

**EXTERNAL EVALUATION REPORT**

**FOR STUDY PROGRAM:**

**PhD IN CIVIL ENGINEERING**

**PRIVATE UNIVERSITY "EPOKA"**

**TIRANA, ALBANIA**

**October 2015**

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**EXTERNAL EVALUATION REPORT**  
**FOR STUDY PROGRAM: PhD IN CIVIL ENGINEERING OF EPOKA**  
**UNIVERSITY/TIRANA**

**INTRODUCTION**

The study program “PhD in Civil Engineering” is a new program offered at Epoka University and is has been opened by the Order No. 565, dated 19.11.2012.

Doctoral Program in Civil Engineering leads to the highest Degree offered by the Institute and is intended, according to the Institution, to provide students an opportunity to obtain the greatest possible expertise in their chosen field through intensive research.

The request of Epoka University on external evaluation and accreditation of PhD programs by the Public Agency for the Accreditation of Higher Education (PAAHE) was submitted through the Correspondence No. Prot. 58, dated February 11, 2014.

**MEMBERS OF EXTERNAL EVALUATION GROUP (EEG)**

1. Professor Sämi BEHNAM (International Expert).

**MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND ADMINISTRATION OF DOCTORAL STUDY PROGRAMS**

**1. Mission and objectives of doctoral study program**

According to the Institution, Epoka University Doctoral **Program in Civil Engineering (CE-PhD Program)** leads to the highest degree offered by the Department of Civil Engineering and is designed to provide students an opportunity to obtain the very good expertise in their chosen field through intensive research. Advancement of analytical and/or experimental knowledge through a combination of specialized courses and a research thesis under the supervision of an experienced researcher forms the main component of the doctoral programs. Where possible, research of interest to industry is encouraged.

PhD is a higher degree involving a program of research training and supervision, which leads to the production of a thesis. It entails the creation and interpretation of new knowledge through original research that extends the boundaries of an academic discipline and merits publication.

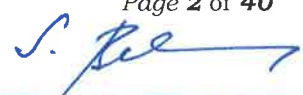
The objectives of the PhD program is to educate highly qualified researchers required for the expansion of fundamental knowledge and technological innovation through research and

development, as well as the needs of institutions of higher education. CE-PhD Program in Civil Engineering is provides the formation of academicians in various fields of research in Civil Engineering. Program also gives opportunity to qualified students from various academic disciplines for further education at an advanced level in Civil Engineering.

The Doctoral Program in Civil Engineering (CE-PhD Program) is the highest level offered by the Department of Civil Engineering. CE-PhD Program in Civil Engineering is necessary for the formation of academicians in various fields of research in Civil Engineering. Program also gives opportunity to qualified students from various academic disciplines for further education at an advanced level in Civil Engineering.

**Evaluation according to the Standards**

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards <sup>1</sup>
<p><b>Standard I.1 - General framework</b></p> <p><b>Criterion 1</b> The study program of third cycle (doctorate) is a new program or a reorganized program;</p> <p><b>Criterion 2</b> If it is reorganized, the extent to which it affected the previous program;</p> <p><b>Criterion 3</b> 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><b>Criterion 4</b> Doctorate study program is supported by national or international research groups accredited for research in relevant field or fields of studies;</p> <p><b>Criterion 7</b> Internal evaluation report of study program of the third cycle is reviewed by the Council of Professors.</p>	<p>It is a new program.</p> <p>Currently less than eight doctoral students applied for this program (currently 5 doctoral students). According to the institution there are four full-time professors enrolled in the program, which means, that each professor currently conducts no more than two students, according to albanian higher education legislation.</p> <p>The support of Research groups –especially international ones- is very limited. Currently one part time professor, who is teaching in Texas/USA is conducting one doctoral student; mainly through electronic devices.</p> <p>The internal Council of Professors reviews regularly the Internal report of this study program of third cycle.</p>
<p><b><u>Conclusions of EEG:</u></b></p> <p>The study program of “PhD in Civil Engineering” is a new program; the number of doctoral students is currently less than eight. So far the program is in line with legislative regulations of higher education concerning limitation of number of students mentored by each enrolled professor. The study program is very limited supported by national and especially by international Research groups. <b>The required criteria are only partly fulfilled.</b></p>	



## 2. Academic Organisation chart of the Doctoral School

- Number of academic staff shared in organisation chart (see Table 1)

Table 1

	Number of FAS		Number of PAS		Number of AE		Total number	
	Total number	Number of Degree's	Total number	Number of Degree's	Total number	Number of Degree's	Total number	Number of Degree's
<i>Faculty staff involved in PhD program</i>	13	13	3	3	3	0	18	15
<i>Department staff involved in PhD program</i>	4	4	1	1	1	0	6	5

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

Table 2

Name /Surname	Degree	Position (Member / Chairman)
Hasan KAPLAN	Prof. Dr.	Chairman
Remzi ALTIN	Prof. Dr.	Member
Halil Murat ÖZLER	Prof. Dr.	Member
Yavuz Yardim	Assoc. Prof. Dr.	Member
Hüseyin BILGIN	Assoc. Prof. Dr.	Member
Muzaffer TOPÇU	Prof. Dr.	Member
Mehmet ARDIÇLIOĞLU	Prof. Dr.	Member

- The academic coordinator of the PhD study program in the department of Civil Engineering is: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Huseyin Bilgin – Head of Civil Engineering department

### Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
<b>Standard III.1 - Management and financing tools for doctorate study program</b>	
<p><b>Criterion 1</b> 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><b>Criterion 2</b> Unit that organizes the doctorate study program has adequate administrative premises to realize its good functioning;</p>	<p>Fulfilled.</p> <p>Adequate administrative premises to realize its good functioning are given.</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;

**Criterion 4** Responsible bodies for its supervision are established in doctorate study program regulation;

**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;

**Criterion 6** Board of Professors of the main unit that organizes and manages the doctorate study program meets periodically throughout the year;

The necessary personnel is engaged.

