[M1, M11] Chapter III Standard III.3**

Findings

Good practice

- Mediterranean University of Albania has a very strong collaboration with national and international private institutions for students support during the practical training and also for their future employment. **(Chapter III Standard III.3)**

Weaknesses

No weaknesses were found

Recommendations

No recommendations were found.

Affirmation of action being taken

No affirmations were found

Judgment

The standards for the Organization and its Management are **Fully met**

Evaluation Area 2: Resourcing

2.1. The organization organogram of the HEI is published on the University website <https://www.umsh.edu.al/media/5f7199578a12e.pdf> [A1]. The collegial bodies, senate and board administration are structured in the HEI organogram, followed by the functioning of the positions of Rector, Dean, Head of department and the functional offices of the university along with the Administrator and the administration. Regarding the recruitment of academic staff, the Mediterranean University of Albania has the approved document for the procedures of recruitment of the academic staff [A24] and follows procedures which are in accordance with the laws of the country [A2]. In the meeting with the Rector of MUA [M1], he explained the procedures applied for recruitment of the academic staff. Academic staff recruitment procedures are uniform for all staff, excluding possible differences. HEI MUA has unified procedures and they are publicly announced in the vacancy on the University website

<https://www.umsh.edu.al/d/160/konkurs-per-vende-pune-prane-universitetit-mesdhetar-i-shqiperies>. Each Department of the respective Faculties prepare the draft requirements for engagement needs of the academic staff for the development of study programs. The same are approved by the Deans of the Faculties and are sent to the Rector. Vacancies are publicly announced, procedures for recruitment of the new staff are done in line with the regulation [A24]. From the visit at HEI, during the meeting with the academic staff [M10], the transparency of the decision for recruitment of new staff was demonstrated. Upon completion of the selection procedures of the academic staff, the candidate completes the file according to the requirements of local laws and the candidate signs the contract. New staff usually signs a one-year fixed-term contract or is offered an indefinite-term contract based on the teacher's performance. The MUA has regular-effective and contracted academic staff. According to [A26], the number of full-time academic staff at MUA is indicated by a year-by-year growth chart. For the academic year 2019/2020 MUA has 39 employees as EAP (Effective Academic Staff) while 81 engaged as CAS (Contract Academic Staff). Each MUA staff has an employment contract specifying staff obligations to HEI. MUA aims at recruiting the highest quality academic staff for the purpose of fulfilling the mission and vision of HEI, [M10, SER page 22] [A25] *Chapter III Standard IV.1*

2.2. HEI develops integration policies by motivating the academic staff, academic and administrative assistants through sports events, various trainings, open lectures <https://www.umsh.edu.al/c/62/leksionet-e-hapura> etc. With the aim of socialism and interpersonal collegial cooperation. During the academic year, the MUA organizes trainings, open lectures according to HEI study programs. During the visit to HEI [M9] the academic staff presented their commitment pertaining to staff training in relation to the management of unusual situations, the case of the earthquake in Albania,

November 2019. [SER, page22/23] <https://www.umsh.edu.al/d/187/termeti-stafi-i-umsh-trajnohet-per-menaxhimin-e-situatave-te-pazakonta>. The Initiative and cooperation of teachers with students in action <https://www.umsh.edu.al/d/218/studentet-dhe-pedagoget-e-umsh-iu-bashkuan-nismesdhuro-nje-peme> is an indicator of HEI's good performance in integration activities. The HEI is proven for its commitment to social and sports life as is the case with the organization of the chess tournament, <https://www.umsh.edu.al/d/210/turneu-i-shahut-me-nxenesit-e-shkollave-9-vjecare-ne-universitetin-mesdhetar-te-shqiperise>. The Academic staff of MUA systematically compile the Master's program brochure [A27] which help students by providing essential program information. **Chapter III Standard IV.2**

2.3. HEI organizes trainings for academic and support staff in order to increase their professional development based on the findings on the MUA website www.umsh.edu.al/d/180/trajnohet-stafi-i-umsh. During the stay at HEI [M10] while with the academic staff there were identified the academic staff who had conducted trainings in cooperation with international institutions. MUA implements the evaluation practices of pedagogues independently and at different levels. Academic staff evaluation practices rely on teaching, research, student work and professional development from independent activity. Assessments for the academic staff are realized at different levels, starting from the self-assessment [A28] students' assessments [A30], as well as the assessments from the department, the Faculty and the leading staff of the University [A29]. This evaluation of the academic staff is organized by the MUA on an ongoing basis, analyzed and has an impact on the academic staff. During the recruitment of the academic personnel, MUA intends to prepare the academic staff as much as possible with more doctor scientific degrees among priorities include teachers in the call of Prof, Prof asoc., Etc. **Chapter III Standard IV.3**

2.4. HEI is committed in considering its staff by encouraging and promoting not only their day-to-day work, but also the cooperation of the academic staff with the administration as well as with students in special organizations. Many activities organized by MUA are presented. Findings in HEI for organizations such as; Ideas Fair IV [A42], MUA organizations after the earthquake in Albania November 2020, blood donation, etc. [SER, page 24]. HEI through the organization of topics in "open lectures" favors social dialogue and not only this. The MUA environments team, one could easily notice a good cooperation of the administrative staff related to the management of the situation regarding the pandemics and the spread of the virus COVID-19 by keeping the distance, the control of the temperature of the students and the personnel. **Chapter III Standard IV.4**

2.5. HEI study programs are accredited and this accreditation proves that MUA ensures efficient management of academic staff so as not to infringe on any of the study program subjects. HEI Organogram [A11] is clear in its internal organization including all academic units, offices at the University as well as collegial bodies of the University.

