

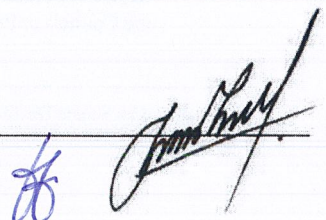
**EXTERNAL EVALUATION
REPORT
FOR STUDY PROGRAM
“PhD. IN EUROPEAN AND CONTRACT LAW “
PRIVATE UNIVERSITY “ALBANIAN UNIVERSITY,,**

External Evaluation Experts:

Prof. Dr. Iset Morina

PhD. Fiona Papajorgji

November 2019

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GENERAL INFORMATION
FOR THE STUDY PROGRAM "PHD IN EUROPEAN AND CONTRACT LAW"

Data table for Licensing / accreditation of study program		
1	Applicant HEI:	Privat University "Albanian University"
2	The Faculty / Department that offers it	Faculty of Social Science Department of Juridical Sciences ¹ It is chaired from the Council of Professors, which elects a Coordinator of the doctoral studies (member of academic personnel) part of the Department.
3	Licensing Order of MoES / DCM	Order no.564 dated 19.11.2012 of the Minister of Education and Science, based of Decision of the Accreditation Council no. 348, dated 13.07.2012 (Positive, with suggestions). Order no.564 dated 19.11.2012 is amended through the Order no. 380 dated 06.09.2013 the Ministry of Education and Science
5	First Accreditation of Doctoral Program Decision of Accreditation Board (DAB)/ Order of MoES	Accreditation Council, with Decision no. 213 dated 16.12.2016, decided: This study program does not meet the legal requirements and the "State Quality Standards" for the accreditation of third cycle study programs. In this way the Accreditation Council recommends to MES that this program should not be accredited . The Institution has requested to review of Decision of Accreditation Council no. 213 dated 16.12.2016. The Accreditation Board, found that the complaints were not in accordance with legal acts and decided with DAB No. 61, dated 10.07.2017, to reject the review of Decision of Accreditation Council Nr. 213 dated 16.12.2016.
6	Study program title:	The Doctoral Study Programme in "European and Contract Law"
7	Accreditation of Program (first cycle) Decision of Accreditation Board (DAB)/ Order of MoES	Bachelor Programme (Legal Studies) has been accredited with the decision of the Board of Accreditation no. 87/1, dated 20.10.2017;
8	Accreditation of Program (second cycle) Decision of Accreditation Board (DAB)/ Order of MoES	Master of Sciences in "Legal Sciences" has been accredited with the decision of the Accreditation Board no. 49, dated 19.05.2017
9	Cycle of Study:	Third Cycle
10	Duration of the study program:	3 years (*)
11	Total Credits (ECTS):	60 Credits (ECTS) in first year
12	Form of study (full-time / part-time / in distance):	Full-time
13	Language (English / Other):	Albanian Language
14	The program is offered only by the institution:	YES
15	The program is offered in collaboration with other institutions:	(*)
16	Joint Degree / Dual Degree (insert title):	N/A
17	Level in the National Qualifications Framework:	8
18	Number of students:	In 2013, 5 students (**) were enrolled, out of whom 3 students are currently undergoing the studies.

(*) According to point 2 of UMASH Nr. 564 dated 19.11.2012: "Doctoral study programs last for at least 3 academic years and include 60 credits for organized theoretical studies, of which at least 15 theoretical credits are carried out by foreign lecturers with the academic qualification required for undergraduate studies. At the end of the doctoral study programs, a doctorate degree is issued.

(**) Regarding other 2 students, given their lack of interest to continue the studies after the first year, through the decision of the Council of Professors prot. no. 226, dated 01.04.2019, their studies were terminated.

¹ Confirmed by Senate Decision Nr. 51/2 prot., dated 09.03.2016) -after reorganization of HEI, with UMASH no. 52, dated 05.02.2016

EXTERNAL EVALUATION REPORT
FOR STUDY PROGRAM PhD IN "EUROPIAN AND CONTRACT LAW"

INTRODUCTION

The Doctoral Study Programme in "European and Contract Law" is a third cycle of studies offered by the Department of Juridical Sciences near Albanian University. It was initially licensed through Order no.564 dated 19.11.2012 of the Ministry of Education and Science, latter amended through the Order no.380 dated 06.09.2013 the Ministry of Education and Science. The first cycle: Bachelor Programme (Legal Studies) has been accredited with the decision of the Board of Accreditation no. 87/1, dated 20.10.2017; the second Cycle: Master of Sciences in "Legal Sciences" with the decision of the Board of Accreditation no. 49, dated 19.05.2017 and the Professional Master in "Private Law" with the decision no. 24, dated 12.04.2019 and "Criminal Sciences" with the decision no. 25, dated 12.04.2019 (website of ASCAL).

In 2013, in the programme of doctoral studies in "European and Contract Law" a total of 5 students were enrolled, out of whom three are currently undergoing the studies. Regarding the 2 other students, given their lack of interest to continue the studies after the first year, through the decision Prot. no. 226, dated 01.04.2019 of the Council of Professors, their studies were terminated.

The study programme is based on the Law no.9741, dated 21.05.2007 / amended "*On Higher Education in the Republic of Albania*"; in the Guidelines of the Ministry of Education and Sciences, as well as in the Statute of Albanian University.

The Council of Ministers Decision (CoMD) no.112/2018 is not applicable for this programme, as according to point 5, of Chapter V, Final and Transitory Articles of the said CoMD "*candidates, who has started the procedure to get the scientific grade "doctor", shall complete it in compliance with the procedures determined in the legislation in power at the moment the procedure has started*".

The Albanian University in relation to this studies programme, in year 2015 has started the procedure of the first accreditation of the Doctoral Studies, which at that period could not meet the standards².

The Academic Senate, afterward, through the decision no.19/3, no.303/4 prot., dated 15.09.2017, granted the right to suspend the studies "Doctorate" to those students enrolled in those programmes. On 25.09.2017, the students have submitted their requests for studies suspension, which were approved by the Council of Professors.

After the decision of the Board of Accreditation, submitted to the Albanian University, with the ASCAL letter no.167/1 Prot., dated 20.07.2018, the Albanian University with the letter no.181/3 Prot, dated 27.09.2018 has applied for reaccreditation of the programmes of the third cycle. Given the acceptance of this request, on 11.10.2018 students have submitted their requests to lift the suspension of the studies, then approved by the Council of the Professors.

Meanwhile, from the first registration in 2013 in the doctoral studies programme, no further registrations have been recorded.

In addition, Albanian University, in compliance with the new law no.80/2015, as well as with the Order in power, has addressed to the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth the letter no. 341 Prot., dated

² Accreditation Council, with Decision no. 213 dated 16.12.2016, decided: This study program does not meet the legal requirements and the "State Quality Standards" for the accreditation of third cycle study programs. In this way the Accreditation Council recommends to MES that this program should not be accredited.

The Institution has requested to review of Decision of Accreditation Council no. 213, dated 16.12.2016.

The Accreditation Board found that the complaints were not in accordance with legal acts and decided with DAB No. 61, dated 10.07.2017, to reject the review of Decision of Accreditation Council Nr. 213 dated 16.12.2016.

14.11.2018 for the reorganisation of the programmes of the third cycle of studies, as well as in relation to the doctoral study programme "European and Contract Law".

Regarding the process of re-accreditation of the doctoral study programme in "European and Contract Law", licensed in year 2013, the group of external experts in July 15, 2019 conducted a visit to the institution (Albanian University) with the agenda (find in Annex).

Based on the visit conducted in the institution, in the Periodical Internal Evaluation Report, as well as the documentation attached to this report and additional documents asked during the visit, the following report was written by the External Experts Group, as follows.

ACCREDITATION COUNCIL REASONS, IN NEGATIVE DECISION ON FIRST ACCREDITATION OF STUDY PROGRAM

Doctoral study program in "European Law and Contracts", **does not meet** the legal criteria and "State Standards of Quality" for accreditation of third cycle doctoral study programs, with the following arguments:

- a. The institution does not have a proper strategy for scientific research activities in reference to this study programme;
- b. Full-time academic staff engaged in performing and finalizing the first academic year 2013 - 2014 does not cover 60% of the full teaching load. Besides, after this year the number of academic staff was further decreased. Instability and unqualified teaching staff constitute a real threatening to the quality of this study programme;
- c. The institution provides insufficient researching capacity for students. Students' access to European and international academic literature (considering the specifics of this study program titled "European Law and Contracts") is very limited, while accessible e-library titles are not in line with the level of this study program.
- d. Although the institution has several cooperation agreements, they have had no concrete impact on the internationalization of this study programme in all its aspects, particularly in promoting the students' mobility.
- e. Lack of completed and documented data for students enrolled in this study program, especially for those who no longer attend this program.
- f. Not all the criteria for students' admission to this study programme have been applied, especially in relation to the minimum level of grades required (1 student) and not all students have a Certificate of Foreign Language;
- g. The Council of Professors does not meet the qualification requirements of its members: some of its members bearing the Prof Assoc." title "are not yet documented to be in the process of gaining the "Prof." title. It can be observed a degree of instability in the composition of this Council, due to the constant changes of its members and non-fulfillment of the vacant seats".
- h. Opportunities for conducting scientific projects and conferences are limited, due to the lack of other national or international financial resources, besides the incomes deriving from the student fees, especially when the institution does not use other resources in support of this study programme.

The current evaluation of the program is difficult as EEG is conducting a retrospective evaluation and no much has changes from the initial application except that program has continued to be implemented with major comments remaining valid from previous evaluation.

The analysis of these weaknesses is described in the report below, in the relevant chapters.

MEMBERS OF EXTERNAL EVALUATION GROUP (EEG)

Members of EEG:

- Prof. Dr. Iset Morina
- PhD Fiona Papajorgji

The EEG was assisted by program officer from ASCAL, ME. Renata Qatipi.

It is worth pointing out that this re-accreditation is valid only for the PhD degree program in European and Contracts Law, launched in 2013, where 3 students are currently enrolled, as explained above, this program has not continued since the decision of the Accreditation Council, dated 16.12.2016.

On 20.11.2019 the Draft External Evaluate Report (EER) was sent to the Albanian University. The university sends their response for the draft report on 25.11.2019, no. 569/2 Prot.

The EEG read the university response for the Draft Report and decided not to consider HEI's request, expressed in its response.

So the Draft Report is also the Final Report.

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

1. Mission and objectives of doctoral study program

Description part

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

The mission and the objectives of the program of doctoral studies "European and Contracts Law" are regulated by the Regulation of the doctoral program.

More concretely, according to SER and article 7 of the said Regulation, through the program of doctoral studies in "European and Contract Law", doctoral students will improve at a more advanced level their study and research skills in the field of European contractual law, in order to respond to the variety of actual academic needs in the country.

On the other hand, regarding to the programme mission, the latter develops the ability to run independently advanced studies and research, provides participants with highly advanced methodologies in the field of studies on consumer contracts legislation, trade contracts between trade associations, electronic trading, new types of employment contracts, on problems arising from competition law and markets, always in the sphere of European law (Article 8 of the Regulation). Continuing with Article 9 of the Regulation, it stipulates that after the completion of this program, students will have the opportunity to pursue their career as research workers in institutions or bodies which, subject to their work, have contracts of various

types at national and community level, pedagogue in legal science, drafters of curricula and study projects in legal science, analyst, researcher and researcher in the field of law.

