



STUDIJŲ KOKYBĖS VERTINIMO CENTRAS

**Šiaulių universiteto
EKONOMIKOS PROGRAMOS (621L10013)
VERTINIMO IŠVADOS**

**EVALUATION REPORT
OF *ECONOMICS* (621L10013)
STUDY PROGRAMME
At Šiauliai University**

Grupės vadovas:
Team leader:

Prof. Dr. Dzevad Sehic

Grupės nariai:
Team members:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aušra Rasteniėnė

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Maik Huettinger

Dr. Victor Gomez Frias

Išvados parengtos anglų kalba
Report language - English

Vilnius

DUOMENYS APIE ĮVERTINTĄ PROGRAMĄ

Studijų programos pavadinimas	<i>Ekonomika</i>
Valstybinis kodas	621L10013
Studijų sritis	socialiniai mokslai
Studijų kryptis	ekonomika
Studijų programos rūšis	universitetinės studijos
Studijų pakopa	antroji
Studijų forma (trukmė metais)	nuolatinė (2), iššęstinė (2,5)
Studijų programos apimtis kreditais	120 ECTS
Suteikiamas laipsnis ir (ar) profesinė kvalifikacija	ekonomikos magistras
Studijų programos įregistravimo data	Įsak. 2001 08 02 Nr. 1187, perregistruota Įsak.2007 02 19 Nr. ISAK-225, Įsak.2010 05 03 Nr. V-635.

INFORMATION ON EVALUATED STUDY PROGRAMME

Title of the study programme	<i>Economics</i>
State code	621L10013
Study area	social sciences
Study field	economics
Kind of the study programme	university studies
Cycle of studies	second cycle
Study mode (length in years)	full-time (2), part time (2,5)
Scope of the study programme in credits	120
Degree and (or) professional qualifications awarded	Master of Economics
Date of registration of the study programme	2001 08 02 order No. 1187,
Programme registration date	2001 08 02 order No. 1187, re-registered 2007 02 19 order No. ISAK-225, 2010 05 03 order No. V-635.

©	Studijų kokybės vertinimo centras
	The Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education

CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION.....	4
II. PROGRAMME ANALYSIS	4
2.1. <i>Programme aims and learning outcomes</i>	4
2.2 <i>Curriculum design</i>	5
2.3 <i>Teaching staff</i>	7
2.4 <i>Facilities and learning resources</i>	8
2.5 <i>Study process and students' performance assessment</i>	9
2.6 <i>Programme management</i>	11
III. RECOMMENDATIONS	12
IV. SUMMARY	12
V. GENERAL ASSESSMENT	14

I. INTRODUCTION

The second cycle Economics study programme is offered in Social Sciences Faculty (hereinafter SSF), which is one of the eight faculties of the Šiauliai University (ŠU). The programme is supervised by the Department of Economics of the SSF. Also two other departments of the SSF, Departments of Management and of Public Administration, as well as six centers like the Center for Economic Research, Study Quality Management Center, Research Center for Rural Development, Centre for Social Research, Public Relations Center and Interactive Studies Center have contribution to conducting this programme.

FSS provided Studies Quality Assessment centre with a self-assessment report of the second cycle Economics programme in 2008 and they performed an internal study programme assessment. The programme was accredited till December 31, 2012, without external programme assessment. International committee performed an external quality assessment of Economics programme of University major studies in 2010. Following the order No. 1-01-26 (March 15, 2011), the above-mentioned study programme was accredited unconditionally till July 15, 2017. International committee also performed an external quality assessment of Business Administration and Public Administration programmes of University major studies and of the second cycle Management programmes at FSS. The above-mentioned study programmes were accredited unconditionally.

Economics study programme has specialization in two fields: economic analysis and planning and finance and banking.

The self-evaluation report of the programme in second cycle Economics of the ŠU is prepared in accordance with the Education and Science Ministry Minister's order No.V-1487 On the Approval of Changes in Regulations for External Assessment and Accreditation of Study Programmes (29 July, 2011).

