AGJENCIA E SIGURIMIT TË CILËSISË NË ARSIMIN E LARTË

PERIODIC EXTERNAL EVALUATION REPORT

FOR SECOND CYCLE STUDY PROGRAMs "MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ARCHITECTURE"
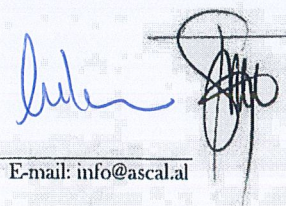
OF HEI "EPOKA UNIVERSITY"

External Evaluation Group:

1. Assoc.Prof. Gjergji Islami

2. Assoc.Prof. Teuta Jashari Kajtazi

October /2022

STUDY PROGRAM DATA SUMMARY TABLE

Nr.		
1	Applicant HEI:	Epoka University
2	Basic unit of the study program:	Department of Architecture
3	Name of the study program:	Master of Science in Architecture
4	Licensing order / DCM:	DCM No. 908, dated 26.08.2009
5	Reorganization order / DCM:	
6	Diploma registration form:	Order No. 565, dated 22.11.2011
7	Order / ABD of the periodic accreditation:	Accreditation Board Decision Nr. 53, datë 28.09.2018
8	Study cycle:	Second
9	Duration of the study program:	2 years
10	Total Credits (ECTS):	120 ECTS
11	Form of study:	Full time
12	Language (Albanian / other):	English
13	The program is offered in cooperation with other institutions:	
14	Joint degree (insert name):	
15	Dual degree (insert name):	-
16	The national qualifications framework level:	7
17	EAS / CAS for the study program:	EAS/ CAS
18	Number of students:	5
19	Comments / others:	

SUMMARY OF THE EXTERNAL EVALUATION

Epoka University started its academic activities during the 2007-2008 academic year in compliance with the provisions of the Albanian higher education legislation.
In 2012, based on the Decision of the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania No. 553, dated 22.08.2012, the legal status of the institution changed from "Institution of Higher Education" to "University".

It is comprised of three Faculties:
- Faculty of Architecture and Engineering
- Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences
- Faculty of Law and Social Sciences

The Faculty of Architecture and Engineering has three Departments:
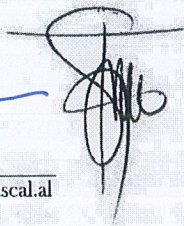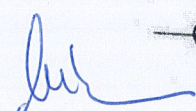- Department of Architecture
- Department of Civil Engineering
- Department of Computer Engineering

In 2021 the University was issued a periodical institutional accreditation by the Albanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education valid until 1 5/12/2027.

The Master of Science study program in "Architecture" was licensed with DCM No. 908, dated 26.08.2009, as a Master of Science in "Architecture", with the duration of 2 academic years and with 120 ECTS. The study program was first accredited with the Order of the Minister of Education and Science No. 286, dated 06.07.2012, based on the Decision of the Accreditation Council No. 339, dated 08.06.2012.

The Master of Science in "Architecture" program was periodically accredited on 28.09.2018 with validity until 30.09.2022. The Program became available only to students that started to study architecture at Epoka in the 2008-2010 period. Considering this fact, the overall number of students enrolled in this program has decreased progressively.
In general terms, Epoka University, the Faculty of Architecture and Engineering and the Department of Architecture in particular, have shown overall progress by increasing the number of students and academic staff, establishing a campus with a qualitative infrastructure. During the academic year 2021-2022 the Master of Science in Architecture at Epoka University has reached an agreement with Napoli Federico Il University to offer a double degree.
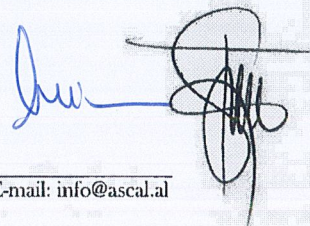
FULFILLMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FIRST ACCREDITATION

Recommendations of the Accreditation Board from the previous accreditation:

a) The institution must improve the curriculum of the study program by adjusting the credits of the courses according to the ECTS System and the integration of more professional activities in it, as well as the reduction of the number of elective courses.

b) The institution must recruit new academic staff, with degrees and titles, to reduce the teaching load of the current academic staff engaged in this study program and secure a greater staff involvement in scientific research activities.

c) The institution must increase its cooperation with companies or architecture studios outside the institution.

Analysis of fulfilment of recommendations:

a) The institution addressed the Recommendation by making changes to the Curricula of the study program. It includes the adjustment of credits of the courses according to the ECTS System and the integration of more professional activities in it, as well as the reduction of the number of elective courses. (Additional document 3.1, revised Curricula). The **Recommendation has been met.**

b) The institution addressed the Recommendation by recruiting new academic staff, with degrees and titles, to reduce the teaching in all programs of Architecture. However, the load of the academic staff engaged remains high in general, but not in the Master of Science in Architecture study Program (under evaluation), for the fact that it has a symbolic number of students. In this case, the Institution managed to secure a greater staff involvement in scientific research activities. (Annex-69) and (Annex-69). Though, considering that the recommendation was meant mainly to decrease the high teaching load for the academic staff, we consider it as **partially met.**

c) The institution addressed the Recommendation by increasing its cooperation with companies or architecture studios outside the institution. This can be argued by the list of partnerships provided by the Institution (Annex-22, https://epoka.edu.al/membership/cat-partnerships-2322.html).The **Recommendation has been met.**

DESCRIPTION OF THE EXTERNAL EVALUATION PROCESS;

The External Evaluation of the Master of Science Study Program in Architecture started with the site visit conducted in June 2022, following previously prepared Agenda, containing discussions with all relevant parties involved. During discussion the EEG managed to address important issues and confirm the documentation provided, visit the premises, and confirm the insfrastructure required for the teaching and learning process, including the Self Evaluation of the Program.

Upon completion of the visit, the EEG requested additional documents mainly related with the revised Curricula (based on previous evaluation recommendation), number of graduated students, number of active students, the process related to transfer of students and exceptance of ECTS credits. The same information requested by EEG, was shortly provided by the Institution, allowing the evaluation process to continue further with the preparation of the report evaluating the Master of Science in Architecture program.
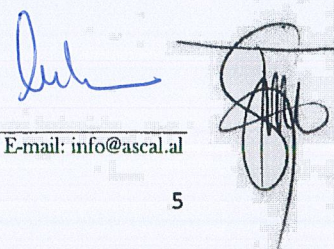
The draft report is sent to the institution through the AMS system on 19.09.2022. The institution on 23.09.2022 through the AMS system and with letter Prot. No 217/8 on date 23.09.2022, has sent comments on the draft report.

The external evaluation group after carefully reading the comments of the institution, states as follows:

Regarding FULFILLMENT OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE FIRST ACCREDITATION, Comment No.1: The EEG has into consideration that high teaching loads are affecting the academic staff performance. What the institution is proposing (considering only the hours of the MSc program) seems a technical justification rather than a will to face the recommendation of the Accreditation Board. On the other hand, the EEG has not noticed any attempt of improvement in the reduction of teaching load, which remains an unfulfilled reccomendation: **The report in this point does not change.**

Regarding the evaluation "Study Program Provision," Comment No.1: The Institution agrees with the fact that better and further promotion of the program is essential, including the possibility that the agreement with Federíco II University of Naples will give in this regard, as well as the increase in the number of international students and internationalization of the Program, therefore: **The report in this point does not change.**

Regarding evaluation area 1, "Study Program Provision," comment No.2: Continuous review and update of syllabuses within a particular Program, Master of Science in Architecture, in this case, is considered required and essential for students when they face the job market. Since both EEG and the Institution agree on this aspect: **The report in this point does not change.**

Regarding the evaluation area "Human, Financial. Infrastructure and Logistics Resources for Study Program Delivery", comment No.1: The Institution agrees with the suggestion given in the report. **The report in this point does not change.**

Regarding the evaluation area "Human, Financial. Infrastructure and Logostics Resources for Study Program Delivery", comment No.2: The statement of the EEG is related to the low number of students and the fact that the program cannot generate sufficient income to be autonomous. The comments provided by the IEG is related to the cooperation between programs and manegment within the university, which is also aknowleged by the EEG. **The report in this point does not change.**

Regarding the evaluation area "Human, Financial. Infrastructure and Logistics Resources for Study Program Delivery", comment No.3: The EEG has been provided with supplementary documentation which demonstrate the financial stability of the institution. Although there is no relaevant information specifically related to the programme and the Standard IV.6 Criterion 4 (plans the special interventions and eventual diversification of the program funding to ensure its smooth performance and progress), the EEG has reformulated the content of the report. **The report in this point changes.**

Regarding the evaluation area "Students and Their Support", comment No.1: The statement of the EEG is related to the low number of students for the program that can (probably) be improved by reviewing the "admission and information" policies. This is a suggestion with the sole target of providing tools for the institution to attract more students. Possible admission and information policies can include scholarships, and a better information campaign, identifiying potential groups of interests. Considering that this is a suggestion, **The report in this point does not change.**

Regarding the evaluation area "Students and Their Support", comment No.2: The IEG confirms the statement of the EEG. The EEG is aware that statistics are not helpful with a minimal number of students. **The report in this point does not change.**

Regarding the evaluation area "Students and Their Support", comment No.3: The IEG confirms the statement of the EEG. The EEG is aware of the fact that programs with very low number of students usually do not have their representatives in student bodies. **The report in this point does not change.**
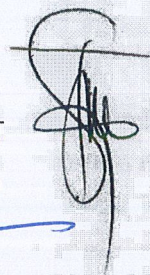
Regarding the evaluation area "Students and Their Support", comment No.4: The EEG agrees to the comment provided and accepts the term "non-aplicable" as more appropriate. **The report in this point changes.**

Regarding the evaluation area "Students and Their Support", comment No.5: The IEG confirms the statement of the EEG. **The report in this point does not change.**

Regarding the evaluation area "Study Program's Quality Assurance", comment No.1: The EEG cannot reply to the comment, which is not directly related to the statments. **The report in this point does not change.**

Regarding the evaluation area "Study Program's Quality Assurance", comment No.2: The EEG cannot reply to the comment, which is not directly related to the statment. **The report in this point does not change.**

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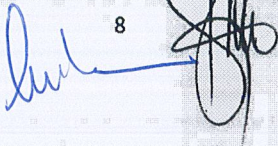Web site: www.ascal.al
E-mail: info@ascal.al
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Regarding the evaluation area "Study Program's Quality Assurance", comment No.3:
The EEG wants to clarify the statement reminding that: 1- the small number of students has created a program that does not have dedicated academic staff but operates through the staff of the five year program in architecture; 2- The students of the MSc program follow courses together with the students of the five year program in architecture. Considering the above, we think that under these circumstances, the program is not autonomous. Though, the EEG is aware of the development potentials of the program, and is expecting to see them achieved in the next accreditation process. **The report in this point does not change.**

Evaluation of the Second Cycle Study Program Master of Science in Architecture

I. STUDY PROGRAM "MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ARCHITECTURE" PROVISION

Standard I.1	
The Higher Education Institution provides a "Master of science" study program in accordance with its mission and objectives, aiming at maintaining national interests and values.	
Criterions	**Evaluation of experts**
Criterion 1 The institution offers a "Master of Science"/ "Master of Arts" study programs in compliance with national interests.	The study program Master of Science in "Architecture" aims at the qualification of the students with advanced knowledge in the field of Architecture, involving a critical understanding of theories and applications in the construction industry. Following this the study program contributes to the implementation of national priorities as highlighted in the National Strategy for Development and Integration which serves as a strategic document for the continuous improvement of the curriculum of the study Program.
Criterion 2 The "Master of Science" / "Master of Arts" study program aims to preserve and consolidate national academic and cultural values.	The study program Master of Science in Architecture is in accordance with the national policies as set out in the "National Strategy for Higher Education" of the Ministry of Education and Sports. The same provides the students with academic skills and ethics that can help them contribute to the research environment in Albania. During their studies, students learn the process of research and publish articles. Studies include projects, assignments and essays that are oriented towards the challenges and needs of the Albanian economy and the service of the community and its values. Based on the presented material, one of the intentions is promoting Albanian culture and tradition to foreign academic staff and students.
Criterion 3 The study program is designed and delivered in accordance with the goals and mission of the institution and field of activity.	The study program is in accordance with the "Statute of EPOKA University" [Annex 2] and the "EPOKA University Framework Strategy 2018-2022" [Annex 4], drafted in accordance with the requirements of the higher education legislation in Albania as well as with Europe's Bologna process and ECTS System. The study program Master of Science in Architecture is in line with the mission and purpose of EPOKA University as stated in the documents mentiond above. Plan of the institution includes innovative teaching and research methodology, which helps in increasing the number of professional and accountable individuals oriented and open to national and international challenges.
	https://arch.epoka.edu.al/cat-strategic-plan-2017-2022-1888.html?lang=EN&dpid=2&t=strategic-plan-2017-2022&catid=1888&menuid=1888
	However, having in mind a very symbolic number of students, it remains for the institution to further promote the program and be able to present concrete results of its fulfillment.
Criterion 4 The "Master of Science" / "Master of Arts" study program is designed and offered in	The study program Master of Science in Architecture consists of courses that address both the scientific research and professional skills in the field of architecture, aiming the contribution to the national

line with and promotes local and / or national economic development.	economic and construction development priorities. More details on the courses the program offeres can be found in the presented Curricula [Annex 14] and changes made during the period of accreditation [Annex 76]. The site visit resulted in additional documents provided and related to this criterion [Additional Annex 3.1].	
Criterion 5 The "Master of Science" / "Master of Arts" study program establishes a sustainable competences basis, necessary for in-depth third cycle studies, including in-depth professional and scientific training.	Based on the documentation provided as well as the presentation during the meeting at the Institution, the Department of Architecture annual activity calendar, includes professional and scientific trainings through open lectures, forums, discussions, and study trips. The study program Master of Science in Architecture provides an in depth third cycle study including professional and scientific training to graduates in coordination with other national and international partners from academia and the industry. Examples related to the above activites are presented in the SER and were discussed during the visit (refer to the following: workshop of 100+ Villages Academy; https://icaud.epoka.edu.al/2019; https://sparelife.epoka.edu.al/2019/) It should be noted that these activities include the majority of students within the 5-year Program in architecture, since, the number of students in a 2 year Master of Science Program in Architecture was and is very symbolic. Therefore, further promotion of the program and a bigger turnout of students would give a possibility to clearly identify the participation of Master of Science Program students in various activities throughout their studies.	

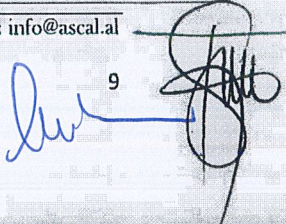| Fulfillment of standard		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
			X	

Standard I.2
The MSc study program is in line with the development strategy, statute and other regulatory acts of the Higher Education Institution and its academic fields.

Criterions	Evaluation of experts
Criterion 1 The institution clearly stipulates that the study program is designed and delivered in compliance with and in implementation of the institution's own development strategy.	Using the following documents, EPOKA University shows that the study program is in accordance with the "Statute of EPOKA University" (Refer to Annex-2) and the "EPOKA University Framework Strategy 2018-2022" (Refer to Annex-4). https://arch.epoka.edu.al/cat-strategic-plan-2017-2022-1888.html?lang=EN&dpid=2&t=strategic-plan-2017-2022&catid=1888&menuid=1888
Criterion 2 The statute and the regulation of the institution clearly define its academic priorities and demonstrate that the study program is designed and delivered in accordance with and in implementation of the latter.	Based on the statute, regulations and the strategy documents presented, the Institution defines academic priorities, being an innovative and influential education and research entity leading towards development, and dissemination of knowledge at the national and international level. Therefore, the Program under evaluation, itself, can be considered compliant with these main goals to prepare senior specialists in the field of architecture. Promotion of the program by the institution, especially after the agreement reached with Federico II University of Naples, should be used as an opportunity that could help raise the number of interested students to enroll in the program.

Criterion 3 The designation, organization, structure and content of the study programs are provided in accordance with institution's areas and academic profiles.	Documents provided and discussions held during the visit, clearly show that the study program Master of science in Architecture complies with Level 7 in the Albanian Qualification Framework, based upon which the study programs of EPOKA University have been organized in all three levels: Integrated Second Cycle Study Program in Architecture, 2 years Master Program, and the PhD Program.
Criterion 4 The "Master of Science" / "Master of Arts" study program is designed and developed in accordance with national development strategies, national interest and global development trends.	The study program Master of Science in Architecture consists of courses that address both the scientific research and professional skills in the field of architecture, aiming the contribution to the national economic and construction development priorities. More details on the courses the program offeres can be found in the presented Curricula [Annex 14] and changes made during the period of accreditation [Annex 76]. The site visit resulted in additional documents provided and related to this criterion [Additional annex 3.1]

Fulfillment of standard		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
			X	

Standard I.3
The "Master of Science" / "Master of Arts" study program aims to meet the needs of the labor market and is provided in accordance with its requirements.

