

The Assessment Decision of the EKKA Quality Assessment Council for Higher Education

12/10/2015

A proposal to the Minister of Education
of the Republic of Moldova to

ACCREDIT
the Master's study programme "Property Law"
of the Technical University of Moldova
FOR 5 YEARS

Acting in accordance with the authorization granted by the § 10 (4) of the Universities Act and sections 3.7.1 and 3.7.3 of the Statutes of the Estonian Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational Education (EKKA) and based on section 33.5 of the document "Requirements and Procedure for Accreditation of Study Programmes in Moldova", the EKKA Quality Assessment Council for Higher Education shall state the following.

1. On February 23, 2015, the Director of EKKA approved by her order the following composition of the

Assessment Committee:

Kristiina Tõnnisson – Chair	Director of European College, University of Tartu, Estonia
Adrian Ermurachi	Senior consultant, General Directorate for Policy Coordination, External Assistance and Central Public Administration Reform; PhD student; Moldova
Tanel Kerikmäe	Professor, Tallinn Law School, Faculty of Social Sciences, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia
Yuliya Vashchenko	Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, Faculty of Law, Administrative Law Department, Associate Professor; Ukraine

2. The Assessment Visit to the Technical University of Moldova took place on May 6, 2015.
3. The Assessment Committee sent the preliminary report to EKKA on June 9, 2015. The Assessment Committee received the comments of the Technical University of Moldova on June 23, 2015 and approved the final version of the component assessments on July 3, 2015.
4. The Secretary of the Council forwarded the assessment report containing the component assessments to the members of the EKKA Quality Assessment Council for Higher Education on September 24. The assessment report forms an integral part of the assessment decision. The report will be made available on the EKKA website.
5. **The component assessments were as follows:**

Study programme and its development	Conforms to requirements
Teaching and learning	Conforms to requirements
Teaching staff	Partially conforms to requirements
Students	Conforms to requirements
Resources	Conforms to requirements

6. The EKKA Quality Assessment Council discussed the assessment report along with the comments of Technical University of Moldova and other relevant materials at its session on October 12, 2015 with the participation of 9 Council members. The Council decided to point out the following strengths and areas of improvement of the Master’s study programme “Property Law”:

6.1.

Study programme and its development	Conforms to requirements
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Strengths

- Good visibility of the programme in the labour market in the Republic of Moldova.
- Programme is nationally competitive and innovative.
- Good cooperation between the management of the Institution and the stakeholders involved in the programme.
- Efficient integration of the employers into programme development.

Areas of improvement and recommendations

- Considering that the main focus of the programme is Real Estate and Cadastral Law issues it is recommended to replace the title of the programme with "Real Estate and Cadastral Law".
- It is recommended to establish a regular programme's committee responsible for ongoing programme development based on the participation of all main stakeholders, including students, graduates and representatives of the potential employers (also from the private sector).

6.2.

Teaching and learning	Conforms to requirements
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Strengths

- Development and annual updates of the supportive notes for all courses/study disciplines.
- Usage of the Moodle platform.
- Efficient organization of the internship.

Areas of improvement and recommendations

- It is recommended to update the syllabi with the recent materials (textbooks, monographs, scientific articles etc.).
- The procedures for the recognition of prior learning and work experience require further elaboration. Currently, there is not a system in place to recognize work experience.
- It is recommended to strengthen the scientific requirements to the master theses preparation and to enhance the monitoring of their fulfilment in order to enhance the students involvement in research activity both at national and international levels.

6.3.

Teaching staff	Partially conforms to requirements
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Strengths

- Teaching staff is balanced by age. Half of the teaching staff is relatively young and there is a sign of academic continuity.
- The workload is well-balanced according to the ratio between teachers and students.
- The staff members are motivated to foster their own professional development.