Pursuing to the Regulations on PhD Programs, the responsible body for the supervision is the Council of Professors, which holds regular meetings.

The Council of Professors consists of seven members. Five of them holding the title of Professor and two the title of Assoc. Prof.

Concerning this issue the legislative regulations are met.

The council of Professors meets at least once per semester to evaluate the progress report for each PhD student as well as to decide about new applications to the doctoral program.

**Conclusions of EEG:**

The unit has accredited two first cycles of studies in the relevant field. It has established a Council of Professors according Regulations on PhD programs of Higher Education Institutions, which meets regularly with a clearly defined and adequate definition of function.

**The criteria are fully met.**

**3. Quality of Academic and administrative (support) staff**

**Measurable indicators:**

- Quality of leading, teaching and administrative staff, for each unit (complete Table 3)

The teaching staff for the program PhD in Civil Engineering is composed of four full-time Lecturers, one part-time Lecturer, one faculty coordinator and one department coordinator.

Table 3

Institution / Basic Unit / Doctoral School							
<i>Full-time Academic Staff</i> (Name/Surname)		<i>Position in the Department</i>	<i>Degree</i>	<i>Part-time Academic Staff</i> (Name/Surname)		<i>Degree</i>	<i>Institution where he/her works full time</i>
1	Huseyin BILGIN	Head of Department	Assoc.Prof.Dr	1	Yetkin YILDIRIM	Prof.Dr.	University of Texas, Austin
2	Yavuz YARDIM	Lecturer	Assoc.Prof.Dr			Assoc.Prof.Dr	
3	Miriam NDINI	Lecturer	Assoc.Prof.Dr			Assoc.Prof.Dr	
4	Albana HALILI	Lecturer	Assist.Prof.Dr				

- Qualification data and reports between them (Table 4)

Table 4

Academic and administrative staff	FAS	PAS		FAS/PAS rate
		Albanian	Foreign (invited)	
Professors	0	0	1	0/1
Associate Professors	3	0	1	3/1
Doctor Degree or PHD degree (taken at European Universities)	1	0	1	1/1
Administrative employees	1	0	0	1/0

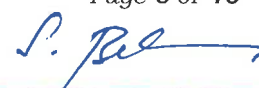
- Data by age (Table 5)

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	1	0	0	0	0
Associate Professors	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
Doctor Degree or PHD degree (taken at European Universities)	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Administrative employees	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
<b>Standard I.1 - General framework</b>	
<b>Criterion 6</b> 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;	The teaching staff for the PhD Program in Civil Engineering consists of four full time Lecturers, who are internal academic staff and hold the title of Assoc. Prof. Dr. and of one part time Lecturer, holding the title Prof. Dr. who is teaching mainly abroad (University of Texas/USA).
<b>Standard II.1 - Capacities for scientific research</b>	
<b>Criterion 1</b> The institution that offers programs of study of third cycle (doctorate), has sufficient academic staff with scientific	The institution has sufficient academic staff with scientific titles and degrees, two of them taken at European Universities.





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;

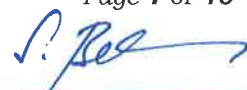
The institution provides sufficient structures only for Research in the profile of "Structural Engineering". In the profile "Construction Management", which is offered according to the institution, there is no teaching staff provided and therefor also no structures for Research in this profile!

**Conclusions of EEG:**

Adequate structures and Teaching staff are only provided for the profile "Structural Engineering". For the profile "Construction Management" there is no Teaching Staff and there are no structures for Research provided. These should be established and also this could be an appropriate anchor for a joint degree with a relevant university (preferably in western Europe).  
**The required criteria are only partly met!**

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

**Measurable indicators:**





Facilities, infrastructure and logistics for doctoral school (see Table 6)

Table 6

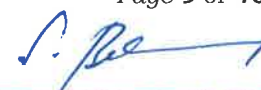
<b>Facilities for doctoral school or study program</b>	<b>Number or Square m<sup>2</sup></b>
Auditoriums	130.5
Classrooms	453.5
Laboratories	78
Computer/internet laboratories	78
Library buildings	322
Corridors / halls	2707.4
University sports facilities	463
Buildings for tertiary services	56
Rooms for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

Other logistic database:

number of PC per 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 head projectors	-
number of video-projectors	26
number of scanners	9

### Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
<b>Standard II.2 - Didactic basis and technical support</b>	
<p><b>Criterion 1</b> Students admitted in the third cycle study program have necessary conditions to realize the study program with academic and research character;</p> <p><b>Criterion 2</b> Doctorate studies program provides harmonization of student's goals in scientific-research field, approved research projects and, at its conclusion, even the possibility of academic career and employment;</p> <p><b>Criterion 3</b> A scientific library with publications in hardcopy and electronic form and complete IT infrastructure available to of third cycle study program;</p> <p><b>Criterion 4</b> Students have sufficient technical support for scientific research development;</p> <p><b>Criterion 5</b> Researches that include laboratory researches are supported by sufficient scientific laboratory basis.</p>	<p>The given conditions concerning facilities, infrastructure and logistics are totally appropriate for the relevant study program.</p> <p>The program provides harmonization of student's goals in scientific research fields and even at its conclusion the possibility of academic career and employment.</p> <p>The scientific library is of good quality and open for doctoral students.</p> <p>The technical support is appropriate and the given scientific laboratories are well equipped.</p>
<p><b>Conclusions of EEG:</b>  The facilities, the infrastructure and logistics of Epoka University, also available for doctoral students, are very good. The equipment with electronic devices is excellent. Labs for Structural Research are provided and the Scientific Library is well equipped.  <b>The required criteria are fully met.</b></p>	



## 5. Financing and management of financial resources

Epoka University is mainly financed – besides the student's fees - by Turgut Ozal Education Company, which also covers budget deficits.