Within the HEI there is an office for human resources [A10] which also takes care of the records of the academic staff. Faculties are managed independently by the Dean within which the departments are located. In this organization, during the visit at MUA, it has been observed a practice in the functioning of the department. The department is headed by the head of the department as well as the deputy head. Within the Faculties and departments are the regulations [A17, A18] which help in the organization and clear distribution of responsibilities according to the functions. HEI has many functional regulations [A2, A7, A8] of collegial bodies which clearly define the duties and obligations of managing persons. **Chapter II Standard II.2**

2.6. The financial budget of MUA respects specified procedures starting from the department [A44] which projects the budget needs and reflects them further to the Faculty [M8] by developing further approval procedures to the Board of Administration [A8]. MUA is a non-profit HEI and aims to realize its long-term development strategy to fulfill its mission. HEI respects local laws on the operation of non-profit organizations for its budget creation, fiscal obligations and financial management. MUA presents the financial statement for the academic period 201-2021. Changes in budget amounts and items are made in accordance with the statute of the MUA [A1] as well as the regulation on the organization of the MUA [A2] which defines the fundamental rights and academic freedom and financial autonomy. Academic units, faculties or departments do not have financial autonomy, the budget is centralized at the University level. The HEI budget is detailed and budget expenditures are managed by the Board of Directors. Since students are also part of the University senate, information on budget issues can also reach students [SER, page 25]. **Chapter III Standard VI.1**

2.7. In the organogram of MUA [A11], also based on the regulation of the function of HEI [A2], the administrator is the administrative authority and responsible for the functioning of the University finances and is the legal representative for such issues. The administrator is the executor of all decisions of the Board of Directors of the University senate for finance. Within MUA, there operates the finances and accounting office which are responsible for managing and implementing the University's financial policy [SER, page 25]. During the review team meeting [M9] it was noted that the autonomy of the finance department was small. **Chapter III Standard VI.2**

2.8. HEI has a legal obligation to carry out an annual financial audit report. HEI is subject to external financial audit as well as regular periodic internal financial audits. These audit reports are approved by the collegial bodies of the University such as the Senate and the board of directors. The Office of Finance and Accounting oversees all the financial obligations of the Institution, the creation of the financial statements of the Institution, the creation and the necessary documentation for the finances. HEI has functional structures which manage the budget, create financial reports according to the laws and fiscal obligations of the country. MUA conducts independent external financial audit in each financial year according to local laws. **Chapter III Standard VI.3**

2.9. HEI has built an electronic platform. The University website www.umsh.edu.al provides synthesized information for all those interested in HEI. The site consists of University content informing the interested party with collegial bodies, University leaders, functional University documents such as; MUA statute, functional regulations, academic staff members, administration, study curricula and a range of other University documents. Regarding the needs of student services, academic staff in relation to students, HEI uses the electronic SMS [http://sms.umsh.edu.al:8001/Sistemi Menaxhimit Uni Mesdhetar](http://sms.umsh.edu.al:8001/Sistemi_Menaxhimit_Uni_Mesdhetar) platform for Student Management. MUA has also built the IT administrative service [M11] that takes care of the maintenance of the electronic platforms as well as services for students and academic staff [M5]. **Chapter III Standard VII.1**

2.10. Within MUA [A11] there is an information and technology office which takes care of the fields of information technology, reflecting the actions of academic units and their departments with teaching schedules, exam schedules, announcements of academic activities and various University decisions. Within the University premises there are IT laboratories in order to provide teaching and students' preparation. Due to the pandemic, teaching is held in the Virtual form and good practice can be considered the teaching of academic staff on the premises of the Faculty [M1]. The virtual learning form can serve as a model for organizing distance learning programs **Chapter III Standard VII.2**

2.11. The HEI building where the teaching and academic activity of MUA is practiced contains a building located in the center of the city of Tirana. The University building has technical characteristics that can be highly valued in terms of energy efficiency, ecological, with unobstructed function, and easy access. The building is used for rent and has an area of 11580 m² [A32, A33]. MUA plans to increase the capacity of the building surfaces. The institution also uses its assets for services to third parties. MUA real estate management is provided by statute [A1] [SER, page 27]. **Chapter III Standard VII.3**

2.12. The learning is organized in the Albanian language for all study programs. HEI pursues the policy of academic, cultural and scientific heritage by organizing topics with open lectures which belong to the fields of study of MUA. HEI activity related to studies, publications, scientific conferences, etc. are considered MUA value, in this way by contributing to the national wealth. **Chapter III Standard VII.4**

