

**REPORT  
OF  
EXTERNAL EVALUATION  
FOR  
PhD. IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY  
OF PRIVATE UNIVERSITY ALBANIAN UNIVERSITY**

*Tiranë, 2017*



**EXTERNAL EVALUATION REPORT**  
**FOR STUDY PROGRAM: PhD IN CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGY**

<b>Table licensing data for the study program:</b>		
<b>1</b>	<b>HEI applying:</b>	Private University Albanian University
<b>2</b>	<b>Faculty who offers:</b>	Faculty of Social Sciences
<b>3</b>	<b>Order/Decision of Councils of licensing/ re-organization</b>	Order of Minister No. 380, dt 06.09.2013
<b>4</b>	<b>Title of the study program:</b>	Phd (Doctorate) in Clinical Psychology
<b>5</b>	<b>Study cycle:</b>	Third cycle
<b>6</b>	<b>Duration of the study program:</b>	At least 3 year
<b>7</b>	<b>ECTS in total:</b>	60 ECTS organized theoretical studies and 15 ECTS theoretical which will be done by foreign academic staff with the third cycle studies qualification
<b>8</b>	<b>Form of study (fulltime/parttime/in distance/):</b>	Full time
<b>9</b>	<b>Language (albanian/other):</b>	Albanian
<b>10</b>	<b>The program is offered by the institution</b>	Private University Albanian University
<b>11</b>	<b>The program is offered in cooperation with other institutions</b>	In collaboration with University of Pisa and Universita degli Studi di Palermo
<b>12</b>	<b>Joint degree:</b>	Phd in Clinical Psychology
<b>13</b>	<b>Double degree:</b>	-
<b>14</b>	<b>The level within the National qualification framework</b>	8
<b>15</b>	<b>Study program activation</b>	2013-2014
<b>16</b>	<b>First generation of students graduation</b>	-
	<b>Etc</b>	



## **INTRODUCTION**

This report includes the critical assessment by the external evaluation group (EEG) on the doctoral program in clinical psychology - DP-CP - (third cycle) as implemented at the Albanian University (AU). The evaluation section follows the structure of the English language self-evaluation report (SER) as transmitted by APAAL to the EEG. Apart from the SER a number of documents related directly or indirectly to the doctoral program in clinical psychology were offered in Albanian language and thus primarily considered by one of the external evaluators. In addition, the EEG site visit at Albanian University (December 2016) offered the opportunity to collect complementary information on structure, process and resources of the curricula, as well as amplified information related to quality factors of the program including qualification of scholars directly involved as academics and researchers in the realization and implementation of this specific third cycle (doctoral program). For this purpose, the EEG requested additional documents (e.g. CV of academics involved as teachers and PhD thesis supervisors, as well as their contracts). In addition, the EEG conducted with the various stakeholders involved in the DP-CP independent interviews, making use of analog-questioning techniques to assess consistency of information between different stakeholders.

On 02.02.2017 the draft report of the external evaluation was sent to Private University Albanian University. The Private University Albanian University sent to APAAL the official letter no. 34, dated 02.02.2017, about some comments relating to this draft report. Whereas after getting to know the comments by the Private University "Albanian University", on reviewing points 1 3; and 4, the EEG concludes: Regarding AU's comments on the first point, the field of study of the lecturers that are engaged in the process of teaching of the third study cycle of the DP-CP at the "Albanian University", the EEG's arguments and analysis as presented in their earlier report will remain unchanged. And after considering AU's comments referring to point 3 and point 4 the analysis as presented by the EEG in its report remain unchanged, with the same arguments as presented.

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

1. Prof. Dr. Germain Weber (University of Vienna, Faculty of Psychology)
2. Prof. Assoc. Dr. Arjana Mucaj (University of Tirana, Department of Psychology)

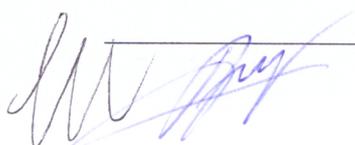
The EEG was assisted by program officer Iva Lika, from PAAHE/APAAL.

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

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

#### **Description part**

A two-fold motivation for opening the DP-CP was reported by the leadership of the AU: on one hand the opening of the program was related to the request of psychology program students for a third study cycle in a non-government higher education institution (mainly psychology students



from the AU) for having such an offer within the general market of the Higher Education Institutions. On the other hand, the third cycle in clinical psychology was motivated by a market study pointing to the need of high level professional and scientific qualification in clinical psychology in Albania.

The objectives related to such a program refer to following points:

- a) Fulfilling the needs of the working market;
- b) To be more efficient for such study programs;
- c) To offer possibilities for studies at AU for the students of AU who want to continue the third study cycle.

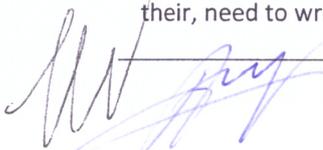
Regarding the teaching of the program it is covered from lecturers with scientific titles, gained in- and out-of-the-country. The scientific research is done through the exchange of experiences at International Conferences done in cooperation with the non-government Institution “Albanian University”. According to the strategies that the institution presented, it offers the students an option to decide in the long run for a study program that will make them fit to successfully compete in the work market. According to the documentations the DP-CP started in 2013, with 7 registered students, out of which 2 left, and one had interrupted the studies because of health issues: Thus in December 2016 a total of 4 PhD students were continuing with the third cycle of studies in clinical psychology. Lessons were delivered by the AU itself, and there were halls equipped with the necessary technical resources for delivering lectures and courses. The content of the study program is offered in compliance with the AU’s development strategy. Finally, the content of the study programs is formally in compliance with criteria as defined in the relevant legal and sub-legal acts in power.

- Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution

**Evaluation according to the Standards**

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards <sup>1</sup>
<b>Standard I.1 - General framework</b>	
<p><b>Criterion 1</b> The study program of third cycle (doctorate) is a new program or a reorganized program;</p> <p><b>Criterion 2</b> If it is reorganized, the extent to which it affected the previous program;</p> <p><b>Criterion 3</b> The total number of students studying how doctor eight and number of those who attend this study program each year is in line with the policies of Higher Education Institutions (HEI) where the program is conducted as well as state policy for higher education and scientific research regarding recognition and validation of diploma and</p>	<p>The third study program at “Albanian University” is a new study program opened by Order No. 380, dated 06.09.2013, by the Ministry of Education and Science in Clinical Psychology.</p> <p>The program of the third cycle of PhD studies was not re-organized and it didn’t touch any of the previous study programs.</p> <p>The number of PhD students that followed such study program had started since 2013. During this period, 3 students left and 4 students were still continuing. Actually, PhD candidates in clinical psychology were still following the second year of studies. That was in compliance with the higher education institutions politics and where this</p>

<sup>1</sup> EEG must writing for the fulfillment of each standard (based on the criterions which are in the left). At the end of their, need to write his opinions (summary), if is fulfill the standards or not.



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 5** Internal evaluation report of study program of the third cycle is reviewed by the Council of Professors.

study program is being developed, as well as with the state politics of the higher education and scientific research, related to the validity of the diploma and in rapport with the number of PhD students with a scientific supervisor.

This study program was supported by national and international researchers and research groups, which was also reflected in the documentation introduced by the staff of the institutions such as: State University "Luigj Gurakuqi", Scientific Academy in Albania, Mental Health Clinic "Venus", Association "Aksion Plus", "SOS" village, etc, as well as with the "Universita degli studi di Urbino, Carlo Bo" Italy, The Institute for Advanced Psychological Training, USA etc.

Based on the information gathered, the EEG concludes that the Professors' Concil is the only entity, responsible for the organization and leadership of the third cycle of the study program (DP-CP). The evaluation report was approved by the Professors' Concil of the "Albanian University"

**Conclusions of EEG: All the standards are fully met.**

Based on the evaluation criteria it is noticed that: The third study program at "Albanian University" is a new study program opened by Order No. 380, dated 06.09.2013, by the Ministry of Education and Science in Clinical Psychology. The program of the third cycle of PhD studies was not re-organized and it didn't touch any of the previous study programs. The 7 PhD students registered in this study program had started in 2013. Since this, 3 students left and 4 students were still continuing. Actually, PhD candidates in clinical psychology were still following the second year of studies. That was in compliance with the higher education institutions politics and where this study program is being developed, as well as with the state politics of the higher education and scientific research, related to the validity of the diploma and in rapport with the number of PhD students with a scientific supervisor. This study program was supported by national and international researchers and research groups, which was also reflected in the documentation introduced by the staff of the institutions such as: State University "Luigj Gurakuqi", Scientific Academy in Albania, Mental Health Clinic "Venus", Association "Aksion Plus", "SOS" village, etc, as well as with the "Universita degli studi di Urbino, Carlo Bo" Italy, The Institute for Advanced Psychological Training, USA etc.

It was noticed that the Professors' Concil is the only entity, responsible for the organization and leadership of the third cycle of the study program. The evaluation report was approved by the Professors' Concil of the "Albanian University". Though criteria are formally met this overlap lacks idependency. In addition, there is a strong intention by the leadership of the AU to continue with this program, however neither a medium to long-term, strategic plan nor a finacement plan was presented in the documents or communicated during the site visit.