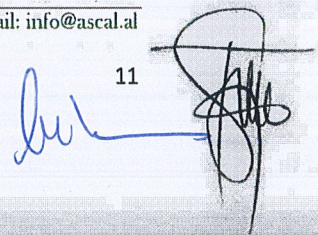| Criterions	Evaluation of experts
Criterion 1 The "Master of Science" / "Master of Arts" study program has set welldefined objectives for student training in that program, which include indepth scientific competences, skills and professional competencies that students should acquire at the end of the study program, which characterize the profile of the program in accordance with the level of studies in which they are offered and with the requirements of the labor market.	Documents provided show that students of the study program Master of Science in Architecture are equipped with skills in critical analysis of knowledge in the field of architecture. They are provided with specialized problem-solving skills necessary for research and innovation, development of new knowledge and procedures which integrate interdisciplinary knowledge from various areas. Competencies include advanced theoretical framework, application of theories into the construction, government, and development sectors nationwide, as well as analysis and critical review of relevant principles in architecture and urban design.
Criterion 2 The institution conducts studies on the local and international labor market for the study program it provides before its opening, after students' graduation, and periodically. These studies should include data from formal communication with employers of the respective field of study, their needs and requirements, student employment opportunities, data on real employment of graduates and expected developments in the relevant sector.	The Career Planning and Alumni Office (CPAO) https://cpao.epoka.edu.al/ conducts a study showing the graduate outcomes in the labour market [Annex 21]. Alumni survey as well shows the statistics of employability and the effect of the study program after graduation [Annex 17, 18]. https://docs.google.com/document/d/1zI1SAXOj4-xB8-aj5IEPB7XabcRyflru/edit As an outcome, the institution should identify the aspects and issues to be addressed for further improvement of the study program using the information collected.
Criterion 3 The study program training objectives, structure and content, as well as study program expected learning outcomes guarantee the acquisition of	The study program Master of Science in Architecture is designed in accordance with the national and international labor market needs. Considering that the language of instruction in this program is English, it increases opportunities for graduates in the labor market in Albania

knowledge, skills, and competences that respond to market needs and facilitate student employment.	and abroad. In general, the study Program addresses students' employability skills, including advanced writing and communication competencies, ability to design and develop various architectural and urban designs, evaluation of designs and issues of energy efficiency, and building simulation. This leads to the constant need to review and update syllabuses and the teaching material according to the developments in the wider labor market, allowing students to be prepared for job opportunities.
Criterion 4 The study program is aligned with similar study programs provided by international institutions in order to facilitate study transfer or student employment in the international market in the future.	The study program Master of Science in Architecture is aligned with similar study programs provided by international institutions to facilitate study transfer or student employment in the international markets in the future. During the academic year 2021-2022 the Master of Science in Architecture at Epoka University has reached an agreement with Napoli Federico Il University to offer a double degree (confirmed during the meetings at the location). In addition, the study program Master of Science in Architecture provides exchange opportunities under bilateral and Erasmus+ exchange agreements with different universities in Europe. (Refer to the following link of partnerships). https://epoka.edu.al/membership/cat-partnerships-2322.html However, further promotion of the program by the institution, which includes exchange opportunities for students, should be taken into consideration.
Criterion 5 The study program is drafted in accordance with the objectives set out in the EU legislation and directives on higher education and regulated professions, and it relies on the institution's long-standing experience and European countries best practices.	The study program of Master of Science in Architecture complies with the requirements of the Bologna Process. It adapts to the ECTS credits system as well as provides the diploma supplement for graduates [Annex 16]. Department of Architecture cooperates with EU universities through the Erasmus+ Program in research and projects aiming to support actions in the field of Master level Education in architecture. https://epoka.edu.al/membership/cat-partnerships-2322.html
Criterion 6 The "Master of Science" / "Master of Arts" study program includes vocational training in professional practices in line with the study program purpose and objectives and international directives on regulated professions.	The Master of Science in Architecture study program includes vocational training in professional practices in line with the study program purpose and objectives and international directives on regulated professions based on its strategic plan: https://arch.epoka.edu.al/cat-strategic-plan-2017-2022-1888.html?lang=EN&dpid=2&t=strategic-plan-2017-2022&catid=1888&menuid=1888 The study Program Master of science in Architecture offers ARCH 400 SUMMER PRACTICE AT CONSTRUCTION SITE, as a compulsoty course which is taken by all students of the program. https://arch.epoka.edu.al/home--welcome-0-152.html?lang=EN&dpid=2&t=-welcome&catid=0&menuid=152#
Criterion 7 In the "Master of Science" / "Master of Arts" study program, teaching components, modules, subjects, or the entire foreign language program should be included in order to attract foreign students, increase mobility within the framework of scientific research and institution's internationalization.	Teaching components, modules and subjects included in the study program Master of Science in Architecture are set to attract foreign students, increase mobility within the framework of scientific research and the institution's internationalization defined in the Epoka University Framework Strategy in line with its Departmental Strategic Plan: https://arch.epoka.edu.al/cat-strategic-plan-2017-2022-1888.html?lang=EN&dpid=2&t=strategic-plan-2017-2022&catid=1888&menuid=1888

	Considering that the language of instruction in this program is English, it increases opportunities for foreign students and increase mobility within the framework of scientific research. Based on the statement right above, the Institution should further promote the program and the possibilities it offers.
Criterion 8 For the "Master of Science" / "Master of Arts" study program, the institution prepares, stores and archives in English all the documentation and the activities developed.	The institution prepares, stores and archives in English all the documentation and the activities developed and organized in EPOKA University, in general, and the study Program Master of science in Architecture, in particular. (Refer to the Open Access Archive: http://.epoka.edu.al/home-services-open-access-5-993.html)

Fulfillment of standard		Partly met	**Substantially met**	Met
			X	

Standard I.4
The study program is in line with the academic field of the main / basic unit (department) responsible for the study program at the institution.

Criterions	**Evaluation of experts**
Criterion 1 The institution demonstrates that it has the necessary experience, capabilities and resources in the academic field to provide a study program in that field.	EPOKA University offers modern infrastructure/facilities that complies with the needs of the study program Master of Science in Architecture. Based on the documents provided and the meeting held with academic staff at the location, it can be confirmed that both Albanian and International staff engaged at the program have the required experience and capabilities to offer high quality lectures. For additional information refer to [Annex 62, 63, 64].
Criterion 2 The general and specific scope of the study program should be in line with the academic and research field of the main unit responsible for the study program, according to the classification / codification of the study programs based on the national and European guidelines and directives.	The study program Master of Science in Architecture is offered by the Faculty of Architecture and Engineering, respectively by the Department of Architecture, being compliant with the requirements of the higher education legislation in Albania as well as with the Bologna Process and the ECTS System. Since the national codification of study programs as envisaged by the provisions of Article 86 of Law No. 80/2015 "On Higher Education and Scientific Research in Higher Education Institutions in the Republic of Albania" has not been implemented yet by the Ministry, documentation provided shows that EPOKA University uses its codification of study programs and courses in accordance with the specific field of study.
Criterion 3 The general and specific field of the study programs should be in line with the academic and research area of the main unit, responsible for the study programs, according to the classification / codification of study programs based on the national and European guidelines and directives. In the case of interdisciplinary programs, at least one of the cooperating units should ensure this compliance.	The study program Master of Science in Architecture is offered by the Faculty of Architecture and Engineering, respectively by the Department of Architecture. It provides degree programs at Integrated Second Cycle Study Program in Architecture, Master's and PhD levels, compliant study programs with the requirements of the higher education legislation in Albania as well as with the Bologna Process and the ECTS System. Since the national codification of study programs as envisaged by the provisions of Article 86 of Law No. 80/2015 "On Higher Education and Scientific Research in Higher Education Institutions in the Republic of Albania" has not been implemented yet by the Ministry, documentation provided shows that EPOKA University uses its codification of study programs and courses in accordance with the specific field of study. In cases of interdisciplinary study programs, courses are offered by different basic units, maintaining the code of the respective basic unit.

Fulfillment of standard		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
				X

Standard I.5
The Higher Education Institution ensures cooperation establishment with institutions, companies, third parties, local and / or foreign business actors with the view to deliver study programs, in the framework of vocational training, research and mobility.
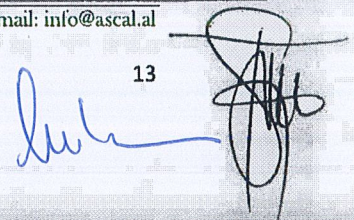
Criterions	Evaluation
Criterion 1 The institution established effective internal cooperation relations for study programs design, supervision and maintenance of the by allocating tasks among units and staff, assigning respective responsibilities and the analyzing on an ongoing basis their work.	Internal cooperation relations at EPOKA University are specified in the "Statute of EPOKA University" [Annex 2], including tasks and objectives that all together fulfill the mission of the institution. Departments organize teaching and research activities, and the faculties coordinate the activities of all Departments they represent. Administrative units support various supporting activities, including infrastructure maintenance, IT support, admission, international relations, quality assurance and projects.
Criterion 2 In the framework of students' learning and learning objectives achievement, the institution establishes cooperation relations with counterpart institutions at the national or international level with local and / or foreign business actors.	EPOKA University has established cooperation relationships with various counterparts, national and foreign Higher Education Institutions and Non-Educational Institutions. The list of the same can be accessed at the following link: https://epoka.edu.al/membership/cat-partnerships-2322.html In additional the list of Intitutional Cooperation can be found when referred to Annex-22.
Criterion 3 With the view to deliver "Master of Science" / "Master of Arts" study program the institution enters into special agreements with field institutions, research institutes, companies to enable professional training, clinical practice, or internships etc.	EPOKA University has given importance to the organization of practices for students in various public institutions as well as in private businesses within Albania and abroad. The cooperation agreements (MoUs) that have been signed by the Department of Architecture, Career Planning and Alumni Office, and the International Relations Office with private local/national and international companies, organizations, NGOs can be found in the following link: http://.epoka.edu.al/home-meet-epoka-international-rel-office-3-6.html In addition, the Career planning and Alumni office gives guidance to students enabling them to prepare before accessing the market. https://cpao.epoka.edu.al/
Criterion 4 The institution establishes official relationships and cooperates with employers to carry out and supervise the training/internship, depending on the specific nature of study programs it offers.	EPOKA University (through MoUs as mentioned in the criterion 3) establishes official relationships and cooperates with employers to carry out and supervise the training/internship. In addition, the Career Planning and Alumni Office in collaboration with all academic departments and administrative units organizes Career fairs as can be seen in the following link: https://cpao.epoka.edu.al/event-9th-career-fair-5950.html?lang=EN&dpid=3&cat=100&t=9th-career-fair&news=5950 EPOKA University signed a partnership agreement with Tirana-inc (first multi-university incubator for student start-up teams), as can be seen in the following link: https://www.tirana-inc.al/
Criterion 5 The institution guarantees co-operation with counterpart institutions or scientific research institutes to enable scientific research and staff and students' mobility.	The main unit responsible for the study program Master of Science in Architecture, encourages each student to participate in at least one professional practice activity during the studies, usually taking place during the supper period. The list of partners offering practice

	possibilities, in Albania and abroad, can be found in the following link: https://epoka.edu.al/membership/cat-partnerships-2322.html			
Criterion 6 The unit responsible for study program drafts periodic analytical reports as regards benefits from the cooperation agreements with the view to deliver study programs.	At the end of each academic year, the Department of Architecture prepares an annual report. More details can be found on the link of the Department of Architecture: https://epoka.edu.al/arch-administrative-staff.html. These reports (amongst others) include analysis of support, resources and representation.			
Fulfillment of standard		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
				X

Standard I.6.				
The institution supports achievements in in-depth studies and research, which are then promoted and made public.				
Criterions	**Evaluation of experts**			
Criterion 1 The institution adopts a supportive policy on staff and students' scientific research activities results dissemination.	EPOKA University adopts a supportive policy on staff and students scientific research activities and promotion of their results. This can be supported by the documentation provided [Annex 34, 56].			
Criterion 2 The institution establishes a unit on scientific research results performance evaluation.	As stated in the documentation provided as well during the meeting at the site, the Rector's Office, in accordance with the Directive "On the Promotion of Scientific Publications", evaluates the publications on a point basis and a monetary reward is granted to the staff engaged in the publications. [Annex 34]			
Criterion 3 The institution pursues a policy for promoting scientific research results.	The Department of Architecture at EPOKA University organizes the bi-annual International Conference on Architecture and Urban Design (ICAUD) (https://icaud.epoka.edu.al/2021/) and as stated by the Institution, it publishes the selected papers in the Special Issue of "The Urban Book Series" published by Springer, https://www.springer.com/series/14773			
Criterion 4 The institution pursues a policy regarding protection of intellectual property as well as the best practices in publishing research.	EPOKA University staff guide (Article 6.18) deals with the university policy on copyrights. This can be found in the following link: https://epoka.edu.al/mat/staff_guide.pdf			
Criterion 5 The institution encourages students and novice researchers to personally engage in scientific research activities.	The Institution encourages students to engage in scientific research activities, including publications as well various projects in the specific fields. Common Guidelines for Scientific Research Proposal Submission can be found in the following link: https://ces.epoka.edu.al/home--research-funding-0-2135.html?lang=EN&dpid=2&t=-research-funding&catid=0&menuid=2135 (Centre for European studies)			
Fulfillment of standard		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
				X

Fulfillment of standards of Field I		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
			X	

II. STUDY PROGRAM ORGANIZATION, MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

Standard II.1

The "Master of Science" / "Master of Arts" study program is organized in accordance with national legal provisions and bylaws in force covering these study programs.

Criterions	Evaluation of experts
Criterion 1 The study program is organized into courses and modules evaluated in credits, in accordance with the applicable national legislation and according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).	The Master of Science in Architecture study program has a curriculum organized in 2 years (4 semesters) with 120 ECTS in total. One (1) ECTS credit corresponds to 25 hours of learning activities (both lectures and independent studies), in line with the Bologna Process and ECTS system. The Program is taught/conducted in English. The appropriate number of ECTS credits has been assigned to each course and module in accordance with the Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 41, dated 24.01.2018, "On the Elements of Study Programs offered by Higher Education Institutions".
Criterion 2 The "Master of Science" / "Master of Arts" study program aims at equipping students with specific skills in a wide range of professions and specialties.	The Master of Science in Architecture study program addresses the needs to equip students with specific skills in various professional expertise in the field of Architecture. The curriculum is structured in three main design fields: Architectural Design, Building Technology, and Urban Planning and Design, offering students with different professional orientations. The Program aims for students to understand the abilities that allow them to include technical and scientific terms of architecture in their education as well as professional specialties in the field. In addition, the program corresponds to Level 7 of the Albanian Qualifications Framework. See the link of Curricula: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MC4LajH-2sO67ukqPSLj-0B26ryx4b-k/view and the improved one [Additional Annex 3.1]
Criterion 3 The "Master of Science" / "Master of Arts" study program provides advanced knowledge in a field of study or professional field, including critical understanding of the theories and field academic principles.	The Master of Science in Architecture study program provides second cycle knowledge in the field of Architecture studies, which amongst others include critical understanding of the theories and the main didactic concepts, principles, and terminology. The study program aims to develop skills, abilities, and advanced competencies as well as in the areas related to restoration, planning, landscape design and recovery and conservation of the environment. See the link of Curricula: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1MC4LajH-2sO67ukqPSLj-0B26ryx4b-k/view and the improved one [Additional Annex 3.1]
Criterion 4 The "Master of Science" / "Master of Arts" study program helps students acquire advanced knowledge, skills and competences in a specific academic or professional field, necessary to solve complex and unpredictable problems in a specialized field of study or professional field.	The Master of Science program in Architecture gives students a possibility to acquire advanced knowledge, skills, and competencies - in the specific study and professional field of Architecture - necessary to solve complex and unpredictable problems in the specialized area of the architecture's field. The Institution made changes in the curricula and approved them by the Senate. [Annex 76, Additional Annex 3.1]
Criterion 5 The study programs "Master of Science" / "Master of Arts" contains all the components composing the study program design, as set forth by the legal and sub-legal acts.	The Master of Science in Architecture study program has a curriculum organized in 2 years (4 semesters) with 120 ECTS in total. One (1) ECTS credit corresponds to 25 hours of learning activities (both lectures and independent studies), in line with the Bologna Process and ECTS system. The Program is taught/conducted in English. The appropriate number of ECTS credits has been assigned to each course

	and module in accordance with the Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 41, dated 24.01.2018, "On the Elements of Study Programs offered by Higher Education Institutions", meaning that the curricula and the syllabuses are as well in compliance (reflecting the changes from the previous accreditation requirements). [Annex 76, Additional Annex 3.1]
Criterion 6 The "Master of Science" / "Master of Arts" study program has clearly defined practicums by grouping courses / modules according to specific categories and corresponding load on credits.	As per revised Curricula, the internships are aimed at strengthening the practicum activities according to specific categories and corresponding load on credits. Students can strengthen their abilities either at a construction site by experiencing the implementation process, as well as by being involved in the development of quality projects or designs.
Criterion 7 The study program credits necessary for graduation and the research work in the framework of its development have been already determined.	The student must have acquired all the credits in the remaining educational activities, which correspond to 120 ECTS, where 18 ECTS are attributed to the Master Thesis and 12 ECTS to the Professional Internships (Summer Schools). The Master thesis consists of an original work that can either be applied research a design followed by the defence of the same, in front of a didactic jury, previously developed together with the supervisor.