2.13. The area of the facility where MUA organizes and practices the processes of its functions is 3860m² while the total number of students is 3016 [A33]. The MUA has organized teaching academic activities in the three shifts. The effective area of the facility per one student heaving in consideration the three teaching shifts activities is 3.84m². During the visits at HEI, in the meetings held [M7], in the facilities of the faculty's qualities in accommodation of the students are offered good conditions, proper

maintenance, easy access on the main entrance include the disable people's access also in other building areas of purposes. During the visits at HEI, in the meetings held **[M7]**, in the facilities of the faculties are offered quality accommodation for students in terms of heating / cooling of the premises. **Chapter III Standard VII.5**

2.14. HEI also provides other services outside the learning process for the third party in order to increase the budget from market revenues. **[SER, page 28]**. The premises of the facility are well maintained and the investments of MUA in the care of the quality of services with the maintenance of the premises are noticed. Classrooms have advanced equipment for concretization of learning. IT laboratories are equipped with the latest generation computers. **Chapter III Standard VII.6**

2.15. The object of MUA is in a location where a break of acoustics is ensured, respectively the noise from the main road is absorbed by the green strip along the road and the depth of the object from the road is such that the incoming noise is drowned up to the minimum values. During the visit in the premises of HEI **[M7]** respectively in the premises of the University; accordingly, Faculties, departments, classrooms, laboratories, sanitary facilities, it was noticed that their maintenance is of a great quality. The facade of the building is of structural glass with thermal insulation capabilities, acoustic sound effects as well as efficient in the effect of energy loss. The planimetry of the MUA building provides opportunities for the development of learning activities independently, in this way ensuring the independence of teaching units. The internal closures of the building are made of qualitative materials and very efficient for the cleaning effect. Sanitary facilities, vertical communication, corridors are illuminated by natural light. Electrical installations, lighting, heating-ventilation operate up to the maximum requirements of the building. The height of the floors from the inside is 3.5m **[A33]** and is sufficient, meets the standards set for this category of buildings. Libraries offer pleasant work environments with a content arrangement that fills their function. Work environments have artificial ventilation that enables their operation regardless of atmospheric conditions and the density of space use. The ratio of the building area with the number of users is 3.8m²/student which is above the minimum values **[A33]**. Work environments have artificial ventilation that enables their operation regardless of atmospheric conditions and the density of space use. The organization of the building at the entrance floor is very contemporary, with transparent interior division, efficient orientation in space and notification windows for various activities that take place in the building are expressively given. The building has got back up for electricity, in case of need the cross is done automatically. The heating system is central through the chillers as perfect mechanical devices. The building is qualitatively designed in case of fire and has fire safety insurance. **Chapter III Standard V.1**

2.16. HEI has an organized system for storing documents and documentation in electronic form and hard copies. During the visit at the Library premises **[M7]** a good care of the library documentation, storage of its physical and archiving of materials in

electronic form was noticed. Likewise, the individual data of the students are stored by the secretaries of the faculties [M11], respectively the ESSE3 service which provides the electronic base for the student data. **Chapter III Standard V.2**

Findings

Good practice

The review team identified a good practice

- Technical preparation of the area spaces in the classrooms, equipped with strong WiFi provider, cameras and hardware's create a good practice for teaching staff from University building. (**Chapter III Standard VII.2**)

Weaknesses

The review team identified the following weaknesses:

- There is no financial autonomy at Department level. (**Chapter III Standard VI.2**)

Recommendations

The review team recommends the following:

- Continue development to increase the building spaces for the students to intend a maximum value for area space for one student. (**Chapter III, Standard V.1**)
- MUA should find a way to create the financial autonomy at the base unit. (**Chapter III Standard VI.2**)

Affirmation of action being taken

The review team affirms the following actions already in progress:

- The MUA Building has good technical performances for university purposes.

Judgement

The standards for Resourcing are **Substantially met.**

Evaluation Area 3: The Curriculum

3.1. HEI offers study programs for professional levels, bachelor, professional Master, Scientific Master levels [www.umsh.edu.al/c/3/rreth-nesh]. The study programs are accredited, known to the public, are published on the University website www.umsh.edu.al as well as in the brochures prepared by the Institution and their publication on social networks. HEI administrative units such as the career counseling office and the marketing office in cooperation with the University academic staff promote study programs to high-school graduates through counseling and publications on the University website. HEI offers a wide range of well-synthesized basic study programs and upon completion of the studies the student chooses to seek employment opportunities in the labor market or to continue at the level of Master Studies in parallel programs. MUA analyzes labor market parameters [A20] to prepare staff that meets the needs of staff in the fields of economics, legal, political and social fields. HEI analyzes, develops strategies and policies related to the creation of study opportunities through competition and professional preparation for the best placement of the student in the labor market [A4]. Study programs at MUA are conducted in the Albanian and there is no foreign student part of MUA. HEI has a strategy for the internationalization of the university [A6]. At the meeting with the academic staff [M10] of the university, a considerable commitment was noticed from their side to update the syllabi, specifically the study programs in order to attract the desire for studying at MUA. [A34]. **Chapter I Standard I.1**

3.2. MUA BSc undergraduate study programs have continuity by offering MSc Master level of study programs of the same fields. HEI also offers study programs for professional Master levels in order to meet the demands of the labor market. MUA offers its students ongoing education even after graduation based on their requirements without leaving work. **Chapter I Standard I.2**

3.3. Being a non-public University Institution, MUA engages its academic and administrative staff for programs' excellence, increased teaching care in order to increase its capacity. In this regard, HEI has taken into account the labor market parameters [A20] through the administrative part built within it in order to offer new student's pragmatic programs without excluding its components given in the mission and its strategies [A4]. Students are well informed about their study programs, the skills they acquire after graduation and their diplomas. **Chapter I Standard I.3**

3.4. HEI offers study programs that are in line with general national policies [A22] and that study program contents also provide student and teacher mobility [A23] across universities abroad. HEI has defined its actions with priorities which aims to achieve, such as the consolidation of the study programs, cooperation with other universities

locally and internationally, as well as cooperation with institutions from the labor market. This is indicative of MUA's goals and mission to perfectionate the academic offer.