During the meeting with the University Rector Prof. Dr. Vera Ostreni, but also considering SER, it is evident that AU, philosophy and the long development objectives, continuously has aimed the consolidation. For this reason, the opening of the programmes of the third cycle of studies in some study fields has been one of the long-term objectives of the institution, as it meets in all directions profiles of a university that needs to have activities and achievements in teaching - learning and research (SER pg.4).

In addition, according to the SER and in line with "The Strategic Planning of the Institution", initially 2013 – 2017 and onwards 2017 – 2020, but also in line with the Strategy of this doctoral studies programme, the short-term, midterm and long-term goals of the doctoral studies programme in "European and Contract Law" are the achievement of qualitative standards in the graduation of the current students; providing a reorganised doctoral program according to the legal and sublegal acts in force; obtaining funding from various projects in support of doctoral students.

Also, from the filed documentation, the Department of Legal Sciences, for the period 2017 - 2020, has developed the "Strategy for the Development of Scientific Research" specially oriented to strengthening and enhancing the quality in terms of scientific research and applications in projects scientific research and mobility. Meanwhile, the reorganised program with the decision of the academic senate no.35, no.707/7 prot., dated 13.09.2018, is pending approval by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (request sent by letter no 341 prot ., dated 14.11.2018 of the Rectorate).

From the visit in the institution, as well as from the filed documents it results that the goals of the doctoral studies programme are in line with the AU strategy. Despite the fact that in the 2016 accreditation process has been recommended to better determine the short term goals, it should be considered the current situation of this programme. More concretely, as emphasized above, from 5 students enrolled in 2013, during the 2016 accreditation process, the position of 2 students resulted unclear, due to the lack of interest in continuing the studies after the first year. These students' studies were interrupted through the decision no. 226 prot, dated 01.04.2019 of the Professors Council. Currently, there are three students (which is in line with article 17/2 of the Regulation of the doctoral studies programme, which determines a minimum number of 3 students for admission in doctorate), who meet the obligations according to Regulation of the 3-year studies (articles 21 – 28) and are in the phase of final completion of the dissertation.

Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution

- Request no. 341 prot., dated 14.11.2018 of the rector sent to the Ministry of Education, Sport and Youth for the reorganisation of the doctoral studies programme;
- Decision of the Academic Senate no. 35, prot. 707/7, dated 13.09.2018 on the programme reorganisation;
- Letter no. 942/5 prot., dated 15.03.2019 of the Departement of Legal Sciences for students that have not fulfilled their obligations;
- Decision no. 226 prot, dated 01.04.2019 of the Council of Professors for the interruption of studies for those students who has not fulfilled the obligations.

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
Standard I.1 - General framework	
Criterion 1 The study program of third cycle (doctorate) is a new program or a reorganized program;	The doctoral studies programme "European and Contracts Law" is a new programme, licensed through the Order no. 564, dated 19.11.2012 of the Ministry of Education and Science, amended through Order no.380, dated 06.09.2013.
Criterion 2 If it is reorganized, the extent to which it affected the previous program.	
Criterion 3 The total number of students	The Programme is reorganised in line with the law no.80/2015, with

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.

Criterion 4 Doctorate study program is supported by national or international research groups accredited for research in relevant field or fields of studies;

Criterion 7 Internal evaluation report of study program of the third cycle is reviewed by the Council of Professors.

the decision of the Academic Senate no.35, no.707/7 Prot., dated 13.09.2018. With the letter no. 341 Prot., dated 14.11.2018, the AU has approached the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth for the reorganisation of the programmes of the third cycle of studies in relation to the doctoral studies in "European and Contracts Law and it is waiting a reply from MoESY. The reorganised programme does not affect the programme under accreditation, as according to point 5, of Chapter V, Final and transitory Provisions of CoMD no.112/2018, *"Candidates, who have started the procedure for obtaining the "doctor" scientific degree, shall complete it according to the procedures set forth in the legislation in force at the moment of the commencement of the procedure."*

In the "European Law and Contracts" doctoral program, currently 3 students are enrolled in accordance with section 17/2 of the study program. 2 other students because they have not been interested anymore since the end of the first year, the studies were terminated with a Decision no. 226, dated 01.04.2019 of the Council of Professors.

In the framework of the doctoral studies programme in "European and Contract Law", the Department of Legal Sciences, in compliance with article 45 of the Regulation has signed cooperation agreements with different institutions, which enable the exchange of experiences and practical studies in this institution. The most important agreements include that with University of Palermo, with two professors engaged as visiting lecturers in the teaching of the doctoral program in question, with "Corvinus University" of Budapest, with the University of Tirana as well as banking institutions. From university meetings it turned out that although PhD students were offered to go to the University of Palermo, for personal reasons they did not go. It is recommended that the cooperation be expanded including Albanian academic staff and students.

According to article 46 of the Regulation of the doctoral studies programme "European and Contract Law", every three years will be conducted the internal evaluation, while the accreditation is required in line with the deadlines set by law. There is no evidence for other internal evaluations, except for those related to the accreditation process. Regarding the internal evaluation report of the accreditation process, it is approved with the decision no. 187/2prot, dated 20.03.2018 of the Council of the Professors.

Conclusions of EEG:

- The Programme of the doctoral studies in "European and Contract Law" is a new programme, licensed in 2013.
- The Mission and its objectives are in line with those of the AU.
- Due to new registrations suspension from the Ministry of Education, and Sciences, currently the programme has not continued to have registrations. This programme has been reorganised from AU in line with the law no.80/2015 and forwarded for approval to the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports.

- The number of the enrolled students is in line with the regulation of the studies programme.
- Measures are taken to terminate the studies for 2 students that have not showed interest to continue the studies.
- In the framework of this programme, the AU and the Department of Legal Sciences are engaged in the signing of cooperation agreements, allowing exchange of experience and development of practical studies in these institutions, but they are partially implemented, as it does not result that the academic staff or the students (although the latter were offered) have practiced in other Universities with whom there is cooperation.
- Regarding the internal evaluation, measures shall be taken in order for the evaluation to be conducted every 3 years, according to the provisions of the Regulation, and shall be approved from the Professors Council, while the internal evaluation report for this reaccreditation process is approved by the Professors Council.

2. Academic Organisation chart of the Doctoral School

Description part

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

As emphasized above, the Regulation of the Doctoral Study Programme “European and Contract Law”, in article 6 provides that this program is offered by the Department of Juridical Sciences near Albanian University. It is chaired from the Council of Professors, which elects a Coordinator of the doctoral studies (member of academic personnel) part of the Department.

As regards the organization and leadership of the doctoral studies programme, those are provided in article 10 and following of the abovementioned Regulation. Concretely, the leading bodies of the doctoral studies are the Council of professors, the theses supervisor, the department of juridical sciences, and doctorate coordinator. Those supervise the entire academic and administrative activity of the third cycle of the studies and made decisions on important issues. The academic staff, supporting staff, and the commissions that are established as needed (Article 10) are subordinate to these leading bodies.

Measurable indicators:

Organizational structure (chart)

The organisational structure of the doctoral programme is:

- The Council of the professors (article 11 of the Regulation)
- Thesis supervisor (article 12 of the Regulation)
- Department of Juridical Sciences (article 13 of the Regulation)
- Coordinator of the doctorate (article 14 of the Regulation)
- Administrative staff

Bodies selected/nominated at all levels

- The Council of the Professors, according to article 11 of the Regulation of doctoral studies, is established in line with the law. It is foreseen by article 19 of the law no. 9741/2007. From the documentation submitted by the institution, it results that the Council of the Professors is determined through a decision of the Academic Senate. The composition of the last Council is determined through the decision no. 48, no. 937/1 Prot., dated 28.09.2018 of the Academic Senate.

According to the first decision on accreditation of this study programme *"The Council of Professors does not meet the qualification requirements of its members: some of its members bearing the title "Prof Assoc," are not yet documented to be in the process of gaining the "Prof." title. It can be observed a degree of instability in the composition of this Council, due to the constant changes of its members and non-fulfillment of the vacant seats"*.

This situation has been improved, as from decision no.48, no. 937/1 Prot., dated 28.09.2018 of the Academic Senate, the Council of Professors is composed of 7 members, all bearing the "Prof. Dr." title. There have not been observed any further changes in the composition of the Council of Professors or any non-fulfilled vacancies.

- The Thesis Supervisor, who according to article 12 of the above Regulation, is determined by the Council of the Professors. Regarding the thesis supervisors of the 3 students of the doctoral studies in "European and Contract Law" with the decision no. 313/1, dated 05.05.2014 of the Council of the Professors are approved the 3 thesis supervisors of the Doctorate students and the respective doctoral thesis. The thesis supervisors include an effective pedagogue, a part-time and a contracted one for diploma leading. From the 3 thesis supervisors, 2 hold the scientific grade Prof. Dr. and 1 has the grade Prof. Assoc. Dr. These grades are in compliance with article 12/3 of the Regulation. The duties of the thesis supervisor are foreseen in article 12/4 of the Regulation and in the employment contract. During the meeting with the academic personnel of the institution was present one of the thesis supervisors, who explained the support offered to the students on structuring the dissertation, fact that was confirmed also in the meeting with doctorate students.
- Department of Juridical Sciences (article 13 of the Regulation) has as its main goal the preparation and proposal of the teaching plan and the organisation structure of the studies programme, further examined by the Council of the Faculty of Social Sciences, coordinates with the Council of the professors and the Doctorate Coordinator, as well as with the Thesis Supervisors during the second and the third year for an optimal progress of the doctoral studies. With the letter no. 304 prot, dated 23.04.2014 of the Department of Juridical Sciences is proposed the approval of the titles and of the supervisors of the doctoral thesis for each of 3 students.
- The Coordinator of the Doctorate (article 14 of the Regulation) is elected from the Council of the Professors and is a member of the academic personnel he/she is elected through the decision
- Administrative staff right and duties are determined in the employment contract.

Hierarchical units, decision- making

Academic Structures of doctoral school

The hierarchy of bodies is not expressively provided in the Regulation of the doctoral studies, but considering their competencies, as mentioned in summarised manner above, the highest decision making body is the Council of the Professors.

According to article 15 of the regulation of the doctoral studies programme "European and Contract Law, the academic personnel is composed of the pedagogues staff that teach in the first year of the doctoral programme. It is composed of full time or part-time pedagogues, who are professors or doctors, as well as the visiting academic personnel, where are included professors, docents and lecturers.

Database of HEI, updating and the responsibility for retaining and sharing information;

During the visit in the institution it resulted that the Department of Juridical Sciences and human resources office kept the files of the students and the pedagogues.

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

The Council of Professors consists of 7 persons, of whom 1 Chair and 6 members. All members of the Council of Professors hold the title of Professor. The Council of Professors composition is determined by a decision of the Academic Senate, and its final composition is assigned by decision no. 48, no. 937/1 prot., dated 28.09.2018 with the sole purpose of completing the process of re-accreditation of the doctoral program.

It is worth mentioning that this body is not provided under the new law on education no. 80/2015, therefore its regulation is based on Law No. 9741/2007. During the meeting with the Council of Professors, all the members were present. They explained where the competencies of this body consisted, which are in detail also set out in Article 11 of the Regulation, and it was explained that even though the Senate made a decision to determine its composition only to the function of the doctoral program, due to the importance of the program, but also the value that the Council itself gives to this program.