Fulfillment of standard		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
				X

Standard II.2
The main / basic unit responsible for the study program meets the legal requirements and quality standards prescribed for these units.
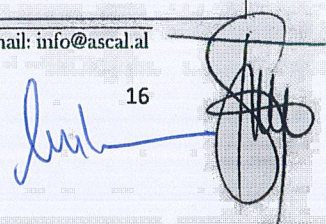
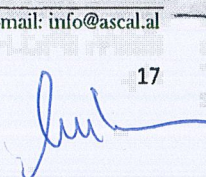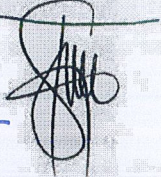| Criterions	Evaluation of experts
Criterion 1 The main / basic unit responsible for the study program meets all legal requirements on evaluation and accreditation.	The Department of Architecture is part of the Faculty of Architecture and Engineering. Both, the Department of Architecture and The Faculty of Architecture and Engineering meet the criteria set out in Article 23 of Law no. 80/2015 "On Higher Education and Scientific Research in Higher Education Institutions of the Republic of Albania". Furthermore, EPOKA University has met the institutional standards and received the first and periodic accreditation at institutional level before applying for the accreditation of the study program Master of Science in Architecture.
Criterion 2 The main / basic unit responsible for the study program meets the legal and sub-legal requirements on academic organization and structure.	The main unit responsible for the Master of Science in Architecture study program meets the requirements provided in the Statute of EPOKA University. It is also in compliance with the requirements given in the Regulation of EPOKA University "On Second Cycle Study Program" (https://epoka.edu.al/mat/regulations/regulation-on-second-cycle-study-programs.pdf) and the "Policy on Continuous Improvement of Study Program" [Annex 6].
Criterion 3 The main / local unit responsible for the study program meets the legal requirements on academic staff number and qualification the relations between full-time, part-time and visiting staff.	The Faculty of Architecture and Engineering, and the Department of Architecture, are compliant with obligations regarding the numbers and qualifications of the required academic staff in accordance with the Law No 80/2015, Art.25, on Higher Education and Scientific Research in the Republic of Albania. [Annex 64]

Criterion 4 The main / basic unit responsible for the study program meets the legal and sub-legal requirements on academic organization and structure.	The Faculty of Architecture and Engineering, and the Department of Architecture, both meet the legal and sub-legal requirements on academic organization and structure in accordance with the Law No 80/2015, Art.25, on Higher Education and Scientific Research in the Republic of Albania.
Criterion 5 The main / basic unit responsible for the study program encourages the academic staff to engage in of teaching, laboratory and clinical practice; research work and projects, etc.	Based on the documents provided it can be concluded that the Department of Architecture, encourages the academic staff to engage in teaching activities, laboratory practice, and research work and projects. The following links (staff guide and research funding) support the above activities: https://epoka.edu.al/mat/staff_guide.pdf https://ces.epoka.edu.al/home--research-funding-0-2135.html?lang=EN&dpid=2&t=-research-funding&catid=0&menuid=2135 To be able to see and improve the performance and activities of academic staff, the Department performs the Course evaluation survey [Annex 29]. Results of these surveys go along with the Policy for Continuous Improvement of Study Programs [Annex 6]
Criterion 6 The main / basic unit responsible for each study program appoints a person as the coordinator of the study programs, who is responsible for program progress and development and professional training in accordance with its objectives.	The Head of Department of Architecture is responsible for the Master of Science in Architecture study Program. The responsibility covers the program progress and development and professional training in accordance with its objectives and staying in line with the Policy for Continuous Improvement of Study Programs [Annex 6]. At the end of each academic year, the Department of Architecture prepares an annual report which afterwards reflects on the program progress. More details can be found on the link of the Department of Architecture: https://epoka.edu.al/arch-administrative-staff.html.
Criterion 7 The Program Coordinator reports periodically to the Head of the Main / Basic Unit and documents any information related to the study programs.	The Head of Department of Architecture, responsible for the Master of Science in Architecture study Program, reports periodicaly about any information related to the study program. Annex 3 shows the Organization scheme of EPOKA University, the same used to initiate changes required to further review and develop the program. As well refer to the Policy for Continuous Improvement of Study Programs [Annex 6].

Fulfillment of standard		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
				X

Standard II.3	
The MSc / MA study program is detailed, structured and organized in accordance with the standards and objectives of the second cycle study program.	
Criterions	**Evaluation of experts**
Criterion 1 The main / basic unit, responsible for the second cycle study program, has the necessary information on study program organization, structure and content.	Based on the documents provided and the meeting on site, The Department of Architecture, responsible for the Master of Science study program, posseses necessary information on the study program organization, structure and content.
Criterion 2 The study program is organized into courses, modules, professional training and practicums, in accordance with the applicable legal provisions.	The Master of Science in Architecture study program is organized in 2 years (4 semesters) with 120 ECTS in total, into courses, modules, professional training, and practicums, in accordance with the applicable legal provisions. The same is in line with the Bologna Process and

	ECTS system. The appropriate number of ECTS credits has been assigned to each course and module in accordance with the Decision of the Council of Ministers No. 41, dated 24.01.2018, "On the Elements of Study Programs offered by Higher Education Institutions"
Criterion 3 The study program is organized into courses and modules evaluated with credits according to the national and European system, divided into academic years and semesters.	The Master of Science in Architecture study program has a curriculum organized in 2 years (4 semesters) with 120 ECTS in total. One (1) ECTS credit corresponds to 25 hours of learning activities (both lectures and independent studies), in line with the Bologna Process and ECTS system. The appropriate number of ECTS credits has been assigned to each course and module. [Annex 14, Additional Annex 3.1]
Criterion 4 The study program has a detailed syllabus, which incorporates the necessary information on the teaching workload, hours in / outside the auditorium, attendance / program follow-up and the knowledge assessment methods, etc.	The Master of Science in Architecture study program has a detailed syllabus, which incorporates the necessary information on the teaching workload, hours in / outside the auditorium, attendance / program follow-up and the knowledge assessment methods, etc. [Annex 60, Annex 61]
Criterion 5 The study program provides students with all the necessary information related to the general and specific criteria for admission, transfer and studies equivalence.	The study program provides students with all the necessary information related to the general and specific criteria for admission, transfer and studies equivalence. Please refer to the following link for information in addition: https://admissions.epoka.edu.al/home-master-of-science-1928-1930.html?lang=EN&dpid=2&t=master-of-science&catid=1928&menuid=1930 https://admissions.epoka.edu.al/home-admission-criteria-495-1926.html?lang=EN&dpid=2&t=admission-criteria&catid=495&menuid=1926
Criterion 6 The study program contains the necessary information on course programs (detailed syllabuses) for each subject, training, seminars or laboratory classes, as well as all the components of each program in and outside the auditorium in accordance with the approved formats.	The study program contains the basic and necessary information on course programs (like the detailed syllabuses for each course) and for each subject, training, seminars or Studio classes, as well as all the elements of each program in and outside the classroom, in accordance with the approved format. [Annex 60, Annex 61]
Criterion 7 The content of the study program is subject to continuous improvement and update and at the beginning of each academic year the eventual changes are approved, and the complete file is archived in both Albanian and English.	The content of the study program is subject to continuous improvement and update and at the beginning of each academic year the eventual modifications are approved, and the complete file is archived. The Institution made changes in the curricula and approved them by the Senate. [Annex 76, Additional Annex 3.1]

Fulfillment of standard		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
			X	

Standard II.4
The structure and organization of the study program is in accordance with the training objectives, the qualification level based on the National and European Qualifications Framework, learning outcomes and competencies, and labor market requirements.
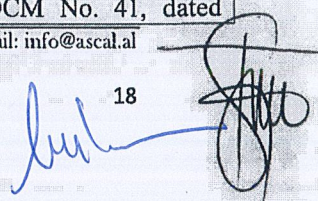
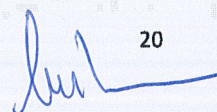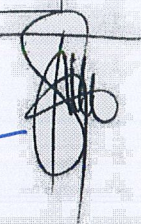| Criterions	Evaluation of experts
Criterion 1 The workload of the "Master of Science" / "Master of	The distribution of the load for each course is defined in the Syllabuses, according to the national legal framework (DCM No. 41, dated

Arts" study program is structured in accordance with the applicable legal and sub-legal provisions.	24.01.2018, as amended), and one (1) ECTS credit corresponds to 25 working hours of a student, referring to 60 (sixty) ECTS credits per academic year or 1500 (one thousand five hundred) working hours of the student. This can be referred to the Article-79 of the the Statute of EPOKA University [Annex 2]
Criterion 2 The designation, content of activities, division of courses and training enable and deepen knowledge and skills for further study and / or student employment.	The Curricula is structured in a way that the designation, content of activities, division of courses and training, enable knowledge and skills for further study and / or student employment. [Annex 14]
Criterion 3 The courses / modules, division into years and semesters, and credit and classes evaluation enable the achievement of study program academic objectives and the expected results of learning and scientific research.	Courses structured into 2 years or 4 semesters, and credit and classes evaluation, enable the achievement of study program academic objectives and the expected results of learning and scientific research. The same is confirmed during the discussions held at the meeting on site.
Criterion 4 Study program design, subjects and their designation, credits, and theory vs. practice ratio is in line with the profile of the master program and approximated with similar international programs	The structure of the Master of Science in Architecture study program, its design, subjects and their designation, credits, and ratio between theory vs. practice, are in line with the profile of the Master of Science program and approximated with similar international programs. Related to this, during the academic year 2021-2022 the Master of Science in Architecture at Epoka University has reached an agreement with Napoli Federico II University to offer a double degree.
Criterion 5 The division based on training activities and theory versus practice ratio enable teaching objectives achievement, transfer of studies, mobility and employment at the end of the study programs.	The content of the Master of science in Architecture Program is based on training activities and theory versus practice ratio, while enables teaching objectives achievement, transfer of studies, mobility, and employment at the end of the study programs. See the following links to support the content: https://cpao.epoka.edu.al/cat-links-1459.html?lang=EN&dpid=2&t=links&catid=1459&menuid=1459 https://admissions.epoka.edu.al/home-admission-criteria-495-1926.html?lang=EN&dpid=2&t=admission-criteria&catid=495&menuid=1926
Criterion 6 Syllabus (course / module programs) are updated continuously based on the required and recommended literature of the last 5 years.	If based on the Policy for Continuous Improvement of Study Programs [Annex 6] and information on the syllabuses, it may be concluded that the same are updated continuously based on the required and recommended literature of the last 5 years.
Criterion 7 The content of the study program guarantees the acquisition of knowledge, skills and competences intended for the second cycle study program.	The Master of Science study program corresponds to Level 7 of the Albanian Qualifications Framework (AQF). It covers the acquisition of knowledge, skills and competences intended for the second cycle study program. It is also in compliance with the requirements given in the Regulation of EPOKA University, "On Second Cycle Study Program" https://epoka.edu.al/mat/regulations/regulation-on-second-cycle-study-programs.pdf
Criterion 8 Study program content promotes further study opportunities and / or hiring of students in line with expectations and labor market demands.	The content of the Study program content promotes further study opportunities as well as hiring of students in line with expectations and labour market demands and/or in following on with the academic careers. In addition, the Career planning and Alumni office gives guidance to students enabling them to prepare before accessing the market. https://cpao.epoka.edu.al/
Criterion 9 In order to improve the study program content and	As mentioned during the meeting and based on the documents provided, the Career Planning and Alumni Office (CPAO) orients

adjustment to labor market requirements, the responsible structures consult and take into account the proposals of partners from the labor market.	students professional education, facilitates them in finding good working fields for them and to maintain the University's dialogue with the business world. The Centre analyses successful companies in the country, determines work-force qualifications demanded, and arranges seminars, courses, conferences to prepare our students accordingly. https://cpao.epoka.edu.al/cat-about-cpao-1453.html?lang=EN&dpid=2&t=about-cpao&catid=1453&menuid=1453
Criterion 10 The combination of theoretical and scientific content assignments provides advanced knowledge for study, research, analysis and follow-up of scientific activity in the third cycle study program.	The structure of the program combines theoretical and scientific content assignments to provide advanced knowledge for study, research, analysis, and follow-up of scientific activity, preparing students for the following third cycle study program (PhD).

Fulfillment of standard		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
			X	

Standard II.5	
The academic staff covering the study program meet the quantitative standards and have the appropriate and special academic qualification in accordance with the program area in order to guarantee the teaching standards of the "Master of Science" / "Master of Arts" study program.	
Criterions	**Evaluation of experts**
Criterion 1 The full-time and part-time academic staff engaged in study program delivery meet the applicable legal requirements.	Based on the information provided and meeting on site, the employment of qualified academic staff members is in the framework of the legal requirements in force. (Criteria stipulated in the Law No 80/2015 "On Higher Education and Scientific Research in Higher Education Institutions of the Republic of Albania"). The Department should have at least three members of the academic staff holding the title Doctor [Annex 64]
Criterion 2 The full-time and part-time academic staff engaged in delivering the "Master of Science" / "Master of Arts" program have the appropriate academic qualification, at the required level to manage study program course modules.	The full-time and part-time academic staff engaged in delivering the Master of Science in Architecture program have the required academic qualification at this level, to be able to manage the study program course modules. [Annex 64]
Criterion 3 The general and specific academic and research field of academic staff covering the study program is in accordance with the study program, and its modules nature and specifications.	The general and specific academic and research field of academic staff covering the study program is in accordance with the Master of Science study program, and its modules nature and specifications. [Annex 64]
Criterion 4 The institution, in cooperation and collaboration with other higher education institutions, as well as business representatives and companies provide sufficient, appropriate, and qualified staff for students mentoring, counselling and supervision f during practicum, diploma thesis and other specific activities, depending on study program nature.	As mentioned during the meeting and based on the documents provided, the Institution through Career Planning and Alumni Office (CPAO) and International Relations Office (related to partnerships), provide appropriate, and qualified staff for students mentoring, counselling and supervision during practicum, diploma thesis and other specific activities, depending on study program nature. https://cpao.epoka.edu.al/

Criterion 5 The institution provides and guarantees support teaching and scientific staff engagement for the delivery of laboratory classes and maintenance of laboratories and other teaching facilities, according to the specific study program nature.	EPOKA University with available infrastructure and facilities, provides support for teaching and scientific staff engagement for the delivery of laboratory classes and maintenance of laboratories and other teaching facilities, according to the specific study program nature.			
Fulfillment of standard		Partly met	**Substantially met**	Met
			X	

Standard II.6
The Higher Education Institution encourages students and partners to participate in the study program continuous improvement and successful delivery in accordance with their objectives.