## 2. Academic Organisation chart of the Doctoral School

### Description part

The third cycle of the study program at the "Albania University" is organized at a Faculty and Department level, as a basic functional unit. The DP-CP is part of the Social Science Faculty at the

External Evaluation Report of Phd in “Clinical Psychology” of Private University Albanian University

Department of Psychology and led by the Professors’ Concil of the “Albanian University”. The academic staff attached to this study program, according to the meeting done and the documentations introduced for the titles and ranks, proved to us that the teaching staff and the scientific supervisors held the titles of “Professor”, “Prof. Assoc.”, “Dr”, and it was gained at universities from abroad. The PhD program had a staff of 5 lecturers. According to the documents introduced there is 1 administrative personnel. Whereas as full-time academic staff is equivalent to 3 persons and part-time academic staff is equivalent to 2 persons.

Table 1

Doctoral School University/ Faculty/ Department	Number of FAS		Number of PAS		Number of AE		Total number	
	Total number	Number of Degree’s	Total number	Number of Degree’s	Total number	Number of Degree’s	Total number	Number of Degree’s
	3	Asoc. Prof (2) Dr ( 1)	2	Asoc. Prof Dr	1	Msc	6	5

- Council of Professors and the coordinator of the study program

Table 2

Name /Surname	Degree	Position (Member / Chairman)
Kaliopi Naska	Prof.Dr	Member
Vera Ostreni	Prof.Dr	Chairman
Anesti Kondili	Dr	Member
Lida Miraj	Prof.Dr	Member
Hivzi Muharremi	Prof.Dr	Member
Fatmir Tartale	Prof.Dr	Member
Juliana Latifi		Member

- Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution

**Evaluation according to the Standards**

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
<b>Standard III.1 - Management and financing tools for doctorate study program</b>	
<p><b>Criterion 1</b> Unit that organizes doctorate study program has accredited two first cycles of studies in the field, in which it offers the doctorate study program;</p> <p><b>Criterion 2</b> Unit that organizes the doctorate study program has adequate administrative premises to realize its good functioning;</p> <p><b>Criterion 3</b> In order to carry out the doctorate study program, the unit that proposes its opening engages the necessary personnel, ranging from teaching, secretary that follows the third cycle progress;</p> <p><b>Criterion 4</b> Responsible bodies for its supervision are established in doctorate study program regulation;</p>	<p>The unit that organizes the study program of the third cycle, had accredited the programs of the first cycle Bachelor and the Scientific Master in Clinical Psychology, based on the order of the Minister of Education and Science, No. 541, dated 1.12.2010 and the Master of Science in in Clinical Psychology by order No. 327, dated 7.08.2012.</p> <p>The “Albanian University” has the facilities required for the realization of the third cycle of the study program, such as the library which is located in the internal facilities of the “Albanian University”. There were also lecture halls within the main building. The facilities where the PhD program was developed was inside the Social Sciences Faculty</p>

<p><b>Criterion 5</b> 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>building of the "AU" For the management of the PhD study program in the field of Clinical Psychology, the unit that proposed the opening engaged the necessary personnel, starting from the educational secretary, who was a regular participant in the progress of the study program for the third study cycle at "AU".</p>
<p><b>Criterion 6</b> Board of Professors of the main unit that organizes and manages the doctorate study program meets periodically throughout the year;</p>	<p>The responsible entities for the leadership of the third cycle study program were: Professors' Council, for the organization of leadership of the PhD study programs; the PhD Program Coordinator, the main leader of the main organizational unit, Commissions that are raised <i>ad hoc</i> according to the needs. With respect to qualification of faculty staff running the program, it is noticed that within the Professors' Council, the members had scientific grades of Prof. Dr. and Prof. Assoc. The number of professor's part of the council is 7 people. The Professors' Council is led by one of the professors in rotation. The organization and the functioning of such a council is defined by the relevant regulation of the Albanian University. The professors' Council is set up at an institutional level. The professors' Council has periodical meetings and that depends on the requests which may be done by 1/3 of the members who ask for it. The meeting is only done when the 2/3 are present for participation.</p>
<p><b>Conclusions of EEG: Standards and criteria only partially met</b></p>	
<p>Administration staff of the program is appropriate and the minimum number of professors for the program is given. The council meets upon requirement (upon request of 1/3 of the members), meeting according a fixed schedule is not given (e.g. once or twice per semester). One part of the professors supervising the PhD program hold academic diploma and show CVs which are not related to psychology and not related to clinical psychology. This status is critical when it comes to ensuring a high qualified supervision of the PhD program and decision taking with respect to topics related to clinical psychology.</p>	

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

#### Description part

The academic staff who was engaged in teaching is composed of 5 lecturers. 3 Prof. Assoc and 2 Dr, 1 administrative employees. Their level of qualification was with such titles such as Prof. Dr and Prof. Assoc. but also with the title of Dr. gained at foreign universities. Academic staff recruitment was made based on the main criteria, like the teaching experience at a university level, as well as based on the research results of each individual lecturer. Though the required formal academic titles are present in the teaching staff most of the lecturers have no formal training in clinical psychology and two of them are not trained in psychology or methods of psychology. Inspection of the contracts in AU Human Resources Office revealed that most of contracts referring to

External Evaluation Report of Phd in “Clinical Psychology” of Private University Albanian University

professors lecturing at the DP-CP had been signed by these with of few of them showing however no signature.

**Measurable indicators:**

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

Table 3

Institution / Basic Unit / Doctoral School							
	<i>Full-time Academic Staff (Name/Surname)</i>	<i>Position in the Department</i>	<i>Degree</i>		<i>Part-time Academic Staff (Name/Surname)</i>	<i>Degree</i>	<i>Institution where he/her works full time</i>
1	Virxhil Nano	lector	Asoc.Prof	1	Genc Alimehmeti	Dr	Economics Faculty
2	Aldo Schiavello	lector	Asoc.Prof	2	Gentian Vyshka	Asoc.Prof	Medicine University
3	Eglantina Dervish	lector	Dr	1			

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

Table 4

<b>Academic and administrative staff</b>	FAS	PAS		FAS/PAS rate
		Albanian	Foreign (invited)	
Professors	-			
Associate Professors	3	yes	1	
Doctor Degree or PHD degree (taken at European Universities)	2	yes		
Administrative employes	1			

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

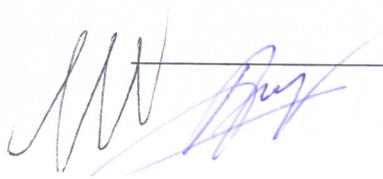
Table 5

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

- Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
<b>Standard I.1 - General framework</b>	
<p><b>Criterion 6</b> The number and level of researchers engaged in this program constitutes a guarantee for program implementation (60% of them should be internal academic staff, engaged in research and holders of academic titles "Professor", "Associate Professor" or scientific degree "Doctor" or "PhD" awarded in universities well known in the world for quality and rich research and publishing activities in the relevant field;</p>	<p>It was noticed that 60% of what was meant to be covered by the internal (full-time) staff had shortcomings because of the staff resignation, which consequently brought about a imbalance of 60 % to be covered by the full-time staff</p>
<b>Standard II.1 - Capacities for scientific research</b>	
<p><b>Criterion 1</b> The institution that offers programs of study of third cycle (doctorate), has sufficient academic staff with scientific titles and degrees;  <b>Criterion 2</b> 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;</p>	<p>Regarding the lecturers' report of those full-time versus part-time, it was not the same from the rapport introduced by the institution, because they had staff leaving the university and the rapport 3/2 PAE/PAK was not true. Some of the professors teaching and supervising in the program have an academic back ground in psychology. However, a significant number of professors and supervisors show backgrounds from non-psychology fields (other disciplines). None of the academics engaged in the program show a clear profile with respect to training and research in clinical psychology.</p> <p>Albanian University had an agreement with in- and out-of-the-country institutions, in order to ensure the progress of the activities during the PhD studies. Such agreements were related to the help that students could receive in participating in conferences and seminars, as well as for the academic staff exchange, supporting the teaching in the program. The institution's administrative structures and resources are appropriate for servicing the program. However, research on site facilities, like scientific library with peer-reviewed international journals and clinical psychological assessment tools (basic support material for research) are not provided.</p> <p>"Albanian University" had administrative units such as: The Human Resource Office, Educational Secretary, Office for the Curricula Development, Career and Practicum Offices, Public and Marketing Relations Office, Foreign Affair Office, Finance Office, Protocol Office, Archive and Statistics, The Office for Research and Development Projects.</p>



**Conclusions of EEG: Standards and criteria are not met**

The inspection revealed that 60% of what was meant to be covered by the internal (full-time) staff had shortcomings because of the staff’s resignation, which consequently brought about an imbalance of 60 % to be covered by the full-time staff. The only foreign professor involved in teaching offers only 7 ECTS, instead of 15 ECTS as required by the order of the Ministry of Education. There is a significant lack of professors (teachers as well as supervisors) with a distinct profil in clinical psychology or even psychology! Within the academic team engaged in the DP-CP (professors and supervisors) expertise in clinical psychology both in research and teaching has to be guaranteed in order to assure an acceptable quality for the program. Albanian University had an agreement with in- and out-of-the-country institutions, in order to ensure the progress of the activities during the PhD studies. Such agreements were related to the help that students could receive in participating in conferences and seminars, as well as for the academic staff exchange, supporting the teaching in the program. However, some of these arrangements have a general formal collaboration character with no concrete and practical implementation or contribution to the DP-CP. Administrative structures and documentations of processes related to the program can be rated as sufficient for the activities of the study program. However, with the third cycle aiming at (applied) research qualification in clinical psychology, the research resources offered by AU is not sufficient when comparing to academical and scientific well accepted programs in this field. “Albanian University” had administrative units such as: The Human Resource Office, Educational Secretary, Office for the Curricula Development, Career and Practicum Offices, Public and Marketing Relations Office, Foreign Affair Office, Finance Office, Protocol Office, Archive and Statistics, The Office for Research and Development Projects.

