



Tempus



Tempus Project: *“Modernizing the 3rd cycle at the University of Prishtina and Developing a PhD Program at the Faculty of Economics”* - ModPhD, with project number: 544188, financed by European Commission.

STATUS QUO REPORT

on PhD legislation and study programs at University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina”

Prishtina, 2014

The publication is a part of a project “*Modernizing the 3rd cycle at the University of Prishtina and Developing a PhD Program at the Faculty of Economics*” - modPhD, with project number: 544188, financed by European Commission.

Prepared by:

**M.Sc. Mjellma Carabregu
M. Sc. Alfred Marleku
M. Sc. Luljeta Aliu**

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WUS Kosova

Rr.Sylejman Vokshi, H22/5
Prishtinë, 10 000
Republika e Kosovës
www.wuskosova.org
office@wuskosova.org

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I. PROJECT BACKGROUND

The Joint Tempus Project “Modernizing the 3rd cycle at the University of Prishtina and Developing a PhD Program at the Faculty of Economics” aim to support curricular reform and capacity building at the UP with active involvement of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and Kosovo Accreditation Agency. The project is focuses on reforming PhD curricula in accordance with the Bologna process and with up to date European standards, thus supporting the integration of Kosovo into the European Higher Education area.

The following principles characterize the project: academic solidarity based on partnership and cooperation; sustainability and local ownership; capacity and institution building as well as quality assurance throughout the project.

The Consortium has been carefully selected and includes all relevant local stakeholders and partners from Austria, Italy and France.

The project addresses some of most urgent challenges in the HE and Kosovo’s society such as the need to:

- Support the modernization of 3rd cycle of studies at UP in accordance with Bologna process.
- Make PhD programs of UP comparable and competitive with similar program in region and EU as well
- Revise and amend existing documents on PhD studies and develop necessary guidelines that would facilitate the development of PhD programs at UP
- Organize workshops for academic staff in advancing the 3rd level of Bologna process at UP
- Establish a scientific journal for the Faculty of Economics, thus supporting the scientific work and publications at UP
- Foster research, development and build up expertise for the benefit of the society as a whole
- Foster internationalization of research and teaching process
- Strengthen the quality assurance process at UP.

These challenges are targeted because they have been identified as urgent by the beneficiaries from Kosovo and are defined as such in various national and international policy and strategy documents. Those problems and possible solutions have been discussed in many preparation meetings and consultations among consortium partners. This makes the consortium partners believe that now is the right moment to address these issues and support University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina” and Kosovo society.

II. Project Objectives:

2.1 Project Specific objectives:

- Supporting the modernization of 3rd cycle at the University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina”, in accordance with the Bologna Process,
- Revision and amending the legal documents, development of guideline for setting up the modern PhD studies in accordance to the latest trends of the Bologna Process,
- To develop, accredit and implement a pilot PhD program at Faculty of Economics of the University of Prishtina, and
- Supporting the scientific work and publications, through establishing a scientific journal for the Faculty of Economics of the University of Prishtina

2.2 Project Outcomes & Outputs:

The Project is divided in nine development work packages (WP1-WP9).

WP1: Development of Gap and Need Analysis Report
WP2: Modernization of PhD regulation at UP
WP3: Development and Accreditation of PhD program
WP4: Implementation of the PhD Program at Faculty of Economy
WP5: Purchasing the Scientific Literature
WP6: Management of the Project
WP7: Quality Control
WP8: Dissemination
WP9: Sustainability

2.3 Project Partners:

1. University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina”
2. Johannes Kepler University Linz
3. Università degli studi “G`D`Annunzio” di Chieti-Pescara
4. University of Nice Sophia Antipolis
5. WUS Kosova
6. Kosovo Accreditation Agency
7. Ministry of Education, Science and Technology
8. Kosova Center for International Cooperation in Higher Education

III. Aim of the Report

The aim of the Status Quo Report is to examine the current situation related to the existing legal framework on PhD studies at University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina”. The report also identifies the situation related to the legal framework at each academic unit of the UP. In addition to this, the

report will serve as a solid groundwork for development/revision of PhD regulation as well as development of PhD program at Faculty of Economics – UP.

The Status Quo Report consists of four main parts:

- The introduction, which addresses the purpose of the project and its objectives.
- The second part discusses the methodology, which provides the data for the sample used in the survey.
- The results of the survey are presented in the third part, and
- In the last part, are given conclusions of Report.

IV. Methodology

4.1 Development of questionnaires

Firstly, one questionnaire was designed, as to obtain the necessary information from target groups. During the period of March 2014, it has been sent to all University academic units from which the following faculties are responded and provided data on the questionnaire:

1. Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering,
2. Faculty of Economics
3. Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences
4. Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary
5. Faculty of Education
6. Faculty of Sports Science
7. Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture
8. Faculty of Medicine
9. Faculty of Arts
10. Faculty of Law
11. Faculty of Philology
12. Faculty of Philosophy.