Chapter I Standard I.4

3.5. MUA organizes the distribution of teaching load based on legal acts, scientific degrees and titles, teaching experience, the age of teachers [SER page 32]. The workload of the lecturer at the University is the total annual load of 1536 hours [M10]. The academic staff of the University, in addition to teaching, is also engaged in other activities such as institutional work, research and scientific work. [A25, A35]. HEI intends to make this workload for educators as balanced as possible. In situations of exceeding the teaching load, the lecturer is financially compensated from the resources of the Institution. The study programs are organized in the courses covered by professors with scientific and academic degrees and with a uniform distribution of the workload. **Chapter I Standard I.5**

3.6. In the meetings with the students of bachelor and master studies levels [M5] at the beginning of each year, respectively in each subject, the syllabi of the courses are presented with detailed explanations from the side of the teachers. MUA makes sure that the curricula are published on the University website, in brochures and other materials and easily accessible at any time. The subject syllabuses are not published in the web page of HEI. Each study program has its own goals specified within a description of professional competencies [A34, A; B; C]. Students admission and selection criteria are determined by the MUA for each study program, the rules of the Institution [A1] are respected and the same are published on the university website www.umsh.edu.al/c/109/si-te-aplikojme. **Chapter I Standard I.6**

3.7. The undergraduate study programs offer and enable student's basic knowledge of relevant fields on the scientific and practical basis. HEI has legal acts [A34, A] which define the rules for the study of Bachelor programs. Upon completion of the basic studies of the first cycle, students are offered the opportunity to continue their studies in the programs of the same fields at the Master levels of studies. Upon successful completion of their basic studies, students have the opportunity to enter the labor market for employment. The institution has regulated the procedures of eventual transfers [A36]. In the meetings with the students [M5] it was proved that the transfer of students, especially students from the study programs of the Professional Master to the Scientific Master was done respecting the regulation of the institution with the inclusion of differential exams. **Chapter I Standard I.7**

3.8. HEI engages through the academic staff, as well as through the administrative staff for a prior awareness of high-school graduates for attractive academic offers. MUA provides support to students during and after their studies by providing them links to the job market through the office of career and excellence within MUA. Students are offered

open lectures which aim at recognizing their study programs and courses [A37]. In order to support students HEI provides students with academic tutorials from professors of all study programs. In the University study programs, the effective academic staff covers 79% of the courses. [A26]. **Chapter I Standard I.8**

3.9. MUA has built a hierarchical system and documentation, regulations and bylaws through which it specifies the Institutional goals and increases the quality of performance. Strategic Development Plan 2018-203 [A4] defines MUA's commitment to Scientific and Innovative research. The academic staff of MUA [M10] is engaged according to the specified tasks where the priority is teaching, along with other institutional-administrative engagements and scientific research [A38]. HEI is active in providing academic staff with opportunities for research. The academic staff of some departments is engaged in the design of the study programs, contributing [M9] to the improvement of syllabi and teaching curricula. The Self-Evaluation Report for the Institutional accreditation [SER] is prepared from the side of the academic staff [M12]. Study programs at the scientific master level are drafted on a scientific basis, from labor market analysis and the ongoing studies from the basic studies level [A34A, A34B]. HEI is organized and has a database of graduate students through Alumni [A40] [M6]. The record keeping system for students who have completed their studies also enables updating of the study programs depending on the demand of the labor market and can be considered as an affirmation of HEI. HEI also organizes second cycle study programs with lecturers according to the legal requirements prioritizing professional experience. The regular academic staff at HEI according to statistics is 76% in relation to the staff engaged in the curricula. **Chapter I Standard I.9**

3.10. Study programs at MUA are compiled and developed in accordance with the Bologna system. Their curricula are clearly organized by accumulating ECTS credits that facilitate student mobility. After completing the studies, the student is provided with a diploma and a supplement in Albanian and English [A34, diploma supplement]. In addition to teaching English, MUA also organizes special trainings in the third year of basic studies. Some of the MUA academic staff have had mobility in universities abroad. Being study programs with weighted subject curricula according to ECTS credits students can have facilities for mobility [M5] **Chapter I Standard I.10**

3.11. HEI is committed to better preparing students for the job market. In this regard, in each study program of HEI, professional internship for students is planned. Given that the fields of study offered by MUA are social, economic and legal sciences, then the possibility of realizing professional practice for students is greater. The academic staff system and students are familiar with the meanings of ECTS in their programs [M5, M10] [A34]. HEI also organizes extracurricular activities that belong to social life such as sports and the arts [SER page36]. **Chapter I Standard I.11**

3.12. MUA organizes study programs which offer students preparation in attractive economic and social fields by having the flexibility of rapidly updating the modules in relation to market demands. Economic fields **[M6]** of studies have had a direct placement in the labor market, the practice of cooperation with the Banks in the country.