**Recommendations:** AU is recommended to hire sufficient qualified full-time professors with a clear research profile in clinical psychology. Moreover, the clinical psychological research qualification of the direct thesis supervisors has to be assured. In addition, AU is recommended to define a budget for research resources supporting the DP-CP and/or to have formal cooperation agreements with universities (international or national) specifically for the DP-CP in order to settle the main weak points as indicated

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

Description part

AU has sufficient halls and seminare rooms where the theoretical part of the third cycle of studies hours can take place, and these rooms were equipped with the necessary technological equipments appropriate to do the lesson hours there. The library hall was at the internal part of the building where the courses and tutorial took place. Also, the “AU” had a conference hall equipped with all the necessary equipments for carrying the work out accordingly. There was also a computer room, where the students had the possibility of online navigation of foreing books in different languages, which were made at their disposal within the university facilities. However, access to scientific journals, a standard for doctoral programs, was not offered in the campus library.

Measurable indicators:

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

Table 6

Facilities for doctoral school or study program	Number or Square m <sup>2</sup>
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External Evaluation Report of Phd in “Clinical Psychology” of Private University Albanian  
University

Auditoriums	1120.2
Classrooms	1005
Laboratories	50
Computer/internet laboratories	35
Library buildings	297
Corridors / halls	1875
University sports facilities	4000
Buildings for tertiar servicies	1130
Rooms for student government activities	16
Recreational facilities such as cafeterias / fast-food/etc	567
Toilettes for students	106.4
Logistics Room (for photocopying machines, etc.)	7
Officies for Dean/ Chancellory/etc	147.5
Administrative offices	325.21
Departmentet offices	125
Quality assurance Unit Office	23.2
Meeting halls	50.9
Toilet units for staff	56.8
Toilet units for students	106.4
Etc	????
<b>Rate m<sup>2</sup>/per student</b>	<b>?????</b>

- EEG should analyze and evaluate other logistics database, as:
- EEG is not ion a position to offer accurate figures on thwe topics below!**
  - 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
- Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution

**Evaluation according to the Standards**

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
<b>Standard II.2 - Didactic basis and technical support</b>	
<p><b>Criterion 1</b> Students admitted in the third cycle study program have necessary conditions to realize the study program with academic and research character;</p> <p><b>Criterion 2</b> Doctorate studies program provides harmonization of student's goals in scientific-research field, approved research projects and, at its conclusion, even the possibility of academic career and employment;</p> <p><b>Criterion 3</b> A scientific library with</p>	<p>The EEG noticed that the library which was at the disposal of the students did not have enough materials in the field of scientific research for the Clinical Psychology, which was reflected by the small number of books that concerned this study program. The library facilities (e.g. rooms) were enough for internal use. International scientific journals are not available in the library.</p> <p>There is a PC lab offering via internet access to an electronic library, mainly books. A catalogue of on line accessible scientific journals relvant for the DP-CP was not available.</p>

<p>publications in hardcopy and electronic form and complete IT infrastructure available to of third cycle study program;  <b>Criterion 4</b> Students have sufficient technical support for scientific research development;  <b>Criterion 5</b> Researches that include laboratory researches are supported by sufficient scientific laboratory basis.</p>	<p>With regard to the courses offered at the Psychology Department in the Bachelor cycle, PhD students of the DP-CP were involved in teaching, however not in the subjects they covered during their scientific research, which in turn meant that it did not profit them in their scientific research. PhD students were given opportunities but not on their work study topics or the subject that the supervisor lecturer covered.                  Albanian University had in its disposal an “inhouse” scientific journal called “Optima”, where scientific works were published related to all the fields from the students and professors of “AU”.                  The institution supported as well the PhD program with unspecified lab facilities.</p>
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**Conclusions of EEG: Standards and criteria are partly fulfilled.**  
 During the visit done in this institution, the working group noticed that the library which was at the disposal of the students did not have enough materials in the field of scientific research for the Clinical Psychology, which was reflected by the small number of books that concerned this study program. The library facilities might be fine for use on the bachelor level. The PC equipment for access to internet based electronic libraries is technically given. However, access to databases with scientific journals has to be rated as modest. The facility offered the internet service however there is limited access to international scientific library databasis. The teaching involvement of the PhD students in the bachelor program was not conform to the aims as defined with respect to this experience in the DP-CP. PhD students were given opportunities but not on their work study topics or the subject that the supervisor lecturer covered.

**5. Financing and management of financial resources**

Descriptions part

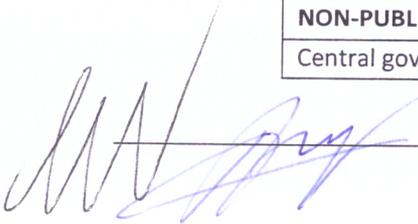
The EEG came to understand that the main income was covered from the income that the PhD students brought along. The pay for one full academic year was 2500 euros. Part of these incomes went for maintainance and a part was spent for the salaries and insuarance of the hired staff. Research activities of PhD students are not supported by additional research funds. The institution had in its disposal a financial report for every academic year of each of the students. The institution made every year, an internal audit of the revenues and the way how they were spent. However, it has to be questioned whether the income as raised by the PhD students fees, with only few PhD students enrolled, cover for the cost of the resources as required. Budget plan and effective budget for the PhD program was not offered.

Measurable indicators:

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

Table 7

<b>RESOURCES FROM:</b>	<b>For three or four years (as the PhD study program continues)</b>
<b>NON-PUBLIC FUNDS:</b>	
Central government	



External Evaluation Report of Phd in “Clinical Psychology” of Private University Albanian University

Local government	
<b>NON-PUBLIC FUNDS:</b>	
Grants on research and contracts	
Consultations, services	
All kinds of tuition fees	11690000/11690000/11690000 (per vitet 2012-215)
Sponsorships	1031000/1031000/1031000 (per vitet 2012- 2015)
Donations, assurance activities, foundations etc.	

The EEG has not the information to analyze on the below topics!

- EEG should analyze and evaluate the Costs for students and their mobility costs;
- Transparency and internal financial control, audit and outcomes;
- Financial management capacity;
- Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution;

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
<b>Standard I.1 - General framework</b>	
<b>Criterion 5</b> Doctorate study program is supported by a sufficient budget for research;	The budget of the PhD program is limited as there are only a few students enrolled in the DP-CP. Tus, the funds for supporting students in their research are limited.
<b>Standard II.1 - Capacities for scientific research</b>	
<b>Criterion 8</b> External funding received for scientific research is indicative of high level research activity and they are administered for the progress of relevant study program.	Since the beginning of the DP-CP, there were no external financial supporting this PhD program. Further, the DP-CP reports not to have access to extra (external) research funds. That was explained with the short experience this study program had. As a matter of fact, applications for external research funds were not presented.
<b>Standard III.1 - Management and financing tools for doctorate study program</b>	
<b>Criterion 7</b> Financial budget of doctorate study program is sufficient to achieve research objectives for each doctorate student; <b>Criterion 8</b> Financial budget distribution structure of doctorate study program matches with scientific research policy and needs.	Considering the small number of students this institution had in this third cycle study program, it is questionable whether an optimal coverage for all the elements, e.g: research activities, attending international conferences, publications, can be assured merely on the basis of students' fees.
<b>Standard III.3 - Financing of doctorate study program</b>	
<b>Criterion 1</b> Number of research works funded by the ministry; <b>Criterion 2</b> Distribution of funds to host and supervision teams of scientific research works is done in a balanced way; <b>Criterion 3</b> Number of research works funded under national research projects, benefited by scientific supervisors of doctorate students for this study program;	The EEG noticed that research in the DP-CP was not supported financially by the Ministry nor from other research agencies by research grants. All the lecturers were paid according to the regulations issued by the Ministry of Education. The documentation and information on site did not reveal any finance profited by the scientific supervisor of this study program. Research activities in this program was not funded

<b>Criterion 4</b> Number of research works funded under international research projects benefited by scientific supervisors of doctorate students for this study program;	within international research projects.
<b>Conclusions of EEG: Standards and criteria are partially met</b> As the fees are the basic income to finance this PhD program, and as the number of PhD students enrolled is limited it has to be expected that the research of the PhD students is not sufficiently financially supported. There should be additional, other financial resources available to do research. Tuition fees generally cover parts of the overheads and salaries of teachers, supervisors of such a program. Students are not involved in formal research projects run by their supervisors. Ongoing research activities by professors and supervisors remained unclear! Research attendance to international conferences outside Albania was reported being difficult due to lack of financial support. All the lecturers were paid according to the regulations issued by the Ministry of Education.	