Selection of these groups for survey is based on the purpose to obtain information as much as possible from different perspectives and actors involved in research, which in a way affect the process of modernizing the PhD studies at University of Prishtina and Developing a PhD Program at the Faculty of Economics.

V. Data Analysis

Below are presented and interpreted the results of the questionnaire for each question.

In the question: *How many students are registered?*

According to the documents of the Universities, the number of students differs in different faculties and level of studies, as shown in the table below:

Faculty	Number of Students	
	Bachelor	Master
Faculty of Economics	10,305	2,331
Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences	2,459	381
Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering	2,000	400
Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary	669	340
Faculty of Education	4,853	390
Faculty of Sports Science	220	40
Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture	450	90
Faculty of Law	4041	911
Faculty of Philology	2387	382
Faculty of Medicine	763	56
Faculty of Arts	778	264
Faculty of Philosophy	5000	/
TOTAL	33925	5585

Table 1. *Number of students at all faculties in Bachelor and Master studies*

Regarding the question: *Do you offer the PhD studies?*

Not all of the academic units of the University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina” offer PhD studies. From the gathered data, 8 of them offers PhD studies and 4 academic units do not. Further on, in the table below are presented details which faculty offers PhD studies and which not.

Faculty	Offer PhD programs
Faculty of Economics	YES
Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences	
Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering	
Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary	
Faculty of Medicine	
Faculty of Philology	
Faculty of Law	
Faculty of Philosophy	
Faculty of Education	NO
Faculty of Sports Science	
Faculty of Arts	
Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture	

Table 2. *Faculties of the UP that offers PhD programs*

As for the question: *Does the University of Prishtina have regulation on PhD studies?*

According to the Faculties that offer a PhD program, the University of Prishtina has a regulation on PhD studies and all the faculties are obligated to implement PhD studies according to this regulation.

Additionally, in the question: *Does your institution have its own PhD regulation?*

According to the answers from faculties that have a PhD program, PhD students are registered with Regulation of doctoral studies of the University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina”, consequently, they do not have a specific regulation of the academic unit.

Regarding the PhD program the faculties offers, below are listed the fields of the offered programs at each faculty:



Figure 3. PhD programs academic units of UP offers

The PhD studies have started in different periods of time at different academic units. According to the results, some faculties have started to offer PhD studies from the establishment of the University of Prishtina (1970). In this regard, Faculty of Economics started offering PhD programs in 1985/1986, Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary and Faculty of Philosophy in 2012, Faculty of Medicine in the academic year 2008/2009 and Faculty of Mathematic and Natural Science in the academic year 2013/2014. In 1976 the first doctorate candidate defended his PhD thesis at the Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering - FECE. Thus, in the period 1976-2004 in FECE 25 doctoral candidates have graduated.

From that time, the doctoral studies worked continuously and have only stopped in the period 2004-2009, in order to harmonize the studies with the new statute of the University (2004) and European trends in higher education. Additionally, in 2009 doctoral studies were opened and starts working according to the Bologna Process. In 2010-2011 the University of Prishtina drafted new regulation for doctoral studies at UP and approved forms/ templates for the progress of doctoral studies, which have been prepared by having model rules and forms of the University of Zagreb.

In the question: *if the PhD programs are accredited by the Kosova Accreditation Agency?* All these PhD programs offered by University of Prishtina are accredited by the Kosova Accreditation Agency. Besides, the respondents were also asked: *How the PhD programs were developed (administrative procedures, and program development)?*

Following the adoption of the new Regulation, the academic units of the University of Prishtina has started with new approach of development of the study programs. In this regards, **Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering** has started preparations for the application of new doctoral programs conducting a consultative process with all parties involved: industry, teachers, current PhD candidates and potential ones, international partner research institutions. The Commission for drafting the self-evaluation report and the preparation of the application for accreditation of doctoral study programs, among others, had consultations with labor market and international partner universities for possibilities of cooperation in doctoral studies. Additionally, the commission has analyzed the scientific work done so far by FECE staff, the potential for the development of new scientific studies and projects as well as analyzed doctoral programs in European Universities. Consequently, based on these analyses the new PhD programs have been developed.

At **Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary** the PhD study program was developed through Tempus Project in close cooperation with Technical University of Munich-Germany, University of Granada-Spain and University of Graz, Austria. The PhD program was then proceeded at the Office for Academic Development of the UP. Additionally, the PhD program was evaluated by International Experts engaged at the Accreditation Agency in Prishtina and got accredited.