Regarding decisions made by the Council of Professors, are Decision no.1, Prot. 59/1, dated 04.03.2013 of the Council of Professors for the approval of the establishment of the application appraisal committee for the selection of candidates for doctoral studies; Decision Prot. No.313/1, dated 05.05.2014 of the Council of Professors for the approval of the PhD's scientific leaders and the respective doctoral theses; Decision Prot. no. 226, dated 01.04.2019 of the Council of Professors regarding the termination of the program for students who have not fulfilled their obligations.

Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution

- Letter no. 304 Prot., dated 23.04.2014 of the Department of Juridical Sciences
- Decision no.1, Prot. 59/1, dated 04.03.2013 of the Council of the Professors
- Decision no. 313/1 Prot, dated 05.05.2014 of the Council of the Professors
- Decision no. 226 Prot, dated 01.04.2019 of the Council of the Professors

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
Standard III.1 - Management and financing tools for doctorate study program	
Criterion 1 Unit that organizes doctorate study program has accredited two first cycles of studies in the field, in which it offers the doctorate study program;	The two first cycles of relevant studies are accredited. The first cycle: Bachelor Programme (Legal Studies) has been accredited with the decision of the Board of Accreditation no. 87/1, dated 20.10.2017; the second Cycle: Master of Sciences in "Legal Sciences" with the decision of the Board of Accreditation no. 49, dated 19.05.2017 and the Professional Master in "Private Law" with the decision no. 24, dated 12.04.2019 and "Criminal Sciences" with the decision no. 25, dated 12.04.2019 (website of ASCAL). The Department of Juridical Sciences, which organises the doctoral studies programme conducts its activities in the Premise
Criterion 2 Unit that organizes the doctorate study program has adequate administrative premises to realize its good functioning;	
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	

<p>are established in doctorate study program regulation;</p> <p>Criterion 5 Board of Professors, which is responsible for organizing and supervising doctorate study program has a sufficient number of members that cover all its issues. Minimum number of professors in PC should be 7 (seven). Board of Professors may be also raised to the level of higher education institution, when its main units do not meet the required number of full-time professors;</p> <p>Criterion 6 Board of Professors of the main unit that organizes and manages the doctorate study program meets periodically throughout the year;</p>	<p>located at “Zogu I Blv” LV and generally has adequate administrative premise to realize its good functioning.</p> <p>In the framework of the studies programme “Doctorate” in “European and Contract Law”, the Department of Juridical Sciences generally has engaged in teaching and leading processes, sufficient academic staff for its progress. Furthermore, in SER but also during the visit it was confirmed that the Department administrative staff, as well that of the institution is engaged in that regard.</p> <p>In article 10 of the Regulation of the doctoral studies programme are determined the leading responsible bodies, which include the Council of the Professors, the thesis supervisor, the department, the doctoral studies coordinator. According to article 10/2 of the regulation these bodies collegially supervise the academic and administrative activity of this cycle of studies.</p> <p>The Council of the professors according to article 6 of the regulation of the doctoral studies is established at the Institution level. Its composition consists of 7 persons, out of whom 1 is the chair and 6 members, all having the professor title.</p> <p>According to SER, the Council of the professors, is periodically convened and thesis evidenced even from the documentation submitted, however in the regulation and from the visit to the institution is cannot be understood how many times in a year it is convened. The activity according to article 11 of the Regulation is in the function of the “Doctorate” studies programme progress.</p>
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- Conclusions of EEG:**
- Department of Juridical Sciences that organizes the doctorate study program has accredited two first cycles of relevant studies;
 - Administrative premises are generally sufficient for the functioning of the doctoral program;
 - The Department of Juridical Sciences, which organizes the doctorate study program, has engaged the academic and administrative staff necessary for its accomplishment.
 - The bodies responsible for conducting the PhD program are the Council of Professors, scientific director, department, doctorate program coordinator;
 - The Council of Professors is instituted at the Institutional level, consisting of 7 professors, of whom 1 the chair and 6 members. Its activity under Article 11 of the Regulation is in line with the progress of doctoral study programs.
 - The Council of Professors meets periodically, but it is specified how many times a year it meets.

3. Quality of Academic and administrative (support) staff

Description part

Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG should analyze and evaluate the: dates for qualifications of academic staff. FAS/PAS/AE rate, Academic Staff/student rate; work load for FAS, PAS and AE; staff recruitment criteria; Contracts, data base for human resource; etc.

According to article 15 of the Regulation of the doctoral studies programme in European and Contract Law” the academic personnel is composed of the staff of professors/pedagogues that teach at the first year of the doctoral studies. It is composed of fulltime or part time lecturers, who are professors or doctors, as well as of the visiting academic personnel where are included the professors, docents in law and lectors. Their rights and duties are determined in the employment contract and in the general regulation of AU. More in details, the article 15/4 of the above mentioned Regulation determines the rights of the academic personnel and article 15/5 their duties. Other more detailed rules are provided in the employment contract. The activities of the academic staff are supported by the administrative staff.

According to SER, but also as explained during the visit in the institution with the academic staff, the latter offers a teaching service and scientific research according to the University requirements and standards. The academic personnel may be engaged in other duties of administrative nature, in support of the University needs. The administrative staff is composed of one person.

From these data, given that the ratio of effective pedagogues with those contracted is 4:5, as of year 2013/2014 the criterion of having 60% internal academic staff has not met. In view of the fact that the first year of doctoral studies has already taken place, the institution could no longer change anything in this regard.

While related to the student's ratio, considering that there are 3 students currently studying, the academic staff is sufficient for the progress of the doctoral studies.

On the 3 scientific mentors of doctorate students approved by the Council of the Professors, as emphasized above, they are one effective pedagogue, one part –time and one contracted for leading a diploma and 2 have the scientific grade Prof. Dr. and 1 has the grade Prof. Assoc. Dr. (in compliance with article 12/3 of the Regulation). Meetings of the mentors with doctorate students, as will be explained in the following chapters, are evidenced from the Progress report of the doctoral meeting, which describes the students progress and the tasks to be submitted in the next meeting.

Measurable indicators:

Number of academic staff (Table 1)

The internal Academic Personnel has been composed of 4 persons, out of whom 2 hold the Prof. Assoc. Dr title, and 2 others Dr. E.U. title, as specified in the table 1. The part-time academic personnel is composed of 5 persons, out of whom 2 are internationals, and 4 hold the Prof. Dr title, and 1 with Prof. Assoc title. The administrative staff is composed of one person with MSC title.

- Number of professors 0 FAS / 4 PAS
- Number of associated professors 2 FAS / 1 PAS
- Number of doctoral degree holders (or PhD) 2 FAS
- Number of assistants 1 AS
- Number of administrative and support staff (lab assistants, technicians, administrative staff etc)

Full-time /Part time Academic Staff (Table 3)

As regards the first year of doctoral studies 2013-2014, the Academic Personnel was composed of 4 professors, the Deputy Rector, the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, the Head of the Department of Political and Administrative Sciences, Head of Department of Juridical Sciences, out of whom 2 hold the title Prof. Assoc. Dr and 2 others the title Dr. E.U., as specified in table 3. Regarding the part time academic staff, it is composed of 5 professors, out of whom 2 are internationals, and 4 hold the title Prof. Dr and 1 with title Prof. Assoc.

Qualification data and reports between them (Table 4)

The ratio between the effective professors and those part times (from whom two are internationals based on the cooperation agreement with University of Palermo) is 0:4.

The ratio between the effective Associate Professors and those part-time is 2:1, while for Doctor Degree or PhD degree (at European Universities) the ratio is 2:0.

From these data, the entire staff holding the professor title is part time, while for those holding the grade Associate Professors, the effective personnel prevails. The same phenomena exist for the Doctor Degree or PhD degree (at European Universities).

Data by age (Table 5)

According to SER, based in the law no. 80/2015 "On the High Education and Scientific Research in the Higher Education Institutions in the Republic of Albania" and as per the Labour Code:

- The contracts of the full time academics staff for all categories professors/ lectors/ assistant-lectors are with undetermined time limit,
- The contracts for the part time academic staff for categories professors and lectors are with undetermined time limit, while for the category of assistant lector are with a determined timeline.

Contracts/Regulations/relations with the Institution.

The pedagogues engaged in leading/mentoring the doctoral thesis have specific contracts, which regulate their relations with the Institution.

However, it shall be emphasized that in the AU Statute, as well as in the Regulation of the Doctoral Studies there are no data on the admission/selection criteria of the academic staff, herefore it is recommended that this situation be addressed, as despite the fact that this reaccreditation process is related only to the doctoral programme started in 2013/2014, the students are still in the phase of completion and submission of the final dissertation, and shall follow all the phases provided by the programme Regulation up to the finalisation of the studies and the presentation of the dissertation. During these ongoing phases the role of the academic staff is important.

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
Standard I.1 - General framework	
<p>Criterion 6 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;</p>	<p>In the curriculum of the programme of doctoral studies "European and Contract Law", from the above data, the academic staff meets the titles criteria required to hold, and it guarantees the realisation of the programme in relation to the number of students.</p> <p>On the other hand, given that the ratio between effective pedagogues with those contracted is 4:5, as of 2013/2014 the criteria that 60% of them be full time academic staf, is not meet.</p>
Standard II.1 - Capacities for scientific research	
<p>Criterion 2 The institution that offers programs of study of third cycle (doctorate), has sufficient</p>	<p>The AU Department of Juridical Sciences, which organises the doctoral programme, together with the staff of this</p>

academic staff with scientific titles and degrees;

Criterion 3 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;

programme, in general has a sufficient number of academics personnel.

Concretely, according to SER, the engaged staff for academic year 2018-2019, includes 11 FAS (6 Dr., 2 Drnt. and 2 MSC) and 22 PAS (4 Prof. Dr., 3 Prof. Assoc. Dr., 8 Dr., and 2 MSC).

Generally the institution has sufficient administrative and scientific structures and administrative staff for the progress of the doctoral program it offers. It does not result that the institution has any cooperation agreement for joint doctoral studies programmes with other institutions.

Conclusions of EEG:

- The engaged academic staff has the required titles and scientific grades and is experienced in the field of scientific research;
- The criterion that 60% of the academic staff shall be effective, for the first year of doctoral studies has not met, as out of 9 engaged pedagogues, 4 were effective and 5 with contract, but the institution could no longer change anything in this regard.
- The structures and the administrative staff are sufficient for the functioning of the doctoral programme.

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

Description part

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

Doctoral studies program organized by the Department of Juridical Sciences is carried out at the AU building, in Bldv. "Zogu I".

To the studies programs is made available a building adjusted for the University with auditoriums, classrooms and laboratories according to the different fields provided. In addition, there are also the offices for the Rector, the Dean, IQAS, human resources, secretary, cafeteria and restaurant, which were visited during the meetings held in the institution.

The classrooms are equipped with the necessary infrastructure and technological tools: such as computers, video projectors etc., in order to guarantee the appropriate progress of the teaching process.

The library of the faculty is open every day from Monday to Friday, 08:00 – 16:00, and Saturday from 08:00 – 12:00. The library has desks and computers which might be used by the students. The library has 172 book titles in the field of Juridical Sciences and some others in the field of European Law, whereas the online library has access to the www.questia.com database. As it has been explained during our visit to the institution, this database can also be accessed by the students who have been provided with the necessary data.

According to the first decision on accreditation of this study programme "The institution provides insufficient researching capacity for students. Students' access to the European and international academic

literature (considering the specifics of this study program titled "European Law and Contracts") is very limited, while accessible e-library titles are not at the level of this study program."