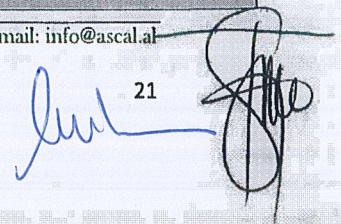| Criterions	Evaluation of experts			
Criterion 1 In order to improve the study program content and adjustment to the labor market requirements, the responsible structures consult and take into account the proposals of collaborators and partners from the labor market.	As mentioned during the meeting and based on the documents provided, the Career Planning and Alumni Office (CPAO) orients students professional education, facilitates them in finding good working fields for them and to maintain the University's dialogue with the business world. The Centre analyses successful companies in the country, determines work-force qualifications demanded, and arranges seminars, courses, conferences to prepare our students accordingly. https://cpao.epoka.edu.al/cat-about-cpao 1453.html?lang=EN&dpid=2&t=about-cpao&catid=1453&menuid=1453			
Criterion 2 The Institution encourages students and their relevant bodies to participate in discussions on study programs improvement Proposals are discussed and mirrored if they serve to study program improvement.	During the discussion held at the meeting on site, in general, the Student Council, composed of student representatives' forwards arising requiements to the Administration office, which contribute to educational activities at the University. The objective of the Student Council is to ensure both, the academic development and social and personal growth. See the following link: https://dos.epoka.edu.al/cat-student-council-669.html			
Criterion 3 The institution maintains contact and is consults with graduate students in order to obtain their proposals for study program improvement.	The Career Planning and Alumni Office (CPAO) maintains contact and consults graduate students (Alumni) to obtain their proposals for study program improvement. https://cpao.epoka.edu.al/cat-alumni-survey-3071.html?lang=EN&dpid=2&t=alumni-survey&catid=3071&menuid=3071			
Criterion 4 In cooperation with public and non-public scientific research institutions, local government units, etc., the institution updates, adjusts and reorganizes special programs with a specific field of research.	The Institution in cooperation with public and non-public scientific research institutions (through the Interanational relations office), local government units, etc., updates, adjusts and reorganizes special programs with a specific field of research. In addition, during the academic year 2021-2022 the Master of Science in Architecture at Epoka University has reached an agreement with Napoli Federico II University to offer a double degree.			
Fulfillment of standard		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
				X

Standard II.7

The study program guarantees guidance in the relevant field of study and research.	
Criterions	**Evaluation of experts**
Criterion 1 The study program clearly defines the priorities and main academic and research objectives in line with the main objectives of the legal framework on higher education.	The Master of Science study program corresponds to Level 7 of the Albanian Qualifications Framework (AQF), and the Criteria stipulated in the Law No 80/2015 "On Higher Education and Scientific Research in Higher Education Institutions of the Republic of Albania". It covers the acquisition of knowledge, skills and competences intended for the second cycle study program. It is also in compliance with the requirements given in the Regulation of EPOKA University, "On Second Cycle Study Program" https://epoka.edu.al/mat/regulations/regulation-on-second-cycle-study-programs.pdf
Criterion 2 The main / basic unit promotes, coordinates and manages teaching, research or cultural activities, by observing academic staff academic freedom and the particular field of study.	The Department of Architecture promotes, coordinates, and manages teaching, research, or cultural activities, by observing academic staff academic freedom and the particular field of study. https://epoka.edu.al/arch-administrative-staff.html
Criterion 3 The study program enables, encourages and motivates students to engage in studies, projects and research work.	The Master of Science in Architecture study program enables, encourages, and motivates students to engage in studies, projects and research work through the Students Club and the participation in competitions and research activities on the field. https://clubs.epoka.edu.al/
Criterion 4 The study program focuses on drafting and implementing regional and national study and scientific policies.	The Master of Science in Architecture study program focuses on drafting and implementing regional and national study and scientific policies. (https://epoka.edu.al/mat/regulations/regulation-on-second-cycle-study-programs.pdf)
Criterion 5 In order to carryout scientific and research activities, the main unit is financially supported by the higher education institution and manages the revenues from various activities.	During the informative meeting, it was shown that the Faculty of Architecture and Engineering, and the Department of Architecture, are financially supported by the EPOKA University in general, while also managing revenues from various activities and projects. https://projects.epoka.edu.al/home.html

Fulfillment of standard		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
				X

Standard II.8	
The Higher Education Institution guarantee through the study program in-depth knowledge, studies and research work, as well as studies and research internationalization.	
Criterions	**Evaluation of experts**
Criterion 1 The institution supports research groups and new scientific research projects and ensures cooperation with other research structures for achieving the study program research objectives.	EPOKA University supports research groups and new scientific research projects and ensures cooperation with other research structures for achieving the study program research objectives. Refer to Common Guidelines for Scientific Research Proposal Submission [Annex 48], and https://projects.epoka.edu.al/cat-project-s-club-1563.html
Criterion 2 The Basic Unit engages in responding to scientific research and projects demands and engages academic staff and students in accomplishing these objectives.	The Department of Architecture, as a basic unit, engages in responding to scientific research and projects demands, at the national and international levels, and engages academic staff and students in accomplishing these objectives. [Annex 35], and https://projects.epoka.edu.al/cat-about-us-1167.html

Criterion 3 The basic unit organizes conferences or activities within the field of the study programs in order to assist staff and students in achieving their objectives.	The Department of Architecture, as a basic unit, organizes conferences and activities within the field of the study programs, assisting staff and students in achieving their research objectives. The International Conference on Architecture and Urban Design (ICAUD) engages both, staff and students in attending and presenting their research and studies. In addition, a number of other activities, workshops and summer/winter schools, take plase, as indicated in the documentation provided as well as during the site visit. https://icaud.epoka.edu.al/2021/category-welcome-to-4-icaud-2860.html		
Fulfillment of standard	Not met	Partly met	Substantially met	Met
				X

Fulfillment of standards of Field II	Not met	Partly met	Substantially met	Met
				X

III.   TEACHING, LEARNING, EVALUATION AND COMPETENCES

Standard III.1	
The Higher Education Institution pursues a clear policy to guarantee and promote the quality of teaching and develops special guidelines and directives designed for teaching methods development and monitoring.	
Criterions	**Evaluation of experts**
Criterion 1 The institution drafts guidelines at the institutional level for the development and use of various and innovative teaching methods based on the field of study and subjects/ modules.	EPOKA University as an institution drafted guidelines at the institutional level for the development and use of various and innovative teaching methods based on the field of study and subjects/ modules. This can be seen in the Framework Strategy 2018-2022 which defines teaching as one of the three main strategic goals, which are: teaching, research, and community service. [Annex 4, page-10, 12] In addition, and in the framework of innovative teaching methods used during Covid19, Epoka University has applied the HyFlex (hybrid flexible) teaching method. https://epoka.edu.al/mat/guidelines/GUIDEL_1.pdf
Criterion 2 The responsible basic structures design monitoring mechanisms and periodically evaluate the academic staff teaching and innovative skills.	The Institution uses monitoring mechanisms and periodically evaluates the academic staff teaching and innovative skills. Quality assurance office indicates the following documents and the structure: https://aeqi.epoka.edu.al/cat-quality-assurance-documents-1404.html?lang=EN&dpid=2&t=quality-assurance-documents&catid=1404&menuid=1404 https://aeqi.epoka.edu.al/cat-academic-performance-assessment-and-quality-improvement-board-3044.html?lang=EN&dpid=2&t=academic-performance-assessment-and-quality-improvement-board&catid=3044&menuid=3044
Criterion 3 The institution guarantees the students engagement in the teaching methods periodic assessment,	At the end of each semester, students are required to fill the Course Instructor Evaluation Survey [Annex 29]. This process guarantees the students engagement in the teaching methods periodic assessment, competences assessment, including complaints addressal.

competences assessment, including complaints addressal.	
Criterion 4 The responsible structures for teaching quality monitoring and assurance, make public the evaluation results.	The HE Instituion makes sure to have the results published, while in case of EPOKA University, production of Annual reports for each Department shows these results. As an example, please refere to the following Annual report, more specifically page-46. https://epoka.edu.al/mat/reports/raporti-vjetor-2020-2021.pdf
Criterion 5 The institution, through evaluation mechanisms and achieved results, promotes examples of best practices, as well as encourages and motivates the academic staff to further improve teaching.	Based on the Quality Assurance Handbook [Annex 54] and discussions on site, The Head of Department of Architecture at the end of each semester prepares a completes the report which points out the best performing lecturers and the less performing lecturers, while and if needed, contacts concerning lecturers of the department and communicates concerns that may be obvious. Through evaluation mechanisms mentioned in Criterions above, and achieved results, the Institutions intends to promote examples of best practices, as well as encourage and motivate the academic staff to further improve teaching methodology and processes.

Fulfillment of standard		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
				X

Standard III.2
The institution guarantees the development of the teaching, learning, and professional and scientific training with the best methods and practices.

Criterions	Evaluation of experts
Criterion 1 The most common channels of teaching, learning process, and knowledge transfer are lectures, seminars, laboratory work, course assignments, projects, professional clinical practice, public lectures and any other models approved by the institution.	The Master of Science in Architecture Program presented the revised Curriculla [Additional annex 3.1] and submitted examples of Syllabuses [Annex 60, 61], which indicate the ration in lectures, seminars, laboratory work, course assignments, projects, professional practice, public lectures, and other models valuable for the teaching process. The link of the Department of Architecture contains other regular and extracurricular activities https://arch.epoka.edu.al
Criterion 2 The academic staff must accept, observe and respond to students' diversity and needs, by providing various forms, methods and alternative teaching and learning opportunities, in accordance with the scope and nature of the study program in general, and the course modules in particular, and student feedback is encouraged in order to improve teaching practices.	Apart from the teaching methods and components mentioned in the criterion above, which take place during classes, the students of the study program Master of Science in Architecture (and in general) are given research possibilities and support by the research and Projects office, https://projects.epoka.edu.al/cat-about-us-1167.html https://projects.epoka.edu.al/cat-project-s-club-1563.html During the meeting with teaching staff, it was suggested and confirmed by few of them that their teaching activities with students are combined with research activities. This is an ongoing process which always has possibilities for further improvement. https://corda.epoka.edu.al/
Criterion 3 The institution supports its academic staff to improve didactic competences, enables the use of diverse and flexible pedagogical methods, which are appropriate and consistent with the expected	EPOKA University for all its units, organizes yearly training programs (confirmed during the meeting on site and documentation provided) that address, the teaching, and research methodology needs for the academic staff. One of the most recent examples is Training on digital education [Annex-67]

learning outcomes, teaching objectives and labor market demands.	
Criterion 4 The academic staff engaged in teaching is competent in explaining knowledge and concepts, by using various teaching methods according to topics and profiles.	The application process for academic staff uses both teaching and research criteraia [Annex 68]. Considering this and the documentation provided [Annex 62, 63], the academic staff engaged in teaching is competent in explaining knowledge and concepts, by using various teaching methods according to topics and profiles (confirmed during the meeting on site and refer to Annex-64)
Criterion 5 The institution periodically evaluates and improves teaching methods forms and methods, including students' participation in the process and reflecting their thoughts and suggestions.	At the end of each semester, students are required to fill the Course Instructor Evaluation Survey [Annex 29]. This process guarantees inclusion of students and their participation in the process and reflecting their thoughts and suggestions, leading towards the evaluation and improvement of teaching forms and methods.
Criterion 6 The academic staff use interactive methods and discussion to make classes more appealing to students and encourage them to participate.	Most courses taught at the Master of Science in Architecture study program, include interactive methods and discussion during classes, to make classes more appealing to students and encourage them to participate. [Annex 61]
Criterion 7 Teaching forms and methods encourage the student's sense of autonomy, by providing teacher supervision and support and building a mutual respect relationship between them.	Curricula and Syllabuses show the intention for students to work on project preparation under teacher's supervision from the very beginning of their studies. The meeting on site confirmed the apponment of class advisers, who are lecturers for each year of the study program, who at the same time perform a number of activities such as identifying any issue raised about the ongoing academic process as well as supporting students for any internship activities, advising on future study, or labor market (in addition to the Carrer advising office).

Fulfillment of standard		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
				X

Standard III.3
The basic units guarantee the development of teaching, learning, and professional training, by making available all the necessary physical, didactic and logistic infrastructure to successfully carry out the teaching and scientific activity.

Criterions	Evaluation of experts
Criterion 1 The teaching and scientific process is carried out in adequate and quality premises, which are clean and appropriately maintained.	EPOKA University offers very well-organized infrastructure and quality premises, clean and appropriately maintained. [Annex 30, 31, 32]
Criterion 2 The premises dedicated to the learning process are functional and equipped with the necessary logistics for a qualitative learning process and practicums.	If looked at the general perspective, the premises dedicated to the learning process are functional and equipped with the necessary logistics for a qualitative learning process and practicums. This includes the Master of Science in Architecture Program, which for the moment has a symbolic number of students. (Confirmed during the site visit).
Criterion 3 The academic staff and students use various IT systems, and consolidated IT	Annex-37- ICTC Office Services, shows in more details, the possibility offered to use various IT systems, and consolidated IT infrastructure

Criterions	Evaluation of experts
infrastructure necessary for the learning process.	necessary for the learning process. This includes the Epoka Interactive System (EIS) for Teachers and Students. [Annex 38, 39]
Criterion 4 The required and recommended literature, made available to students in the study program language (in hard copy or soft copy), guarantees the acquisition of knowledge required for the study program.	The required and recommended literature is available to students in the study program language (in hard copy or soft copy), and it guarantees the acquisition of knowledge required for the study program. [Annex 36]
Criterion 5 The library of the institution guarantees a sufficient number of recent publications in the main field of the study program and sufficient and comfortable reading premises for students during the learning process.	The library of the EPOKA University and its professional staff, guarantee enough publications in the main field of the study program and sufficient and comfortable reading premises for students during the learning process. See the following link: https://library.epoka.edu.al/
Criterion 6 In terms of teaching and learning process, the academic staff and students have access to online libraries in similar fields to the study program.	The academic staff and students have access to online libraries in similar fields to the Master of Science in Architecture study program. http://lib.epoka.edu.al/ This includes the membership EPOKA University has in JSTOR https://library.epoka.edu.al/cat-research-resources-482.html
Criterion 7 The laboratory infrastructure necessary for lab classes, course assignments, diplomas and specific studies is continuously used by the students.	The laboratory infrastructure at EPOKA University, necessary for laboratory classes, course assignments, diplomas and specific studies, is available and used by students [Annex 64, Table-16].
Criterion 8 In terms of teaching, academic staff uses on-line platforms (e-learning) and supports and encourages academic staff and students to use them.	ICTC Office Services, shows in more details, possibilities the academic staff have for the use of on-line platforms (e-learning), while at the same time the office and the Institution, supports and encourages them and students to use the same. This includes the Epoka Interactive System (EIS) for Teachers and Students. [Annex 37, 38, 39]
Criterion 9 The academic staff and students use internal communication systems to access electronic documents and their personal dedicated profile.	The academic staff and students, in all units, use internal communication system to access electronic documents and their personal dedicated profile (Epoka Interactive System (EIS) for Teachers and Students. [Annex 38, 39]
Criterion 10 The academic staff guides students in the selecting their diploma thesis topics and assists and supports them during their development.	The Article-34 and 35 of Regulation on Second Cycle Study Programs, related to the process of Diploma Thesis, explains the entire procedure of the selection and development of the diploma thesis.

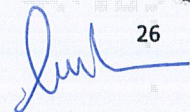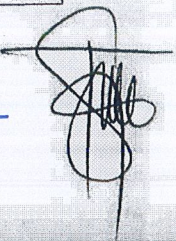| Fulfillment of standard		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
				X

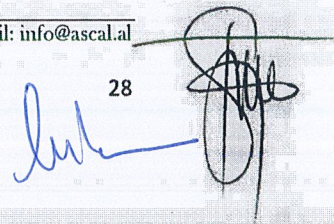| Standard III.4 The institution establishes special institutional structures, which raise the awareness on improving the study program teaching and learning quality.	
Criterions	**Evaluation of experts**
Criterion 1 The institution establishes structures/ units at the institutional level to promote the continuous improvement of teaching and coordinate its activity with the main/ basic units in the framework of improving the quality of teaching.	EPOKA University as an Institution, has a body that is responsible for providing monitoring and support in promoting continuous improvement of teaching, and coordinates its activity with the respective Faculty and the Department responsible for the study program. Permanent Commission on Quality Assurance, with its subunits as, Internal Quality Assurance Office, Curricula Development Commission, Exam Board, Academic Performance Assessment and Quality Improvement Board.
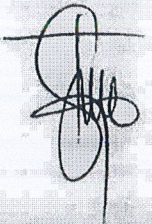
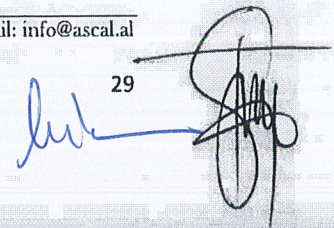|	
	https://aeqi.epoka.edu.al/ More details are available in the Qality Assusrance Handbook [Annex 54]
Criterion 2 The main/ basic unit is responsible for teaching quality and raising the academic staff and students' awareness on the quality the study programs provide.	Article-12 of the Statute of EPOKA University [Annex 2] indicates that the Department, as the basic unit, is in addition responsible for teaching quality and raising the academic staff and students' awareness on the quality of the study program it provides, the Master of Science in Architecture in this case.
Criterion 3 The structures and responsible units support the experimentation and development of innovative teaching methods.	EPOKA University has shown that it is committed to hiring diverse academic staff, from different countries, backgrounds, and cultures, thus enriching the programs with new teaching methods based on their previous site-specific experiences. More in-depth information on academic staff is available in Annex-62, indicating the CVs of the academic staff engaged in the study program.
Criterion 4 The academic and support staff are constantly qualified in the field of scientific research to assist in the further improvement of teaching.	Course appointments in the Master of Science in Architecture Program are done on the principle of research area and the expertise of engaged Academic and support staff, who at the same assist in the further improvement of teaching course content and methodology. [Annex 62, 63].
Criterion 5 The structures and units in charge continuously train academic staff to improve their teaching skills and implement new methods.	EPOKA University as an Instituion, and its structures and units use established guidelines for the development and use of various and innovative teaching methods based on the field of study and subjects/ modules. This can be seen in the Framework Strategy 2018-2022 which defines teaching as one of the three main strategic goals, which are: teaching, research, and community service. [Annex-4, page-10, 12] In addition, and in the framework of innovative teaching methods used during Covid19, Epoka University has applied the HyFlex (hybrid flexible) teaching method. https://epoka.edu.al/mat/guidelines/GUIDEL_1.pdf EPOKA University for all its units, organizes yearly training programs (confirmed during the meeting on site and documentation provided) that address, the teaching, and research methodology needs for the academic staff. One of the most recent examples is Training on digital education [Annex 67]
Criterion 6 The academic and support staff are responsible for implementing the study program and committed to improve teaching and implementing new methods.	The Statute of Epoka University presented in Annex 2, more precisely, Chapter-2, Article-65, states that the academic staff at EPOKA University enjoys academic freedom in the learning process, research, and innovation in the meaning of the Law no. 80/2015, dated 22.07.2015, "On Higher Education and Scientific Research in the Institutions of Higher Education in the Republic of Albania". According to article 69, the academic staff are responsible but also supported by Epoka University to implement innovative teaching and research methods.
Criterion 7 The academic staff test new teaching methods, analyze objectives/expectations and report periodically on results to the structures and units in charge.	EPOKA University for all its units, organizes yearly training programs (confirmed during the meeting on site and documentation provided) that address, the new teaching and research methodology needs for the academic staff. One of the most recent examples is Training on digital education [Annex 67]

	In pursuit of ongoing improvement in student achievement, the Permanent Commission on Quality Assurance at Epoka University organized the Workshop on Course Design and Syllabus Development on the 26th-27th of September 2018. Two leading experts in the Bologna system and quality assurance and harmonization in higher education, Prof. Dr. Volker Gehmlich and Dr. Norma Ryan. http://www.epoka.edu.al/news-epoka-university-organized-the-workshop-on-the-course-design-and-syllabus-development-4191.html
Criterion 8 The institution, in the framework of partnership and partners' involvement in the learning process, engages at various stages of the study program lecturers and researchers to share their ideas and methods on teaching and research.	As mentioned in criterions above it may be concluded that EPOKA University, in the framework of partnership and partners' involvement in the learning process, engages at various stages of the study program, lecturers and researchers to share their ideas and methods on teaching and research methodology.