### Measurable indicators:

Table 7

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

### Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
<b>Standard I.1 - General framework</b>	
<b>Criterion 5</b> Doctorate study program is supported by a sufficient budget for research;	The program is supported by a sufficient budget for Research.
<b>Standard II.1 - Capacities for scientific research</b>	
<b>Criterion 8</b> External funding received for scientific research is indicative of high level research activity and they are administered for the progress of relevant study program.	Considerable amounts of external funding are granted to the institution in general.
<b>Standard III.1 - Management and financing tools for doctorate study program</b>	
<b>Criterion 7</b> Financial budget of doctorate study program is sufficient to achieve research objectives for each doctorate student; <b>Criterion 8</b> Financial budget distribution structure of doctorate study program matches with scientific research policy and needs.	Concerning Structural Research the structures and equipment are given. As literature and relevant software for Construction Management don't need large investments, there are no major expenses to be expected in midterm.
<b>Standard III.3 - Financing of doctorate study program</b>	

<p><b>Criterion 1</b> Number of research works funded by the ministry;</p> <p><b>Criterion 2</b> Distribution of funds to host and supervision teams of scientific research works is done in a balanced way;</p> <p><b>Criterion 3</b> Number of research works funded under national research projects, benefited by scientific supervisors of doctorate students for this study program;</p> <p><b>Criterion 4</b> Number of research works funded under international research projects benefited by scientific supervisors of doctorate students for this study program;</p>	<p>There is no research work funded by the ministry.</p> <p>All granted funds originate of non-public sources.</p> <p>There are two international projects funded by TEMPUS project and COST action.</p>
<p><b><u>Conclusions of EEG:</u></b></p> <p>Epoka University is supported –besides its student’s fees- by a private organization (Turgut Ozal Education Company), which also covers budgetary deficits.</p> <p><b>The required criteria are fully met.</b></p>	

## 6. Internal Quality Assurance System (IQAS)

In accordance with the regulations applying for Institutions of Higher Education in Albania, Epoka University has established an Academic Evaluation and Quality Improvement Board. It consist of members of the teaching staff, members of the administrative staff and of members of the student Council.

The number of members of the IQAS are defined by the Senate of Epoka University. Among the members of the board there must be at least one member of academic staff holding at least a PhD degree and without managing duties, two members of the administrative staff., the Head of the Student Council, one alumnus and an external expert with distinguished experience in the labor market.

The members are elected by the Senate for a period of two years.

*Information on the members of AEQIB*

	<i>Members of AEQIB</i>	Duties that have in the AEQIB	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

According to the Institution, the Academic Evaluation and Quality Improvement Board (AEQIB) is responsible for:

**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) 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 fulfilment 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 fulfilment 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.

**Quantitative Data for IQAS:**

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.

The electronic system shows the average evaluation for each course.

The results of the surveys are forwarded to the Rector's Office by the Registrar's Office.

After examining the results of the surveys, the Rector forwards them to the AEQIB (IQAS), which performs data analysis for each course and comes with recommendations to the Rector.

By having meetings with the Deans and Heads of Department the Rector ensures, that the recommendations are used for eventual improvement of individual lecturers.

### **Conclusion and Remarks of EEG:**

The members of AEQIB (IQAS) reported to EEG, that they feel being overloaded with work, having duties in the AEQIB besides their regular work.

From the point of view of EEG, the Revision of Self Evaluation Report for this relevant Evaluation was weak, as there occurred several contradictions concerning numbers in the Report.

Also the conducting of the whole Evaluation process, being a core responsibility of AEQIB was not satisfying, as there were no relevant numbers of teaching staff or students provided for the interviews (one lecturer besides Head of Department as for Teaching Staff and only one student as for students group!)

The shown examples for the conducting of Internal Audits were satisfying, as well as the shown procedure and examples of the students evaluations.

Never theless it is recommended, as it is practiced usually in western universities, to think about the establishment of a small department of IQAS, composed of Part-Time or Full Time Employees, solely in charge for the relevant tasks. This would replace the current board.

The members of this department aren't dependent of Deans or Heads of Department (as the current members mainly are), there is no overload of work through "double-functions". These responsible persons are not "appointed" but recruited especially for these purposes and are acting as independent unit.

## **STUDY PROGRAM**

### **7. Study program, its organization**

#### **Measurable indicators:**

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



Table 8

Year I	Semester	Credits (ECTS)	Hour in week	Academic Curriculum -Plan										Final exam				
				Lecture (hour)	Seminar (hour)	Laboratory (hour)	Practice (hour)	In auditor	Individual student work	Total credits	In auditor	Individual student work	Total credits		In auditor	Individual student work		
				Total credits	In auditor	Individual student work	Total credits	In auditor	Individual student work	Total credits	In auditor	Individual student work	Total credits	In auditor	Individual student work			
1	Elective	1	7.5	3	7.5	48	139.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48	139.5	Yes
2	Elective	1	7.5	3	7.5	48	139.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48	139.5	Yes
3	Elective	1	7.5	3	7.5	48	139.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48	139.5	Yes
4	Elective	1	7.5	3	7.5	48	139.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48	139.5	Yes
5	Elective	2	7.5	3	7.5	48	139.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48	139.5	Yes
6	Elective	2	7.5	3	7.5	48	139.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48	139.5	Yes
7	Elective	2	7.5	3	7.5	48	139.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48	139.5	Yes
8	Elective	2	7.5	3	7.5	48	139.5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	48	139.5	Yes
Total			60	24	60	384	1116									384	1116	

- Analyses and evaluation for Academic Curriculum Plan, related to the relevant academic staff (see Table 9)