The members of the expert evaluation team would like to thank the staff of the SSF and particularly the staff of the Department of Economics for the hospitality and support during the visit in November 2012. During the visit the members of the evaluation team and the faculty members have been in good professional relationship. All the necessary additional materials related to the evaluation of the programme had been provided upon the first request of the evaluation commission. The logistics of the visit has been settled efficiently.

The expert team were: Prof. Dr. Dzevad Sehic (Head of Group), assoc. prof. Dr. Maik Huettinger, Dr. Victor Gomez Frias, assoc. prof. Dr. Aušra Rastenienė and Kristina Šmotaitė (student representative). A meeting was held after the site visit (the evaluation visit was organized on the 8th of November, 2012) to finalize the judgments and the report. The report is based on the information provided by the school - self evaluation report (here and after – SER) and site visit.

II. PROGRAMME ANALYSIS

2.1. Programme aims and learning outcomes

The need of the programme is based on the research on the situation of universities in the labour market (performed by Institute of Labour and Social Research in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science), which shows the increased number of employees with higher education during the years 1998-2008. Based on employers' opinion and research results, the need for economics, management, business and public administration specialists in Lithuania will increase in 5 years (452 and 415, respectively). According to Cedefop forecasts, ¾ of jobs will be available in service, specifically in business service sphere in 2020. University has performed a survey of Šiauliai companies' managers and specialists and results of survey show

that regional companies need highly qualified specialists of economics, finance and investment economics.

The fact that there are no graduates of Economics master's study programme on the labour exchange lately, and the majority of the graduates find the job according to their speciality reflects that programme aims and outcomes are based on public needs and needs of labour market.

According to the self-evaluation report, the goal of the second cycle Economics study programme are very comprehensive focusing on training qualified professionals in Economics who thinking systematically and having a new knowledge of economics science and research methodology, that would be able to apply the tools of quantitative analysis and to perform systematic research of economic issues on a company, national and international levels.

The goals of programme and the outcomes of the programme are well defined, clear and closely related. The different specializations of the programme have specific outcomes that well correspond to the specialization.

Economics study programme goals and outcomes are publicly available on the website of University and other most popular sites for gradutors. University is active in disseminating the information about the programme (participate in Study fair, organize the "Open door day" and publishes "Study programmes" in ŠU.)

Programme goals correspond to mission of Šiauliai University, the faculty and the goals of Šiauliai strategic development and harmonise with the strategy of Lithuania economy development till 2015.

Programme outcomes are updated every year. This process involves external (employers and graduates) and internal (students and lecturers) social partners.

Economics second study cycle programme is implemented according to Lithuanian and European legal and strategic documents. For Economics study field regulations are not prepared in Lithuania, the implemented Economics study programme outcomes are defined and continuously updated referring to the regional labour market and social stakeholders' needs.

It should be mentioned that the study programmes in Economics are offered in 4 universities of Lithuania and many abroad. These programmes are rather similar in several terms, e.g. the same scope of credits, study forms and duration; they mainly differ in the scope of specialization. Due to the similarity of the second study cycle programmes in Economics offered in the universities of Lithuania and abroad, students and academic staff of the SSF have continuously to be dynamic, focusing on finding their niche in the Lithuanian labour and educational market and identifying possibilities for deeper specialization.

From information above we can conclude that the programme aims and learning outcomes are consistent with the type and level of studies and the level of qualifications offered and the name of the programme, its learning outcomes, content and the qualifications offered are compatible with each other. The expert team confirms this fact.

Recommendations

Due to the similarity of the second study cycle programmes in Economics offered in the universities of Lithuania and abroad, students and academic staff of the SSF have continuously to be dynamic, focusing on finding their niche in the Lithuanian labour and educational market and identifying possibilities for deeper specialization.

2.2 Curriculum design

Programme structure

The Faculty of Social Sciences organizes Economics study programme in full-time and part - time study modes. The study length is 2 years for full-time study mode and 2.5 years for

part time study mode. The programme volume is the same for both modes and includes 120 credits.

The students of the programme must have been completed university undergraduate studies. Those who do not have a bachelor degree in the study field of Economics, Management and Business Administration or Public Administration, must take additional general studies subjects (Microeconomics, Principles of Finance, Marketing, Macroeconomics, Statistics) that comprise 25 credits.