## 6. Internal Quality Assurance System (IQAS)

### Description part

The EEG was introduced to the mechanisms of IQAS during the site visit in AU. The structure of IQAS group is set up based on the decision of Rector of AU for each study programme. This establishment of this group is based on the proposal of the Dean of the respective Faculty.

From the meeting with the NJSBC (IQAS) group, it was noticed that the institution had a clear procedure for the periodic and efficient evaluation. This evaluation belonged to the internal and external structures, something done for the improvement of the short-term and long-term plans of the study program. This structure would continue to ensure a transparent process, with conflict-of-interest being sufficiently considered and thus contribute to a safe evaluation with respect to the quality for the development of the curricula in compliance with the European higher education system (Bologna). During the academic year, there were questionnaires compiled for the students and for the lecturers in order to make their evaluation. The evaluation for the lecturers was made before the final exam of the relevant subject was taken. Meetings with the students were made as many times as it was considered necessary from the quality evaluation group. That could have been done also through focus groups. The implementation control and development of such curricula, was done from the secretary, who would give the data as how many percent was realized and later it was asked what were the weak points not realized to 100 %. It was also noticed that in fulfilling the credits that the teaching staff had to cover, the foreign lecturers did not fulfill the required credits from the Ministry, which are 15, where the foreign professor would only fulfill 7 of those. The evaluation group also had documents that proved the application of the study program. The evaluation results were passed on to every department or faculty and then they were made public. The choice of the members of this evaluation group was made in accordance with the established criteria of the institution.

### Measurable indicators:

- EEG should analyze and evaluate 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?
- etc.
  
- EEG should analyze and evaluate the analyses for *Internal quality control*, as:
  - Responsibilities in monitoring and quality management, until the department level
  - Self assessments conducted, and their results
  - Quality improvement policies, on the basis of periodic self-assessment
  - The results of the audit and preview external assessment
  - Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution

In the last 3 years, 90% of the total number of students are surveyed. All data were processed and put at disposal of the departments. All gaps and weaknesses observed, were discussed with the responsible structures of the University and decisions have been taken accordingly. Every year, improvements are being made in the academic staff especially in regard to violations of the ethical code.

Considering the level of achievement of these indicators, the standard is substantially met.

## STUDY PROGRAM

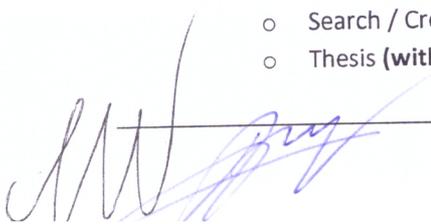
### 7. Study program, its organization

#### Description part

The degree of the diploma in Albanian is “Doctor in Clinical Psychology”. In the first academic year the student must get 60 credits in order to pass to the next year. The study program in the first academic year is focused on the theoretical part. In the end the first year, students should pass through a set of exams, in order to collect the necessary credits to move in the second academic year. In the second year, the students are focused in scientific research work. During the same period, the students have to introduce their scientific research works in workshops and conferences to fulfil the criteria for the PhD. They also have as part of their independent lab work, access to information resources, e.g. electronic scientific publications, including administrative-technical support. If all criteria are fulfilled, the student, under the approval of the scientific leader, is allowed to introduce the scientific research in front of the academic commission. The PhD curriculum itself does not focus on specialized research programs within the broad field of clinical psychology.

#### Measurable indicators:

- Analyses and evaluation for: general elements of the study program:
  - Duration: **not less than 3 years**
  - Year for advancing theoretical studies (**1 year or 60 ECTS**)
  - Search / Creation: **at least 2 years**
  - Thesis (**within 4 years of enrollment**)



External Evaluation Report of Phd in “Clinical Psychology” of Private University Albanian University

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

Table 8

Year I	Subjects/ Modules	Semester	Credits (ECTS)	Hour in week	Academic Curriculum Plan											Total In class	Total Individual student work	Final exam	
					Lecture (hour)			Seminar (hour)			Laboratory (hour)			Practice (hour)					
					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	Qualitative Methods in Scientific Research	1	7	6	4	48		2	15		1	25					88/87	175	3
2	Quantative Methods in Qualitative Research	1	7	4	4	45		2.5	20		0.5	1					66/108	174	3
3	Further studies in neuro-psuchology	1	7	4	4	45		2.5	20		0.5	1					65/104	171	3
4	Further studies in psycho-co-pharmacology	1	5	3	2.5	36		2	15		0.5	1					52/85	137	3
5	Statistical Analysis of Data	2	7	4	4	45		2.5	20		0.5	1					66/108	174	3
6	Advanced Psychtherapy	2	6	4	4	48		1.5	12		0.5	1					61/90	151	3
7	Children and Teens Psychotherapy	2	6	4	3.5	42		2	15		0.5	1					58/88	146	3
8	Psychological Treatment of illness	2	7	4	4	45		2.5	20		0.5	1					66/108	174	3
9	Psychoology-Advanced Clinic	1	4	3	2.5	30		1	8		0.5	1					39/61	100	3
10	Cognitive Therapy 'bihejvioraleper' - anxiety disorder	2	4	3	2.5	30		1	8		0.5	1					39/61	100	3
	Total	1+2	60	39	35	414		19.5	153		5.5	34					600/900	1500	

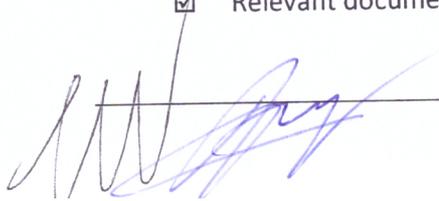
Analyses and evaluation for Academic Curriculum Plan, related to the relevant academic staff (verify the data, according to Table 9)

Table 9

External Evaluation Report of Phd in “Clinical Psychology” of Private University Albanian University

Subject/Module		Responsible professor/s (Name Surname)	Title/degree	Department	FAS or PAS
1.	Psychology-Advanced Clinic	Virxhil Nano	Prof. Asoc. Dr	General Psychology	PAE
2.	Cognitive Therapy ‘bihejvioraleper’- anxiety disorder	Virxhil Nano	Prof. Asoc. Dr	General Psychology	PAE
3.	Children and Teens Psychotherapy	Eglantina Dervishi	Dr	General Psychology	PAE
4.	Psychological Treatment of illness	Eglantina Dervishi	Dr	General Psychology	PAE
5.	Qualitative Methods in Scientific Research .	Genc Alimehmeti	Dr	Economics	PAK
6.	Statistics	Genc Alimehmeti	Dr	Economics	PAK
7.	Advanced Psychtherapy	Gentian Vyshka	Prof. Asoc. Dr	Nursery	PAK
8.	Advanced Clinical Neurology	Gentian Vyshka	Prof. Asoc. Dr	Nursery	PAK
9.	Quantative Methods in research of the Clinic Psychology	Aldo Schiavello	Prof. Asoc. Dr	Political-Administrative Sciences	PAE
10.	Advanced Psychotherapy	Virxhil Nano	Prof. Asoc. Dr	General Psychology	PAE

- EEG should analyze and evaluate the: the syllabuses for each subject, with all the elements
- EEG should analyze and evaluate: the procedures followed for the research project, proposed by candidates
- EEG should analyze and evaluate the second year of PhD: (Research/Creation), as database for institutions in/outside the country, where students have completed their scientific research, such as:
  - university / research center and development of a University
  - Institute / non-academic research unit
  - Foundation / public entity / private entity
  - Hospital structure
  - Other
- 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
- EEG should analyze and evaluate the: doctoral thesis and its presentation
- Relevant documentation, received in visits to the institution