Table 9

Subject/Module	Responsible professor/s (Name Surname)	Title/degree	Department	FAS or PAS	
2013-2014					
1.	CE 812 Behavior of RC Members and Structures	Hüseyin Bilgin	Assoc. Prof. Dr.	Civil Engineering	FAS
2.	CE 816 Advanced Structural Design	Yavuz Yardım	Assoc. Prof. Dr.	Civil Engineering	FAS
3.	CE 873 Pavement Design	Yetkin Yıldırım	Assoc. Prof. Dr.	Civil Engineering	PAS
4.	CE 811 Advanced Structural Dynamics	Hüseyin Bilgin	Assoc. Prof. Dr.	Civil Engineering	FAS
5.	CE 813 Bridge Assessment	Yavuz Yardım	Assoc. Prof. Dr.	Civil Engineering	FAS
6.	CE 814 Earthquake Engineering	Hüseyin Bilgin	Assoc. Prof. Dr.	Civil Engineering	FAS



7.	CE 817 Earthquake Resistant Design of Building Structures	Hüseyin Bilgin	Assoc. Prof. Dr.	Civil Engineering	FAS
8.	CE 819 Nonlinear Structural Analysis	Yavuz Yardın	Assoc. Prof. Dr.	Civil Engineering	FAS
Other available elective courses (opened upon student request)					
	CE 801 Research Methods	-	-	-	-
	CE 804 Numerical Analysis	-	-	-	-
	CE 805 Computer Programming for Structural Dynamics	-	-	-	-
	CE 815 Pre-stressed Concrete	-	-	-	-
	CE 818 Performance Based Seismic Design	-	-	-	-
	CE 820 Finite Element Analysis	-	-	-	-
	CE 821 Economic Decision Analyses in Construction	-	-	-	-



CE 822 Project Planning	-	-	-	-
CE823 Risk Management in Construction	-	-	-	-
CE 824 Advanced Construction Management	-	-	-	-
CE 833 Wastewater Treatment Processes	-	-	-	-
CE 834 Advanced Hydrology	-	-	-	-
CE 841 Soil Behavior	-	-	-	-
CE 842 Advanced Soil Mechanics	-	-	-	-
CE 843 Advanced Foundation Engineering	-	-	-	-
CE 844 Finite Element Applications in Geotechnical Engineering	-	-	-	-
CE 851 Concrete Durability	-	-	-	-
CE 852 Advanced Concrete Technology	-	-	-	-
CE 853 Advanced Materials of Construction	-	-	-	-
CE 854 Repair and Retrofitting Concepts in Construction Materials	-	-	-	-
CE 855 Repair and Strengthening of Structures	-	-	-	-
CE 856 Design of Dams	-	-	-	-
CE 861 Design of Dams	-	-	-	-
CE 862 Hydraulic System Design	-	-	-	-
CE 863 Advanced Water Distribution Networks	-	-	-	-
CE 864 Fluid Transient in Closed Conduits	-	-	-	-
CE 865 Sediment Transport	-	-	-	-
CE 866 Computational Fluid Dynamics	-	-	-	-
CE 871 Advanced Traffic Engineering	-	-	-	-
CE 872 Advanced Transportation Engineering	-	-	-	-
CE 873 Pavement Design	-	-	-	-
CE 874 Advanced Highway Materials and Construction	-	-	-	-
CE 880 Specialization	-	-	-	-

**Evaluation according to the Standards**

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
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### 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;

**Criterion 2** Theoretical organized studies anticipate balanced ratio of classes for academic and scientific general and specific training;

**Criterion 3** Detailed teaching program is approved pursuant to bylaws in force;

**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.

The first year of the PhD program is composed of 60 ECTS in total.

In the first year of the PhD studies, the student has to attend the courses for theoretical knowledge and has to write a literature review on the chosen topic.

The detailed teaching program is pursuant to bylaws in force.

The courses are evaluated by the Council of Professors, consisting of seven professors. The students are obliged to attend to at least 80% of the theoretical and the research courses, held as well in the labs. In case of failure, the student has to retake the course. Students with a CGPA of less than 3.00 out of 4.00 are considered of not having successfully completed the course.

### Standard II.3 - Drafting and approval of proposed research project

**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;

**Criterion 2** Scope of research is selected in such a way that doctorate studies program can support it;

**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:

- 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 achieve;

**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

Application Criteria require from applicants to submit a request for a particular research area through a research proposal area, which is discussed with him in the interview with the respective scientific committee.

Scope is selected according to the supervisors specialization.

PhD students shall normally be registered for a continuous period of no less than 3 years and no more than 4 years.

Modalities of the research activities are accorded with the advisor and supervised by the CP.

The manner of presenting the scientific research results electronically and as hard copy is defined for all candidates.

PhD candidates are supervised according the required criterion.

<p>supervise and support student's research work;</p> <p><b>Criterion 5</b> Doctorate student presents to Board of Professors the research development plan, designed by him and discussed with his supervisor;</p> <p><b>Criterion 6</b> 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.</p>	<p>The supervisor draws up a supervision plan together with the student and sends a copy to CP. This plan provides for regular consultation between supervisor and candidate, as well as a written report thereof.</p>
<p><b>Standard II.1 - Capacities for scientific research</b></p>	
<p><b>Criterion 1</b> A third cycle study program (doctorate) is integrated in research activity of Higher Education Institutions;</p>	<p>The study program is strongly related to the research activities of the unit.</p>
<p><b>Standard II.4 - Doctorate student's supervision and continuous evaluation of progress of doctorate studies</b></p>	
<p><b>Criterion 1</b> 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><b>Criterion 2</b> 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><b>Criterion 3</b> 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><b>Criterion 4</b> 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><b>Criterion 5</b> 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><b>Criterion 6</b> In all cases, the student must</p>	<p>Teaching staff /Supervisors hold all the necessary academic titles.</p> <p>They hold mostly degrees from Turkish Universities; not all have a rich research and publishing activity. In their relevant field the scientific supervisors have the needed expertise.</p> <p>Update of knowledge and skills seems to be depending on personal interest.</p> <p>Board of Professors (CP) is responsible for the selection of supervisor.</p> <p>Support and Guidance for the students is guaranteed.</p> <p>Organizational definition of procedures maintains this aspect.</p>

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;

**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";

**Criterion 8** If relationship student-supervisor does not function well, at the request of student or his supervisor, supervisor is changed, provided that this does not affect the project progress;

**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);

**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;

**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;

**Criterion 12** Meetings between supervisors and doctorate students are documented, especially during the review of progress reports.