Study field subjects comprise 72 credits (study field subjects must comprise no less than 60 credits), specialization alternatives (24 credits each specialization), study field elective courses comprise 12 credits. Students choose study field for two semesters, one subject per semester.

Master thesis writing and defence includes 48 credits and the process continues for 4 semesters with close monitoring by the teachers of the Economics department.

The volume of teachers' direct work with students in Economics study programme satisfies the current regulations. Study field subjects related to direct work comprises 35 percent (up to 40 percent by default) for full-time studies and 18.5 percent (up to 21 percent by default) for part-time studies.

Economics study programme schedules no more than 5 subjects during the semester according to the regulations for the organization of university studies and general requirements of study programmes defined in ŠU study regulations.

In conclusion, the programme structure is in compliance with the laws and regulations and it is elaborated according to the aim of the programme and the requirements for the study learning outcomes.

Programme content

The content of the studies is in accordance with the requirements to the study learning outcomes and the main objectives of the programme integrating subjects of the curriculum. The programme consists of study field subjects (Microeconomic and macroeconomic analysis, Financial analysis methods, Econometric analysis, Economic research methodology, Social economics project assessment), specialization subjects (Public socio-economic policy, Sustainable economic development, Resources economics, Economic information systems, Financial market analysis, Bank asset and liability management, Public regulation of finance, Behavioural finance), and elective courses (Applied statistics methods, International financial payments, Recent economic theories, Securities markets, Systemic organization assessment, Innovation economics, Intellectual capital assessment, Business finance modelling).

The absence of any subject of European integration or other international economics is not reasonable while the first goal and 4th outcome emphasize the international aspect.

Students choose study field electives only for two semesters and just one subject per semester.

There is a need for improvement of some subjects' description. For instance, there are the only one author's books for studying sustainable economic development suggested, recent economic theories course is based on the literature of 1983-1999, the newest book is of Basics of economic theory and therefore it is doubtful the suitability of the content of this course to MA. Public social economic policy subject has the main reference list of more than 10 positions, according to which the focus on social but not that much on economic policy is obvious.

The programme uses innovative learning methods: panel and group discussions, mind mapping, essay, narrative, expert methods, case studies, debates, business imitation models, project method, group research, modelling, group work those well correspond to the learning outcomes and programme goals.

Recommendations:

- 1) To increase the number of elective subjects and to increase the students' ability to have more optional subjects.
- 2) To introduce any subject related to international economics topic in order subjects better meet the goals and outcomes of the programme.
- 3) To add new foreign books and articles in the reference list of the subject Sustainable economic development, revise the content and the reference list of the course recent economic theories and Public social economic policy.
- 4) To find simpler form of course syllabus.

2.3 Teaching staff

Staff composition

According to the self-evaluation report, the composition of the academic staff meets provisions laid out in Minister's of the Science and Education Ministry order On General Regulations of Master's study programmes (2010) and other documents. All lecturers hold PhD and their research areas correspond to teaching subjects. According to the requirement, professors teach about 20 percent of subjects. The teachers have 8-45 years of work experience, which on average is 18 years. The average age of Economics study programme academic staff was 47 years in 2011. The expert team noticed that the age structure of the Faculty is rather favorable for conducting academic teaching and research. Around 35.3 percent teachers are below 40 years; 29,4 percent between 41 and 50, 23.5 percent between 51-60; and 11.8 percent are over 60.

In order to continue academic careers, teachers upgrade their qualification by continuing education in PhD studies. According to the self-evaluation report in 2010-2011 5 teachers defend Ph.D theses, that creates good preconditions for the upgrading of teachers' academic positions and for the continuing development of the programme and standard of teaching.

In conclusion, the academic qualifications of full-time faculty members is improving and the age structure of the Faculty has been favorable for conducting academic work. Consequently, the expert team concludes that the SSF and particularly the Department of Economics is sustainable for development and implementation of the programme under assessment.