Fulfillment of standard		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
				X

Standard III.5
The institution drafts regulations and special procedures on testing and assessing professional competences and skills and guarantees their implementation.

Criterions	**Evaluation of experts**
Criterion 1 The criteria and the testing and assessment method of professional competences and skills are defined in special regulations and is announced to the students.	After the registration, EPOKA University conducts orientation sessions to inform students about all processes, policies, and mechanisms during their studies. The Student Guide contains all needed information [Annex 11]. As stated in the Grading Section of the Guide, the final grade of a course includes the evaluation of all course components (midterm exams, quizzes, field studies, practices, assignments, projects, workshops, seminars, attendance, laboratory studies).
Criterion 2 At the beginning of each course / module students are informed on testing and assessment method of professional competences and research skills provided for in the course / module syllabus.	Academic staff have the the first week of the semester, with the complete syllabus. Students learn about the course objectives, topics, compulsory and recommended reading material, evaluation method and learning outcomes. Students can access all syllabuses online, on the Department webpage or through their e-account within EPOKA Interactive System (EIS). More information can be found for every course specified with its Syllabus [Annex 61].
Criterion 3 The testing and assessment method of professional competences and research skills is realized in various models and ways, providing students with the opportunity to demonstrate the acquired competences and knowledge.	Testing and assessment methods of professional competences and research skills are done in various ways, providing students with the opportunity to demonstrate the acquired competences and knowledge. In general the following evaluation criteria are applied: homework, midterm exams, presentation, project, quiz, laboratory, lab/ practical exams, case study, term paper, final exam, and attendance All details are specified in every Syllabus, specific to the field of study. [Annex 61]

Fulfillment of standard		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
				X

Standard III.6
The institution guarantees a fair and transparent evaluation based on each student's merits.

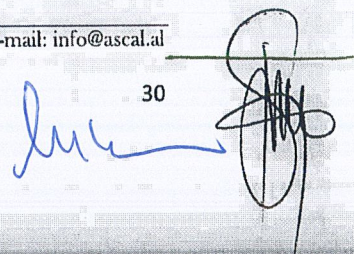| Criterions	Evaluation of experts
Criterion 1 The testing and assessment of professional competences and research skills is carried out throughout the entire academic year and is mirrored in the final assessment.	Testing and assessment of professional competences and research skills is carried out throughout the entire academic year and is mirrored in the final assessment. Courses specifics indicate the methodology of evaluation, while it can be noticed that there are two midterm evaluations as well as the evaluation of the semester work. More detailed explanation can be found within Syllabuses [Annex 61]
Criterion 2 The institution makes use of electronic testing and evaluation systems, which eliminate various forms of abuse and enhance transparence.	There is a combined way of testing, the hard copy testing and the electronic submition of semester work. Grading is through the EPOKA Interactive System (EIS). It can be noted that the institution makes use of electronic testing and evaluation systems, which try to eliminate various forms of abuse and enhance transparence.
Criterion 3 The final testing of professional competences and skills assessment is carried out by special commissions composed of at least 2 members, assigned, and appointed by the main units, one of whom is the chairperson of the commission.	Based on the documentation provided it can be noted that the Commission of Exam Board [Annex 51] operates as a quality checker of the exams conducted during each academic year. It is specified that the Exam evaluation is based on a strict answer key that is shared with the students as soon as the exam finishes. Students can check their answers and value their performance according to the distributed answer key.
Criterion 4 The testing and assessment of written competences is anonymously conducted with codification and the institution provides a dedicated infrastructure monitored by the appropriate trained staff and / or security cameras.	EPOKA University has a dedicated IT infrastructure to ensure the anonymity of exams. Students receive a personalized code for each exam period, which is known only by them and the Department of Architecture coordinator. The codes are also incorported in the EPOKA Interactive System (EIS) where the Teacher enters the grade pertaining to the relevant code. More details are available in the Guideline on Examination [Annex 71]
Criterion 5 The assessment of competences and skills is accompanied by comments / feedback (if necessary) and includes recommendations for the learning process in order to help students improve in the future.	According to the Directive on the Functioning of the Exam Board [Annex 51] and Guideline on Examination [Annex 71] the Dean's Office appoints an expert for the Master of Science in Architecture study program, to assess the quality of examinations. Course instructors/Teachers are required to submit answer keys to the Department along with midterm and final exams and grade sheets. They at the same time provide feedback (if necessary), that includes recommendations for the learning process to help students improve in the future.
Criterion 6 The responsible units and academic staff avoid and do not tolerate plagiarism and cheating during exams and assignments.	EPOKA University strictly prohibits cheating, and all provisions are clearly stated in the Regulation of EPOKA University on Student Discipline [Annex 72]. In addition to the written regulation, the university uses Turnitin software as a mechanism that checks plagiarism for all written assignments and research work [Annex 37].
Criterion 7 The results of checking professional competences and skills are meritbased and delivered in time, based on the stipulations in the relevant regulations.	The academic calendar indicated all important dates which include the detail that the results of checking professional competences and skills are delivered on time, based on the stipulations in the relevant regulations and calendars. https://epoka.edu.al/mat/academic-calendar/Masters_Studies_Academic_Calendar_2021_2022.pdf

Criterion 8 The institution guarantees students' right to be acquainted with the assessment procedure, and to request the assessment be reviewed in accordance with the regulations and evaluation procedures.	EPOKA University considers students' right to be informed about the assessment procedure, and to request the assessment be reviewed in accordance with the regulations and evaluation procedures. [Annex 73] Students are as well equiped with the student guide [Annex 11].
Criterion 9 Any claim or complaint is reviewed by the evaluation commission and then by the ad-hoc commission. The pursued procedure must be transparent to the parties involved, documented and archived.	The grade appeal application form is sent to the Dean's Office to take the final decision on the appeal. This procedure is regulated in more details within Regulation on Second Cycle Study Programs (Refer to Annex-73), as well as in the Directive of EPOKA University On the Functioning of the Exam Board [Annex 51]. In addition, the Registrar's office follows, documents, and archives the overall procedure.

Fulfillment of standard		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
				X

Standard III.7

Study program delivery guarantees students' creativity and practical skills enhancement, by simultaneously providing in-depth knowledge on professional and scientific competences.

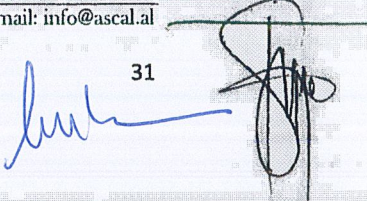| Criterions	Evaluation of experts
Criterion 1 The study program is delivered in a way that guarantees the students' competences acquisition and develop professional and special skills development.	The Master of Science in Architecture study program delivers the knowledge and skills as shown by the courses presented in the Curricula [Annex 14] and the revised Curicula presented in additional annex 3.1. Students receive a variety of courses within the disciplines of architecture and urbanizm, as well as several other courses related to the field of study. In addition to the curricula, students regularly take part in extra-curricular activities such as open forums, debates, student conferences, projects, and research papers. The same information is available on the Department of Architecture website https://arch.epoka.edu.al
Criterion 2 The study program guarantees the development of specific skills in the field of information technology, including as well human, social, communication, and interaction (including foreign language) resources.	The Curricula of the Master of Science in Architecture study program is structured to develop specific skills in the field of information technology (the use of field specific software and info technology), including foreign language (the courses are tought in English). For further details, please refer to the curriculum of the study program [Annex 14, Additional Annex 3.1]
Criterion 3 Student's competences and skills, presented in the study program and syllabi of each subject, are analyzed and reviewed at the end of the course.	Referred to the provided Syllabuses (Annex-61), each course instructor conducts a final review and discusses with students the received knowledge, the methodology used and other aspects relevant to the course. EPOKA University has regulated the procedure through the Directive on the Functioning of the Exam Board based on which each faculty appoints one expert for each study program to assess the quality of examinations [Annex 51, 52]
Criterion 4 At the end of each course / module, the academic staff points out the most important issues and guides students throughout their implementation and final test.	In general, at the end of each course, the academic staff points out the most important issues and guides students throughout their implementation and final test. Again, refer to Annex-61, containing Syllabuses of the Master of Science in Architecture Program.

Criterion 5 The academic staff (full time or visiting) delivers public lectures and workshops on new science and technology developments outside the study program.	Annual reports produced by the Department of Architecture contain information on delivery of public lectures and workshops on new science and technology developments outside the study program by academic staff. [Annex 25].
Criterion 6 Teaching is carried out on a competences-basis in order to provide students the opportunity to develop their competences in labs and practicums.	The information gained during the meeting on site indicates that teaching process is carried out on a competences-basis, providing students the opportunity to develop their competences in labs and practical work/internship.
Criterion 7 The academic staff supports discussion and teamwork in interpreting and solving certain problems / issues.	If based on Syllabuses provided [Annex 61], it can be mentioned that the intention of each Course is to be designed in a way to contribute to the outcomes of the Master of Science in Architecture study program.
Criterion 8 The academic staff creates a suitable climate for the development of innovative ideas, advanced and scientific studies, and support.	It can be noted that students are encouraged to develop innovative ideas in project assignments, advance and promote their scientific works in national and international workshops and conferences through collaborations. This process happens during courses, or their research and project work supported by Research and Projects office.
Criterion 9 The institution promotes the development of innovative ideas, students advanced research and scientific studies, by providing them with financial support.	As a result of discussions with academic staff and students, it can be noted that there are supported common research and project-based activities, including the extracurricular activities. [Annex 35, 69]
Criterion 10 The academic staff combine forms of teaching with partner institutions to enable and increase student mobility.	Academic staff and students at partner Universities and the Department of Architecture make exchanges every semester. For more information refer to the list of partner universities in Annex-64, and the list of Student-staff mobilities of the Master of Science in Architecture study program [Annex 50].

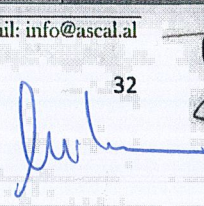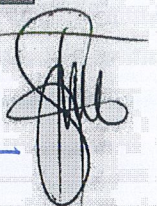| Fulfillment of standard		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
				X

Standard III.8
The institution pursues a clear student graduation procedure in the study program and provides the students with the necessary documentation.

Criterions	Evaluation of experts
Criterion 1 The institution drafts a special procedure for the final exam or diploma defense before the graduation and publishes it.	Based on the documents provided, the Department of Architecture provides all information about the diploma thesis online on the department webpage. Additionally, the class advisor together with the lecturer assigned as thesis supervisor communicate to the students about all the procedures and related issues to be considered during the thesis preparation. https://arch.epoka.edu.al https://eis.epoka.edu.al/curricula/syllabus/14386/1/33
Criterion 2 The responsible structures and academic staff assist students by providing the necessary information, instructions and materials in the framework of final exam and diploma defense.	Every assigned Supervisor works with the assigned student independently. Teachers/Supervisors are responsible for sharing all materials that can help the students conduct their research and diploma work.
Criterion 3 The special commission for the final exam administration is based on the	The Master of Science in Architecture program does not include a final exam. To measure the knowledge acquired during the studies in the second cycle, there is a diploma thesis. Upon the completion of all

testing of knowledge acquired during the last two academic years including all courses / modules based on their importance and specific importance.	Supervisor-Student consultations, students present their work to the jury, acting as a commission that decides on the scientific level of the diploma thesis. https://eis.epoka.edu.al/curricula/syllabus/14386/1/33
Criterion 4 The academic staff guides and assists students in selecting their diploma thesis topics.	The last or fourth semester serves aas a semester during which the diploma thesis is registered as a course with an appointed Supervisor. The Syllabus for the course is prepared by the Supervisor, including consultation and guidance sessions with the students. https://eis.epoka.edu.al/curricula/syllabus/14386/1/33
Criterion 5 The institution assists students in carrying out measurements, analyzes, and tests in or outside institution premises, according to the specific objectives and scope of study.	Based on the documents provided and te site visit, EPOKA University posseses the infrastructure that allows students to conduct necessary measurements, analyzes, and tests, according to the specific objectives and scope of study. Othe research infrastructure is as well available, including online resources of scientific journals (JSTOR) and the specific programs needed to conduct drafting, drawing, modeling, and simulating. All the software is provided by the ICTC office [Annex 37].
Criterion 6 Diploma Thesis Mentor assists the student in producing and processing the relevant results, as well as in drafting the thesis according to the approved instructions and guidelines. He guarantees the quality of the results and approves whether or not the work is complete and appropriate to be presented before the commission.	Thesis supervisor is responsible for assisting and guiding the student throughout the master thesis. The supervisor decides whether the student is ready to present the work in front of a commission/jury. The Turnitin software is a procedure to be followed as well. Refer to the regulation of EPOKA University on Second Cycle Study Program https://epoka.edu.al/mat/regulations/regulation-on-second-cycle-study-programs.pdf https://eis.epoka.edu.al/curricula/syllabus/14386/1/33
Criterion 7 At the end of the exam or diploma defense, the student is evaluated with a final grade.	The student receives a final grade at the end of the diploma thesis (by the Supervisor). The final diploma grade ecided by jury members appointed by the Department of Architecture.
Criterion 8 At the end of studies, the student is provided with a diploma and its supplement licensed by the ministry responsible for education.	Regulation on second cycle study programs [Annex 73, Article-41] defines the graduation criteria and procedures. As such, to meet the graduation requirements, students must complete the minimum required course load. The student, who successfully completes the credits required as well as the thesis for a total of 120 ECTS credits, is granted the Master of Science in Architecture Diploma. The student receives diploma accompanied by a diploma supplement [Annex 15, 16].
Criterion 9 At the end of the studies, a full official copy of the study program is made available to the student.	The Regulation on the second cycle study programs defines that once the student completes graduation procedure requirements like the requirement on minimum (120) ECTS credits and requirement on minimum (2.00) CGPA the respective offices complete the official graduation procedure for students. After graduation, the Registrar's Office provides a diploma and a diploma supplement for graduated students, while the same are recorded in the Epoka Interactive System (EIS).
Criterion 10 The institution retains a copy of the students' documentation for an indefinite period of time and issues attestations to the student, on a caseby-case basis, if required.	During the site visit, it was confirmed that the institution retains a copy of the students documentation for an indefinite period of time and issues attestations to the student, on a case-by-case basis, if needed.

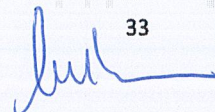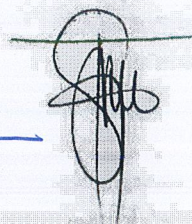| Not met	Partly met	Substantially met	Met

Fulfillment of standard				X

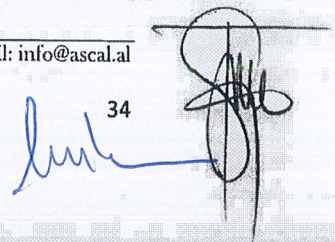| Fulfillment of standard of Field III		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
				X

IV. HUMAN, FINANCIAL, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND LOGISTICS RESOURCES FOR STUDY PROGRAM DELIVERY

Standard IV.1
The Higher Education Institution follows transparent legal procedures on recruiting, evaluating and selecting staff for the study program.