Organizational definition of procedures maintains this aspect.

If relationship doesn't function well, on student's request the Scientific Committee proposes another supervisor.

The Advisor provides the Scientific Committee each semester with a report on the student's progress. This report is approved by the CP.

If the scientific comitee finds consecutively two times, that the reports on the candidate's progress is unsatisfactory, it can recommend to the CP to terminate the candidate's activities on the doctoral studies.

Yes, see C 5/C 6 above.



**Conclusions of EEG:**

The definition of the structures to maintain the quality of the supervision of doctoral scientific activities through mentor, scientific board and CP seems to be working well. The Quality and the Outcome of the Research activities are secured and the procedures support it adequately.

The Study Program is dominated by Courses concerning “Structural Engineering” and does not meet the Needs of the Profile “Construction Management”.

Publication activities are to be intensified.

The publication activities in internationally recognized journals should be activated.

It is strongly recommended to orientate towards western european universities through collaboration, joint degrees, inviting guest professors, joint research projects etc.

Furthermore, the Profile of “Construction Management” needs to be established in the doctorate program, which means also to recruit relevant Teaching Personnel to be able to offer relevant courses..

**The required criteria are mostly met.**

**8. Teaching – Learning outcome (in first year)**

**Measurable indicators:**



- Student's workload, separated by the forms of teaching (see Table 10)

Table 10

Forms of teaching	Class hours for
Lecture	384
Seminars	0
Exercises	0
Laboratories	0
Practice for subjects	0
Professional practice	-
Etc.	

- Policies for Learning Outcomes control (see Table 11)

Table 11

Learning Outcomes control	in %
Active participation in lectures, seminars, etc.	10%
Implementation of obligations (laboratory course tasks, essays)	30%
Intermediate tests	20%
Final exam	40%
Etc	-
In total	100%

- Students' participation in the research activities of the University/Faculty/etc. (see Table 12)

Table 12

HEI scientific activity	Number of students activated
For individual Papers of professor	1
For scientific projects of Faculty / Department / Doctoral School	1
For research projects, in collaboration with other	0

**Note: The number reported in Table 12 is referred to the PhD program in Civil Engineering.**

### Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
<b>Standard I.2 - Continuous increase of theoretical level and promotion of students' team work are targets of a study program of third cycle, doctorate.</b>	
<b>Criterion 1</b> Level of scientific research development helps in student training to complete the study program successfully;	The level of scientific research supports students training to complete the program successfully.  The students have various opportunities closely
<b>Criterion 2</b> Students have the opportunity to participate in various research activities closely related to the specific area in	



which they 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*

related to their scientific work, such as: scientific articles, presentations etc., use of information resources, acquisition of advanced methods of data processing etc.

Team Working is still problematic, due to low collaboration, low national and international project participation and lack of well-established research groups in the same field, so that they can collaborate with each other.

Doctoral students are enabled to participate in lectures, seminars debates etc.

They are free and encouraged to participate in conferences and symposiums related to their research field.

On the one hand, these criteria are conditions of admission to doctoral program, proved in previous studies and degrees of the candidate.

On the other hand, there are courses offered in the curriculum, which support the elaboration of these competencies.

It seems, that doctoral students are aware of being an example to younger students in the

*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).

master programs, and this attitude is encouraged by the Teaching staff.

Most of the PhD students are engaged in teaching activities in study programs of first cycle as lecturers and as support to the professors.

**Conclusions of EEG:**

The scientific research of the doctoral students supports the level of the undergraduate and graduate student research level. PhD students are encouraged to be engaged in scientific activities, such as publications, attending to conferences etc. Hereby they are supported by their mentors, the use of information resources and modern technologies for public presentations.

The program also foresees courses in Research methods, to support scientific work of the students.

The PhD students are mostly involved in study programs of first cycle as lecturers and as support of the professors.

**The required criteria are fully met.**

**9. Doctoral students**



**Academic criteria and procedures for enrolment of doctoral student (Document Attached-Regulation  
“ON PHD STUDY PROGRAMS”).)**

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".

**Enrollment 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- 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

**Admission criteria**

Minimum number of students ( <i>not less than three</i> )	3	Maximum number of students	10
Titles needed for admission	Second Level Degree		
	Integrated Degree of Second Level		
	Old system Degree (4 years with at least 300 ECTS)		
	Other titles won abroad		
Other criterion	See Detailed Information on Admission Criteria:		

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

Faculty	Department	Academic Year							
		2012-2013			2013-2014			2014-2015	
		Nr. of students	CGPA of previous studies	CGPA at EPOK A	Nr. of students	CGPA of previous studies	CGPA at EPOK A	Nr. of students	CGPA of previous studies
FAE	PhD in CIVIL ENGINEERING	2	3.72	4	1	3.32	4	2	3.5

Measurable indicators:

Statistical data for doctoral students:

- The total number of PhDs students and the number for each year;  
**2 students for 2012-2013 academic year; 1 student for 2013-2014 academic year and 2 students for 2014-2015**
- The number of PhDs students coming from outside of the university;  
**3 students come from outside university.**
- Number of graduates each year;  
**There is no graduated students.**
- The average duration of doctoral studies and what has been the trend of this indicator;  
**NA.**
- Number and percentage of students, who have interrupted his doctoral studies.  
**There are no students that have interrupted the PhD studies.**
- 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%**

Information for the mobility of doctoral students at universities abroad

Data for the final evaluation of doctoral students:

For the Academic year 2012-2013: CGPA of previous studies is 3.72  
CGPA at EPOKA is 4

For the Academic year 2013-2014: CGPA of previous studies is 3.32  
CGPA at EPOKA is 4

For the Academic year 2014-2015: CGPA of previous studies is 3.5

There is no PhD student graduated yet.