The development of the PhD programs at **Faculty of Economics** and **Faculty of Law** contains the following:

1. Requirements for registration and duration of studies.
2. Stages of doctoral studies.
3. Mentoring.
4. Obligations of the mentors.
5. Obligations and rights of the PhD candidate.
6. Doctoral Thesis.
7. PhD doctoral thesis submission, procedures, obligations and evaluation procedures.
8. Evaluation procedures for PhD thesis approval.
9. Procedures for defending PhD thesis.

Development of the study programs at **Faculty of Medicine** goes through the following procedures. The management and Council of Faculty of Medicine appoint the Commission for development of program for PhD studies. The proposal of programs gets approval from Council of Faculty of Medicine, and then is referred to Office for Academic Development and Commission of of University of Prishtina. The proposal than need to get the approval from Senat of University of Prishtina, and the Accreditation Commission of Faculty of Medicine prepare the necessary document to apply for accreditation procedure to Kosovo Accreditation Agency.

The development of the PhD studies at the **Faculty of Philosophy** is prepared by the department's academic staff. It needs to be approved by Faculty Council, then by University Senate, and finally to be accredited by Kosovo Accreditation Agency.

In the question: *If the academic units have a study guide for the PhD programs that you are offering and what kind of information the study guide offers?* All respondents answered that they don't have a study guide.

In the question: *How many students are registered at the PhD program/s? The data are shown below for each faculty until March 2014:*

- Faculty of Economics – **53 students.**
- Faculty of Medicine – **127 students.**
- Faculty of Philology – **51 students.**
- Faculty of Law – **58 students.**
- Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering – **3 to 5 students.**
- Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences – **20 students.**
- Faculty of Philosophy – **20 students**
- Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary – **No students are registered.**

Regarding the gender balance of the registered PhD students, gender representation is quite balanced in some faculties, while in some other faculties (depending on the field of studies) females are more represented or in quite low level. Below are details of faculties and percentage of males and females registered on PhD studies:

- Faculty of Economics – **Female 45,28 %, Male 54.72 %**
- Faculty of Medicine – **Female 48%, Male 52%**
- Faculty of Philology – **Female 49%, Male 51%**
- Faculty of Law – **Female 41.38%, Male 58.62%**
- Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering – **Female 30%, Male 70%**
- Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences – **Female 60%, Male 40%.**
- Faculty of Philosophy – **Female 5%, Male 95%.**
- Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary – **No students are registered.**

In order to have an overview about the number of students to register on the PhD studies, respondents were asked: *if they have quantitative admission limits and admission limits criteria?*

Different answers were given by faculties e.g. **Faculty of Economics, Faculty of Law and Faculty of Philology** answered that they don't have quantitative admission, while **Faculty of Medicine and Faculty of Philosophy** said that quantitative admission limits are determined by Statue of University of Prishtina, while **Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering** answered that due to:

- Insufficient research infrastructure
- Lack of research projects
- Interconnection with job market, they have quantitative admission for the PhD students and **Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences**, can enroll 3-5 students per study program.

Furthermore, they are also asked about the *number of graduates in last 3 years?* Answers are presented on the table below:

Faculty	2010/2011	2011/2012	2012/2013
Faculty of Economics	2	5	7
Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences	4	7	/
Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering	0	4	3

Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary	0	0	0
Faculty of Medicine	/	1	2
Faculty of Philology	/	8	/
Faculty of Law	7	/	/
Faculty of Philosophy	1	0	1

Table 4. Number of PhD graduates

Regarding the structure of the study program represented in terms of the ECTS, the PhD programs have the following structure:

Faculty	Compulsory courses / ECTS	Elective courses / ECTS	PhD Theses / ECTS
Faculty of Economics	30+30	30	30+60
Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences	30	30+30+30	60
Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering	30	30	120
Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary	0	30+30+30	0
Faculty of Philology	30	30	60+60
Faculty of Medicine	30	90	60
Faculty of Law	30	30	60+60
Faculty of Philosophy	30	30	60

Table 5. Number of ECTS of PhD program

Additionally, the weight of the seminar course at all faculties is equal to 10 ECTS and students are obligated to have 3 seminar courses which are in total 30 ECTS.

Respondents are also asked: *if the PhD program/s comply with the labor market needs? Is there any survey conducted before the PhD program was developed?*

Out of 8 academic units that offers PhD program, 5 faculties answered that they have conducted survey and the response from the labour market showed that programs comply with labor market needs and academic (university) needs. The rest did not conduct any survey to assess their programs.