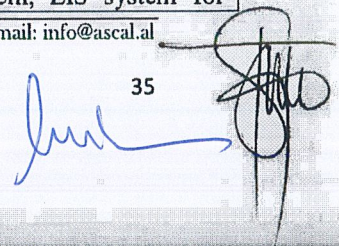| Criterions	Evaluation of experts
Criterion 1 The institution collects, stores and updates each academic year the data of the personnel engaged in the study program. These data include the academic staff involved in the program and the person responsible for organizing the study program, workload and academic staff engagement in each academic semester and year, as well as the teaching and the scientific support staff.	Epoka University applies transparent legal procedures for the recruitment of academic staff. In the Human Resources office [EEG Visit] there are detailed data for each member of the academic, support and administrative staff. Information and data are complete for all academic staff, respectively with the subjects and semesters in which the staff of the study program is engaged. Information on the academic staff is documented according to the form presented in Annex 68 of the IER and the model contract deposited in the file corresponds to the one presented in Annex 46 and 47 of the IER. Information on academic staff is also stored electronically through the EIS system.
Criterion 2 The institution drafts and implements procedures for academic staff recruitment, in accordance with the applicable legal basis and the institution's internal regulatory.	Academic personnel recruitment procedures are based on the Staff Recruitment Regulation which is applied at the institution level [Annex 13]. From the examination of the materials and the visit to the institution, compliance with the legislation in force was found.
Criterion 3 The institution drafts special and specific procedures and criteria, for the of staff recruitment, which are part of regulatory acts and makes them public.	As described above, the academic personnel recruitment procedures are based on the Staff Recruitment Regulation which is applied at the institution level [Annex 13]. The University publishes information on online recruitment on the website https://epoka.edu.al/mat/regulations/Regulation_Staff_Recruitment.pdf
Criterion 4 The institution follows recruitment and evaluation procedures based on the announced general and specific criteria that ensure the selection of staff with the appropriate level of qualification and in accordance with the nature, structure, modules and the study program content.	The announcement of vacancies is carried out in accordance with the Staff Recruitment Regulation [Annex 13], which defines the steps of the process, from the oppening of vacancies to the signing of the contract. The needs are identified by the relevant department and then, through the human resources office, the recruitment procedure is followed. Candidate applications are made online. The assessment is carried out by a committee consisting of three members [Annex 13/Article 6].

The general criteria for candidates are defined in the same regulation [Annex 13/Article 11] and aim at the selection of qualified academic personnel, giving special weight to the academic experience and research work carried out by the candidate.

The announcements are published online at http://hr.epoka.edu.al/cat-job-opportunities-1465.html

For the evaluation of academic staff after recruitment, Epoka University applies transparent procedures. The evaluation is carried out by the students but also by the head of the department. Detailed information on the evaluation of academic staff is given in chapter VI of this report.

Fulfillment of standard		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
				X

Standard IV.2
The Higher Education Institution is mainly responsible for the quality of staff who cover the study program and support for performing tasks efficiently and effectively.

Criterions	Evaluation of experts
Criterion 1 The institution is committed to provide the staff with the appropriate environment and equal opportunities for performing their tasks professionally.	From the visit to the institution, it was found that the working conditions and environment as a whole are quite good and motivating. We could observe a harmonious environment and relationships, regarding both the academic staff and the students, a atmosphere of cooperation and mutual respect, without barriers or discriminatory approaches.
Criterion 2 The institution is committed to provide staff who administers the study program with continuous training and further professional development.	We could notice an atmosphere of positive competition within the staff encouraged by institutional policies for continuous qualifications. From the meetings with the academic staff, it was noticed that the qualification and exchange of experiences was mainly carried out through Erasmus + programs or projects in which the university is involved. Also, in Annex 65 and 67 of the IER, a series of activities / trainings at the institutional level are presented.
Criterion 3 The institution organizes specific programs regarding innovative teaching methods and use of new technologies for academic and scientific research staff's further professional qualification.	Beyond the exchanges or activities mentioned in criterion 2 of this standard, no specific programs related to the updating of teaching methods or the continuous qualification of academic personnel were found. However, it should be noted that during the period of the COVID 19 pandemic, academic personnel at the university level have adapted new communication tools and technologies to adapt to the situation [Annex 65, 67].
Criterion 4 The institution demonstrates an optimal employee commitment to meet second cycle study program objectives.	Acquaintance with the documentation of IER results that the institution has sufficient and qualified human resources for the realization of the study program and for the fulfillment of its formative objectives. However, increasing the number of students remains a challenge, which requires further commitment of staff in

	communication with potential candidates and institutions that can promote the training offered by this program.			
Fulfillment of standard	Not met	Partly met	**Substantially met**	**Met**
				X

Standard IV.3
The Higher Education Institution makes available the learning premises and the appropriate infrastructure for the delivery of study program teaching process and practical training, according to the nature and area of the study program.

Criterions	Evaluation of experts
Criterion 1 The institution provides sufficient and appropriate teaching facilities for the development of theoretical teaching activity, depending on the number of students and study groups, in accordance with the specific nature of the study program and respective modules.	"EPOKA" University is located on the Tirana-Rinas road, at kilometer 12. The campus covers a total area of 67,000 m^2. Epoka University offers a suitable infrastructure for the realization of all necessary activities such as indoor and outdoor environments of a very high quality and conditions not only for learning but also for independent work of students. The premises visited by EEG include, classrooms, auditoriums, computer laboratories, laboratories for testing materials and construction structures, study halls, academic and administrative staff offices, library and other common spaces such as canteen, etc. The MSc program in "Architecture" is carried out in the building of the Faculty of Architecture and Engineering. The spaces are equipped with a heating-cooling system and video projectors.

The connection between infrastructure capacities and the number of students is not a significant indicator in this case, as long as the program had a total of 10 graduates in the period 2018-2022, of which, only 1 followed the full two-year program [Additional Annex 5]. Considering the fact that students follow their studies together with the 5-year program in architecture, the observations of this report cannot give specific conclusions. |
| **Criterion 2** Learning premises such as classrooms, labs, studios and the like are equipped with electronic and information technology devices that guarantee the realization of the theoretical and practical teaching process through the use of contemporary teaching methodology and technology. | From the visit of EEG and Annex 32 and Table 16 of the IER it follows that:

Epoka University has the necessary infrastructure for the normal development of the learning process.

The teaching laboratories are equipped with the appropriate equipment and the necessary tools in accordance with the goals of the program.

The classrooms are equipped with computers, video projectors, and interactive boards.

Internet access is available in all premises of Epoka University. |
| **Criterion 3** Laboratories, studios, ateliers or other premises, according to the specific nature of the program, shall contain the necessary equipment and tools to meet module requirements, theoretical and practical training, | Beyond the findings of criterion 2 of this standard, the institution also has an information technology structure that manages the technological equipment and electronic services provided by the university.

The IT office manages the teaching services, library system, Google services, curriculum system, smart card system, EIS system for |
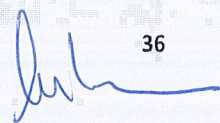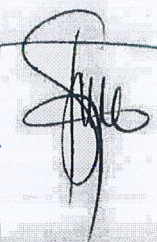
and the overall study program objectives.	students, etc. [Annex 37]. These systems are further addressed in standard IV.5.
Criterion 4 The institution provides at least one information technology lab, equipped with advanced programs appropriate to the area of the study programs it provides.	The institution has 4 laboratories for information technology with a total capacity of 128 PCs [Annex 37]. The university offers core Microsoft programs and access to Office 365. In addition, about 30 video projectors are installed in the university classrooms.
Criterion 5 The institution guarantees, with its available capacities and / or in cooperation with other institutions and entities (certified through special partnership agreements) that the premises are sufficient, appropriate and dedicated for the development of professional training and other practical activities.	In terms of infrastructure, the university has the necessary spaces for the development of teaching activities. Considering that the program has a very limited number of students, the collaborations for professional practices are easy to be guaranteed. The challenge remains to increase the number of students who can benefit from this study program, and therefore from the offered infrastructure capacities. The list of collaborating partners at university level, presented in Table 5 of the EER, indicates the presence of many possible partners for assuring the practical activities of the master.

Fulfillment of standard		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
				X

Standard IV.4
The Higher Education Institution provides students with learning support premises, library, special learning premises and the necessary literature to support the learning process for the students of each study programs.

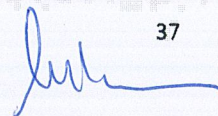| Criterions	Evaluation of experts
Criterion 1 The institution makes available to students the resources library, thus guaranteeing students equal access to the study program.	From the visit to the institution, EEG found that the library offers a considerable fund of books and literature available to students and academic staff. Academic staff and students have continuous access to the library.
Criterion 2 The library should be equipped with the necessary literature such as: basic textbooks, recommended literature, both in Albanian and foreign languages, necessary and appropriate books or journals to cover all modules and courses according to each study programs.	The library fund has about 25,000 items including books, textbooks and auxiliary literature, academic/scientific journals, etc. A detailed list of literature for the realization of the MSc study program in Architecture is presented in Annex 36; the literature is in different languages according to the needs and requirements of students and academic staff.
Criterion 3 The institution should enable the adequate conditions for students' equal access to the on-line library for each study program course.	The library of Epoka University is enriched with new titles every year. "EPOKA" University also has access to several online libraries where students can read and download many books and scientific papers [http:www//.jstor.org/.]
Criterion 4 The library should be equipped with computer programs and other technical equipment, enabling unrestricted use by all students.	The library is equipped with a computer-accessible cataloging system. The cataloging system is based on the Library of Congress system and is considered quite efficient for university libraries. Also, having a library system with an open collection where the student has direct access to the book is considered quite positive and encouraging for the

	use by students. EEG, during the site visit, noticed an active use of the library spaces.
Criterion 5 The institution should develop and implement a detailed plan for adding new items to the library and updating the existing fund in order to assist the students of each study programs.	Enrichment of the library fund is an ongoing process which is based on purchases, donations and online library access. Regarding the study program, the university declares to have 1800 books listed under the category "architecture". Many other books are related to construction, engineering, etc. which are also realted to the subjects of the program.
Criterion 6 The library schedule (opening hours) should be in line with the teaching process schedule, but not limited to, and beyond, appropriate to students' number and needs, as well as its capacity.	The library operates from Monday to Friday: 08:30 - 12:30 and 13:30 - 17:30 and Saturday, 09:00 - 13:00. The operating hours and the conditions of the library, seem to be optimal for the students of the program during the semester. Extended spaces and operating hours are suggested during exam periods.

Fulfillment of standard		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
				X

Standard IV.5
The Higher Education Institution has an internal institutional management system, which is made available to the management, information and monitoring of academic, financial and administrative activity for the study program.

Criterions	Evaluation of experts
Criterion 1 The institution has in place a management system for the management of all student-related information and activity from enrollment to the study programs up to graduation.	The University offers the EIS (Education Information System) system through which academic, financial and individual data are accessed. Each student has an individual account and accesses the system online, receiving continuous and updated service in real time [Annex 37, 38, 39].
Criterion 2 The internal management system manages the information, documentation and activities of, research staff, administrative staff and partners involved in the program implementation.	EIS works not only for students, but also for academic and administrative staff, who have access in accordance to their position to upload, update or read data. The University provides also two guides, for academic staff and students, for the use of the EIS system [Annex 38, 39].
Criterion 3 The management system provides dedicated access to information and documents for all study program staff and students.	Through the EIS system, students can register for courses, exams, view their academic progress and access didactic materials. The curriculum, weekly schedule and announcements can also be accessed through the system. Academic staff complete syllabi, attendance and grades through the same system.
Criterion 4 The management system has integrated platforms and modules that enable interactive communication and information exchange among staff and students.	The University offers the EIS system through which academic, financial and individual data are accessed. Each student has an individual account and accesses the system online, receiving continuous and updated service in real time [Annex 37]. EIS works not only for students, but also for academic and administrative staff, who have access in accordance with their position to upload, update or read data.

	Through the EIS system, students can register for courses, exams, view their academic progress and access didactic materials.
	The curriculum, weekly schedule and announcements can also be accessed through the system.
	Academic staff complete syllabi, attendance and grades through the same system.
Criterion 5 The management system guarantees real-time monitoring of academic and administrative activity and enables individual and real-time reporting to management and unit heads.	The EIS system has different roles and enables access by managers by obtaining general data or enabling the preparation of statistics and analyzes based on available data [Annex 37].
Criterion 6 Information related to the study program, academic staff, and the various events and activities is published in the website in at least two languages, one of which is Albanian.	Detailed information on the study program is also available on the website of the Department of Architecture www.arch.epoka.edu.al The information is bilingual, Albanian and English, and reflects the activity of the department and study programs.

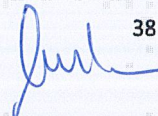| Fulfillment of standard		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
				X

Standard IV.6

The Higher Education Institution guarantees the necessary financial support for the implementation of the teaching / research process, study program progress and students' support.

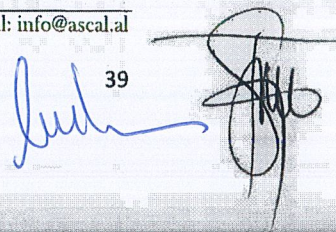| Criterions	Evaluation of experts
Criterion 1 The institution drafts a financial report on the study program costs and the financial support plan required for the study program progress for at least one full cycle study program.	The financial aspect of the university is supervised by the Board of Administration which approves the costs and the necessary financial support. The university budget plans all the expenses and incomes necessary for the smooth running of the institution. The data shown in Table 18 show thet the program is supported only bu tuition fees in the last three academic years. Based on the low number of students (2), it results that this program does not guarantee financial stability and its costs are covered by the income of other study programs offered by the university. [Table 18, Annex 64].
Criterion 2 A study program funding plan should include funding for human resources made available to the program implementation, operating costs for premises maintenance and teaching process support technologies, library and literature enrichment costs, and access to on-line libraries, financial obligations, national or international grants received and service contracts on the study program performance, and other items, according to its specific nature.	The university budget plans all the expenses and incomes necessary for the smooth running of the institution. EEG does not have detailed data directly related to the study program regarding the expenses and cost of studying. However, based on the low number of students (2), it results that this program does not guarantee financial stability and its costs are covered by the income of other study programs offered by the university. [Table 18, Annex 64].
Criterion 3 The institution conducts an annual audit, assesses and documents the financial	Refering to IER, Epoka University is subject to an annual external audit of its financial situation. The report contains all data analysis on the income-expenses of the company and the institutions involved, all

situation and its financial effectiveness. The financial report contains a detailed financial statement of income deriving from tuition fees and other financial contributions for students or financial resources allocation.	accounting data related to income (grants, student fees) and all expenses for the services it provides directly or indirectly.
Criterion 4 At the end of each full cycle study program, the institution documents the financial reports for the past three academic years and plans the special interventions and eventual diversification of the program funding to ensure its smooth performance and progress.	Refering to IER, Epoka University is subject to an annual external audit of its financial situation. EEG has been provided with the international auditing documentation for the last three years which illustrates a stable financial situation of the institution (Turgut Ozal Education Sh.A.) [Raporte 2018, 2019, 2020]. However the documents do not give information related to the specific programme MSc. in Architecture. No other analysis related to the financial performance of the programme and its ability to be selfsufficient in the near future has been provided.
Criterion 5 The institution must demonstrate that it guarantees financial sustainability throughout the development of the study program and has the necessary financial capacity to improve the financial situation and generate the necessary income in the future.	Epoka University proves financial stability in recent years, having continuous development both in terms of infrastructure and academic level and impact. https://epoka.edu.al/mat/administration/Annual_Report_2019_2020_(Albanian).pdf Although the MSc study program in Architecture has been followed by a very small number of students in the last three years, the financial guarantee for it comes from the overall performance of the institution which appears positive.

Fulfillment of standard		**Partly met**	**Substantially met**	**Met**	
					X

Fulfillment of standards of Field IV		**Partly met**	**Substantially met**	**Met**	
					X

V.   STUDENTS AND THEIR SUPPORT

Standard V.1
The Higher Education Institution drafts, follows and implements policies and procedures on students' admission, selection, progress, transfer, knowledge assessment and graduation in the study program.