**Evaluation according to the Standards**

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
<b>Standard I.4 - Design and realization of theoretical course of third cycle studies (Doctorate)</b>	
<p><b>Criterion 1</b> Programs of third cycle studies include 60 credits for theoretical organized studies;</p> <p><b>Criterion 2</b> Theoretical organized studies anticipate balanced ratio of classes for academic and scientific general and specific training;</p> <p><b>Criterion 3</b> Detailed teaching program is approved pursuant to bylaws in force;</p> <p><b>Criterion 4</b> 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>This study program for the first year study in total had 60 credits.</p> <p>The program in its theoretical aspect fulfilled 60 credits, where out of it, 600 hours were in the auditorium and 900 individual study hours were spread among years. The subjects and modules were evaluated from the credits according to the principle 1 credit = 25 lesson hours. Credits calculation is done according to the indicative coefficients from the Ministry of Education.</p> <p>According to the indicators, the lesson plan was approved according to the law of higher education and sub-legal acts in power.</p> <p>The theoretical course of PhD was evaluated through a general theoretical exam after the end of the academic year, in the field of the Clinic Psychology organized by the Dean's office and Professors' Council with a commission composed of 5 (five) Professors of the relevant research fields or similar to it. The exam was done on 28.02.2014. According to the regulation for the Organization of the Doctorate Study Program, the candidates that achieve over 80% of the points are allowed to continue on with the research component of the Doctorate Study.</p>
<b>Standard II.3 - Drafting and approval of proposed research project</b>	
<p><b>Criterion 1</b> 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><b>Criterion 2</b> Scope of research is selected in such a way that doctorate studies program can support it;</p> <p><b>Criterion 3</b> Proposal is approved by Professors' Council if criteria prescribed and announced in regulation of doctorate studies are met. The following should be also confirmed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Duration of study program;</li> <li>b) Modalities of verification of research or creative activity of doctorate students;</li> <li>c) Manner of final presentation of scientific research result that doctorate student will achieve;</li> </ul> <p><b>Criterion 4</b> A member of academic staff with the title "Professor", "Associate Professor" or</p>	<p>The applicants of the doctoral programs had introduced their request to get accepted in the doctoral program. At first, they chose the relevant branch of the study, according to the directions offered by the institution. Further, they fulfill the form of the doctoral proposal project according to the relevant rubrics, after consulting the Coordinator of the doctoral program, regarding the chosen theme.</p> <p>During the meeting it was noticed that the research field was chosen in such a way that the PhD study program could support it.</p> <p>The time limit of the study program was 3 academic years, a time which is also foreseen in the PhD contract. The PhD candidate holds regular weekly meetings with the doctoral supervisor for fulfilling continues requirements, related to the doctoral project preparation. The Progress Reports are signed after every doctoral day by the PhD candidate scientific supervisor and deposited in the relevant PhD candidate file. The final introduction of the research result</p>

External Evaluation Report of Phd in “Clinical Psychology” of Private University Albanian University

<p>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><b>Criterion 5</b> Doctorate student presents to Board of Professors the research development plan, designed by him and discussed with his supervisor;</p> <p><b>Criterion 6</b> Supervisor has advised repeatedly the students that he supervises for didactic duties and research activities as well as research methodology to ensure the progress of his studies in this program.</p>	<p>is realized through the successful defense in front of a doctoral commission, after the official approval of the scientific supervisor of the PhD candidate.</p> <p>The Scientific supervisor in the major part has been adapted to the research field where the student wants to do the scientific research. But the research field of the lecturer is not totally covered in the research as depicted in their CVs.</p> <p>After the doctoral research project-proposal has got the preliminary approval of the scientific supervisor, it is submitted for approval in front of the Professors' Council.</p> <p>The supervisor leads and consults continuously with the students he is responsible for. The areas of supervision include: didactical tasks and research activities, as well as research methodology in order to ensure his/their progress in this study program.</p>
<p><b>Standard II.1 - Capacities for scientific research</b></p>	
<p><b>Criterion 1</b> A third cycle study program (doctorate) is integrated in research activity of Higher Education Institutions;</p>	<p>The study Program of the third cycle is integrated in the research activity of the Higher Education Institutions.</p>
<p><b>Standard II.4 - Doctorate student's supervision and continuous evaluation of progress of doctorate studies</b></p>	
<p><b>Criterion 1</b> Scientific supervisor of student is responsible for directing, advising, assessment of student's needs and for developing and monitoring progress of student's research work. He has the academic title "Professor", "Associate Professor" or the scientific degree "Doctor" or ("PhD") awarded in Western universities and has a rich research and publishing activity;</p> <p><b>Criterion 2</b> All scientific supervisors have had the expertise, instruction and proper guidance for their role in realization of scientific research project of doctorate students;</p> <p><b>Criterion 3</b> Scientific supervisors work to update their knowledge and skills, based on institutional arrangements in order to enable the exchange of best practices and providing advice to support students effectively;</p> <p><b>Criterion 4</b> Board of Professors selects scientific supervisors, capable to supervise doctorate students' research work, based on assessment of their publishing and research activities inside and outside the country;</p> <p><b>Criterion 5</b> The main scientific supervisor and the other supervisor (when program of doctorate studies is offered by more than one university) guarantee that doctorate students receive sufficient support and guidance to facilitate their work to achieve success;</p> <p><b>Criterion 6</b> In all cases, the student must have</p>	<p>The EEG observed that the scientific supervisor holds the academic title of "Associated Professor" and "Dr" gained in- and out-of-the-country. The scientific supervisor is responsible for the direction, counselling and evaluation of the student.</p> <p>All the scientific supervisors have had expertise, though not in every case expertise in clinical psychology was formally documented, and offered instructions and guidelines in the realization of the scientific research project of the PhD students.</p> <p>Scientific supervisors work for the daily update of their knowledge and capabilities, supported by the institutional agreements, with the aim of making possible the best practices exchange and giving their advice for the efficient support of the students.</p> <p>Professors' Council chooses the scientific supervisors, capable of leading the scientific research of the PhD students, based on the evaluation of their published research activities, in and out of the country.</p> <p>Scientific supervisors act in compliance with the definitions that the regulation allows for the organization of the PhD programs. The students keep continues contacts with their supervisor for every problem, advice, discussion, experiments, etc., regarding the efficient development of the PhD topic.</p> <p>The University assured that the supervisor had the</p>

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.

necessary time to observe and support the PhD student. If the supervisor was not at the student's disposal, he was substituted by another professor, who was of the same field of study aiming at not threatening the progress of the project.

Clear and transparent procedures were defined for the verification of the students' knowledge (for example, a yearly review from a panel raised for such purpose or from a special commission set up from members of the Professors' Council). The PhD student and his leader must be present during this process.

All the conclusions are made transparent for the student, which are documented and summed up in the personal file of every student. That procedure is applied after the end of the exam for the theoretical state of the disciplines.

All the activities between PhD candidates and their supervisors are documented, as they serve as reference point during the examination of the Progress Report.

**Standard II.5 - Final evaluation of students in this cycle of studies**

**Criterion 1** Student provides evidence that he has acquired:

- Profound knowledge in relevant scientific field;
- Profound knowledge in some areas approximate to it;
- Professional skills in using modern technology to solve critical problems related to his field of scientific research;
- Innovation, to expand and update existing knowledge;
- Autonomy, scientific, professional integrity and dedication for development

Students were capable of using the technology regarding the research and the support materials for their research work and they were interested in doing research in other similar fields.

They had autonomy in scientific research over the research itself that they were doing by using publications of different authors.

Students tended to be as much original as they could in their work and put importance to the findings.

The students also tended to present their work in national and international conferences.

In the final exam, the students would show their findings of

<p>of new ideas that encourage scientific research;</p> <p><b>Criterion 2</b> 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><b>Criterion 3</b> Final evaluation of doctorate students is based above all on an assessment of their scientific research product;</p> <p><b>Criterion 4</b> 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><b>Criterion 5</b> In case of doctorate examination with dissertation thesis, doctorate student meets the following conditions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>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;</li><li>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;</li><li>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;</li></ol> <p><b>Criterion 6</b> 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><b>Criterion 7</b> 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>the research study.</p> <p>During the study period they must publish three scientific articles, where one of them must be with a 1 factor of impact.</p> <p>They also had to present three times, 2 out of which had to be presented in international conferences in the proceedings indexed with ISBN code.</p> <p>The Professors' Board defines the opponents who must do their opponence at the day of presentation in front of the evaluation commission.</p> <p>The scientific supervisor could not be the students' opponent.</p> <p>The student must make an abstract of 10 pages to show how he went about treating the content of his work.</p> <p>The opponents must be of scientific research field.</p> <p>The copy of the dissertation must be given to each opponent.</p> <p>The opponents must indicate that this is an original work and not plagiarized.</p> <p>When the opponents were ready, then they were notified from the Faculty Dean Border of Professors to define the date of defense.</p> <p>After the moment of the defense, two copied of the dissertation were sent to the University Library.</p> <p>After that, the PhD documentation goes to the Ministry of Education where is done the registration in the Register of the Academic titles within this Ministry.</p>
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**Criterion 8** A dissertations copy is given to every opponent, giving enough time to read it and to write a separate report. Opponents should not communicate among themselves, with doctorate student or its scientific supervisor during this period. Opponents must verify the authenticity of data used in dissertation, observance of scientific research practice as well citations of scientific research works and articles of other authors;

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Criterion 16** Evaluations that opponents can make include: granting diploma of scientific

degree "Doctor", or resubmission of written scientific research paper after completion of their recommendations, or a further extension of study program, or denial of diploma for scientific degree "Doctor";

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

**Criterion 18** Scientific degree "Doctor" is not issued without being registered in National Register of Doctorates of Securities Commission Academic Assessment (KVTA) in MES

**Conclusions of EEG: The standards are substantially met.**

In this study program, academic staff consisted of professors who were with psychological background, but not all of them, were specialized in the field of clinical psychology, with some of the professors with no academic background in psychology or methods of psychology. Considering that the PhD programme is about clinical psychology, this is a weakness in the support that is provided to the students, who are following this study program. It was also noticed that the foreign professor did not fulfil the criteria of 15 credits for the subject he was responsible for. The students, who were enrolled in this study program, have introduced their scientific work in different conferences inside and outside of Albania.