The situation continues to be the same. The number of library titles has not changed and most of them are related to domestic law. Very few titles are related to the European law. More academic literature about European law has been quite necessary, taking into consideration even the titles of doctorate students' thesis³ (according to the letter of 23.04.2014, no.304 Prot.). Moreover, taking into account that all the 3 students have now finished their thesis, it is recommended that enriching the library with new titles becomes a priority issue during the reorganization process of this study programme.

Measurable indicators:

The facilities, infrastructure and logistics for doctoral school (Table 6)

Based on these data (Table 6), it could be reached the conclusion that there do exist the necessary infrastructural and logistical conditions, as well as other necessary services for the doctoral students, whereas the library creates the basic conditions to perform their study and research tasks. However, it is recommended that for the third cycle of studies the library be enriched with specific literature in this field.

Analyze and evaluate other logistics database, as:

- number of PC per doctoral students;
- number of PC furnished labs per students;
- number of PC for academic staff
- number of PC for administration
- number of printers for each one
- number of photocopying machines for each one
- number of head projectors
- number of video-projectors
- number of scanners

SER does not result to have the accurate and concrete data as they have been requested, but from the visit on site, as it has been previously mentioned, it was identified that the infrastructure, material resources, logistics and other services, information technology (IT), libraries, other services for students (cafeteria/restaurant) are in a considerable number to guarantee satisfactory spaces/conditions, taking into consideration the number of doctoral students (3 students).

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
Standard II.2 - Didactic basis and technical support	
<p>Criterion 1 Students admitted in the third cycle study program have necessary conditions to realize the study program with academic and research character;</p> <p>Criterion 2 Doctorate studies program provides harmonization of student's goals in scientific-</p>	<p>The Department of Juridical Sciences and the institution as well have made available to the students of doctoral studies program "European and Contract Law" the necessary infrastructure for the appropriate progress of their studies and scientific research.</p>

³ Elona Hoxha: Employment contracts in Albania in the framework of EU legislation, doctrines and case law.
 Kostika Cobanaqi: Financial Leasing Contracts – Albanian legislation and situation in the path of European integration.

Teuta Beka: Building contracts according to Kosovo legislation and its conformity with European Union law

<p>research field, approved research projects and, at its conclusion, even the possibility of academic career and employment;</p> <p>Criterion 3 A scientific library with publications in hardcopy and electronic form and complete IT infrastructure available to of third cycle study program;</p> <p>Criterion 4 Students have sufficient technical support for scientific research development;</p> <p>Criterion 5 Researches that include laboratory researches are supported by sufficient scientific laboratory basis.</p>	<p>The in-depth studies of the first year of doctoral program, the required articles for preparing and writing the dissertation, as well as the commitment for elaborating the doctoral thesis, create the profile of a doctoral student capable of being engaged in this working profile and the teaching process as well. This has also been stipulated in the Strategy of doctoral studies program.</p> <p>The <i>hardcopy</i> literature and the electronic form <i>online</i> enable the absorption of knowledge even in the field of Juridical Sciences. However, the level of library should be more advanced for the third cycle of studies. IT infrastructure is appropriate for doctoral students. Students have the full support of the Department of Juridical Sciences for their scientific research activities.</p> <p>In the field of Juridical Sciences there is no need for laboratory researches.</p>
<p><u>Conclusions of IEG:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The institution provides the necessary infrastructure for the appropriate progress of scientific research activities needed by the doctoral students and the Department of Juridical Sciences supports their work. • The studies enable students to be engaged in this working profile and the teaching process as well. • The library provides the basic level for scientific researches and its enrichment is strongly recommended in order to offer the sufficient titles for the scientific researches necessary for the third cycle of studies. 	

5. Financing and management of financial resources

Descriptions part

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

Based on the SER's data, but also from the explanations given during the visit on site, the financial resources of doctoral study program and of the University itself as well generally come from the tuition fees. Even though the SER has specified that resources come from "other commercial activities mentioned in the table below", the table does not result to contain any other incomes apart from tuition fees. These incomes for the academic year 2013-2014 have been bigger as compared to the other two years, because students have no longer attended the studies after the first year. The tuition fee for the study program in question is 3.000,00 Euros per year, for each academic year.

According to SER, at the University level there is a unit which deals with the management of financial resources and their auditing. Also, according to the same source (SER), the institution has a financial report for each budget year (for all the previous years) compiled and certified by an external expert, who has detailed data on the incomes from tuition fees, wages, health insurance, social security, personal income tax, operating costs etc. This has also been stated by the Strategy of the doctoral study program (pg. 5 of the Strategy), but there is no concrete document filed by the institution in this regard.

Being referred to the Statute of the Institution, the Administrative Board is the highest decision-making authority dealing with its financial activity (article 10), whereas the Administrator is the responsible organ for the implementation of the budget of the institution (article 3). Article 21 of the statute has foreseen the financial department, but has not defined its competences.

During the visit to the institution it resulted that the annual operating costs differ from one study program to another, due to the specific characteristics that each of them has. Also, being referred to the financial resources of the institution, approximately 1/3 of these income resources are spent for the object rent and other services related to it (maintenance, cleaning, heating, cooling etc.). The remaining part of the income resources are spent for the wages and social security of internal and external employees, as well as for the covering of costs related to the advertising, internet services, equipment and apparatuses, consuming materials and state obligations.

The incomes and financing of the institution are registered, detailed and audited on the basis of a unique identification number (NIPT) issued by QKR (National Business Center). On the basis of incomes gained by the doctoral study program, it can be reached the conclusion that they are sufficient for the teaching process, while they are not sufficient for the scientific research of students and their mobility (but, as stated above, this doctoral study program hasn't had any students' mobility). The strategy of doctoral study program has foreseen that AU will be working to ensure funds from engagement of academic staff and candidates of doctoral study program in different projects, with national and international character (pg.5 of the strategy), but until now such type of financing has not been realized.

According to the first decision on accreditation of this study programme *“Opportunities for conducting scientific projects and conferences are limited, due to the lack of other national or international financial resources, besides the incomes deriving from the student fees, especially when the institution does not use other resources in support of this study programme”*

As per above this situation still persist. In spite of the fact that we have to do with a new study program, which was affected by legislation that suspended the new registrations, what, on the one hand, justifies the lack of financing from other sources rather than those of tuition fees, and on the other hand, taking into consideration the fact that AU has again applied for the approval of a new doctoral study program in accordance with the legislation in vigor, the institution should take concrete measures for increasing the financing, in order to offer to the students of doctoral study program the possibility of effective mobility or to attend international conferences

Measurable indicators:

Financial resources, data over the three years (Table 7)

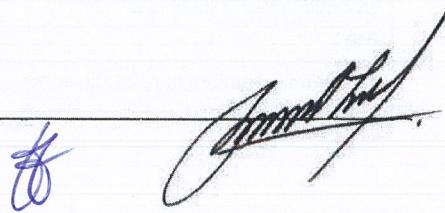
From the Table 7 it can be clearly identified that the costs of scientific researches for all the doctoral students, or their mobility, cannot be covered only by the incomes coming from tuition fees

Evaluate the Costs for students and their mobility costs;

Costs are related to the wages fond, contributions for social security and health insurance, teaching and research expenses. There is no mobility of students.

Transparency and internal financial control, audit and outcomes;

According to SER, the internal auditing is done by an accounting expert, who compiles the report of the accounting expert and performs the auditing of the company, but the institution has not filed any concrete data (reports).



Financial management capacity;

As it has been previously mentioned, the Administrative Board is the highest collegial administrative organ, which ensures the fulfillment of the mission assigned to the Institution of High Education, its progressive financial and administrative activity.

The general administrator is the highest administrative authority responsible for the financial well-functioning of AU.

With the view to fulfill the needs of scientific-educational units, the fiscal and legal obligations of the University as a non-public institution, AU has also the Offices of Finance and Internal Auditing.

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
Standard I.1 - General framework	
<p>Criterion 5 Doctorate study program is supported by a sufficient budget for research;</p>	<p>It does not result that the doctoral study program has a separate budget for the support of candidates in their researching tasks or their participation in national or international conferences, etc. Taking into consideration the fact that the financial resources come only from tuition fees, as well as the small number of doctoral students, it can be said that they are not sufficient to cover the costs for participation in international conferences and the mobility of students. It is recommended that institution takes concrete measures for ensuring other stable financial sources.</p>
Standard II.1 - Capacities for scientific research	
<p>Criterion 8 External funding received for scientific research is indicative of high level research activity and they are administered for the progress of relevant study program.</p>	<p>During this study program, the institution has not gained any external funding. Even though the strategy of doctoral study program has stipulated the ensuring of external funding, this has goal has not yet been achieved. One of the reasons for this situation is that it is a relatively new program that has not continued. Apart from these factors, it is recommended the ensuring of external funding.</p>
Standard III.1 - Management and financing tools for doctorate study program	
<p>Criterion 7 Financial budget of doctorate study program is sufficient to achieve research objectives for each doctorate student;</p> <p>Criterion 8 Financial budget distribution structure of doctorate study program matches with scientific research policy and needs.</p>	<p>The setting of respective tuition fee for attending the doctoral study program is calculated taking into consideration the covering of costs. With regard to this, it can be said that at least the needs for scientific research can be covered. But, it should be understood that the greatest part of this tuition fee goes for covering the costs of payments of first year professors of theoretical studies.</p> <p>The criteria for distribution of funds in accordance with the politics and needs of scientific research of the study program have not been established. It is recommended to be done in the future.</p>
Standard III.3 - Financing of doctorate study program	
<p>Criterion 1 Number of research works funded by the ministry;</p> <p>Criterion 2 Distribution of funds to host and supervision teams of scientific research works is done in a balanced way;</p> <p>Criterion 3 Number of research works</p>	<p>With regard to this standard, it could be emphasized that there is no research work funded by the Ministry of Education in the framework of national or international researching projects.</p> <p>According to SER, the professor of doctoral study programs is paid per teaching hour/units, as well as for the student guidance in preparing the scientific paper in line with the instruction of the Ministry of Education.</p>

<p>funded under national research projects, benefited by scientific supervisors of doctorate students for this study program;</p> <p>Criterion 4 Number of research works funded under international research projects benefited by scientific supervisors of doctorate students for this study program;</p>	<p>Sports and Youth.</p>
<p><u>Conclusions of EEG:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It does not result that that the doctoral study program “European and Contract Law” has a well-defined part of the budget institution that goes for the support of candidates in their scientific research work, participation in national and international conferences etc. The only source for that are the students’ tuition fees. • Tuition fee of this study program covers the costs of teaching professors and, considering that there are no more theoretical studies after the first year, it can be said that it might also cover a part of the costs for scientific research tasks of students. But, it is strongly recommended that other stable financing sources must be ensured in order to cover the costs for participation of students in international conferences and their mobility. • During the doctoral study program, the institution has not gained any external funding and there has not been any research work in the framework of national and international researching projects. 	

6. Internal Quality Assurance System (IQAS)

Description part

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

During the visit we met different people from the curricula office. They are responsible to control the programmes and how good they are working.

Referring to the report there are different methods and steps to analyze and evaluate the surveys. The IQAU drafts the standard evaluation and there are also electronic anonymous surveys with doctoral students. After getting the results of the survey, they should be forwarded to the respective Department and they have to write a report and send it to the Faculty. There they have the possibility to talk about it in the Senate of the University.

But here could be a problem, because the evaluations could leave the office of the IQAU. Moreover, it is clear that the situation and program could and should be improved.