Chapter I Standard I.12

Findings

Good practice

No good practice was found:

Weaknesses

No weaknesses were found

Recommendations

No recommendations were found.

Affirmation of action being taken

The review team identify the affirmation on actions already in progress in relation to this Evaluation Area.

- The University has data of former students ALUMNI in order to provide a fit back for study programs. (***Chapter I, Standard I.9***)

Judgement

The standards for the Curriculum are **Fully met.**

Evaluation Area 4: Teaching, Learning, Assessment and Research

4.1 MUA has 18 study programmes. 6 in Bachelor studies, 5 professional master and 7 scientific master. These study programs are in the First and Second Cycle of studies. The work of academic staff to ensure reliable coherence and continuity, relies on IAL law (80/2015) and the Statute of the MUA [A1, A2, M10]. The institution provides examples showing the organization of study programs, including the deployment of staff, which demonstrates careful planning that embodies a balance of subjects across semesters and academic years. MUA has sufficient capacities for the organization of practical and professional training of students in its premises, in collaboration with other local institutions and international cooperation. Students, during the meeting with them, stated that it is easy to conduct the professional practice at MUA. Students are generally satisfied with the teaching methods, curriculum organization and the quality of teaching staff and the provision of supporting literature. The institution has several textbooks and also supplementary literature in the library [A44, Tour]. **Chapter I Standard II.1**

4.2 Rules and requirements regarding the final diploma exam are approved by the university responsible structures, and the exams regulation. MUA introduces the criteria and diploma procedures according to the appropriate regulations. They are posted in the announcement boards of each faculty, besides being published online in the official website of the university. Exam results' complaints/appeals are reviewed by a commission established in compliance with the exams' regulation, faculty regulation and the regulation of the study program, respecting the deadlines highlighted in the university regulation. [A2, A34, A46 M4, M5]. Students can access their personal exam results, through a username and a password of the online system SMS, respecting the principle of confidentiality. [M4, M5]. **Chapter I Standard II.2**

4.3 The review team acknowledged that MUA is working to increase its quality through the continuous improvement made at Department, Faculty and Rectorate levels. [M1, M10] In evaluating and improving study programmes, MUA administers surveys to staff and students. Students complete questionnaires twice a year, i.e. at the end of the first and second semester. [M1, M4, M5, A28, A47] This process is also supported through the information gained by different surveys and annual programme monitoring, which include student assessment, teaching appraisal, results of questionnaires and analysis of student performance. The staff of IQACDU office in collaboration with heads of departments drafts an annual plan for the monitoring of the teaching process. Departments organize meetings at the beginning of the academic year for teaching analyses and student assessment results, staff performance evaluation and work plan for next academic year. Departments discuss also about the teaching load for the following academic year. [M9, M10] **Chapter I Standard II.3**

4.4 Mediterranean University has implemented an appropriate support structure to promote continuous teaching improvement. MUA has support, monitoring and counselling structures for the improvement of teaching quality, such as the Directorate of Teaching Programs and Quality Assurance of the Rectorate and branches of Internal

Quality Assurance and Career in main units. Such structures support basic units to pursue the quality implementation of study programs and evaluate the academic staff and academic support staff performance [SER pg 40; M9, M10]. Teaching staff are subject to continuous evaluation which is mainly done in different ways, self-evaluation, students' questionnaires and evaluation from heads of departments. The improvement of teaching quality is also maintained through staff mobility, academic staff recruitment, staff promotion, sabbaticals and engaging academic staff in research projects. This is illustrated in the statute of the University, department regulations and the annual evaluative processes of departments. The University organises scientific research groups to increase its efforts to establish criteria for academic staff recruitment with academic titles through research activities. **Chapter I Standard II.4**

4.5 Departments are the fundamental units of the University and, as such, play an important role in promoting the research activity of their staff. They set their research priorities in liaison with the newly-established research institutes. To further support this area of development, the University is encouraging engagement and participation in national and international conferences. Research priorities and the financing are discussed at the department and research centre level. The proposals are put together for consideration and approval by the rectorate. The University is endeavouring to recruit academic staff with appropriate qualifications and experience and to support and promote student participation in research. There is a policy concerning scientific research internationalization through different agreements with different partners [A48, A49, M3] **Chapter II Standard I.1**

4.6 The institution supports research groups and the new scientific research projects. Mediterranean University of Albania welcomes and encourages research proposals and decides upon their continuation during the academic year, based on the approved financial sources. MUA is currently cooperating with other research institutions, public and private. The various MUA structures interact not only with one another but also with other public and private national / international institutions in order to enable continuous improvement in the quality of the teaching process as well as the quality of the scientific research. Several national and international conferences have been organized in collaboration with partner institutions. [A6, A14, A21, M1, M3]. **Chapter II Standard I.2**