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
<b>Standard I.3 - Admission of students in a doctorate study program</b>	
<b>Criterion 1</b> 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	This criterion is fulfilled! (See admission criteria above)





thesis evaluated with 30-40 ECTS;

**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:

- a) Creative thinking;
- b) Development of critical sense about research;
- c) Connections between different fields of research;
- d) Skills developed for solving problems arising during research work;
- e) Competence to manage research complexity and to propose new ideas in research field;

**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;

**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;

**Criterion 5** Professors' Council set the criteria for admission to program of doctorate studies contained in regulation of doctorate program of studies;

**Criterion 6** The applicant has received detailed information about doctorate program of study, before being admitted into it. He is fully informed regarding:

- a) Duration of study program;
- b) Conditions that student should meet before appearing in doctorate exam;
- c) Support that institution provides to the student through administrative and research structures for activities envisaged in the study program (laboratories, libraries, etc.).
- d) Modalities of exercise of research or creative activity of doctorate students, especially with regard to preparation of doctorate thesis;

**Criterion 7** Admission criteria include also interviews and supports that can be

Candidates have profound theoretical knowledge in the relevant field of study, creative thinking and knowledge about the different fields of research.

Candidates have either studied undergraduate degree in English or obtained a TOEFL IBT score of at least 70, or have 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 studies.

The CP sets the criteria for the admission to the program.

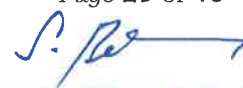
Applicants are fully informed about the doctoral program's conditions through the University's Regulations, published also on the website of the institution.



<p>provided by references and additional documents;  <b>Criterion 8</b> Admission policies include also doctorate admission exam.</p>	<p>Based on the university's regulations "On PhD study programs" all the admission criteria are defined and include an interview with the applicant.</p>
<p><b>Standard III.2 - Quantitative aspects of doctorate study program</b></p>	
<p>Total number of registered doctorate students and doctorate number for each year;  Number of registered doctorate students coming from outside the unit that has opened the doctorate study program;  Number of diplomas issued to receive "Doctor" degree for each year;  Average duration of doctorate studies and trend of this indicator;  Number and percentage of those who gave up doctorate studies in the level of study program.</p>	<p><u>See Measurable Indicators above!</u></p> <p>Up to now, no doctorate student gave up.</p>
<p><b>Standard III.4 - Internationalization of doctorate study program</b></p>	
<p>Number, expressed in percentage, of registered doctorate students coming from Kosovo and other areas where Albanians live and Albanian Diaspora;  Number, expressed in percentage, of registered doctorate students coming from Balkans region.  Number, expressed in percentage, of registered doctorate students coming from the EU countries;  Number, expressed in percentage, of registered doctorate students coming from other countries of the world;</p>	<p><u>See Measurable Indicators above!</u></p>
<p><b><u>Conclusions of EEG:</u></b></p> <p>The regulation "On PhD study programs" of the university defines all the admission criteria, conditions and circumstances of the doctoral study program and is an adequate means to inform candidates.</p> <p>Admission conditions are in line with the required criteria. The required CGPA for previous studies is adequate and exceeds the requirements as of criterion 1.</p> <p>Up to now, there are no drop-outs in this study program.</p> <p><b>The required criteria are fully met.</b></p>	

**SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH POLICIES**

**10. Research in doctoral school and involvement of doctoral students**



**Measurable indicators:**

Data for research (see Table 13)

Table 13

<b>Planned activities, individual and institution, who are involved in doctoral students</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>The titles of scientific journals, projects, research activities</b>
1. Publications, where students have scientific articles	3	1. "Effects of soil settlement and deformed geometry on a historical structure" – Y.Yardim, E. Mustafaraj 2. "Strengthening and Restoration of Historical Structures-Mirahor Ilyas Beg Mosque in Korça" – E.Mustafaraj, Y.Yardim 3. "Assessment of Reinforced Concrete Bridges, Deficiencies under Service Conditions" - Yavuz Yardim, Erion Periku, Wulfenia
2. Research projects, acquired by leading professors or doctoral students	1	1. External Shear Strengthening of Damaged Masonry Walls by Fiber Reinforced Plastering – Y.Yardim, E.Mustafaraj



3.	Projects Implemented	-	-
4.	Scientific activities organized by the HEI	1	Conferences: 1. Second International Balkans Conference on Challenges of Civil Engineering BCCCE 2013, 23-25 May 2013
5.	Participants in scientific activities	8	<p>1. "A case study on structural assessment and restoration of King Zog's villa in Durres, Albania" – E.Mustafaraj, K.Barushi, 2-BCCCE 2013, 23-25 May, Epoka University, Albania</p> <p>2. "Conditional assessment of Kiri Bridge in Shkoder, Albania" - G.Rexhaj, E.Mustafaraj, 2-BCCCE 2013, 23-25 May, Epoka University, Albania</p> <p>3. "Structural assessment of historical buildings: a case study of five Ottoman Mosques in Albania" – E.Mustafaraj, 2-BCCCE 2013, 23-25 May, Epoka University, Albania</p> <p>4. "Repair and Strengthening of Historical Structures: Naziresha's Mosque in Elbasan" - E.Mustafaraj, Y.Yardim, 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual International Conference on Civil Engineering, 10-13 June 2013, Athens, Greece</p> <p>5. "Practices, Barriers and Challenges of Risk Management Implementation in Albanian Construction Industry" – J.Keci, E.Mustafaraj, 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual International Conference on Civil Engineering, 10-13 June 2013, Athens, Greece</p> <p>6. "Geometric imperfection effect on historical building under earthquake load" – Y.Yardim, E.Mustafaraj, Vienna Congress on Recent Advances in Earthquake Engineering and Structural Dynamics 2013 (VEESD 2013), C. Adam, R. Heuer, W. Lenhardt &amp; C. Schranz (eds), 28-30 August 2013, Vienna, Austria</p> <p>7. "Structural Assessment of Preza Clock Tower, Albania" - E.Mustafaraj, Y.Yardim</p> <p>ICESA 2014-International Civil Engineering &amp;</p>