All in all, there is the problem that the access to the reports. So, we cannot have a complete overview about the good and bad sides. But it is clear that the IQAU tries to improve their system.

One point should be focused, that it is important to clarify the standard they want to hold and achieve.

Measurable indicators:

The quantitative data for IQAU, as:

- How many surveys are made with students?
- How many students were surveyed?
- How many surveys are processed, and what problems are issued?
- Which have been the next steps?

The program is very specified and that's why there is such a low number of students, the IQAU has a main role in the PhD program.

Based on the Academic Senate Decisions there were some meetings to coordinate and analyze the program. Some of the results have been addressed to the doctoral students, mentors and the Professors.

At this moment there are three students. Through this low number, it is not possible to get a survey or some exact statistics. The only option is the contact to the persons.

Analyze and evaluate the analyses for *Internal quality control*, as:

- o Responsibilities in monitoring and quality management, until the department level
- o Self assessments conducted, and their results
- o Quality improvement policies, on the basis of periodic self-assessment
- o The results of the audit and preview external assessment
- o Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution

It should be mentioned that the Albanian University has conducted for the first time a questionnaire for the staff to create the right circumstances.

To achieve the best results, there is a cooperation of the AU and the IQAU with the students, by having a lot of information for them on the accreditation process and on responsibilities.

7. Study program, its organization

Description part

Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG should analyze and evaluate the: Title of Diploma (in Albanian and English), mission and objectives of the research program, the organization of the first year in doctorate school, the curriculum content of all its elements (subjects modules, corresponding credits, sharing teaching hours per study forms, classes in outside of auditorium under the forms of teaching), literature and other auxiliary materials, etc.

The Doctoral programme "The European Contract Law" is a programme for three years and at the end there is a decision of the Council of Professors (Art. 28 of the DSP Regulation). At the beginning of the program it starts very theoretical with achieving 60 EC (1500 teaching hours). The second and third year is about the conceptualization, research and writing the doctoral thesis. So, it means a good of science work.

However, to say "European and contract law" is not the right one to name it. By starting at the interpretation of the language it is clear that the programme is connected to the European and contract national law. So in this sense it is not right because the European law includes more than just the contract law. And this was in every meeting an important topic for us. It looks like that the idea was to think more in the way of European law and it should be a focus on "European contract law". This is also indicated by the lessons and the syllabi. So it would be a progress if they would overwork their programme and to think about the possibility to rename it.

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 (Table 8)**

The data of program are:

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

The academic plan of the doctoral studies has a good structure to prepare the students for their dissertation. From the first lessons to the end it is in this way organized, that it could help to achieve the goal.

The first academic year (*which has been concluded before this evaluation process*) consists in teaching 8 Subjects in two semesters: **Methods of scientific research in social sciences (7 ECTS)**, **European Contract Law (9 ECTS)**, **International Commercial Law (8 ECTS)**, **Contracting techniques and Alternatives ways dispute resolution (6 ECTS)**, **Banking and Financial contracts (6 ECTS)**, **Contracts and competition (6 ECTS)**, **Insurance contracts (6 ECTS)**, **Employment contracts (6 ECTS)** and **Consumer contracts (6 ECTS)**.

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

The current evaluation of the Curriculum Plan of program is difficult because EEG is conducting a retrospective evaluation and hasn't changed much from the initial application.

Also the academic staff, according to their *curriculum vitae* it is organised in the way that everyone should be responsible for the field, which he/she is specialized for.

- Analyses and evaluation of the syllabuses for each subject, with all the elements**

By evaluating the **the syllabuses of** program it is difficult as EEG is conducting a retrospective evaluation and there are not so many changes from the initial application of the syllabuse except that program has continued to be implemented with major comments remaining valid from previous evaluation.

- Analyses and evaluation of the procedures followed for the research project, proposed by candidates**

The candidates have to bring a lot of interest in the field of research. Through the last years they have more and more options how to achieve the necessary knowledge.

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

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

- Other

The second year of PhD has a lot of work for the students. A big part of the work is in the research center to develop their knowledge. During this time they pass a lot of time in the public entity and to learn the structure of the work.

☑ Analyses and evaluation of third year of PhD: Research/creation/data processing /publication of articles /presentations to international conferences

- Data for publications / references of students;
- Data for Magazines, publishing entities where these articles are published

During the third year they have publications in different papers. This is very important for their research experience.

☑ Analyses and evaluation of the doctoral thesis and its presentation

Until now there is 2 doctoral thesis written by the students. This process is in progress and the presentation should be after finishing it, because two of three of them did not present the dissertation although it is written.

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards/ criterions
Standard I.4 - Design and realization of theoretical course of third cycle studies (Doctorate)	
<p>Criterion 1 Programs of third cycle studies include 60 credits for theoretical organized studies;</p> <p>Criterion 2 Theoretical organized studies anticipate balanced ratio of classes for academic and scientific general and specific training;</p> <p>Criterion 3 Detailed teaching program is approved pursuant to bylaws in force;</p> <p>Criterion 4 Theoretical doctorate course is evaluated with a general theoretical examination in relevant field of study, organized by Dean's office and Professors' Council, with a commission consisting of 5 (five) professors in the relevant research field or approximate to it. Candidates who achieve over 80% points are allowed to attend the doctorate research studies. Those who do not reach this result receive a certificate for conducted modules, together with accumulated credits and interrupt doctorate studies.</p>	<p>The students have to complete the first year by achieving 60 EC. In this time, they get knowledge especially in the European contract law. This is very important for the research work after.</p> <p>To pass the theoretical part they have to achieve 80 % of the points in the general exam.</p> <p>The students have passed with success the first theoretical part.</p> <p><u>The following statements have to take into account:</u></p> <p>a) the courses should be practice oriented, so that the students can forward the theory to the practice</p> <p>b) a lot of the literature is outdated</p> <p>c) the scheme for the assessment should have more to aspects to be more specific</p> <p>d) the teaching person must have the right knowledge and experience in their CV</p>
Standard II.3 - Drafting and approval of proposed research project	
<p>Criterion 1 Applicant who requires to be admitted to doctorate studies program has submitted the request for a particular research area and this has been discussed with him in the interview;</p> <p>Criterion 2 Scope of research is selected in such a way that doctorate studies program can support it;</p>	<p>The students must have a research proposal for their doctoral thesis. After the first year, the Council of Professors has approved the topics.</p> <p>The doctoral students have to present their research in different conferences, Article 36 of the DSP Regulation.</p>

<p>Criterion 3 Proposal is approved by Professors' Council if criteria prescribed and announced in regulation of doctorate studies are met.</p> <p>The following should be also confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Duration of study program; b) Modalities of verification of research or creative activity of doctorate students; c) Manner of final presentation of scientific research result that doctorate student will achieve; <p>Criterion 4 A member of academic staff with the title "Professor", "Associate Professor" or with scientific degree "Doctor" or ("PhD") awarded in the scientific field in which doctorate student follows the studies in universities known in the world, for quality and rich researching and publishing activities in the relevant field, is appointed by Board of Professors to supervise and support student's research work;</p> <p>Criterion 5 Doctorate student presents to Board of Professors the research development plan, designed by him and discussed with his supervisor;</p> <p>Criterion 6 Supervisor has advised repeatedly the students that he supervises for didactic duties and research activities as well as research methodology to ensure the progress of his studies in this program.</p>	<p>The Council of Professors reviews the plan.</p> <p>During our visit we had the chance to learn something about the progress of the dissertation. Three of them finished until now all the parts that they should have worked, but not the dissertation. But all of them are in the period of writing it.</p> <p>Another point was that we had the possibility to see the progress of another student.</p> <p>By summing all the points we saw that the candidates are in an advanced level by writing the topic of their dissertation.</p>
Standard II.1 - Capacities for scientific research	
<p>Criterion 1 A third cycle study program (doctorate) is integrated in research activity of Higher Education Institutions;</p>	<p>We see a lot of work but there are also some parts that were not at this point as they should be.</p> <p>During their studies the students learned how to make research work. So it is a very important part of it.</p>
Standard II.4 - Doctorate student's supervision and continuous evaluation of progress of doctorate studies	
<p>Criterion 1 Scientific supervisor of student is responsible for directing, advising, assessment of student's needs and for developing and monitoring progress of student's research work. He has the academic title "Professor", "Associate Professor" or the scientific degree "Doctor" or ("PhD") awarded in Western universities and has a rich research and publishing activity;</p> <p>Criterion 2 All scientific supervisors have had the expertise, instruction and proper guidance for their role in realization of scientific research project of doctorate students;</p> <p>Criterion 3 Scientific supervisors work to update their knowledge and skills, based on institutional arrangements in order to enable the exchange of best practices and providing advice to support students effectively;</p> <p>Criterion 4 Board of Professors selects scientific supervisors, capable to supervise doctorate students' research work, based on assessment of their publishing and research activities inside and outside the country;</p> <p>Criterion 5 The main scientific supervisor and the other supervisor (when program of doctorate studies is offered by more than one university) guarantee that doctorate students</p>	<p>The supervisors have to care about the students and their thesis, especially they have meetings and talk about their work. The supervisors are called as "Associate Professor" or "Professor". Normally they are good in their research fields but there are also some exceptions.</p> <p>By having the possibility to talk with the professors, we discussed about the importance of the internet, but there was no right answer.</p> <p>Furthermore, the progress is assessed, so they can have an overview about the important part. All in all, there were five doctoral days.</p> <p>To achieve more and more success for the students, the Committee has experts from and outside the Department.</p> <p>By having a lot of students, it is important to achieve a progress.</p> <p>Every student has a lot of contact persons but they know</p>

receive sufficient support and guidance to facilitate their work to achieve success;

Criterion 6 In all cases, the student must have only one identified contact point, who should be his main supervisor. If his main supervisor is not available, the student must know who will be the person to replace him;

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.

one person, which they can talk about everything.

Every supervisor has the possibility to find the time to talk to the students.

The relationship between the student and the supervisor is good. By having every time the possibility to get some help.

The procedures are very specific and clarified. So it is simple for the students.

During the process the student and the supervisor are very present and work in common on it.

The students get often an evaluation about their work. So they can see their work.

Every meeting between the students and the supervisor are documented. So they can see how often they met and what they have talked about.

Conclusions of IEG:

- The DSP fulfills the criteria of different aspects. It is a programme for three years and after they finish the part of the theory, the students have 60 ECTS.
- In this time, they get a lot of knowledge in the field of European Contract Law. This is important for their research work.
- Following the syllabi, the students get a good overview about important aspects.
- Furthermore, there are some aspects are implemented to the system:
 - o the theory and practice should be combined - the literature must be new - a clear and specific assessment scheme is important
 - o the courses were hold by the staff, which has special knowledge for this field
 - o There are only three students and with enough staff and a good organization of work, it could be possible that they achieve it to write a good dissertation in this time. Also for those who finished the dissertation it is a good help for their presentation.
 - o The name "European and contract law" was not the right choice.

8. Teaching – Learning outcome (in first year)

Description part

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

The first year is determined by lectures, seminars and mid-term and final-tests. Through the good aspect that there are not so much students, they have the possibility of having interactive sessions. Students get a feedback at the end which is based on the evaluation forms of the IQAU. The assessment during the theory part includes mid-term tests and a final exam.

Measurable indicators:

- Analyses and evaluation of the student's workload, forms of teaching (Table 10)**

Forms of teaching	Class hours for
Lecture	420
Seminars	147
Laboratories	25
Practice for subjects	8
Professional practice	-
Total	600

At the Department's secretary, checking the Registry and saw that all class hours were completed.