Staff competence

Teachers from foreign institutions are regularly invited to visit ŠU SSF mainly within several international teacher exchange programmes giving lectures and seminars for the students of this programme. According to the self-evaluation report, all visiting teachers gave some added value to the improvement of the programme and the experts welcomed this point.

Based on the self-evaluation report as well as on the information the experts get during the site visit, the experts conclude that majority of the faculty members that are involved in the implementation of the programme have the necessary qualification for successful academic work. They are active in taking part in international and national conferences and seminars, in conducting research and publishing their research results. According to the materials presented in the self-evaluation report, the teachers involved in the programme published 2 academic papers for journals included in the basic list of Institute for Scientific Information (ISI), 16 academic papers for the peer-reviewed journals included in international databases list approved by Research Council of Lithuania, 1 paper for the other peer-reviewed journals. In 2011 programme lecturers prepared 2 textbooks and 3 research reviews. The expert team highly appreciates the active involvement of the faculty members in projects, international exchange and competence improvement. This all creates good preconditions for efficient cooperation of students and teachers for conducting joint research activities.

In June 8, 2012, following the order of Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania, Šiauliai University, jointly with other institutions, is authorized to implement doctoral studies in the fields of economics and business and management. Lecturers of Economics master's programme (47 percent) are involved into the process of doctoral studies.

There is still room for improvements of skills in foreign languages (particularly in English) of some faculty members.

In conclusion, the faculty members have necessary qualifications for implementing the programme in Economics and the majority of them are keen on continuously upgrading their qualification. The experts also noticed the differences of the teachers in abilities to communicate in English.

Recommendation

To keep the positive trend of quality improvement of programme teachers by better English language skills.

2.4 Facilities and learning resources

The self-evaluation report provides very thorough and detailed information about the facilities and infrastructure that is available for the implementation and development of the study programme in Economics. In 2011 the faculty had 8049 sq. m. with 38 lecture rooms including one 400-seat, three 160-seat and thirty-four lecture rooms for group work with 6 computer rooms equipped with 114 computers and etc. The ratio of total premises area to a student was 4.2 sq. m./per student in 2011 (2.4 sq. m./per student in 2007, it increased by 1.8 times within a 5-year period). Faculty learning rooms are well equipped with needed equipments.

The modern and spacious library of 1075 sq.m with the reading room and access to the Internet are open for the students and faculty members. Network connection is installed in all 338 computers of the SSF. All computers are installed with licensed Microsoft Windows and Microsoft Office Windows. The faculty had 107 licensed software in 2011 (57 in 2007, it increased by 1.9 times within a 5-year-period). The faculty has an accounting and business management software „Pragma 3.2“ and “Stekas apskaita”. It also has licences of SPSS Statistics Standard and SPSS Statistics Base software. Teachers can also use simulation macro (ECOSYS) and micro level (“Kietas riešutas” and distance model “Gamyba”) models for a study process.

In 2011 the faculty had 24 digital video projectors, two of them are portable and 22 of them are stationary that are installed in lecture rooms. The faculty has audio visual equipment that includes 6 TV sets, video player, two digital video cameras and two digital cameras and 7 copy machines.

All faculty staff has a possibility to use internet and email services via <https://stud.su.lt>, data exchange system (DAS) and Moodle system that is widely used in a study process.

In conclusion, the expert team confirms that the facilities for successful study, teaching and research activities are excellent.

Study resources

The self-evaluation report provides detailed information about library collections. FSS library fund contains 24946 items (17059 books, 5975 periodicals, 1912 students' theses) in January 1, 2012. As of 1 January, Siauliai university community members had access to 39 subscribed databases in 2011 (27 in 2007). There is access to more than 25000 electronic periodicals. Students, teachers and scholars of FSS can find necessary information in the following databases: Academic Search Complete (EBSCO Publishing), Annual Reviews, Business Source Complete (EBSCO Publishing), EconLIT with FT (EBSCO Publishing), Emerald Management eJournals, ICPSR (Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research), LITLEX, [MasterFILE Premier](#) (EBSCO Publishing), OECD iLibrary, Oxford

Reference Online, Oxford University Press Journals Collection, Passport GMID (Global Market Information Database) , Regional Business News (EBSCO Publishing), SAGE Journals Online, SciVerse (Science Direct), Springer LINK (with Kluwer Academic Press), Taylor&Francis, Wiley Online Library. In 2011 the library had access to 26 trial versions of databases including those for social science: Small Business Reference Center (EBSCOhost), IOS Press, Integrum and etc.