This study program for the first year study in total had 60 credits. The program in its theoretical aspect fulfilled 60 credits, where out of it, 600 hours were in the auditorium and 900 individual study hours were spread among years. The subjects and modules were evaluated from the credits according to the principle 1 credit = 25 lesson hours. Credits calculation is done according to the indicative coefficients from the Ministry of Education. The syllabuses of the individual course were not included in the evaluation. The EEG asserted that the scientific supervisor holds the academic title of "Associated Professor" and "Dr" earned in- and out-of-the-country. The scientific supervisor is responsible for the direction, counselling and evaluation of the PhD student. All the meetings of the PhD students with their supervisors were documented, because they serve as reference point after consulting the Progress Report.

Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution

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

### Description part

Regarding teaching in the relevant subjects of the DP-CP (PhD) it was that was offered in the facilities of the Social Sciences Faculty by the responsible lecturers. Teaching was mainly based in the activation of the students to be equipped with an interactive style, where the lecturer exchanges his knowledge with the student, but also undertakes an interaction on the part of the student. Teaching is done with logistic equipments, like video-projector and that depends on the

lecturer of the subject and the way how he does it. They were distinguished for their academic freedom in the process of teaching. The lecture halls were equipped with the right tools to facilitate the process of teaching. Also, the activation of the PhD students was reflected with the help they gave with their engagement in the process of teaching in the first cycle of studies, Bachelor, but also through their participation in conferences organized by AU itself or at foreign conferences. Each PhD students has a supervisor who consults and advises the student upon request. In addition, doctoral days are organized each year for a 2 days face-to-face meeting between all the doctoral students and their supervisors.

**Measurable indicators:**

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

Table 10

Forms of teaching	Class hours for
Lecture	414
Seminars	153
Exercises	--
Laboratories	--
Practice for subjects	--
Professional practice	--
Etc.	34

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

Table 11

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

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

Table 12

HEI scientific activity	Number of students activated
For individual Papers of Lectures	5
For scientific projects of Faculty / Department / Doctoral School	4
For research projects, in collaboration with other	1

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
<b>Standard I.2 - Continuous increase of theoretical level and promotion of students' team work are targets of a study program of third cycle, doctorate.</b>	
<p><b>Criterion 1</b> Level of scientific research development helps in student training to complete the study program successfully;</p> <p><b>Criterion 2</b> Students have the opportunity to participate in various research activities closely related to the specific area in which they attend doctorate studies, which help him/her to be trained for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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;</li> <li>b) Independent work in laboratory;</li> <li>c) Use of information resources (e.g. libraries and Internet) and information management;</li> <li>d) Use of modern technologies for public presentations;</li> <li>e) Acquisition of advanced methods of analysis and data processing;</li> <li>f) Learning and mastery of specialized terminology associated with the research field of doctorate student;</li> </ul> <p><b>Criterion 3</b> 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"> <li>a) Lectures;</li> <li>b) Seminars;</li> <li>c) Interdisciplinary debates, organized in the framework of doctorate study program;</li> <li>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.</li> <li>e) Scientific mentors advise students to take part in scientific activities and conferences that help them in their scientific research;</li> </ul> <p><b>Criterion 4</b> Students have gained skills for</p>	<p>The EEG asserted that the scientific and research level of the PhD program is of help for dedicated and talented students to successfully finish this study program.</p> <p>In fact, the students were given the possibility of participation in the activities done in the insitution but also out of it, in order to introduce part of their scientific work, for which they were working on. During this period the students had published scientific articles related to their PhD work, with which they would then later defend the scientific title of Doctor of Philosophy. However, publications are typically in journals with low international scientific visibility.</p> <p>Each one of them organizes independent work in labs, like that of informatics over the online research of the literature, which in turn helped the students' in their research work.</p> <p>They were also able to use as many technological media tools, helping them in the presentations they would do in conferences and seminars.</p> <p>One of the elements that was needed during the research was even the support that the institution gave over the use of the study methods, such as: advanced methods in analysis and elaboration of data.</p> <p>The PhD students participated in the foreseen activities of the PhD, out of their research work. A PhD candidate was free to participate as listener or like someone taking an inter-active role in: conferences, seminars, inter-disciplinary debates, organized within the framework of the PhD study program.</p> <p>Students had other possibilities of learning, as for example, following the presentations of post-PhD students, and even when this does not directly relate to the interest of the students' research. The scientific supervisors advised their students to participate in creative projects. Scientific conferences helped students in their scientific research work.</p> <p>During presentation of the work in the department, the evaluation groups noticed the preparation of the</p>

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

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

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

formation of the writing component and of being able to express themself on a scientific level, valid for the form and communication in the day of derfense. Students had required good capabilities in the correct communication with others, and necessary capabilities for a researcher. Development of the capabilities of the PhD students' communication has been an incent for their encouragement for their engagement in teaching in the first cycle study program, Bachelor

**Conclusions of EEG: The standard is partly met.**

The scientific research support of AU might help dedicated students to successfully finish the PhD program. In fact, the students were given the possibility of participation in the activities done in the insitution but also out of it, in order to introduce part of their scientific work, for which they were working on. During this period the students had published even scientific articles related to their work, with which they would then later defend the scientific degree of Doctor. However, these publications would be offered in journals with low international scientific visibility. The scientific supervisors advised their students to participate in creative projects. Scientific conferences helped students in their scientific research work. During presentation of the work in the department, the evaluation groups noticed the preparation of the formation of the writing component and of the competence of scientific writing and scientific oral expersion. This is of importance with respect to the presentation and debate at the day of defenseof the thesis.

In this study programme, the students had subjects related to qualitative and quantative methods, which were delivered from professors of Economic area and not from professors of psychology, who would actually know better the needs of psychology students. Overall, students are motivated for research, but they face difficulties in their scientific work such as: conducting surveys with the sample of stakeholders, as defined in their scientific research topic. Students tried to find the relevant literature in the library of the University, but it was observed that the library lacked the necessary literature needed for the third cycle of the study programme in the clinical psychology.

In each syllabus, some literature is made available to students. Some gaps are noticed, because not all literature is available in the library and online library. The online library was not accessible on the day of the site visit.

University had agreements with different institutions inside- and outside-of-the-country, which is definitely a great opportunity for the students. However, some of these agreements were not implemented, i.e. no practical collaboration activities were implemented for students of the DP-CP. These agreements would need a follow-up by PhD supervisors and the Councilil of Professors of the DP-CP.

## 9. Doctoral students

### Description part

The average time for the PhD studies was 3 years, with the first year of study being exclusively defined as a year offering theoretical classes. Upon receiving 60 credits, the student was given the right to pass on the second year of the studies. The acceptance criteria of the students were established according to the regulation of the university with some basic criteria. The quality of acceptance for the initial PhD students could have been noticed even from the level of the chosen students, because they fulfilled the relevant criteria of the institution, but this was also based upon regulations as defined by the Ministry of Education. During the meeting it was noticed that in the first year of 2013, there were 7 students registered and out of which 2 quit and 1 interrupted his studies, which in turn meant that the total number of students continuing with the third cycle of studies in “AU” was 4 students. Upon students’ request they could take advantage of an additional fourth year of doctoral studies. According to the statistics this study program did still not have any graduates (December 2016). However, in December 2016 one student had all the research publications published as required for the final defensio. Students’ information was done through the PhD coordinator, who coordinated all the procedure for the choice of applicants for PhD. There was also one student who came from abroad and therefore not all were Albanian citizens.

### Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
<b>Standard I.3 - Admission of students in a doctorate study program</b>	
<p><b>Criterion 1</b> The student admitted to doctorate study program has completed second study cycle with average grade (&gt; 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><b>Criterion 2</b> 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"> <li>a) Creative thinking;</li> <li>b) Development of critical sense about research;</li> <li>c) Connections between different fields of research;</li> <li>d) Skills developed for solving problems arising during research work;</li> </ul>	<p>Students who were part of the PhD program had finished the second cycle of studies and had a GPA over mark 8.00.</p> <p>Students who applied to continue the study program of the third cycle, PhD, had deep theoretical knowledge in the relevant study field. Some of the basic knowledge that the PhD student had was creative thinking, development of a critical sense related to the field of research, basic competences for scientific problem solving, as well as the competency to manage the research complexity and to propose new ideas in the field of research.</p> <p>These students after the completion of the cycle of studies should be ready to apply in practice the knowledge received from the scientific research that they did.</p> <p>According to the established guidelines from the Ministry of Education, the students had to have Level “C1” of the English language knowledge, which was a requirement on part of the students after the completion of the studies.</p>