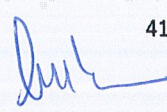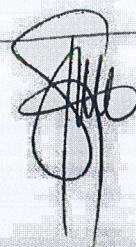| **Criterions**	**Evaluation of experts**
Criterion 1 The institution develops and implements policies and procedures that cover the full academic cycle study program, from enrollment to university up to graduation, in accordance with applicable legislation and regulatory acts.	Epoka University turns out to have complete documentation on the coverage of student activity, which includes their admissions, studies and graduation, in accordance with the legislation on higher education in Albania. Basic rules and policies are provided in the University Statute, various Regulations and the Strategic Development Plan. [Annex 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 75]

Criterion 2 Policies and procedures from enrollment to graduation guarantee equality and equal rights to all study program applicants and students.	EEG, from the visit to the university and from the review of the documentation, found that the institutional environment and the basic documents foresee equality and guarantee the absence of discrimination for students. [Annex 2, Annex 75]
Criterion 3 Students' admission and selection criteria and procedure, progress throughout the study course, transfer, recognition of previous or part-time studies, competence assessment and graduation are easily understandable and accessible to the public.	The admissions page on the university's website is well organized and rich in detailed information for students who want to continue their studies or transfer them. https://admissions.epoka.edu.al/ This information is provided in two languages, Albanian and English, and is in accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Education and Sports.
Criterion 4 The institution drafts and publishes at the beginning of each academic year the criteria for the selection of candidates to be admitted to the second cycle study program.	In accordance with MES instructions, the university publishes information and criteria for admissions, which are public on the official website. These criteria are intended to stimulate the interest of quality students by also offering scholarships to students of excellence. https://admissions.epoka.edu.al/home-master-of-science-1928-1930.html?lang=EN&dpid=2&t=master-of-science&catid=1928&menuid=1930 Admission criteria to the Master of Science: 1. Students holding a Bachelor's degree or equivalent in the fields determined by the academic council of the respective departments. 2. A minimum CGPA of 2.50 out of 4.00 for the students who have completed their Bachelor study programs at Epoka University or 7.00 out of 10.00 or equivalent CGPA for students who have completed Bachelor study programs in other Higher Education Institutions; 3. Students who have completed their Bachelor study programs at Epoka University with a CGPA between 2.00 - 2.49 out of 4.00 or students who have completed their Bachelor study programs at other HEIs with a CGPA between 6.00 - 6.99 out of 10.00 shall be able to enroll in the Master of Science study program subject to the succesful passing of the Scientific Interview with the Scientific Committe of the respective Departement; 2. Certificate of English Level B2 according to CEFR in one of the following exams: a. Cambridge b. IELTS c. TOEFL Internet-based Test (iBT) d. TOEFL Paper-based Test (ITP) e. TOEIC p. GESE

	g. APTIS (4 skills)
Criterion 5 Prior to the beginning of each academic year, the Higher Education Institution instructs the public and interested parties on study program general and specific criteria and requirements.	Through the web admissions and announcements office (see criterion 4), the university informs and assists all those interested in the admissions process, the criteria and the necessary documentation. In this regard, in the last three years, the interest of the students has been low, and the institution has carried out the information only formally through electronic means of communication. Based on the current situation of the study program, EEG recommends the institution to review the admission and information policies of potential students.

Fulfillment of standard	Not met	Partly met	Substantially met	Met
			X	

Standard V.2	
The Higher Education Institution makes available to the students of the study program detailed and comprehensive information on the academic progress, recognition, and knowledge assessment up to the studies completion and graduation.	
Criterions	**Evaluation of experts**
Criterion 1 The institution provides full and detailed information on the criteria and procedures for students' academic progress and transition from one academic year to the other.	In the regulations of the institution, the criteria and procedures for the academic progress of the student are foreseen. Specifically, the Regulations of the second cycle programs [Annex 73] and the basic regulations of the university [Annex 75], provide all the necessary elements for the student's progress.
Criterion 2 The institution informs students about diploma recognition procedures and criteria regarding previous qualifications or part-time studies.	Students are informed through the admissions office, where the preliminary assessment of their status is also done. Through this office, students are informed about the possibility to recognize or transfer previous qualifications as well as about the supplementary conditions (if any) for pursuing studies.
Criterion 3 The institution informs students about the criteria and procedures on knowledge and skills assessment during the study program.	The regulations of the second cycle programs [Annex 73] and the basic regulations of the university [Annex 75], foresee all the necessary elements for the student's progress. Institutional regulations can be accessed in the department and made known through communication with academic staff and academic advisors. In addition, information is provided through the EIS system and syllabi accessible online.
	https://eis.epoka.edu.al/curricula/82/program A special guide has been drawn up for students (Smart Student Guide), where the above aspects and graduation procedures are presented in detail [Annex 10].
Criterion 4 The institution informs students about study program graduation criteria and procedures.	The regulations of the second cycle programs [Annex 73] and in the basic regulations of the university [Annex 75], the procedures for the thesis and graduation are foreseen.

	Institutional regulations and detailed information can be accessed in the department, through communication with academic staff and academic advisors, through the EIS system and the student guide. https://eis.epoka.edu.al/curricula/82/program [Annex 10]
Criterion 5 Before the beginning of and throughout each academic year, the institution publishes special directives and organizes briefings to inform potential students and current students about the study program.	The admissions office carries out continuous communication with potential students who are informed and guided in accordance with the procedures approved and published by the university. Communication is carried out on the premises of the university or through electronic means of communication. A special guide has been drawn up for students (Smart Student Guide), which provides necessary information for students [Annex 10].

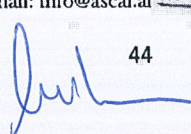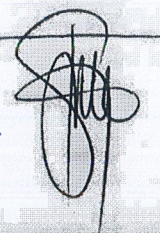| **Fulfillment of standard**		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
				X

Standard V.3

The Higher Education Institution provides students with comprehensive and detailed information on training objectives, structure, organization, study program content, expected learning outcomes and employment opportunities.

Criterions	**Evaluation of experts**
Criterion 1 The students are thoroughly informed on study program design, organization and duration.	From the meeting of EEG with two students of the study program, it appears that they were informed about the complete structure of the program.
Criterion 2 The institution provides students with the necessary information and documentation on modules/course content and training activities.	Through the EIS platform as well as on the web, the structure of the program and the relevant syllabi are announced. https://eis.epoka.edu.al/curricula/82/program
Criterion 3 The institution informs students on employment opportunities as well as institutional support on career counselling and labor market.	The students of this program so far are employed in disciplines directly related to the competencies of the study program. The university offers information opportunities on the labor market through the career office and its partners. Also, information opportunities are provided at the career fair. https://www.epoka.edu.al/news-9th-career-fair-at-epoka-university-5968.html
Criterion 4 Students are provided with extensive and up-to-date information on the teaching process development and organization, logistics, infrastructure and services in order to accomplish it.	From the meeting of EEG with two students of the study program, it appears that they were informed about the organization of the learning process and the logistics and infrastructure.
Criterion 5 Information about the study program is provided through the internal information management system and should be easily accessible even to distance students.	The EIS system is accessible online and provides a wide range of student information. Through the EIS system, students can register for courses, exams, view their academic progress and access didactic materials.

	The curriculum, weekly schedule and announcements can also be accessed through the system.
	Each student has an individual account and accesses the system online, receiving continuous and updated service in real time [Annex 39].
Criterion 6 The internal management system manages the information, documentation and student learning activities.	As described in criterion 5, the EIS provides information and stores documentation regarding student's performance. On the other hand, EIS is used also by administration and academic staff, integrating their information too [Annex 38].

Fulfillment of standard	Not met	Partly met	Substantially met	Met
				X

Standard V.4
The Higher Education Institution collects, manages, updates and maintains detailed information about the number of students attending the second cycle study program from their admission to university, as well as employment/career data through an internal IT management system.

Criterions	Evaluation of experts
Criterion 1 The institution produces annual statistics on the number of current and graduated students in each study program.	From the visit to the registration office, EEG found that there are complete data for the graduated students and the current student of the study program.
Criterion 2 The institution produces annual statistics on the number of students enrolled to the second cycle study program, dropouts during or before the end of the program, or the successful completion of the academic year in which the study program is delivered.	The data mentioned in criterion 1 of this standard includes all information related to registrations, withdrawal and detailed performance for each student. In statistical terms, no specific reports were found for the study program, but cumulative data are presented in the institution's annual report. https://epoka.edu.al/mat/administration/Annual_Report_2019_2020_(Albanian).pdf
Criterion 3 The institution possesses data on the students' progress throughout the study program course from their admission up to their graduation.	From the visit to the registration office (teaching secretariat), EEG found that there are complete data for the graduated students and the current student of the study program. This includes all information related to registrations, withdrawal and detailed performance for each student.
Criterion 4 Student statistical data are managed through the internal information system and must be secured and easily accessible to authorized persons.	The registrar's office has a complete database of student data, which is also accessible electronically in real time through the EIS system. EEG was able to have the required data in this office in real time. The system enables the automatic calculation of students' CGPA and the generation of automatic transcripts.
Criterion 5 The institution should develop periodic monitoring reports on incoming and exiting students' profile and quality, as well as their employment rate, along with appropriate measures to improve these indicators.	Referring to EEG meetings, online information and IER, it results that the career and alumni office maintains contact with graduates by compiling a database with their progress and generating data on their absorption by the labor market. Graduates are contacted individually through available contacts or social and professional networks. They

	fill out questionnaires asking for information about their employment and career. https://cpao.epoka.edu.al/			
Fulfillment of standard		**Partially met**	**Substantially met**	**Met**
				X

Standard V.5
The Higher Education Institution includes and engages students in decision-making and advisory bodies such as drafting, approving, reviewing and improving the study programs, teaching methods and the quality of provided resources and services.

Criterions	Evaluation of experts
Criterion 1 The institution envisages students and their representatives' involvement and engagement in decision-making and advisory bodies, according to HEI legal and regulatory acts of the HEI.	Epoka University has established the Student Council, which functions independently and with the representation of university students. The council is established through elections and the president and one of the vice presidents represent the students in the Academic Senate. The other two vice-presidents are part of the Ethics Council and the Quality Assurance Commission, respectively. Two council members are part of the Student Relations Committee. Due to the low number of students, the study program does not have direct representatives in these structures.
Criterion 2 The institution should ensure that students and / or their representatives' involvement in decision-making, counselling or evaluation on the academic process be realistic, specific, productive and with easily verifiable and measurable results.	Based on criterion 1 of this standard, students are guaranteed their position and representation in the main structures of the university.
Criterion 3 In designing and improving the study program, the institution should take into account the academic load of students in the study program and the provision of the student progress procedures throughout the program, including recognition of their full or partial study programs.	In regard to the MSc study program in Architecture, there is a reducing of the teaching load by recognition of subjects previously completed in other universities or in the four-year program (now closed) in Epoka. Although the recognition of credits from the first cycle to the second cycle has no clear legal basis, this has encouraged students to enroll in this study program. As provided by the university, from 2018 only 1 out of 10 graduates of this program has completed the full program with 120 ECTS [GVJ meeting with students] [5-Numri i studentëve qe janë diplomuar.pdf].
Criterion 4 The institution guarantees the students' involvement in drafting, reviewing and improving the study program on a regular basis and reflects their suggestions and contributions.	Since the feedback in this study program is limited, due to the low number of students (2), this criterion is "non-aplicable".
Criterion 5 Students are encouraged to give their input on equality and knowledge assessment and control transparence, including their right to appeal with the responsible body / unit / lecturer the result,	Although formally the process of evaluation of teaching by students turns out to have been completed, we cannot evaluate the impact of this process on the specific program.

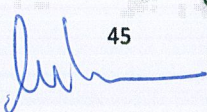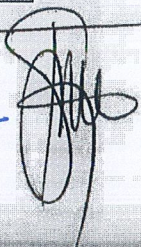| assessment, and evaluation awarded.				
Fulfillment of standard	Not met yet	Partly met	**Substantially met**	**Met**
				X

Standard V.6
The academic staff engaged in the study program participates in research and scientific activities and motivates student participation and involvement in studies and projects.

Criterions	**Evaluation of experts**
Criterion 1 The academic staff participates in international conferences or scientific research activities.	The academic staff is constantly involved in research activities including the participation in conferences and publication of articles in research journals. To be mentioned is the recent conference ICAUD (International Conference on Architecture and Urban Design) 2021 organised by the Department of Architecture.

A list of the research work published by the academic staff is available in the website of the Faculty of Architecture and Engineering.

https://fae.epoka.edu.al/home-publications-647-1854.html?lang=EN&dpid=2&t=publications&catid=647&menuid=1854 |
| **Criterion 2** The institution establishes partnership agreements with foreign higher education institutions and institutes, for the purpose of conducting joint studies, projects and research. | Epoka university has a considerable number of academic partners. A full list of the partners can be found online in the International Relations Office web page.

https://iro.epoka.edu.al/cat-partner-universities-1061.html

The partnerships include Memorandums of Understanding, Research Projects, Erasmus programs etc. |
| **Criterion 3** The academic staff motivates students to plan, write and publish scientific studies and papers. | Although there is no evidence for the specific study program, there is an active participation from the students of the five year program in architecture in research activities. This can be noted in the ICAUD 2021 confernce and other local conferences, as well as in the collaboration of students with department members in their research publications.

https://icaud.epoka.edu.al/2021/index.php

https://docs.google.com/document/d/e/2PACX-1vSzX-n8hwL_hVlw_8AueZMGFsFStEKPfpe2COVzqzMZ2zSp0Of68OF4c8VuaM17KQ/pub |
Criterion 4 The institution supports academic staff and students' publications in international scientific journals.	Epoka university is supporting the academic staff that engages in research activity by covering expenses of participation and giving honoraries for impact of the publications. The university has also approved a Directive on the Promotion of Scientific Publications [Annex 34].
Criterion 5 The institution and academic staff motivate and support students to engage in innovation studies and patents.	The Department of Architecture works closely with students and encourages them to participate in research work and in research activity within the department (see also criterion 3). Nevertheless, no evidence has been found related to the specific study program.
Criterion 6 The academic staff provides the necessary assistance to carry out analyzes, study	The engagement of the academic staff in research work provides a continuous effort wich is reflected also in the programs offered by the
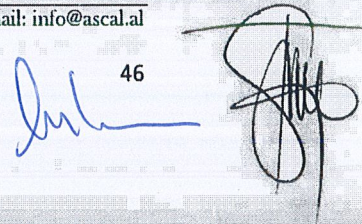
measurements and results processing within the scope of the study program.	Department of Architecture. The staff is supporting students in research work, especially during the thesis preparation. CORDA (Center of Research and Design in Aplied Sciences) is also a structure that supports research within the university. https://corda.epoka.edu.al/home.html?lang=EN&pid=1

Fulfillment of standard		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
				X

Standard V.7
The support of the Higher Education Institution furthers advanced studies and research.

Criterions	Evaluation of experts
Criterion 1 The institution pursues a cooperation policy with national scientific organizations and institutions, in order to increase study program staff and students' activities and mobility.	There is evidence of active cooperation with academic partners mainly in Europe. The main academic partners are listed in the International Relations Office web page. https://iro.epoka.edu.al/cat-partner-universities-1061.html As part of this cooperation, mobilities for training, teaching or research are offered to the academic staff, while studying mobilities up to one semester are offered to students. 23 outgoing mobilities are listed in Annex 50 both for students and staff in the last four years in the Departement of Architecture. No student mobilities are related to the specific program MSc in Architecture.
Criterion 2 The research methods implementation by academic staff and students ensures the students' preparation for the third cycle degree program.	The content of the program is aiming to a research oriented formation for the student, including a thesis work which has to be prepared and structured as an indipendet research work. Students that complete the program, based on their performance and interest, should be able of engaging in research processes and can be enrolled in doctoral studies to further develop an academic career.
Criterion 3 The institution pursues a policy about involving new researchers in national and international research projects.	The university provides clear policies of encouragement of research for both new and experienced researchers. The directive on the Promotion of Scientific Publications [Annex 34] and the Guidelines for Research Projects [Annex 48] are two documents that provide a base structure for promoting and encouraging research projects within the university and also in international cooperations. The increase of positions for doctoral candidates would be an effective instrument to promote young researchers and to create continous research projects that develop within the department.
Criterion 4 The institution pursues an integrated policy for national/international researchers.	The university provides instruments to support research of the academic staff, as well as encourages the participation in international research projects or mobilities where local staff can closely collaborato with foreign researchers [Annex 50] [Annex 34].
Criterion 5 The institution pursues a favorable policy for student mobility, by engaging them in international activities.	Refering to the data provided, in the department of architecture there have been 6 incoming and 3 outgoing mobilities for students in the period 2017-2022. None of the mobilities is related with the MSc program in Architecture [Annex 50].
Criterion 6 The institution invites research and teaching activities, academic staff and foreign students for different	Refering to the submitted documents, incoming researchers and academic staff have been mainly through Erasmus mobilities and research projects where the university is involved. 7 incoming mobilities

periods of time, in order to increase HEI/university international profile.	are listed in Annex 50 for academic staff in the last six years in the Departement of Architecture [Annex 35, 50].			
Fulfillment of standard	**Not met**	**Partly met**	**Substantially met**	**Met**
				X

Standard V.8

The Higher Education Institution has special units and procedures for student admission, induction, counseling, complaints and issues management, as well as a problem-solving strategy which are easily accessible and usable by students.

Criterions	Evaluation of experts
Criterion 1 The institution has a special units and procedures which ensure student information and assistance in accordance with the legal provisions and HEIs regulatory acts.	The institution has set up the registration office and the career and alumni office which provide complete information on academic progress and career development opportunities. These offices assist the student during his studies and keep in touch with him even after graduation.
Criterion 2 The institution has set up and introduced a special system for students' information, counseling, progress and assistance in matters related to the teaching process and study program.	The Dean of students is also a structure that deals with the continuous information of students and organizes information days at the beginning of the academic year.

Student guides and the EIS system also help students get information. Academic advisers are assigned to students in order to have a reference point with the academic staff. However, considering the relatively small number of students in the Department of Architecture, communication results to be easy and efficient [Annex 11, 39]. |
| **Criterion 3** The institution provides students with career counseling assistance. The Career Counselling Office / Unit welcomes students continuously and periodically, providing specific information and guidance in terms of completing the learning process, selection and induction regarding professional training in other institutions (internships), and also advises them on labor market. | The career and alumni office enables students to be counseled about the labor market and professional practices. The office assists the student during his studies and keeps in touch with him even after graduation.