The faculty pays much attention to the attraction of financial and methodological resources through the project activities in order to mitigate the cyclical economic impact that influenced the decrease of funding for the acquisition of publications.

In conclusion, the expert team confirms that the study resources are good and supportive for the implementation and development of this study programme in Economics.

Recommendation

To give the financial resources available to the books and publications that best suit the programme and allow students and teachers to access e-learning supplements.

2.5 Study process and students' performance assessment

Student admission

The admission requirements are well-founded and suitable for Economics Master programme. In most cases the candidates to Economics master's study programme have sufficient background for studying and this implies the implementation of high quality studies. The competitive score of the candidates to Economics study programme increased from 9,2 to 10,91 during 2007-2011. The admission scores for the part-time and evening studies have been as a rule lower than for full-time studies. The dynamics of the admitted students both in full-time and part-time studies shows that the decreasing number of the students is not related to the implementation of the programme. The ratio of the number of the students who were admitted and completed the programme increased from 1.03 to 1.5 and therefore the number of candidates exceeded the number of the graduates during the specific year.

Students' progress indicates the acquired competences. Those who study in Economics master's study programme should meet high requirements; therefore some of them get fails. The faculty takes various measures to reduce students' wastage. Considering a specific situation a student can be granted free attendance, can be offered to follow an individual study plan with a reduced number of credits per semester, to change his study mode, to take an academic leave, etc.

Study process and teaching methods

According to the self-evaluation report and information the experts got during the site visit, the rules for organizing study process and development of curriculum are clearly settled in the ŠU (see ŠU Study Regulations, 2011). The Dean's office is mainly responsible for the organizing the study process of the FSS; the departments, teachers and monitoring groups are in charge for the quality of the studies.

Full-time studies are organized in the evenings from 6 p.m. They also have lectures on Fridays and Saturdays. The part-time students have lectures only on Fridays and Saturdays. On Fridays lectures begin at 4.30 p.m. and finish at 9.15 p.m. On Saturdays lectures begin at 8 a.m. and finish at 5.05 p.m. Some subjects of the study programme are delivered in a mixed way using Moodle environment.

Additionally to the traditional teaching methods like lectures and seminars there are also panel and group discussions, mind mapping, business simulations, case studies and other active teaching methods that are implemented during the study process; they are also described in the majority of syllabuses and reflect the recommendations of the Bologna Accord for student-centered teaching and learning.

The implementation and development of the programme in Economics is supported by the international mobility of students and faculty member, mainly through the Erasmus programmes.

One student went to Germany in 2008-2009, two students to Slovakia and two students to Norway in 2009-2010 according to this programme. Two students went to Tallinn Technology University in Estonia under Erasmus intensive study programme (10 days) in 2009-2010. International mobility of the students of Economics master's study programme is low compared to the mobility of bachelor students. During the meeting with students they expressed the wish to go to foreign Universities for shorter time than semester.

During the meeting with the administration it was stated the following ways of programme improving: continuous improvement of teaching methods and subjects' content. The 5 new subjects in English are prepared for this programme.

In conclusion, the study process is organized according to the national rules and requirements.

Student support

The student consultancy is provided according to the pre-defined schedule. The students of Economics master's study programme are provided with the thorough and timely information related to the studies, the study organization, the assessment of student progress, etc.

Every year SU publishes the book „For the student of Siauliai university about the study and the leisure time“, which provides the most important information about the study programmes and their implementation. It also introduces students' organizations of the university. Students have a possibility to participate in university self-government by preparing, assessing and improving the study programmes. The faculty adapts the facilities for the disabled: the access trails, the lifts, the possibility to study many study programme courses in the Moodle environment. The legal documents of the Republic of Lithuania, Siauliai University study regulations (2011) specify the possibilities and the conditions of studies following the individual study plan.