4.7 The University illustrates its scientific research internationalization through agreements and project participation with different partners. There has been considerable success in attracting external funds. Through the Erasmus framework, the University cooperates with public and private universities in Albania and in Europe and has established networks of partners on issues related to central and local government, business and law and the national economy. MUA has signed a variety of agreements with international and national Institutions of Higher Education. This process of internationalization is one the Institution's priorities. During the meeting with the international office, the Review Team was presented with the projects that MUA is working with. The last one, which according to the University was very important, was an Erasmus A2, Capacity building. [A6, A14, A21, M1, M3]. **Chapter II Standard I.3**

4.8 Departments lead the research priorities of the University. Staff and students are supported when participating in scientific conferences. Individual staff members are allocated research time in their annual workload. The staff is required each year to present their work to at least one internal scientific conference or to publish a scientific article in a journal. **[A15, M3, M10]. Chapter II Standard I.4**

4.9 The institution has a system of on-line information on staff research activities and on staff publications, and every year, departments compile a list of their scientific activities and publications. The institution guarantees the instruments for the implementation of its determined priorities. The structure and the governing bodies of MUA guarantee the instruments such as laboratories, libraries, etc. The environments, the staff, and the support provided by the institution enable the implementation of these priorities. The institution recruits qualified academic staff in the field of scientific research, in support of its development strategy. They are careful in approaching qualified academic staff in the area of scientific research, which is included in the university regulation regarding staff recruitment. **[A2, M9, M10] Chapter II Standard I.5**

4.10 The review team acknowledged the development of a strategic plan, which shows future aspirations for research, and development of the individual work of academic staff, in both the short and longer terms. **[A4, A6, M1, M10]** The University is engaged in the compilation and implementation of the regional and national scientific policies. All these activities are published in the institution's official website. **[<https://www.umsh.edu.al/>]** The institution applies an integrative policy for the foreign scientific researchers. MUA applies a policy for the academic staff mobility. It encourages lecturers to take part in different research projects, national and international ones. **[A14]** MUA frequently invites senior academic staff to contribute by providing open lectures or by being engaged as part time lecturers in any of the university departments **[SER pg 46]. Chapter II Standard I.6**

4.11 MUA pursues a support policy for international seminars and scientific symposia. University organises several conferences in collaboration with national and international partners. **[A21]** The participation of academic staff in scientific conferences abroad is significant. Mediterranean magazine is another tool that helps in the promotion of lectures work at MUA. In addition, researchers are also encouraged to share their research work outcomes in virtual platforms. **[M1, M10, M9] Chapter II Standard I.7**

4.12 MUA does not have a special structure, which can assess the progress of its scientific research results. However, every Department does this, with its members assessing the scientific research work of their colleagues. MUA through its policy promotes the results of the research work conducted at university through organization of symposiums and conferences in the area of scientific research. The institution promotes exchanges of research works and activities through the organization of the academic days, presentation of MUA lecturers' publications, etc. MUA supports young researchers in their individual scientific research initiatives and research projects. Students of the first and second cycle of studies are encouraged to participate in international activities organized by the MUA. **[M9, M10, SER pg 47]. Chapter II Standard 1.8**

Findings**Good practice**

No Good practice was found

Weaknesses

No weaknesses were found

Recommendations

No Recommendations were found

Affirmation of action being taken

The University is encouraging engagement and participation in national and international conferences. (Chapter II Standard I.8)

Judgement

The standards for the Organization and its Management are **Fully met**

Evaluation Area 5: Students and Support

5.1. The University has approved the Strategic Development Plan for period time 2018-2023 and the admission policy reflects the specific objectives of this plan [A4]. MUA is active in creating policies regarding the enrolment of students within the institution, following the developments in the labor market at home and abroad. Being non-public institution, MUA takes care of student input [M1]. The quality of students enrolled in MUA has changed over the years and now students with good grades choose to be part of MUA. The arrival of good students, respectively those that have good grade point average has increased to around 30% of students that have MUA as their first choice. HEI supports the most successful students in their studies. Students with high grade point average are awarded full scholarship, then financial support for talented students and also social support are given [M1]. These offers are considered as a good practice for attracting students to enter MUA and these offers are distributed by the Institution to high school students - graduates using various forms of electronic social platforms, brochures, etc. This task is performed by HEI in an institutional way where within the organizational chart of MUA [A11] functions the Career and Student Counseling Office as well as the Marketing Office which are engaged for giving information on real time of graduates and students through various forms using www.umsh.edu.al then other social networks and brochures. There are no foreign students within HEI (this is so owing to the fact that study programs are organized in the Albanian language). The number of effective regular and contracted academic staff at HEI is 130 while the total number of students in the Institution is around 2000. This ratio can be considered good considering the fields of study at MUA. **Chapter I Standard III.1**

5.2. HEI has a well-constructed structure regarding information and counseling of the students, the Student Counseling Career Office has the primary role of keeping [M11] MUA students informed. This office operates according to the regulations sat up within the Institution [A51] and an integral part of the office are students, administration and academic staff in addition to the direct relations with the student council. The tutoring system built at the University helps students in getting the real information and this system from MUA serves as a model for "every student, a mentor who follows and supervises all his problems during the academic year" [SER page 50]. The student council formed by students has a functional work regulation [A52] and the SC is active in the whole Institution by taking part with Student participants. The University website www.umsh.edu.al is well designed and provides content information for students. HEI has built the electronic platform [http://sms.umsh.edu.al:8001/Sistemi Menaxhimit Uni Mesdhetar](http://sms.umsh.edu.al:8001/Sistemi_Menaxhimit_Uni_Mesdhetar) for student management, where each student has a personal email address and this system provides all the necessary services for the student such as, the organization of the

exams, assessment of students from the side of the lecturers, statements of grades, semesters, years of study in real time. The teaching secretariat is structured within HEI which takes care of all the documentation of the Students by organizing their personal files according to the requirements and laws of the State. **Chapter I Standard III.2**