The career office also organizes the career fair where students are put in direct contact with different companies. https://www.epoka.edu.al/news-9th-career-fair-at-epoka-university-5968.html |
| **Criterion 4** The Career Office / Unit follows-up students after graduation, by collecting, processing and storing data on the type and quality of study program student employment and makes them available to students and relevant bodies and authorities. | Referring to EEG meetings, online information and IER, it results that the career and alumni office maintains contact with graduates by compiling a database with their progress and generating data on their absorption by the labor market. Graduates are contacted individually through available contacts or social and professional networks. They fill out questionnaires asking for information about their employment and career.

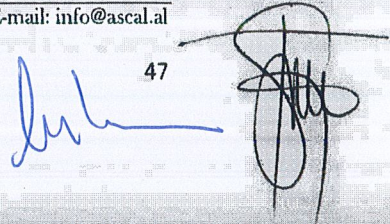https://cpao.epoka.edu.al/ |

Fulfillment of standard	**Not met**	**Partly met**	**Substantially met**	**Met**
				X

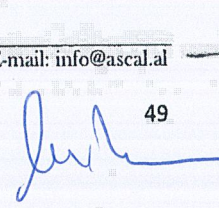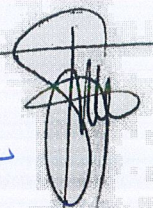| **Fulfillment of standards of FIELD V**	**Not met**	**Partly met**	**Substantially met**	**Met**
				X

VI. STUDY PROGRAMS' QUALITY ASSURANCE

Standard VI.1 The Higher Education Institution drafts and implements transparent policies and procedures on the study program quality assurance within the framework of internal quality assurance system.

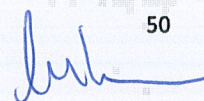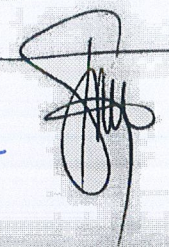| Criterions	Evaluation of experts
Criterion 1 The institution has in place policies, structures and procedures for Internal Quality Assurance (IQA), in accordance with applicable legal and sublegal provisions and with institutional regulatory acts.	Internal Quality Assurance at Epoka University is institutionalized as a permanent organizational structure named "Permanent Commission on Quality Assurance" (PCQA) under the Academic Senate [Annex 7], which ensures and monitors the quality of teaching and scientific research offered by "EPOKA" University in cooperation with the Internal Quality Assurance Unit, the Curriculum Development Commission and the Board of Examinations [Annex 51]. The Permanent Committee for Quality Assurance of the Institution has been elected by the Academic Senate. This commission implements the Quality Policies, the Directive on Academic and Administrative Performance Assessment and Quality Assurance and the Quality Assurance Manual [Annex 58, Annex 6, Annex 8]. The Curriculum Development Committee consists of five members, who are representatives of each major unit, including the chairperson. The Curriculum Development Committee reviews all proposals for new subjects and changes to existing study program curriculum subjects and provides support and advice to relevant departments for curriculum development [Annex 57]. The Board of Examinations consists of a chairman and at least one representative from each faculty. The examination board ensures the quality of examinations in accordance with the Directive on Examinations [Annex 71 and Annex 51].
Criterion 2 The institution has established and introduced the Internal Quality Assurance System and implements an institutional strategy for continuous quality improvement, including students and external partners and experts.	The Permanent Committee on Quality Assurance consists of 10 members [Annex 7] and implements the institution's Quality Policies [Annex 58]. It includes a student representative, an alumni representative and an external expert. https://aeqi.epoka.edu.al/
Criterion 3 The Institution uses the appropriate quality assurance instruments. External Quality Assurance in Higher Education is realized through external accreditation assessment processes, analytical and comparative evaluations, as well as other processes that promote and improve quality.	Epoka University uses measurement and evaluation instruments for the evaluation methodologies it applies, such as: student evaluations, peer evaluations, individual forms of academic staff performance evaluation as well as evaluation of annual reports on teaching, learning and relevant quality standards. The University conducts evaluation using indirect and direct instruments with graduate students, former students, academic and administrative staff. The Head of Department and the Dean are informed in detail about the results of the process and have the opportunity to intervene to make improvements when necessary.

	The annual institutional report is approved by the Senate and made public to all interested parties. https://epoka.edu.al/mat/administration/Annual_Report_2019_2020_(Albanian).pdf At the end of the academic year, the evaluation of the academic staff is carried out through the evaluation of students based on each course, the evaluation of individual performance by the faculty as well as the evaluation in the annual reports on teaching by the department at the end of each academic year.
Criterion 4 The Institution has drafted a clear policy and follows periodic procedures to ensure and improve the quality of the study program it provides, within the IQA framework. They aim to create a quality culture at the institutional level, the constituent units and all institutional internal actors.	Epoka University uses all instruments to strengthen Quality Assurance, such as the Institution's Permanent Committee on Quality Assurance, Curriculum Development Committee, Examination Board, Ethics Committee, etc., where interested parties such as student representatives, academic staff, and administrative are part of evaluation and supervision. Epoka University, based on its general policy to ensure the quality of the study program, in accordance with the standards required by Albanian legislation, has the Statute [Annex 2], the Strategic Plan [Annex 4, 5], the Quality Policy [Annex 6, 58] and the Quality Assurance Handbook [Annex 54]. The formal mechanisms for the periodic review, approval and supervision of the study programs are the review of the curriculum before the beginning of each semester and the periodic review, which are approved by the Senate with collegial decision-making.

Fulfillment of standard		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
				X

Standard VI.2
The Higher Education Institution monitors and evaluates periodically through the special units the study program to ensure training objectives achievement and the intended learning outcomes.

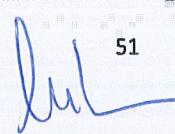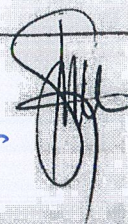| Criterions	Evaluation of experts
Criterion 1 The institution establishes a special unit for monitoring, reviewing, and supervising the second cycle study program.	Responsible for the programs of the second cycle of studies is the Department, which administers and develops the study programs. Curricular changes go from the Department, to the Faculty and then to the Commission for Curriculum Development, from where they are sent to the Senate [Annex 76]. Standard formats and the document Policies for Continuous Improvement of Study Programs [Annex 6, 57] are used for program changes.
Criterion 2 The institution uses formal and documented processes and mechanisms for reviewing, approving and supervising the second cycle study program periodically.	The curriculum review process and curriculum improvement interventions are applied in accordance with the description in criterion 1 of this standard.

	During the visit, the EEG found that for the study program, the changes related to the recommendations of the last accreditation has been approved on 5 May 2022 [Annex 76].
Criterion 3 The institution uses assessment methodology, measuring instruments and evaluation instruments for the study program progress and success.	The University monitors the quality of study programs and applies analysis at several levels.

The semester evaluation by students on the quality of teaching is an instrument that creates continuous feedback on the study program. In this case, this instrument loses its value due to the minimal number of students. |
| **Criterion 4** The results of these assessments are documented and put forward to the responsible and decision-making authorities for the study program. | The annual analysis of the institution is concluded with the annual report where the quality indicators of the study programs are evaluated in their entirety. This analysis has no direct impact on the program evaluated in this report. |
| **Criterion 5** The evaluation reports should include the expected results, the assessment results of and the measures taken to address the issues and the ongoing quality improvement. | Although the instruments exist, the main problem is related to the number of students, as a necessary condition for the existence of the program and further for its evaluation and success.

The results of the evaluations are analyzed according to the competences in the Department, in the Permanent Commission for Quality Assurance as well as in the Rectorate. For the program in question, as in criterion 3 of this standard, the impact of this process is devalued by the number of students. |

Fulfillment of standard		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
			X	

Standard VI.3
The Higher Education Institution makes use of assessment procedures, methodologies, and instruments for the study program opening, development, and progress; graduation, entering the labor market as well as students' further studies.

Criterions	**Evaluation of experts**
Criterion 1 The study program internal evaluation is periodically performed by the relevant internal quality assurance unit. The Higher Education Institution incorporates this information in the institutional self-assessment procedure within the accreditation and rating framework.	It was found that the internal evaluation of the study program is carried out in a formal way since the number of students is not sufficient to generate concrete analyzes and data.

Specifically:

- Evaluation of lecturers by students is carried out;

- The department prepares analyzes related to grades and student questionnaire data;

- Annual reports are drawn up by the Board of Examinations, which are forwarded to the Academic Senate and the Quality Commission;

- The annual institutional report is includes data and statistics on graduations, passability, etc. |
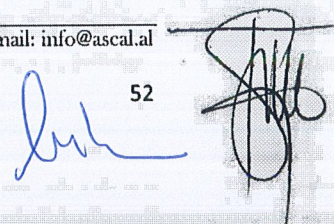| **Criterion 2** In order to carry out the assessment, the institution uses various appropriate and adequate methods and instruments, in line with the | During the visit, the EEG found that the evaluation methods used are unified at the institution level, but they are not effective for the study program. It was found that the internal evaluation of the study program |

nature and features of the study program scope.	is carried out in a formal way since the number of students is not sufficient to generate concrete analyzes and data.
	Referring to IER for this criterion, the listed methods are:
	- Academic staff comments;
	- Student comments;
	- Reports of accrediting bodies.
Criterion 3 In the framework of evaluating study program performance and quality, the institution employs direct methods such as: quality assessment of teaching, didactics, curricula, learning outcomes; parallel assessment of student examinations or assignments, direct observations in the auditorium during exercises / practice, local or standardized tests, results achieved in inter-institutional or national tests such as state exam for regulated professions etc.	The institution has set up a mechanism with instruments at all levels to evaluate the quality of the study programs, which is ineffective in this case, due to the situation in which the study program is located. Referring to IER here we can mention: - Analyzes conducted by the board of exams; - The follow-up by the department of the problems identified by the student questionnaire. [Annex 6, 51, 52, 71]
Criterion 4 In the framework of study program quality and performance evaluation, the institution uses indirect assessment methods and instruments such as: students, graduates (alumni), and academic staff's surveys and interviews; academic and administrative assistance, employers and institutions that cooperate for the study program delivery and other parties involved in conducting the assessment of knowledge and competences acquired during this program.	The institution has set up a mechanism with instruments at all levels to evaluate the quality of the study programs, which is ineffective due to the situation in which the study program is located. Questionnaires for the quality of teaching are the main tool that involves students, through electronic survey (EIS system) and forwards the information for further analysis to the management structures of the university [Annex 20]. Referring to the comments received through the accreditation processes, the institution has fulfilled 2/3 of the recommendations left by the Accreditation Board in the previous accreditation. See the introduction to this report on the implementation of recommendations.

Fulfillment of standard		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
			X	

Standard VI.4
The Higher Education Institution includes academic units, staff and students in the study program IQA process and informs interested parties on the results and the subsequent action plan.

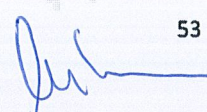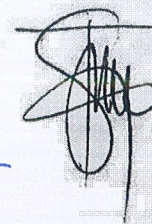| Criterions	Evaluation of experts
Criterion 1 The institution should provide for and guarantee the involvement of internal and external actors, interested in ensuring and improving the study program in internal quality policies and procedures.	HEI has created the structures for the implementation of internal quality procedures that include the Commission for Quality Assurance, Quality Assurance Unit, Departments and the Faculty in all aspects of quality assurance, creating the conditions for the involvement of internal and external actors.

Criterion 2 The institution defines the specific responsibilities and tasks of main units, individuals, students and other parties engaged in the study program internal quality assurance and guarantees the responsible performance of these tasks.	The structures that serve for Internal Quality Assurance have tasks clearly defined in the statute and other regulatory acts of HEI. The regulatory acts clearly specify the way these bodies are created, the main functions, the mandate of the members in the commission, decision-making and other units with which they interact. EEG finds that the duties and responsibilities defined for each unit enable the responsible exercise of quality assurance. [Annex 2, 7]
Criterion 3 During study program assessment and quality assurance it is important to guarantee the inclusion of the main unit responsible for the study program, academic staff, academic and administrative assistants and study program students.	Since the the current number of students is 2, the requirements of criterion 3 cannot be evaluated by EEG. However, in the Statute and in the relevant regulations, it was found that the involvement of the department and faculty, staff and students in the internal quality assurance processes is foreseen. [Annex 2, 7, 711]
Criterion 4 Internal actors' inclusion and engagement in the continuous assessment procedures should observe the academic integrity and avoid any kind of discrimination or inequality against staff and students.	EEG, from the visit to the university and from the review of the documentation, found that the institutional environment and the basic documents foresee academic freedom, equality and guarantee the absence of discrimination as a whole. [Annex 2, 75]
Criterion 5 Partners and / or external experts, who are related to the study program, or can provide valuable expertise and input about the program quality and improvement should actively participate in the assessment and internal quality assurance processes.	The Permanent Commission on Quality Assurance includes an external expert and an Alumni that provide expertise and inputs at the university level [Annex 7]. No such expertise has been related to the specific program quality assurance process that result to have specific needs, considering the minimal number of students.

Fulfillment of standard		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
			X	

Standards VI. 5 Policies, processes and activities for the study program Internal Quality Assurance should be made public, transparent, and effective, with the view to establish an Internal Quality Assurance Culture.	
Criterions	Evaluation of experts
Criterion 1 The policy, strategy, organization and activities within the framework of study program Internal Quality Assurance system are transparent and are made public to all students and parties concerned.	Information on the quality assurance system is public and posted on the institution's website. https://aeqi.epoka.edu.al/ On this page there is detailed information on the structures, policies, documents and reports drawn up for internal quality assurance at Epoka University.
Criterion 2 The Higher Education Institution publishes the results of the study programs assessment, by observing the academic freedom and ethics, as	On the same page, information on internal and external evaluations as well as on the analysis of the fulfillment of the recommendations identified in the accreditation processes are accessible. Public

well as the legislation on personal data.	information on the web is presented respecting academic ethics and protecting personal data in accordance with legal provisions.
Criterion 3 The assessment results should go along with an action plan designed to address and improve the identified weaknesses and issues.	The fulfillment of the recommendations resulting from the accreditation processes is reflected in analytical documents drawn up in order to highlight the measures taken by the institution for each problem identified. These documents are public and accessible at https://aeqi.epoka.edu.al/home-internal-evaluation-reports-for-ascal-1479-1480.html?lang=EN&dpid=2&t=internal-evaluation-reports-for-ascal&catid=1479&menuid=1480 [Annex 24]
Criterion 4 The institution assesses and ensures activities' effectiveness and impact in the framework of monitoring and quality assessment, with the view to ensure the ongoing study program improvement.	The actual activities related to the MSc in Architecture program result non efficient because of the small number of students. Till now there is no clear attempts to develop the program, which remains an appendix of the five year program in architecture.
Criterion 5 The institution organizes periodic activities with staff and students for their information and awareness raising on the long-term quality assurance and study program improvement.	Although the institution organizes periodic activities through the internal quality assurance office, the impact of these processes cannot be assessed specifically for this study program (the current number of students is 2).

Fulfillment of standard		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
			X	

Fulfillment of standards of Field VI		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
			X	

Summary Conclusions of the External Evaluation Report, of the second cycle Program Master of Science in "Architecture" of the Higher Education Institution "EPOKA University"
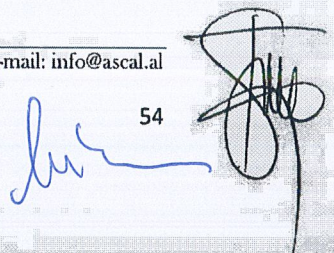
Strengths /Affirmations

1. The academic staff involved in the Master of Science program is qualified and with international experience

2. The quality of physical infrastructure, library and laboratories offers a qualitative environment for the teaching and learning process

3. Possibilities for Internationalization of the Program, having in mind an agreement reached with Napoli Federico II University to offer a double degree

4. Teaching at Epoka University is conducted in English.

Weeknesses

1. The academic staff is overloaded with teaching. Their teaching load is mainly consumed in other study programs.

2. The institution does not have a clear strategy in terms of marketing and dissemination of the Master of Science program.

3. The lack of marketing and dissemination, brings a limited number of students who enrol in this study program.

Recommandations

1. The teaching load of the academic staff should be reduced to help the qualitative improvement of teaching and to secure a greater staff involvement in scientific research activities.

2. To draw up an action plan for promoting the study program and guaranteeing its continuity.

3. To design specific procedures for internal quality assurance that respond to the specifics of the study program (small number of students).

The degree of fulfillment of the quality standards of the program

Field of Evaluation	The degree of fulfillment of the quality standards, for each field			
		Partly met	Substantially met	Met
I. STUDY PROGRAM "MASTER OF SCIENCE/ ARTS PROVISION			X	
II. STUDY PROGRAM ORGANIZATION, MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION				X
III. TEACHING, LEARNING, EVALUATION AND COMPETENCES				X
IV. HUMAN, FINANCIAL, INFRASTRUCTURE, AND LOGISTICS RESOURCES FOR STUDY PROGRAM DELIVERY				X
V. STUDENTS AND THEIR SUPPORT				X
VI. STUDY PROGRAMS' QUALITY ASSURANCE			X	
Total Fulfillment of standards				X