			<i>Architecture Symposium for Academicians 2014, 17-20 May 2014, Side, Turkey</i>
			8. "Effect of Scour on Load Carry Capacity of Piles on Mat Bridge - Erion Periku, Yavuz Yardim, International Students' Conference of Civil Engineering, ISCCE 2012, 10-11 May 2012 Epoka University, Tirana, Albania"
6.	Students involved in research		All of the students are involved in research.
7	Books	1	1. "Assessment of Historical Structures: A case study of five Ottoman mosques in Albania" – Enea Mustafaraj

### Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
<b>Standard II.1 - Capacities for scientific research</b>	
<p><b>Criterion 1</b> A third cycle study program (doctorate) is integrated in research activity of Higher Education Institutions;</p> <p><b>Criterion 4</b> The institution has the capacity to perform supervision of each doctorate student in research activities and respective didactic duties;</p> <p><b>Criterion 6</b> Academic staff must show achievements in the research field through such creative activities as: presentations, scientific publications, magazines, books or monographs;</p> <p><b>Criterion 7</b> 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>The doctoral program is strongly integrated in the research activities of the institution.</p> <p>The institution has the required capacity only for the profile "Structural Engineering". There is no capacity for the profile "Construction Management".</p> <p>Academic staff should intensify its publication activities –especially in international magazines– as well as its contribution to scientific conferences and symposiums in an national and international context.</p>
<p><b>Conclusions of EEG:</b></p> <p>The Research projects acquired by leading professors or doctoral students should be intensified, as they are quite low in number. Also publications of the Teaching staff, especially in well known international magazines is an asset and should be intensified. This applies also to contributions to international conferences and symposiums.</p> <p>Capacity for Research activities in the profile of "Construction Management" are not given.</p> <p><b>The required criteria are only partly met.</b></p>	

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

### Measurable indicators:

- Data for national and international cooperation (see Table 14)

Table 14

Scientific activities in the framework of international cooperation		
1	Number of students participating as partners in national and international projects	1
2	Number of Students participating in scientific activities, outside of HEI / presentations abroad	2
3	The number of foreign lecturers, who are invited to teaching	1
4	The number of classes held by invited foreign lecturers	16 weeks * 3 hours = 48
5	Number of participants in training, in the field of abroad research	-
6	Mobility of students to and from HEI	1
7	The number of international awards in the field of research	-

- Cooperation with scientific institutions (see Table 15)

Table15.1

Univerities	Type of cooperation	
1. Istanbul University	Cooperation between faculty staff in the offering of PhD study programs at Epoka University	
2.Pamukkale University	Cooperation between faculty staff in the offering of PhD study programs at Epoka University	
3. Erciyes University	Cooperation between faculty staff	
4.Yildiz Technical University	Organizing of Conference	
5.University of Aleksander Moisiu	Organizing of Conference	"TSCM 2011", June 2-4, 2011
6. University of Texas	Cooperation between faculty staff	

7. Polytechnic University of Tirana	Organizing of Conference	"ISCCE 2012", May 10-11, 2012
8. University of Prishtina	Organizing of Conference	"ISCCE 2012", May 10-11, 2012"
9. Izmir Katip Celebi University	Organizing of Conference	"IBCCC 2013", May, 23-25, 2013
10. Suleyman Demirel University	Organizing of Conference	"Friendship and Collaboration in the Balkans", October, 5-7, 2012
11. University of Tirana	Organizing of Conference	"IBAC 2012" October, 10-12, 2012
12. Celal Bayar University	Organizing of Conference	"ICES 2013" November, 8-9, 2013
13. University of Gaziantep	Organizing of Conference	"BCCCE", May 19-21, 2011

**List of Universities with whom Epoka University has signed cooperation agreements:**

Table 15.2

No	University	Country
1	Hitit University	Turkey
2	The American University in Bulgaria	Bulgaria
3	Namik Kemal University	Turkey
4	Hasan Kalyouncu University	Turkey
5	Ordu University	Turkey
6	Istanbul Technical University	Turkey
7	Yildiz Teknik University	Turkey
8	Suleyman Sah University	Turkey
9	Turgut Ozal University	Turkey
10	Mevlana University	Turkey
11	Gediz University	Turkey
12	Hena e Plote (Beder) University	Albania
13	Izmir Katip Celebi University	Turkey
14	Academy of Science	Albania
15	Afyon Kocatepe University	Turkey
16	Akdeniz University	Turkey
17	American University In The Emirates	U.A.E
18	Ataturk University	Turkey
19	Baku State University	Azerbaijan Republic



20	Balikesir University	Turkey
21	Batman University	Turkey
22	Bingol University	Turkey
23	Bitlis Eren University	Turkey
24	Canakkale Onsezik Mart University	Turkey
25	Cumhuriyet University	Turkey
26	Dicle University	Turkey
27	Dumlupinar University	Turkey
28	Fatih University	Turkey
29	University of Applied Sciences, Mainz	Germany
30	Firat University	Turkey
31	Illinois Institute of Technology	U.S.A
32	International Ataturk Alatoo University	Kyrgyzsistan
33	International Balkan University	Macedonia
34	International Black Sea University	Georgia
35	International Burch University	Bosnia and Herzegovina
36	Ishik University and University of Technology	Republic of Irak and Switzerland
37	Istanbul University	Turkey
38	Leeds Beckett University	UK
39	Marmara University	Turkey
40	Kubolashak University	Kazakhstan
41	Mediterranean University	Montenegro
42	North American University	U.S.A
43	Pamukkale University	Turkey
44	Qafqaz University	Azerbaijan Republic
45	Sam Houston State University	U.S.A
46	Shkodra University "Luigj Gurakuqi"	Albania
47	South-East Europe Lumina University	Romania
48	Suleyman Demirel University	Kazakhstan
49	Suleyman Demirel University	Turkey
50	University of Texas at Austin	U.S.A
51	The Faculty of Artichecture, Polytechnic of Bari	Italy
52	The Faculty of Civil Engineering And Architecture, University of Prishtina	Kosovo
53	Trakya University	Turkey
54	Technical University of Gobrovo	Bulgaria
55	Durres University "Aleksander Moisiu" Faculty of Information And Technology	Albania
56	University of Gaziantep	Turkey
57	Public University of Tetova	Macedonia
58	University of Tirana	Albania