Areas of improvement and recommendations

- The qualification of full-time teaching staff of the programme does not comply with the requirements established by legislation as there are 6 full time members of teaching staff of whom only 4 have a PhD-degree (66,6%). In order to meet the requirements

established by legislation, all members of the academic staff involved in the study programme should as soon as possible finalize their PhD studies.

- Currently there is no evidence of foreign teaching staff to be involved nor do the members of full-time teaching staff of TUM develop their skills at foreign higher education institutions. The university should recognise the need to include local and foreign academic staff and practitioners to the teaching process.
- It is suggested to prioritise international research in order to establish a better ground for the master programme to be more competitive in the region. It is recommended to foster the culture to look for “additional funding” among the staff.
- It is recommended to find more resources for staff development (including training abroad, time for research and publishing, etc.).

6.4.

Students	Conforms to requirements
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Strengths

- Regulatory documents are made available to the students/applicants in the form of a booklet, as well as in electronic form on the TUM website.
- Good relations with the State Enterprise “Cadastru” which provides major opportunities for employment.
- Good employment rate in respective fields.

Areas of improvement and recommendations

- The students don’t participate in any internal or external mobility activities. It is recommended to encourage international student exchange and short studies abroad.

6.5.

Resources	Conforms to requirements
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Strengths

- Financial resources of TUM are sufficient.
- Widespread usage of Moodle platform providing the students information regarding the courses online.
- TUM has made visible efforts to modernise the library - currently, there is the website of TUM library (library.utm.md) containing the following information: electronic library, periodicals, book purchases, and databases.

Areas of Improvement and recommendations

- The library needs major investment, especially regarding field specific literature in English.

- The existing ICT solutions should be further developed in order to guarantee the existing resources to be fully utilised and to take the usage of modern technologies to the next level.
 - The university should pay attention to the modern sources of information when replenishing the library, investing in national databases, training the librarians, teaching staff and students of being able and motivated to use the resources.
 - The main computer room would need improvement as another computer room sponsored by a TEMPUS project looks modern and meets the contemporary standards.
- 7.** According to section 33.5 of the document “Requirements and Procedure for Accreditation of Study Programmes in Moldova”, if one or two of the component assessments by an assessment committee are “partially conforms to requirements, the Quality Assessment Council shall analyse the strengths and areas of improvement of the study programme to accredit the study programme for a period of five years or for a period of three years.
- 8.** The Council analyzed the strengths and areas of improvement of the study programme and taking into account that:
- The programme has good visibility in the labour market in the Republic of Moldova.
 - Programme is nationally competitive and innovative.
 - There is good cooperation between the management of the Institution and the stakeholders involved in the programme.
 - The employers have been efficiently integrated into the programme development.
 - The organization of internship is effective.
 - Regulatory documents are made available to the students/applicants in the form of a booklet, as well as in electronic form on the TUM website.
 - There is a good employment rate in respective fields.
 - Teaching staff is balanced by age and there is a sign of academic continuity.
 - The workload of academic staff is well-balanced according to the ratio between teachers and students.
 - Financial resources of TUM are sufficient and the budget planning has sustainable character.
 - The widespread usage of Moodle platform provides the students with information regarding the courses online.
 - TUM has made visible efforts to modernise the library.

the Council DECIDED

To make a proposal to the Minister of Education of the Republic of Moldova to accredit the Master’s study programme “Property Law” of the Technical University of Moldova for a period of five years.

The decision was adopted by 9 votes in favour and 0 votes against.

9. Contestation:

9.1. Evaluation proceedings conducted by EKKA may be disputed if the proceedings do not comply with the procedure provided for in this document. The challenge is filed with the Management Board of the Archimedes Foundation within 30 working days after the person filing the challenge became or should have become aware of the contested finding.

9.2. The assessment decision by the EKKA Quality Assessment Council may be disputed after adoption of the corresponding administrative decision by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Moldova.

Tõnu Meidla
Chair of the Council

Hillar Bauman
Secretary of the Council