The students' workload is a lot but for achieving one credit it is suitable. Also the number of the lectures and seminars were enough.

- Analyses and evaluation of the policies for Learning Outcomes control (Table 11)**

The learning outcomes according the syllabi are:

Table 11

Learning Outcomes control	in %
Active participation in lectures, seminars, etc.	10%-20%
Implementation of obligations (laboratory course tasks, essays)	
Intermediate tests	20%-40%
Final exam	40%-60%
In total	100%

To achieve all the credits, the students finished different exercises, but it is a good combination of learning the new things and to test those in the exams.

- Analyses and evaluation of the student's participation in the research activities of the University/ Faculty/ etc. (Table 12)**

For every teacher it is important and really hard to get the attention of the students. But during our visit we saw that they are really a part of the lessons and have a lot of fun by working and learning.

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
Standard I.2 - Continuous increase of theoretical level and promotion of students' teamwork are targets of a study program of third cycle, doctorate.	
<p>Criterion 1 Level of scientific research development helps in student training to complete the study program successfully;</p> <p>Criterion 2 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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; <p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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; <p>Criterion 4 Students have gained skills for appropriate communication with a scientific level (Student's communication skills include: the competency to write clearly and with an appropriate style, use of persuasive arguments and clear articulation of ideas before the public concerned; the ability to debate and support others, involved in teaching, supervision or demonstrations);</p> <p>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);</p> <p>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).</p>	<p>The students have the possibility to be a part of different research activities.</p> <p>Through the courses in the first year, the students have good methodological skills in research. The other part of the courses is for the knowledge in the theory part the professors expose them the relevant literature.</p> <p>It is important for the students that they have different academic events.</p> <p>So, all in all they get a possibility to achieve good teaching skills; two of them are at the AU and the other ones are engaged as lecturer in other Universities.</p> <p>“Albanian University” offers a good possibility for scientific work, especially it has a good possibility to electronic platforms for scientific papers all over the world. During our visit we looked over this point and we also had the chance to look at those international papers.</p> <p>The students were really a part of the lessons and during our visit we saw that they have had every time the possibility to get help and to work on their weaknesses.</p> <p>Furthermore they have had a lot of courses so everyone had worked in the field, which he wanted to.</p>
Conclusions of EEG:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The DSP has good possibilities for the students to achieve their research skills of doctoral students. - At the end they should be a part of the research agenda or should be part of projects in the field of research at the Universities. 	

- The doctoral studies are scientific and the focus in the specific Parts of the law is effective, especially the studies which are connected with the actual law developments in the field of the European contract law.

9. Doctoral students

Description part

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

All the procedures and academic criteria in this point are as they should. The criteria and admission procedures are announced at least two weeks before at their Website and is published in media bodies.

Five students were registered in the "European Contract Law". Three of them are active in this program. Regarding the 2 other students, given their lack of interest to continue the studies after the first year, through the decision Prot. no. 226, dated 01.04.2019 of the Council of Professors, their studies were terminated.

According to the first decision on accreditation of this study programme "Lack of completed and documented data for students enrolled in this study program, especially for those who no longer attend this program".

With regard to this criterion, during the visit at the institution it has been observed that the situation has been improved. Institution had taken the appropriate measures to complete the files of each student that attended the doctoral study programme with the necessary legal and required documentation.

Another criterion of the first decision on accreditation of this study programme is: "Not all the criteria for students' admission to this study programme have been applied, especially in relation to the minimum level of grades required (1 student) and not all students have a Certificate of Foreign Language". Since the criterion for the minimum level of grades for students who attend the doctoral study programme cannot be changed, whereas with regard to the submission by these students of the foreign language certificate, the situation has been improved. However, it is strongly recommended that in the future institution should take into account the necessity to apply all the criteria required during the process of admission of new students.

The "European Contract Law" programme at the University of Albania is a study program for three years and is run on a full-time basis. The term of the doctoral studies is between three and four years. The defense of the thesis is approved by the Council of Professors is based on arguments and documents.

Following the statistics the "Doctorate" study program in "European and Contract Law" hasn't graduated yet the first doctoral students' generation.

The good part is that the students of the PhD program are continuously informed by the responsible instances about all the activities during their program.

Measurable indicators:

Analyses and evaluation of the statistical data for doctoral students:

Data for doctoral students

- In the last years there were five students a part of the programme (actually there are 3 active doctoral students)

- The students are coming from outside everytime
- Until now there are no graduated students
- Two of five students are not active any more in programme-The students are from different countries and currently there is one student from Kosovo
- Foreign students outside from the Balkan region, from EU countries or other countries are not part of the programme

Analyses and evaluation of the information for the mobility of doctoral students at universities abroad

There is no student that was a part of a mobility programme, until now.

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

Still there are some presentations of the dissertation. So the students have to present their thesis.

Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution

- The Fundamental Register;
- The grades Register;
- Certificate of English language of student K.Ç.

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
Standard I.3 - Admission of students in a doctorate study program	
<p>Criterion 1 The student admitted to doctorate study program has completed second study cycle with average grade (> 80% of points) and was awarded the university degree "Master of Science"/ "Master of Fine Arts" or an equivalent degree, following completion of university studies that include a scientific thesis evaluated with 30-40 ECTS;</p> <p>Criterion 2 Candidate who applies to continue the third cycle program, the doctorate, has profound theoretical knowledge in the relevant field of study. Some basic knowledge that doctorate student has is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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; <p>Criterion 3 The student admitted to doctorate study program is ready to apply in practice the knowledge gained from research in relevant field of studies;</p> <p>Criterion 4 Student owns the English language certified in the international level, at least "C1", based on internationally recognized tests and a second foreign language as French, German, Italian, Spanish or Russian. In social sciences it may be Latin, Ancient Greek, Persian or other languages needed for research in the area;</p> <p>Criterion 5 Professors' Council set the criteria for admission to program of doctorate studies contained in regulation of doctorate program of studies;</p> <p>Criterion 6 The applicant has received detailed information about doctorate</p>	<p>All the students have completed the second cycle studies and have advanced knowledge in the European Contract Law and as we can see they have a lot of interest in the practical part.</p> <p>They have the level C1 in the English language.</p> <p>Through the results it is clear that the students have a good knowledge in the European Contract Law. They achieved this through the discussions and the final exam.</p> <p>Not only the theoretical but also the practical part is very interesting for the students and especially how to implement this knowledge.</p> <p>The core and PhD Coordinator provide a lot of information on the program.</p> <p>At the beginning of the academic year they gained all the important information. Like subjects, syllabi, academic staff and obligations.</p> <p>Especially, the students of the PhD program get</p>

<p>program of study, before being admitted into it. He is fully informed regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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; <p>Criterion 7 Admission criteria include also interviews and supports that can be provided by references and additional documents;</p> <p>Criterion 8 Admission policies include also doctorate admission exam.</p>	<p>a lot of information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - information through the brochures, consultations by the doctoral secretary and by the contract with the annexes - information of their process
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Standard II.5 - Final evaluation of students in this cycle of studies

<p>Criterion 1 Student provides evidence that he has acquired:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Profound knowledge in relevant scientific field; b. Profound knowledge in some areas approximate to it; c. Professional skills in using modern technology to solve critical problems related to his field of scientific research; d. Innovation, to expand and update existing knowledge; e. Autonomy, scientific, professional integrity and dedication for development of new ideas that encourage scientific research; <p>Criterion 2 Student provides evidence that he has brought original scientific products, scientific works of a high scientific level through conducted scientific research, some of which have deserved or deserve publication in scientific national and international magazines;</p> <p>Criterion 3 Final evaluation of doctorate students is based above all on an assessment of their scientific research product;</p> <p>Criterion 4 On the basis of an agreement reached in the phase of the study program approval, scientific research result is presented as a dissertation thesis, or cumulative with 3 scientific articles published in international journals with impact factor coefficient above 1;</p> <p>Criterion 5 In case of doctorate examination with dissertation thesis, doctorate student meets the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. He has realized as first author at least three scientific papers or presentations (poster), of which two papers or presentations are held in a international scientific event, in a western country (symposium, conference, congress), accepted on the basis of a preliminary scientific assessment, published in "Proceedings", indexed with an ISBN code; b. He has published as first author, at least three scientific articles in scientific journals. At least two of the articles have been published or accepted for publication in well-known western journals with editorial board; c. He has prepared and presented to Faculty Board of Professors the dissertation, along with a summary, approved by scientific supervisor. Structure of dissertation and its summary are defined in doctorate study regulation; <p>Criterion 6 Board of Professors defines two or three opponents, one of which is from outside the institution. Opponents are also members of the jury to assess dissertation. They have required academic titles and rich research and publishing activities inside and outside the country in the relevant field of study in which program doctorate studies is offered;</p> <p>Criterion 7 Opponents who have had a substantial involvement in the work of doctorate student, or whose work is the very focus of research project;</p> <p>Criterion 8 A dissertation copy is given to every opponent, giving enough time to read it and to write a separate report. Opponents should not</p>	<p>The report and doctoral day show that the students achieve a high standard.</p> <p>The student had some doctoral days.</p> <p>The defense is not done but the draft dissertations are still to be examined by the mentors.</p> <p>The students work a lot to achieve something good.</p> <p>To get the diploma it is important to be registered in advance in the National Register of Doctorate Academic degrees assessment commission.</p> <p>The following documents are important to achieve the "Doctor" degree:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. They must have at least three scientific referrals or posters and one presentation should be held in an international scientific activity. 2. They must publish, as the first author, at least three scientific articles in scientific journals. <p>At the end of the program this is fulfilled.</p> <p>There is no doctoral studies defense until now.</p> <p>Only the jury votes during the evaluation process of the scientific product. When only one member has some reasons that the students should not pass, then he fails.</p> <p>The important points of plagiarism are determined in the Program Study Regulation.</p> <p>The opponent has to study the thesis and to draft an assessment report and there must be specified the novelty of scientific research, the</p>
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<p>communicate among themselves, with doctorate student or its scientific supervisor during this period. Opponents must verify the authenticity of data used in dissertation, observance of scientific research practice as well citations of scientific research works and articles of other authors.</p> <p>Criterion 9 Opponents express clearly that scientific paper is free of plagiarism. If they notice and find that this has happened, they ask for termination of dissertation assessment;</p> <p>Criterion 10 Dissertation is accompanied by a summary, about 10 pages in English. This review is published in the official website of the institution, in the section designated for information for this study;</p> <p>Criterion 11 Scientific supervisor of the student should not be an opponent;</p> <p>Criterion 12 When opponents have completed their reports, they are called by the Dean and Head of Board of Professors to agree to conduct oral examination;</p> <p>Criterion 13 It is recommended, that a jury member of doctorate examination be from universities known in the world for quality and rich research and publishing activities in the relevant field, which has at least the scientific degree "Doctor" awarded in the scientific field in which doctorate student follows the studies and over 5 years academic and research experience. This criterion may not be applied to Albanology sciences.</p> <p>Assessment of doctorate student in examination is made open by consensus, provided that all members are pronounced for a passing grade. Even if one member has evaluated doctorate student by convincing arguments, with a failing grade, the final outcome will be failing;</p> <p>Criterion 14 Opponents submit to dean of unit that organizes the program of doctorate studies and chairperson of doctorate examination jury a copy of their individual reports;</p> <p>Criterion 15 Dissertation defense for obtaining the diploma for scientific degree "Doctor" is public. It is announced at least 4 weeks before and it is done in the presence of department interested members, students and teachers in the relevant Higher Education Institution;</p> <p>Criterion 16 Evaluations that opponents can make include: granting diploma of scientific degree "Doctor", or resubmission of written scientific research paper after completion of their recommendations, or a further extension of study program, or denial of diploma for scientific degree "Doctor";</p> <p>Criterion 17 A copy of dissertation of student who received a diploma for scientific degree "Doctor" is deposited in library of faculty, research institute, university research centers, university where study program is carried out and scientific paper and a copy in National Library. Scientific degree "Doctor" is not issued without dissertation being deposited in aforementioned institutions, published in paper and on disk (CD) and without making it public in the official website of respective higher education institution;</p> <p>Criterion 18 Scientific degree "Doctor" is not issued without being registered in National Register of Doctorates of Securities Commission Academic Assessment (KVTA) in MES.</p>	<p>importance of this work in the field of research and the methodology of research.</p> <p>This must be written and it is not allowed to be longer than four pages, A4 format. By writing this report, the student can achieve from 0 to 100 points.</p> <p>In the moment of the PhD defense, the institution must notify the parties to respect the procedures.</p> <p>It is important that the supervisors are not opponents and they have to complete the reports, so it is a good basis to work on for the students.</p> <p>Furthermore the staff must be well selected and they must talk about the grade to achieve an agreement.</p> <p>At the end they present their thesis in public and they must get enough time to prepare for this.</p> <p>After finishing all of these things, it must be published and registered in National Register of Doctorates of Securities Commission Academic Assessment.</p> <p>Three of the students finished a lot of the work and so they published some papers.</p> <p>Two other students were in the period of thesis defense, one of him did not present it until this time because of the break of the programme.</p>
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Standard III.2 - Quantitative aspects of doctorate study program