<p>e) Competence to manage research complexity and to propose new ideas in research field;</p> <p><b>Criterion 3</b> 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><b>Criterion 4</b> 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><b>Criterion 5</b> Professors' Council set the criteria for admission to program of doctorate studies contained in regulation of doctorate program of studies;</p> <p><b>Criterion 6</b> The applicant has received detailed information about doctorate program of study, before being admitted into it. He is fully informed regarding:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Duration of study program;</li> <li>b) Conditions that student should meet before appearing in doctorate exam;</li> <li>c) Support that institution provides to the student through administrative and research structures for activities envisaged in the study program (laboratories, libraries, etc.).</li> <li>d) Modalities of exercise of research or creative activity of doctorate students, especially with regard to preparation of doctorate thesis;</li> </ul> <p><b>Criterion 7</b> Admission criteria include also interviews and supports that can be provided by references and additional documents;</p> <p><b>Criterion 8</b> Admission policies include also doctorate admission exam.</p>	<p>That criterion was assured according to the politics of the AU itself.</p> <p>One of the key points for getting accepted in the third cycle of studies, were the criteria established by the Professors' Council, criteria reported a discussed during the site visit. The applicant student has received detailed information for the study program of PhD, before he could get accepted in it, as well as how long it takes to accomplish it.</p> <p>The conditions that the students have to fulfill before coming to the PhD admission exam were explicit and available in advance. The support that the institution assures to the student through the administrative and research structures for the foreseen activities in the program of study. Getting accepted in the PhD is based on the fulfillment of the necessary documentation on part of the applicant student.</p> <p>The admission exam for the DP-CP was not included in the SER. However, this might be conforming to guidelines of the Ministry of Education itself.</p>
<p><b>Standard III.2 - Quantitative aspects of doctorate study program</b></p>	
<p>Total number of registered doctorate students and doctorate number for each year;</p> <p>Number of registered doctorate students coming from outside the unit that has opened the doctorate study program;</p> <p>Number of diplomas issued to receive "Doctor" degree for each year;</p> <p>Average duration of doctorate studies and trend of this indicator;</p> <p>Number and percentage of those who gave up doctorate studies in the level of study program.</p>	<p>In 2013 there were 7 students accepted in the third study cycle.</p> <p>Out of those students only 4 remained in December 2016.</p> <p>There was no number of students who would transfer from one institution to the other and still be in the third cycle of doctoral studies.</p> <p>According to the data, the first students of the third cycle were not yet graduated</p> <p>The time of study of this cycle was only 3 academic years, out of which the first academic year was theoretical.</p> <p>All the 4 students were in the second year of their</p>



	doctoral studies.
<b>Standard III.4 - Internationalization of doctorate study program</b>	
<p>Number, expressed in percentage, of registered doctorate students coming from Kosovo and other areas where Albanians live and Albanian Diaspora;</p> <p>Number, expressed in percentage, of registered doctorate students coming from Balkans region.</p> <p>Number, expressed in percentage, of registered doctorate students coming from the EU countries;</p> <p>Number, expressed in percentage, of registered doctorate students coming from other countries of the world;</p>	<p>In total there were 2 students from the land of Kosova and 2 students were from the Republic of Albania</p> <p>There were no additional students, thus percentage figures are not straightforward.</p>
<p><b>Conclusions of EEG: The standard is fully met.</b></p> <p>Students who were part of the PhD program had finished the second cycle of studies and had a GPA over mark 8.00. These students after the completion of the cycle of studies should be ready to apply in practice the knowledge received from the scientific research that they did. One of the key points for getting accepted in the third cycle of studies, were the criteria established by the Professors’ Council, which were presented during the meeting done with this Council at the time of the site visit. The applicant student had received detailed information for the study program of PhD, before he could get accepted in it, as well as how long it takes to accomplish it. In addition, students are informed prior to the admission exam about the admission conditions to the CP-DP. Finally, students are informed about the support that the institution assures to the students through the administrative and research structures for the foreseen activities in the program of study. Reasons for the drop-out rate in the CP-DP were not analysed in the SER.</p>	

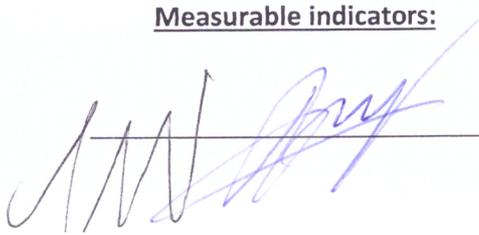
**SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH POLICIES**

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

**Description part**

The University asked continuously from the academic staff to carry on and always prepare own new research work. In this regard the AU requires from PhD program lecturers and supervisors to yearly publish at least 2 articles and yearly participate in at least 2 conferences. Their research activities and research output should fit either to applied or basic research. These ongoing research activities by lecturers and supervisors would enable them to better supervise their PhD students. For the lecturers who were also supervisors, the university politics was to achieve a common basis between the research work of the supervisor lecturer and the PhD students’ research interests. This is common from an international perspective and assures a high standard and better quality in the supervision of PhD students. As some of the lecturer of the PhD program in clinical psychology have earned their academic degrees in non-psychology disciplines their own research outcomes (publications) are not in direct connection the the clinical psychology field. In addition, not few of the lecturers’ and supervisors’ CV do not show the ongoing required own research activities.

**Measurable indicators:**



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

Table 13

Planned activities, individual and institution, who are involved in doctoral students		Number	The titles of scientific journals, projects, research activities
1.	Publications, where students have scientific articles	12	“Balkan Journal of Interdisciplinary Research”; “Academic Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies”; “Optime” Journal
2.	Research projects, acquired by leading professors or doctoral students	--	
3.	Projects Implemented	--	
4.	Scientific activities organized by the HEI	3	1. International Conference “Transition and society in multi-disciplinary approach”, 2014, ISBN 978-9928-127-47-1, in cooperation with the Universitetin e Prishtinës, University of Shkodra, Albanian Institution of Sociology and the Scientific Academy. 2. International Conference with the topic: "Social Sciences of the Nowadays - Innovation Research for Social Sciences, Technology and Development". AU
5.	Participants in scientific activities	4	
6.	Students involved in research	5	
	Etc		

Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution

**Evaluation according to the Standards**

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
<b>Standard II.1 - Capacities for scientific research</b>	
<p><b>Criterion 1</b> A third cycle study program (doctorate) is integrated in research activity of Higher Education Institutions;</p> <p><b>Criterion 4</b> The institution has the capacity to perform supervision of each doctorate student in research activities and respective didactic duties;</p> <p><b>Criterion 6</b> Academic staff must show</p>	<p>PhD study programs were organized within a big research, didactic, cultural project of independent research and were made possible in coordination with the documented developments of the research activity of every Faculty or the university in total. They could be organized also in the form of inter-disciplinary or common programs. The formative objectives of the PhD</p>

achievements in the research field through such creative activities as: presentations, scientific publications, magazines, books or monographs; **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

study programs were wide, motivated and related to the scientific orientation in the chosen field or fields in the case of the PhD-s of two or more disciplines. The “AU” institution had the capacity to carry out the supervision of every PhD student in research and other respective didactic tasks. “Albanian University” had agreements with national institutions like that of the Mental Health Clinic “Venus”, Association “Aksion Plus”, “SOS” Village, Foundation “Fëmijët Shqiptarë”, Development Center “Shtëpia e Kuqe” Albanian Science Academy, State University “Luigj Gurakuqi. Also, Albanian University, had agreement with International Institutions, like that of the Study University in Palermo, as well as with University of Studies in Urbino Carlo Bo, Italy and with the Sigmund Freud University in Vienna. The academic personnel achieved success in research, through creative activities like those related to references, scientific published works, journals, books and monographs. An indicator for the research activity at a high level are what is published and contains citations from the scientific research activities from other researchers, out of the PhD study program, especially those international ones, regarding the scientific research result in the institution that offers PhD programs.

**Conclusions of EEG: The standard is substantially met.**

PhD study program was organized within a big research, didactic, cultural project of independent research and was made possible in coordination with the documented developments of the research activity of every Faculty or the university in total. They could be organized also in the form of inter-disciplinary or common programs. The formative objectives of the PhD study programs were wide, motivated and related to the scientific orientation in the chosen field or fields in the case of the PhD-s of two or more disciplines. The “AU” institution had the capacity to carry out the supervision of every PhD student in research and other respective didactic tasks. “Albanian University” had agreements with national institutions like that of the Mental Health Clinic “Venus”, Association “Aksion Plus”, “SOS” Village, Foundation “Fëmijët Shqiptarë”, Development Center “Shtëpia e Kuqe” Albanian Science Academy, State University “Luigj Gurakuqi. Also, Albanian University, had agreement with International Institutions, like that of the Study University in Palermo, as well as with University of Studies in Urbino Carlo Bo, Italy and with the Sigmund Freud University in Vienna. However, the international agreements have the character of an overall and general “memorandum of agreement” and do not have a specific action plan related to the CP-DP!

Staff of psychological department was involved in the publications of scientific research articles both inside and outside of the country. It is internationally common that professors and lecturers as well as supervisors in PhD programs have an ongoing record of own research output. These criteria are prominently challenged by the missing research outcomes in the filed clinical psychology in the CV of not few of the academic having responsibility in the DP-CP!

AU had an own scientific journal, where both the students of the second and third study program and professors introduced their scientific work. With respect to PhD related research outcomes it is an international standard for PhD students to publish their papers in international peer-reviewed scientific

journals of the field. We would recommend AU to require in the DP-CP at least one publication in an international peer-reviewed journal that is ranked in the first quartile of the peer-reviewed journals of that field (e.g. journal with high impact factor in the field of research like clinical psychology)!