5.3. Besides the departments and Faculties of MUA that guide and advise students about all cycles of study, the University has set up a Career Counselling Office for Students and tutorial system guiding and advising students [A11] [M11]. During the review team site visit of MUA [M7], it can easily be notified that the students can be taken into information by walking through the MUA building about several issues as are the schedule teaching time, different courses, brochures, different information banners for offices, different notification for pandemic requests etc.

Accredited study programs conceived by MUA contain courses for general cultural and social character [A34, A] followed by the greater weight of courses of specific professional character. From this built-in concept students gradually and progressively begin to receive information from studies. MUA has prepared brochures [A27], student guides [A54] which help students with the content of study programs. ZKKS has an important role in MUA regarding information update and counseling of the students, it advises students on two cycles of studies, the possibility of employment in the internal and external market [SER 52]. **Chapter I Standard III.3**

5.4. The University pays special attention to students with special needs. The MUA facility offers you unlimited access to any space in this category, through ramps, elevators, easy access to toilets, etc. MUA offers priority scholarships for people with disabilities, social opportunities and non-majority communities www.umsh.edu.al/c/110cbursat. [SER page 53]. MUA does not organize part-time studies. **Chapter I Standard III.4**

5.5. The library within the HEI building is functional with a fund of 4200 books, textbooks, periodicals, an electronic library with access to www.questia.com and online newspaper "The Economist" [M7]. Each department of the MUA has study programs on BSc and MSc (and also two years professional study programs and professional Master) and the curriculum for each offered subject. Each subject syllabus includes required [A34, A, B, C syllabus], additional and recommended literature. During the review team visit at the library premises [M7] the classification, archiving of library materials was done chronologically. The library is open every working day and on Saturdays. Regular journals for users can be downloaded on the MUA website without restrictions <https://www.umsh.edu.al/d/85/revista-euro-mediterranean-nr-15>. **Chapter I Standard III.5**

5.6. The Student Career Counselling Office at MUA provides assistance to students regarding teaching, career development and any help in regard with information on eventual placement in the labor market. MUA has built a tutorial system of academic services and full custody for students [SER page 54]. In addition to the library, HEI helps students through professors to find the necessary literature, supporting materials for them, as well as distance consultations related to exams. Each student has the right to have a supervisor to prepare their diploma thesis [A43]. The department approves the list of students and the name of the supervisor. Students are assisted and guided to find literature by the lecturers for each course. Academic staff also provides scheduled consultations to help students who have difficulties with the learning process. **Chapter I Standard III.6**

5.7. Students have one representative member in the Academic Senate [A1, A7, M2, B1]. Students Council of MUA promotes student participation and coordinates their representativeness on HEI governing bodies. The HEI has a Students' Council as an independent organization to promote student participation in decision-making with the right to express their concerns and suggestions about University life. The student council provides the work regulation [A52] that define its functions. Student representativeness is done from the department to the governing bodies of the Institution [M4, M11]. The student is also part of the working group for drafting the internal institutional report [M11]. **Chapter I Standard III.7**

5.8. MUA pays attention to students' life through the organization of its activities in the service of students by bringing into service all employees of the Institution, including the academic staff, administration, governing bodies of the university. This is evidenced by the activity of the Teaching Secretariat, the Office for career counselling and the tutorial system for students creates a convincing system that care for the student is at the desired level. Student activities are institutionally linked through the student council. Then the Student Clubs work www.umsh.edu.al/c/112/klubet-studentore. One can easily notice the social life of students that is very active through the organization of sports games in football, volleyball, basketball, etc. by organizing competitions of rivalry. **Chapter I Standard III.8**

5.9. Alumni is functional within the HEI that provides a database of students who have completed their studies, www.umsh.edu.al/c/98/alumni. Upon completion of their studies, each student fills out the form for creating records in the Institution [A40]. Statistics show employment from the side of the students in the local labor market, in the private and public sector. It is the ZKKS which helps students in student career counseling and its actions are carefully-thought by organizing open lectures to promote student employment, preparing students for drafting personal CVs, writing letters of interest, etc.

The MUA is proactively pursuing collaboration with the local businesses, alumni students and other stakeholders in order to support its graduates to enter into the labour market [M6]. **Chapter I Standard III.9**

Findings

Good practice

The review team did not identify any features of good practice.

Weaknesses

The review team did not identify any weaknesses.

Recommendations

The review team did not identify any recommendations.

Affirmation of action being taken

The review team affirmed the following actions already in progress:

- The preparation of Alumni regulation and improving the University alumni database by the Career Counseling office (**Chapter I Standard III.9**).

Judgment

The standards for Students and their Support are fully met.