<p>Criterion 1 Total number of registered doctorate students and doctorate number for each year;</p> <p>Criterion 2 Number of registered doctorate students coming from outside the unit that has opened the doctorate study program;</p> <p>Criterion 3 Number of diplomas issued to receive "Doctor" degree for each year;</p> <p>Criterion 4 Average duration of doctorate studies and trend of this indicator;</p> <p>Criterion 5 Number and percentage of those who gave up doctorate studies in the level of study program.</p>	<p>By comparing the numbers of the enrolled students, 2 students interrupted their studies.</p> <p>Until now, there is no student that has completed the "Doctorate" studies.</p> <p>Normally the doctoral studies have duration for four academic years and sometimes even five.</p> <p>The interruption was only for two students.</p>
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Standard III.4 - Internationalization of doctorate study program

<p>Criterion 1 Number, expressed in percentage, of registered doctorate students coming from Kosovo and other areas where Albanians live and Albanian diasporas;</p>	<p>One student enrolled in the “study” program from the Albanian region.</p>
<p>Criterion 2 Number, expressed in percentage, of registered doctorate students coming from Balkans region.</p>	<p>At this moment there are no students from the EU countries of other countries.</p>
<p>Criterion 3 Number, expressed in percentage, of registered doctorate students coming from the EU countries;</p>	<p>But all in all, the number of doctoral students from the region and behind is not so high so</p>
<p>Criterion 4 Number, expressed in percentage, of registered doctorate students coming from other countries of the world;</p>	<p>there must be some changes in the cooperation.</p>
<p><u>Conclusions of IEG:</u></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All the students that are in the program completed the second study cycle. By passing this time they achieve a good of knowledge in the field of European contract law and show that they are interested in the practical implementation. - During this time, they have some doctoral days, but the final dissertation is until now not finished. The drafts must be examined by the mentor and that’s why the students are working on it. By thinking about the fact that this institution has a lot of professors with a high level of knowledge. They also have a good name, national and international. So it is like a guarantee, that the dissertations will have a good scientific and academic level. - They have different possibilities to achieve their credits. For example to publish those things in papers and to have a copy of the dissertation. But there are different problems and they stop the work flow. 	

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH POLICIES

10. Research in doctoral school and involvement of doctoral students

Description part

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

Based on the DSP Regulation, the Council of Professors has to lead the design and implementation of a research strategy. This program includes research and independent creative activity as the basis for the PhD thesis. It should be mentioned that the doctoral program is very important because the first researchers and staff members of the Albanian University are published.

The organization wants to achieve at least three objectives:

- want to get an international level expertise in a particular field and so the University in Albania achieves the knowledge;
- the academic staff should achieve more in the parts of the research;
- to create a community or several research communities.

Doctoral study programme has been part of the research project “A complex approach to sustainable development from an Albanian perspective: challenges and strategies” authored by the Institute of Scientific Research and Development of AU, which lasted for a period of 72 months (2012 -2018). For the time being there is no concrete project in place, but the Strategic Plan of Institutional Development has provided for several agreements of cooperation between AU and other homologue institutions within the

region and more. Also, AU is part of Mediterranean and Middle East University Network, whose goal is, *inter alia*, to encourage the development of common projects in the future.

Measurable indicators:

Analyses and evaluation of the data for research (Table 13)

From the documents provided during the visit at the institution (Form of scientific activities for each student) it results that 3 students who attend the doctoral study programme have continued to take part in scientific conferences and have published articles in scientific journals as well after 2016 (i.e. after the first negative accreditation).

Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution

- Form of scientific activities of Student E.H.
- Form of scientific activities of Student K.Ç
- Form of scientific activities of Student T.B

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards/ criterions
Standard II.1 - Capacities for scientific research	
<p>Criterion 1 A third cycle study program (doctorate) is integrated in research activity of Higher Education Institutions;</p> <p>Criterion 4 The institution has the capacity to perform supervision of each doctorate student in research activities and respective didactic duties;</p> <p>Criterion 6 Academic staff must show achievements in the research field through such creative activities as: presentations, scientific publications, magazines, books or monographs;</p> <p>Criterion 7 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 programme is organised with a large scientific and important research project. This is realised by coordinating with the development of the research activities.</p> <p>The criterion of the first negative accreditation that the “institution does not have a proper strategy for scientific research activities in reference to this study programme” has been improved.</p> <p>They achieve a high capacity in the field of the guidance of the students.</p> <p>It could also be that the programs are interdisciplinary or joint programs.</p> <p>By using different methods of teaching they achieve a higher account of knowledge and concentration. This is showed by the high number of publications.</p>
<u>Conclusions of EEG:</u>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The programme offers a lot of possibilities and so they show that the students can achieve and learn a lot. - Through the Department and institutional level, they have a lot of agreements for the Program, which is good for the practical part. - One important aspect is the high number of different options to achieve more knowledge and to create a combination of international methods and knowledge. 	

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

Description part

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

There are a lot of agreements between the AU and HEI in and out of the country, local institutions, professional organizations, NPO etc. Some of them are the agreement signed with the University of Tirana, University "Fan Noli", University "Luigj Gurakuqi", University "Aleksander Moisiu", Municipality of Tirana, ARSIS Center, etc.

For the "Albanian University", the relation with international institutions is very important, like the agreement with University Sigmund Freud in Vienna, ISPE-College Pristina etc.

According to the first decision on accreditation of this study programme "Although the institution has several cooperation agreements, they have had no concrete impact on the internationalization of this study programme in all its aspects, particularly in promoting the students' mobility"

As per above this situation has been improved. There are 13 active agreements of the department of Legal Sciences for the academic year 2018-2019.

Measurable indicators:

Analyses and evaluation of the national and international cooperation (Table 14)

International work is very important to the students and this is clarified by the syllabus. Through having different lessons and using the literature it is a good combination of the national and international parts.

Analyses and evaluation of the Cooperation with scientific institutions (Table 15)

Through using different methods they have a big influence. This is possible because there is a well and good cooperation between the programme and the scientific institutions.

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards/ criterions
Standard III.4 - Internationalization of doctorate study program	
Criterion 5 Doctorate study program encourages doctorate mobility by paying a considerable amount of expenditures for academic training outside doctorate study program;	The institution supports and encourages mobility students and participation in conferences and publications in national and international journals. Also, they tried to enforce the relations with the foreign universities, especially through the staff and student mobility. In the first year the students have to realize two foreign lecturers. The Albanian University will develop joint programs with homologue universities to represent the internationalization of programs in the future.
Criterion 6 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);	
Criterion 7 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 Albanology Sciences cooperation could also be with a Higher Education Institution or research centre in Kosovo and lands where Albanians live;	
Criterion 8 Doctorate study program creates the necessary space to develop joint doctorate study programs with homologous universities in the region, Europe and beyond;	

<p>Criterion 9 Doctorate study program provides for 3-4 modules (not less than 15 ECTS) to be conducted, organized in theoretical studies and doctorate students have the exam by professors of partner universities, known in the world, for quality and research, publishing activities in the relevant field of study. Exception cited in criterion 7 applies for Albanology Sciences;</p> <p>Criterion 10 Doctorate study program promotes involvement of professors from foreign universities as scientific supervisors or as scientific collaborators of doctorate students.</p>	<p>Clinic Psychology is realized a good overload by foreign professors by carrying out the doctorate study program.</p>
<p>Standard II.1 - Capacities for scientific research</p>	
<p>Criterion 5 The institution has agreements with other academic or research institutions at home and abroad, supporting the exchange of academic staff and doctorate students and academic and research activities of doctorate school;</p>	<p>The institution has good relations with foreign universities by having a good staff and student mobility.</p>
<p>Conclusions of EEG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There a lot of aspects that are important and the institution support, like the mobility students, the participation in conferences and publications in national and international journals. - Through the contact to foreign universities by enabling staff and student mobility. - One example is that there were more foreign lecturers in teaching. 	

SWOT ANALYSIS

Strengths

1. The doctoral study programme in "European and Contract Law" is established in compliance with the strategy of vertical enlargement of the High Education Institution (HEI) within its scope of action.
2. The Department of Juridical Sciences, which organizes the doctorate study program, has engaged the academic and administrative staff necessary for its accomplishment. They use different methods of teaching, the professors are specialized in those fields and they combine national and international aspects.
3. HEI puts at the disposal of the study programme sufficient learning spaces as well as sustainable infrastructure (lecture halls, seminars, informatics laboratories, students' information office, premises for administrative and academic staff).
4. Through the Department and institutional level, they have a lot of agreements for the Programme, which is good for the practical part.

Weaknesses

1. The programme of the doctoral studies in "European and Contract Law" is a new programme, so the HEI does not have much experience to organize the doctoral study.
2. The infrastructure dedicated to the library is not sufficient and does not reflect the advanced level of studies offered by the said program. Apart from the limited physical space, the physical stock of books and periodicals related to the study program in question does not contain contemporary foreign language titles.
3. Due to new registrations suspension from the Ministry of Education, and Sciences, currently the programme has not continued to have registrations, so the number of candidates for the studies is limited.

4. HEI does not have enough research projects through the institutions

Opportunities

1. A good cooperation with other academic and international institutions
2. The HEI had a long tradition as one of the oldest institutions of higher private education. This reflects sustainability and credibility in relation to third parties and as such is a great opportunity on the basis of which further development of the institution and of the study programme should be based.
3. Through the legal framework there is a good possibility for the "AU" to be consolidated and should be developed in the future.

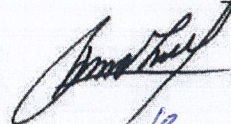
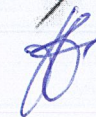
Threats

1. The situation of the legal frame with the studies of the doctoration is very insecure.
2. It could be a problem when the labour people have a higher education, so this program has difficulties.