As regard to the **academic mobility**, expect for the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences that academic mobility is compulsory part the students' academic mobility it is not compulsory, for the rest of the faculties that offers PhD studies, it is not compulsory with regulation but they should participate in conferences, congresses. Additionally, for the Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering, it is common practice to spend a research period at international university or work with international professor during PhD studies.

Regarding the **administrative procedures for the PhD theses and duration time to complete PhD theses?** All the procedures for the PhD theses are regulated by the status of university. Presentation of project idea should be done during first year of study. Then, faculty Council with proposition of PhD Council appoints committee for evaluation of PhD thesis project and assignment of a mentor. In third semester PhD Council of the faculty reviews the proposition of the Committee. The draft proposal of the PhD thesis has to be defended in front of the Council of PhD studies. Faculty Council with proposition of Council of PhD studies propose the PhD thesis and mentor to the University Senate. PhD thesis manuscript will be submitted and evaluated, and then after approval the PhD thesis can be defended. Additionally, the according to the regulations of University of Prishtina for PhD studies, students can have one eventually two supervisors.

For the question: **Is the research part compulsory in the PhD program, and how that is foreseen to be conducted?** Respondents from the faculties that offer PhD studies stated that: research part is the main part and compulsory for the PhD students. The same answer by the faculties was also for the **publication of the research papers, where** publication of research papers is compulsory. The candidates should publish at least one journal paper. Besides, according to PhD regulation must publish at least one paper in journals with Impact Factor (IF).

Regarding the question for **the reporting about the progress made by the PhD students**, there is a special form developed, in frame of Regulation. Further, the tuition fee for one semester is 1000 Euro at all faculties of University of Prishtina.

Regarding the question: **If the English skills an excluding criteria for admission at the PhD program/s? How that is measured** (written test, interview or different international certificates-TOEFL, etc)?

According to the faculties: Economics, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Law, Medicine, Philology and Mathematics and Natural Sciences, the English level is measured through international tests as TOEFL, IELTS etc. Faculty of Philosophy answered that English language skills are a requirement for admission into PhD studies, while Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary responded that English skills are not criteria for admission.

As for the question: **if the faculties plan to offer PhD program?** The following responses were given by the faculties:

The Faculties that do not offer the PhD program respectively: Faculty of Education, Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Sports Science, Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture and Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science - Department Mathematics and Geosciences responded that they intend to offer it in the future. Also the Faculties of Philology and Law answered that they plan to offer a new PhD program in the future. As for the Faculty of Philosophy that they have already accredited another PhD program in sociology that will start on October 2014 and also plan to apply for accreditation of another two PhD programs: Political Science and Psychology, respectively on October 2015, and October 2016.

Beside the current PhD program, the respondents are asked: **if the teaching staff is trained for the 3rd cycle of the Bologna Process** (teaching and supervising in the PhD program) and what kinds of trainings were organized for the Teaching staff?

Professors from Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences were trained at University Center for Excellent Teaching with trainers from American Iowa State University in the module "Mentoring". Faculty of Education trained on:

- Learning outcomes;
- Assessment and Student feedback;
- Leadership.

Faculty of Sports Science trained on ToT (Training of Trainers) program in Master level. And Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture professors were trained in using the professional applicative programs. As for the Faculty of Philosophy, their professors were trained on:

- Leadership;
- Mentoring,
- Assessment and
- Research methodology.

As regard to the needs for **additional trainings** for the staff of the faculties offering PhD studies, all faculties need continuous intensive training on different aspects of teaching, and research methodology in order to increase the quality of PhD studies.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

- ✓ The University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina” is composed by 16 Faculties/academic units, where, only 8 of them offer PhD studies.
- ✓ Faculties of the UP that offers PhD programmes:
 - Faculty of Economics – Bank, Finance and Accounting, Management and Informatics, Marketing, Economics.
 - Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences – Organism Biology and Ecology, Chemistry.
 - Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering – Telecommunications, Computer Sciences
 - Faculty of Agriculture and Veterinary
 - Faculty of Medicine
 - Faculty of Philology
 - Faculty of Law
 - Faculty of Philosophy
- ✓ PhD studies are organized according to Bologna Process and are regulated by the regulation for PhD studies of the University.
- ✓ PhD programs offered by the academic units of the University of Prishtina “Hasan Prishtina” are accredited by the Kosova Accreditation Agency – KAA.
- ✓ Number of ECTS for the semester is 30 ECTS and total: 180 ECTS.
- ✓ In general, the admission limits criteria for PhD studies is due to lack of the qualified academic staff, insufficient research infrastructure, lack of research projects, interconnection with labor market needs.
- ✓ Publication of research papers is compulsory. According the PhD regulation, PhD candidates should publish at least one journal paper with Impact Factor (IF) during the study.
- ✓ Academic staff need continues trainings on the related topics: teaching and research methodology.