List of evidences

A. Mediterranean University of Albania self-evaluation phase

1. SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR THE INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION - UMSH.pdf
2. Raport Vetevleresimi te Brendshem Riakreditim Institucional UMSH.pdf
3. Shkrese Percjellese & Liste Evidenca.pdf
4. Vetedeklarim Rektor.pdf
5. Evidence 1 - MUA Statute.pdf
6. Evidence 2 - Regulation of Organization of MUA.pdf
7. Evidence 4 - Strategic development plan MUA.pdf
8. Evidence 6 - Internationalization Strategy.pdf
9. Evidence 7 - Regulation of the Academic Senate..pdf
10. Evidence 8 - Regulation of the Board of Directors.pdf
11. Evidence 10 - Code of Ethics.pdf
12. Evidence 17 - Regulation of FES.pdf
13. Evidence 18 - Regulation of the Department of Economy.pdf
14. Evidence 34-A - Business Informatics Bachelor Program.pdf
15. Evidence 34-B - Professional Master in Political and Administrative Sciences.pdf
16. Evidence 34-C - Master of Science in Civil and Commercial Law.pdf
17. Evidenca 1 - Statuti UMSH.pdf
18. Evidenca 2 - Rregullore e Organizimit të UMSH.pdf
19. Evidenca 3 - Plan Veprimi për përmbushjen e rekomandimeve sipas Vendim nr. 105, date 10.11.2017 i Bordit te Akreditimit, ASCAL, për akreditimin institucional të IAL UMSH.pdf
20. Evidenca 4 - Plani strategjik i zhvillimit UMSH.pdf
21. Evidenca 5 - Marrëveshjet e bashkëpunimit midis Universitetit Mesdhetar dhe Universiteteve/Institucioneve të tjera.pdf
22. Evidenca 6 - Strategjia e Ndërkombëtarizimit.pdf
23. Evidenca 7 - Rregullore e Senatit Akademik.pdf
24. Evidenca 8 - Rregullore e Bordit të Administrimit.pdf
25. Evidenca 9 - Rregullore e Këshillit të Etikës.pdf
26. Evidenca 10 - Kodi i Etikës.pdf
27. Evidenca 11 - Organigrama.pdf
28. Evidenca 12 - Vendim nr.1 datë 27.01.2020 i Senatit Akademik.pdf
29. Evidenca 13 - Manuali i NJSBCZHK.pdf
30. Evidenca 14 - Lista e projekteve UMSH.pdf
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34. Evidenca 18 - Rregullore e Departamentit të Ekonomisë.pdf

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46. Evidenca 30 - Formulari i Vlerësimit të Pedagogut dhe Lëndës nga Studenti.pdf
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55. Evidenca 37 - Kalendar-i-Skaletë. Java orientuese UMSH.pdf
56. Evidenca 38 - Urdhër Nr. 10 Date 8.9.2020 - Grupi i punës për riorganizimin e programeve.pdf
57. Evidenca 39 - Formular i aplikimit të studentit për praktikën.pdf
58. Evidenca 40 - Formulari i studentit Alumni.pdf
59. Evidenca 41 - Procesverbal mbledhje "Për diskutimin e ndryshimeve në programet e lëndëve dhe miratimin e tyre për vitin akademik 2018-2019, DEK.pdf
60. Evidenca 42 - Aktivitet studentor "Panairi i Ideve IV".pdf
61. Evidenca 43 - Udhëzues për përgatitjen e diplomës.pdf
62. Evidenca 44 - Kërkesë për libra Departamenti i Ekonomisë.pdf
63. Evidenca 45 - Udhëzim mbi procedurat dhe afatet e sezonit të provimeve të dimrit 2019-2020 për ciklin e parë dhe të dytë të studimeve.pdf
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68. Evidenca 50 - Udhëzim për dokumentacionin për evidentimin dhe vlerësimin e punës shkencore gjatë vitit akademik. dt.08.11.19.pdf
69. Evidenca 51 - Rregullore e ZKSK.pdf
70. Evidenca 52 - Rregullore e funksionimit të Këshillit Studentor.pdf
71. Evidenca 53 - Formulari i tutoratit.pdf
72. Evidenca 54 - Udhëzuesi i Studentit.pdf
73. Evidenca 55 - Formatet e praktikës Bachelor dhe Master.pdf
74. Evidenca 56 - Urdhër 1 dhe 2 i Administratorit, dt.08.05.2020.pdf

B. Site visit

1. Mbledhje e Senatit Akademik UMSH.pdf
2. ACADEMIC SENAT MEETING, MUA.pdf
3. F 23ALUMNI STUDENT FORM, MUA.pdf
4. Evidenca 40 - Formulari i studentit Alumni.pdf
5. Minutat e Universitetit Mesdhetsari i Shqiperise.doc

C. Meetings

1. M1: Meeting with the UNYT Rector
2. M2: Meeting with members of the Academic Senate
3. M3: Meeting with the UNYT senior staff
4. M4: Meeting with a sample of First Cycle students
5. M5: Meeting with a sample of Second Cycle students
6. M6: Meeting with a sample of external partners and alumni
7. M7: University tour
8. M8: Meeting with with the Institutional Coordinator to clarify any matters arising
9. M9: Meeting with t with Administration Board and senior staff.
10. M10: Meeting with a sample of teaching staff.
11. M11: Meeting with Administrative Staff, responsible for student support and services
12. M12: Meeting with the Self-Evaluation Team