University did not have a research center attached as part of its infrastructure. However, in the infrastructure of the university, there were sufficient premises which could be used from the students, but not specifically for research in clinical psychology i.e scientific research labs. PHD students had the opportunity to develop their thesis inside the University but mainly regarding the theoretical aspect.

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

### Description part

The Psychological Department offered scientific supervision for the PhD candidates and it structured the research work of the pedagogical staff according to certain specific directions. The University, in order to realize academic publications in Albanian language of the local and foreign academic authors, offered an academic publishing unit, which was also known in the region, as well as the journal “OPTIME” of the Albanian University with ISBN ISSN: 2220461X. Also, during the second year of PhD studies, the PhD students were engaged in teaching of various disciplines of the study Program in General Psychology, like that of the Development Psychology, Health Psychology, Psychodiagnostics, Counselling Psychology, Advanced Legal Psychology, Clinic Communication with Children and Adults. In addition, the AU has made efforts during the last two years in establishing formal collaboration agreements with academic centers and private universities of Western countries having distinct profile in clinical psychology.

### Measurable indicators:

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

Table 14

Scientific activities in the framework of international cooperation		
1	Number of students participating as partners in national and international projects	5
2	Number of Students participating in scientific activities, outside of HEI / presentations abroad	5
3	The number of foreign lecturers, who are invited to teaching	2
4	The number of classes held by invited foreign lecturers	106
5	Number of participants in training, in the field of abroad research	3
6	Mobility of students to and from HEI	-
7	The number of international awards in the field of research	-

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

Table 15

Institutions and scientific organizations, which is cooperating with	
Health Ministry	Short-Termed
	Short-Termed

External Evaluation Report of Phd in “Clinical Psychology” of Private University Albanian University

Education and Sports Ministry	
Judicial Court of Tirana	Long-Termed
First-Degree Court for Severe Crimes	Long-Termed

Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution

**Evaluation according to the Standards**

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
<b>Standard III.4 - Internationalization of doctorate study program</b>	
<p><b>Criterion 5</b> Doctorate study program encourages doctorate mobility by paying a considerable amount of expenditures for academic training outside doctorate study program;</p> <p><b>Criterion 6</b> Doctorate study program encourages mobility of doctorate students by paying a considerable amount of expenditures for presentation of research results in national and international scientific activities (symposium, conference, congress);</p> <p><b>Criterion 7</b> The institution has an agreement, at least with one Western university, guaranteeing programs of exchange of academic staff and doctorate students and realization of joint research projects. For Albanological Sciences cooperation could also be with a Higher Education Institution or research centre in Kosovo and lands where Albanians live;</p> <p><b>Criterion 8</b> Doctorate study program creates the necessary space to develop joint doctorate study programs with homologous universities in the region, Europe and beyond;</p> <p><b>Criterion 9</b> Doctorate study program provides for 3-4 modules (not less than 15 ECTS) to be conducted, organized in theoretical studies and doctorate students have the exam by professors of partner universities, known in the world, for quality and research, publishing activities in the relevant field of study. Exception cited in criterion 7 applies for Albanological Sciences;</p> <p><b>Criterion 10</b> Doctorate study program promotes involvement of professors from foreign universities as scientific supervisors or as scientific collaborators of doctorate students.</p>	<p>The EEG asserts and acknowledges that the PhD program in Clinical Psychology encouraged the mobility of the PhD students, supporting the costs for academic training from resources generated by the DP-CPAs well as additional funds (central funds from AU).</p> <p>Also, the PhD study program in Clinical Psychology encouraged the mobility of PhD students, undertaking a considerable measure of expenses for the presentation of research results in national and international scientific activity. The Institution had agreements with a Western university, especially with similar universities in Italy, which guaranteed programs of exchange of the academic personnel and PhD students, as well as realizing similar research projects. The third cycle study program for PhD creates the necessary space for the development of common programs of PhD studies with homologue universities in the region, Europe, something that was noticed even during cooperation that the students of this cycle of studies had with respective lecturers in universities in USA. The PhD study program foresaw the development of 3-4 modules (no less than 15 ECTS) in the formal theoretical studies. However, the PhD students took not their exams in these modules from the lecturers of the partner universities well-known around the world, in the quality and rich research and publishing activities in the relevant field of studies. The exam was conducted from the ad-hoc commission created by the Professors' Council. The PhD study program served as incentive in involving professors from foreign universities, as scientific supervisors or partner for PhD students.</p>
<b>Standard II.1 - Capacities for scientific research</b>	

External Evaluation Report of Phd in “Clinical Psychology” of Private University Albanian University

<b>Criterion 5</b> The institution has agreements with other academic or research institutions at home and abroad, supporting the exchange of academic staff and doctorate students and academic and research activities of doctorate school;	The higher education institution “Albanian University” had an agreement with other academic and research institutions, in and out of the country, to support the academic staff and PhD students’ exchange, as well as the academic and research activities of the PhD program, the University of Palermo, Carlo Bo and University Sigmund Freud in Vienna.
<b>Conclusions of EEG: Standard is fully met.</b> PhD program in Clinical Psychology encouraged the mobility of the PhD students, and takes considerable measures to financially support the academic formation of the PhD study program (resources from generated by the income of the DP-CP and central funds of AU). The third cycle study program for PhD creates the necessary space for the development of common programs of PhD studies with homologue universities in the region, Europe, something that was noticed even during cooperation that the students of this cycle of studies had with respective lecturers in universities in USA. However, the exam related to courses (modules) offered by professors from outside AU was conducted in front of the ad-hoc commission created by the Professors’ Council. The higher education institution “Albanian University” had an agreement with other academic and research institutions, in and out of the country, to support the academic staff and PhD students’ exchange, as well as the academic and research activities of the PhD program, the University of Palermo, Carlo Bo and University Sigmund Freud in Vienna. Some of these agreements have the character of a general “memorandum of collaboration” without any specific activities related directly to the DP-CP!	

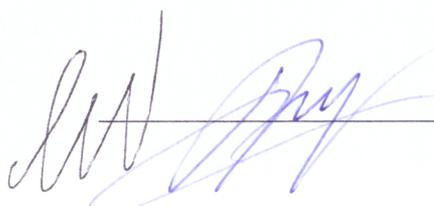
**SWOT ANALYSIS**

**Strengths**

1. The institution has the necessary facilities for carrying on the third cycle study program.
2. The institution creates the cooperation space for the professional preparation of PhD students.
3. The institution has set up first overall cooperation agreements with academic center and one private university from western countries with a focus on clinical psychology and psychotherapy.

**Weaknesses**

1. The scientific research methods under the theoretical part was not covered from the lecturers belonging to that study field.
2. Academic staff transfer from one year to the other.
3. Financing is poor because it is generated only from the students’ revenues and what was missing was the national and international research projects in order to gain additional funds.
4. The on-line library must be enriched with more books and materials (psychological tests) related to Clinic Psychology for the third study cycle, as well as the books in the library



must be of different backgrounds and there must be books in foreign languages that are appropriate for this study program.

5. The full-time academic staff is also part of the unit for the institution’s evaluation.
6. All of the members of the council of professors and the scientific committee of the PhD program in clinical psychology have their academic background in non-psychology disciplines.
7. “In-House” journals for scientific publications, with no international peer-review system, leads to low level of international visibility for the early career researchers, and low scientific quality assurance.

### **Opportunities**

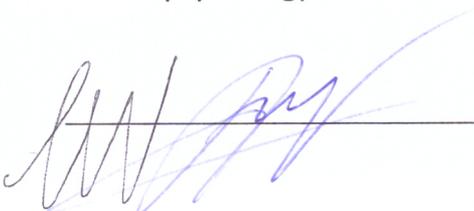
1. Widening of new forms of cooperation with institutions that cover the clinic psychology field in Albania.
2. Developing a concrete action plan for the DP-CP with respect to the collaboration agreement as established, especially with those having a distinct profile in clinical psychology.
3. Establish a specific research profile in the clinical psychology PhD programme with two or three branches.

### **Threats**

1. Competition between universities that offer the third study cycle.
2. Successfully attract professors and supervisors with a distinct research profile in clinical psychology.
3. Attracting a critical number of first-rate PhD students for the third cycle in clinical psychology.

### **Recommendations**

1. The Professors’ Council must be at a Faculty level and not at a University level, because they need to be Professors of similar fields.
2. The working contract of scientific supervisors must be signed by both parties as an institution but even by the scientific supervisor.
3. The foreign lecturer must fulfill 15 credits in total and not 7 credits as they were shown in documents with foreign lecturers also taking the exams of the classes they taught.
4. Lecturers’ CV should have a distinct profile in clinical psychology and/or methods of psychology.



5. Foreign professors with high visibility in clinical psychology research as supervisors for future PhD students.
6. Space for academic staff should be improved.
7. Funds should be made available for new and advanced textbooks for the third level of study.
8. Measures should be taken to improve the quality assurance, especially the evaluation group should not be dependent from Rector.
9. Current literature needs enrichment with materials, which are in accordance with the content of the third cycle of the study program.
10. Use international, peer-reviewed journals from the field of clinical psychology to publish PhD Students’ research papers

External Evaluation Group:

1. Prof. Dr. Germain Weber
2. Prof. Asoc.Dr. Arjana Mucaj