Recommendations:

1. It is recommended that the HEI finds other alternative financial resources (apart from study fees and grants) in order to ensure an improvement of the financial situation and the financing of other projects.
2. Enable direct involvement of IQAU in the assessment of quality of the Doctoral Program.
3. It is strongly recommended that the HEI takes measures for the improvement of the library, more specifically by increasing or extending the space dedicated to the library, by including more space for studying and research, by enriching the fund of books in the library with updated titles and with modern international literature.
4. Increase program and university capacities in research grant applications and implementations where PhD students can be engaged.
5. It is recommended that the HEI takes measures to encourage mobility of staff based on cooperation agreements. Progress of these agreements should be reflected in reports in order to improve the achievement of objectives of the study programme.

External Evaluation Group:

Prof. Dr. Iset Morina

PhD Fiona Papajorgji

ANNEX I

Agenda of the visit:

Date 15.07.2019

Time	Activities
9. ³⁰ – 10. ⁰⁰	Meeting with the Head of the Institution, Dean of the Faculty/Doctorate schools
10. ⁰⁰ – 10. ⁴⁵	Meeting with the Self Evaluation Group
10. ⁴⁵ – 11. ³⁰	Meeting with the Council of professors and Scientific Committee of the doctoral program
11. ³⁰ – 12. ³⁰	Meeting with the academic staff of the study program
12. ³⁰ – 13. ¹⁵	Coffee break
13. ¹⁵ – 14. ³⁰	Meeting with the students of the study program
14. ³⁰ – 15. ³⁰	Meeting with the Head of the Department regarding the student files.
15. ³⁰ – 16. ⁰⁰	Final Meeting with the Head of the Institution

Number of academic staff (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	Total number	Number of Degree's
Doctoral School University Faculty Department	4	(2) Prof As. Dr. (2) Dr. E.U.	5	(4) Prof. Dr. (1) Prof As. Dr.	1 Msc	10	(4) Prof. Dr. (3) Prof As Dr. (2) Dr. E.U. (1) Msc.

Council of Professors and the coordinator of the study program

Table 2

Name /Surname	Degree	Position (member /Chairman)
Kaliopi Naska	Prof. Dr.	Chairperson
Anesti Kondili	Academic Prof. Dr.	Member
Vera Ostreni	Prof. Dr.	Member
Margarita Hysko	Prof. Dr.	Member
Vasilika Kume	Prof. Dr.	Member
Hivzi Muharremi	Prof. Dr.	Member
Juliana Latifi	Prof. Dr.	Member

Full-time /Part time Academic Staff (Table 3)

Table 3

Institution / Basic Unit / Doctoral School							
Full-time Academic Staff (Name/Surname)		Position in the Department	Degree	Part-time Academic Staff (Name/Surname)		Degree	Institution where he /her works full time
1	Fatmir Tartale	Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, AU	Prof. Assoc.	1	Enrico Camilleri	Prof. Dr.	Dep. of Juridical Sciences, University of Palermo, Italy
2	Alketa Marku	Department of Political and Administrative Sciences, AU	Dr. E.U.	2	Argita Maltezi	Prof. Dr.	Law Faculty, TU
3	Jorida Xhafaj	Department of Juridical Sciences, AU	Dr. E.U.	3	Aldo Schiavelo	Prof. Dr.	Dep. of Juridical Sciences, University of Palermo, Italy
4	Eriona Katro	Deputy Rector	Prof. Assoc.	4	Marjana Semini	Prof. Dr.	School of Magistrates
				5	Merita Xhumari	Prof. Assoc.	University of Tirana

Qualification data and reports between them (Table 4)

Table 4

Academic and administrative staff	FAS	PAS		FAS/PAS Rate
		Albanian	Foreign (invited)	
Professors	0	2	2	0 / 4
Associate Professors	2	1	-	2 / 1
Doctor Degree or PHD degree (taken at European Universities)	2	-	-	2 / 0
Administrative employers	1			

- 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		3		1				
Associate Professors	1			1	1			
Doctor Degree or PHD degree (taken at European Universities)	2							
Administrative employers								

- The facilities, infrastructure and logistics for doctoral school (Table 6)

Table 6

Facilities for doctoral school or study program	Number	Square m ²
Auditoriums	10	1.120.2
Classrooms	20	1.005
Laboratories	-	-
Computer/internet laboratories	1	35
Library buildings	1	248.6
Corridors / halls	11	645
University sports facilities	0	0
Buildings for tertiary services	2	567
Rooms for student government activities	1	16
Recreational facilities such as cafeterias / fast-food/etc.	2	567
Toilets for students	6	106.4
Logistics Room (for photocopying machines, etc.)	1	7
Offices for Dean/ Chancellery/etc.	1	9
Administrative offices	2	40
Department offices	1	20.3
Quality Assurance Unit Office	1	23.2
Meeting halls		
Toilet units for staff	2	6.4
Toilet units for students		
Rate m²/per student	----	----

- The financial resources, data over the three years (Table 7)

Table 7

RESOURCES FROM:	For three or four years (as the PhD study program continues)		
	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
PUBLIC FUNDS:			
Central government/ Local government			
NON-PUBLIC FUNDS:			
Grants on research and contracts			
Consultations, services			
All kinds of tuition fees	1,687,500	1,012,500	1,012,500
Sponsorships, Donations, assurance activities, foundations etc.			
Total	1,687,500	1,012,500	1,012,500

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

Table 9

Subject/Module	Responsible professor/s (Name Surname)	Title/degree	Department	FAS or PAS
1. European Contract Law	Enrico Camilleri	Prof. Dr.	Department of Legal Sciences, University of Palermo, Italy	PAS
2. International Commercial Law	Argita Maltezi	Prof. Dr.	Faculty of Law, UT	PAS
3. Methods or scientific research in social sciences	Aldo Schiavello	Prof. Dr.	Department of Legal Sciences, University of Palermo, Italy	PAS
4. Contracting techniques and alternative ways of dispute resolution	Marjana Semini	Prof. Dr.	Magistrate of School	PAS
5. Banking and Financial contracts	Eriona Katro	Prof. Assoc. Dr.	Department of legal Sciences, AU	FAS (at the moment of engaging)
6. Contracts and competition	Eriona Katro	Prof. Assoc. Dr.	Department of legal Sciences, AU	FAS (at the moment of engaging)
7. Insurance contracts	1) Merita Xhumari 2) Fatmir Tartale	1) Prof. Assoc. 2) Prof. Assoc.	1) UT 2) Department of Politic-Administrative Sciences, AU	1) PAS 2) FAS
8. Consumer contracts	Alketa Marku	Dr. B.E.	Department of Politic-Administrative Sciences, AU	FAS
9. Employment contracts	Jorida Xhafaj	Dr. B.E.	Department of legal Sciences, AU	FAS

- The student's workload, forms of teaching (Table 10)

Table 10

Forms of teaching	Class hours for
Lecture	420
Seminars	147
Laboratories	25
Practice for subjects	8
Professional practice	-
Total	600

- The policies for Learning Outcomes control (Table 11)

The learning outcomes according the syllabi are:

Table 11

Learning Outcomes control	in %
Active participation in lectures, seminars, etc.	10%-20%
Implementation of obligations (laboratory course tasks, essays)	
Intermediate tests	20%-40%
Final exam	40%-60%
In total	100%

- The student's participation in the research activities of the University/Faculty/etc. (Table 12)

Table 12

HEI scientific activity	Number of students activated
For individual Papers of Lectures	
For scientific projects of Faculty / Department / Doctoral School	2
For research projects, in collaboration with other	

- Data for research (Table 13)

Table 13

Planned activities, individual and institution, who are involved in doctoral students	Number	The titles of scientific journals, projects, research activities
1. Publications, where students have scientific articles	1	"Optime" / "Albanian University"
2. Research projects, acquired by leading professors or doctoral students		
3. Projects Implemented		
4. Scientific activities organized by the HEI		[Evidence 10.1]
5. Participants in scientific activities	300	
6. Students involved in research	5	

- The national and international cooperation (Table 14)

Table 14

Scientific activities in the framework of international cooperation		
1	Number of students participating as partners in national and international projects	
2	Number of Students participating in scientific activities, outside of HEI / presentations abroad	3
3	The number of foreign lecturers, who are invited to teaching	3
4	The number of classes held by invited foreign lecturers	178
5	Number of participants in training, in the field of abroad research	
6	Mobility of students to and from HEI	
7	The number of international awards in the field of research	

- The Cooperation with scientific institutions (Table 15)

Table 15

Institutions and scientific organizations, which is cooperating with	
Cooperating government institutions:	Type of cooperation
First Instance Court of High Crimes, Tirana	To strength the rule of law there is a cooperation by consolidating cultural, scientific and academic values
Tirana District Court	Cooperation to achieve a mutual support and to have more exchanges of experience
Tirana Prosecution	Cooperation to achieve a mutual support and to have more exchanges of experience
Ministry of Justice	Cooperation for didactic -theoretical – practical activities
Ministry of Justice Evidence Service	Cooperation for didactic -theoretical – practical activities
Constitutional Court	Institutional cooperation to rise the research quality and the ethical integrity
Evidence Service Berat Office	Inter-institutional cooperation and exchanges of experiences
Tirana District Prefecture	To organize joint scientific events
National Mediation Chamber	To organize joint scientific events
The State Archive	Kind of cooperation / scientific research
National Library, bodies, institutions of study and research character	Scientific research and theoretical support for the thesis
Center for Legal citizen initiative	Scientific research and theoretical support for the thesis
University of Palermo, Italy	Staff exchange
Sigmund Freud University, Vienna	Staff exchange
Professional Organizations:	
Center for Legal citizen initiative	Cooperation for the cultural, scientific and academic values
National Mediation Chamber	More exchanges of experiences
ARSIS – Social support organization for young people	Practice and extracurricular activities
Business Community, market labour:	
Firm	
Legal Bar Lama & Associates	More scientific initiatives and cultural exchanges

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

Table 8

Year I Subjects/ Modules	Semester	Credits (ECTS)	Academic Curriculum Plan												Final exam				
			Lecture (hour)			Seminar (hour)			Laboratory (hour)			Practice (hour)				Total In class	Total Individual student work		
			Total credits	In class	Individual student work	Total credits	In class	Individual student work	Total credits	In class	Individual student work	Total credits	In class	Individual student work					
1	Method of scientific research in social sciences	7	4	48	52	2	15	35	1	25	0					88	87	Yes	
2	European Contract Law	9	6	72	78	2.5	17	45.5						0.5	1	11.5	135	135	Yes
3	International Commercial Law	8	5	60	65	2.5	20	42.5						0.5	1	11.5	119	119	Yes
4	Contracting techniques and Alternatives ways dispute resolution	6	2.5	30	32.5	3	20	55						0.5	1	11.5	99	99	Yes
5	Banking and Financial contracts	6	3.5	42	45.5	2	15	35						0.5	1	11.5	92	92	Yes
6	Contracts and competition	6	3.5	42	45.4	2	15	35						0.5	1	11.5	92	92	Yes
7	Insurance contracts	6	3.5	42	45.5	2	15	35						0.5	1	11.5	92	92	Yes
8	Consumer contracts	6	3.5	42	45.5	2	15	35						0.5	1	11.5	92	92	Yes
9	Employment contracts	6	3.5	42	45.5	2	15	35						0.5	1	11.5	92	92	Yes
Total		60	35	420	454.9	20	147	353	1	25	0	4	8	92	600	900			