59	Ozyegin University	Turkey
60	Institute of Geosciences, Polytechnic University of Tirana	Albania
61	Kirklareli University	Turkey
62	Eada Business School	Spain
63	Tallinn University of Technology	Estonia
64	Bursa Orhangazi University(BOU)	Turkey
65	Zaman University	Cambodia

### Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
<b>Standard III.4 - Internationalization of doctorate study program</b>	
<p><b>Criterion 5</b> Doctorate study program encourages doctorate mobility by paying a considerable amount of expenditures for academic training outside doctorate study program;</p> <p><b>Criterion 6</b> 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><b>Criterion 7</b> 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><b>Criterion 8</b> Doctorate study program creates the necessary space to develop joint doctorate study programs with homologous universities in the region, Europe and beyond;</p> <p><b>Criterion 9</b> 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</p>	<p>Yes, but it is too few made use of.</p> <p>Basically the possibility is given, but in reality there is too few taken advantage out of it.</p> <p>There is generally a cooperation with two Turkish universities, but there is no evidence, that the possibility of exchange of academic staff or doctoral students is made use of in this faculty.</p> <p>This criterion is not fulfilled. There is not made use of joint doctorate study programs with homologous universities in Europe and beyond.</p> <p>This criterion is not fulfilled. There are no modules and exams organized by <i>professors of partner universities known in the world</i></p>



<p>critterion 7 applies for Albanological Sciences;</p> <p><b>Criterion 10</b> Doctorate study program promotes involvement of professors from foreign universities as scientific supervisors or as scientific collaborators of doctorate students.</p>	<p>This criterion is only partly fulfilled, as there is a part time professor from a us-american university in Texas involved in doctoral supervision. The involvement of this professor couldn't be proved as a sufficient one concerning presence at the institution.</p>
<p><b>Standard II.1 - Capacities for scientific research</b></p>	
<p><b>Criterion 5</b> 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>There is no evidence, that the agreements of cooperation aren't just "on the paper" but without real cooperation activities.</p>
<p><b>Conclusions of EEG:</b></p> <p>The Internationalization, especially with western universities is <b>very weak</b>.          Beeing "International" is one of the pillars of Epoka, according to the institutions own philosophy.          Just having English as teaching language is not at all sufficient to cope to this self-defined standard.          The cooperation with universities abroad is solely directed to Turkish universities, which is very one-dimensional and not really "international".          There is no evidence, that the "agreements of cooperation" to several universities are really "living" ones and not only on the paper.          It is highly recommended to establish real cooperation relationships with foreign universities, especially in western Europe!  <b>The required criteria are not met!</b></p>	

## SWOT ANALYSIS

### Strengths

1. Facilities, infrastructure and logistics are very good.
2. Library is well equipped with literature, also with scientific literature in the field of Civil Engineering.
3. The ratio PC to student is very good; in general the equipment, especially with the needed electronic apparels is very good.
4. The given infrastructure for laboratory work for research purposes is good and will be expanded.
5. The fact, that English is the only teaching language is an advantage.

## Weaknesses

1. The program as well as the faculty is not really international.  
The fact, that English is the teaching language is not at all sufficient to cope with the objective of being international (which is also a core element of the university's philosophy).
2. Cooperation with universities abroad is in fact solely directed to Turkish universities, which is not "international" and very one-dimensional.
3. Civil Engineering offers two profiles (also in Master Program): "Structural Engineering" and "Construction Management". The doctoral program has no capacity to offer the profile of "Construction Management" as there is no teaching personnel in the PhD program for this profile and the courses offered (curriculum) don't take this in account.
4. Collaboration with national or international relevant industry or engineering firms , for example in mutual research projects, conferences etc. is very weak.
5. Publications and contributions to internationally known magazines and conferences is very weak.

## Opportunities

1. Developing countries usually have a need for Specialists in "Construction Management". Establishing this profile in the curriculum and providing relevant teaching staff is a real chance.
2. Collaboration with westeuropean Institutions of Higher Education in teaching, exchange of teaching staff and students, mentoring, mutual research projects, joint conferences and eventually joint degrees are to be considered.
3. Cooperation with national and international construction firms –especially in research projects- is an asset. Westeuropean companies are usually very interested in having an "anchor" in the country (as in all south-east European countries) to participate in the infrastructural development.
4. Considering of establishing a small IQAS-Department, recruited and dedicated only for the purpose of IQAS as an independent unit could solve the problems of the current "AEQIB"-Group (Double-functions, Dependency, and Work Load etc.)

## Threats

1. Relying too much on the excellent facilities, equipment, infrastructures etc. of the institution could cause “blindness” for the weaknesses and described problems with longterm consequences
2. Not establishing the profile of “Construction Management” in the PhD Program of Civil Engineering could lead to a one-dimensional education and no possibility to mentor doctoral thesises in this field.
3. Not taking in account the problems of the internal “AEQIB”-Group could affect quality of the institution severly on the long term

Recommendation:

See “Opportunities” above!

External Evaluation Group:

1. Prof. \_S. Behnam (International Expert)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S. Behnam', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.