The students are awarded for academic and other achievements during various events. The authors of the best master's theses are acknowledged and recommended that they participate in the national contests.

The incentive for scholarship enhances the students' motivation to seek the higher academic progress. Every year at least one student is exempted from a tuition fee.

In conclusion, the expert team confirms that the students of the programme in Economics are well informed about the organisation of the study process and possibilities to get some financial support. Unfortunately, the financial support has been rather small so far.

Students' achievement assessment and graduates placement

The assessment system of students' performance is clear, adequate and publicly available. The assessment criteria and publicity is regulated by SU Study regulations (2011). In the beginning of each semester a teacher profoundly informs students about organisation of the study process in his/her subject, about learning outcomes, and about assessment criteria. Following SU Study regulations (2011) the lecturer provides the students with the midterm, exam and retake results within 3 working days. Students have a right to look at the lecturers' comments of the assignments. Control of knowledge and skills gained during a semester is carried out regularly and systematically; the method of cumulative assessment is employed. The requirements for the Master Thesis (MT) are clearly specified. The final decision concerning the evaluation of the theses is made by the defence committee. The committee takes into account the evaluations of the supervisor and reviewer and considers students' answers to the questions. The grade of master's theses is given to each student personally to keep information confidentiality.

The quality of the theses and the assessment results of the Economics programme students are thoroughly analyzed in the departmental meetings in the end of each academic year.

Students are motivated to follow fair study provisions. Cheating in exams or plagiarism in master's theses impose strict measures specified in SU Study regulations (2011): retaking of the exam, repeating the course or removal from the students list.

Professional activities of the majority of graduates meets the programme providers' expectations. Almost all graduates of Economics master's study programme (over 75 percent) successfully work as economists.

Recommendations

Look for opportunities for students to go to study abroad for less than a semester period.

Put efforts to find additional opportunities for financial incentives for good students.

Five new subjects in English those are prepared in this programme has to be implemented in order to improve the English language of students, to attract foreign students and to keep improvement teachers' language. The attracting foreign students is crucial for programme internationalization.

2.6 Programme management

The documents of programme management are approved by Šauliai University and Faculty of Social Sciences. The quality of Economics study programme is ensured by a currently improved SU internal study quality system (EU supported project UNIQMAS). The system works at several levels: institutional, academic department (faculty or department) and levels of study course unit (module). The systematic quality management of the study programme is ensured by the specialists of study quality of University study department, FSS EVIAM SPK Study programme committee, the department of Economics, Quality monitoring group of Economics master's study programme (SPQMG), and FSS study quality assessment centre.

The results of study quality improvement are regularly reported in the university press, television and FSS website.

An important role is given to the master students' research activities when assessing the study programme. In 2007-2011 master students jointly with their supervisors prepared 18 publications on the basis of the conducted research (21 masters prepared research) in "Social research", "Economics and management: topicalities and perspectives" and "Journal of young scientists" journals that are accredited in Lithuania and foreign countries. Every year master students read presentations in scientific conferences (12 in 2010, 15 in 2011). The contest of (master) students and their supervisors was initiated by knowledge-based economy forum, where Rasa Reizgevičienė's master thesis "The Analysis of Cause and Effect of Migration on Labour Market Indicators" is rewarded as one of the best master theses. Student scientific association was established in the faculty of Social Sciences in 2011.

The responsibilities for decisions and monitoring of the implementation of the programme are clearly allocated, information and data on the implementation of the programme are regularly collected and analysed, the outcomes of internal and external evaluations of the programme are used for the improvement of the programme, the evaluation and improvement processes involve stakeholders (teachers, students and social partners), the internal quality assurance measures are effective and efficient.

As it was mentioned before some of the subject's descriptions and subjects' content has to be changed to avoid too old literature or overlapping. This makes note that the quality control process should be improved.

Communication with social partners left the impression that they are not sufficiently involved in developing the curriculum, because some do not really understand what the objectives for master's programmes in general and economics in particular are. Therefore,

effective involvement of the social partners to ensure programme improvement and the improving its public image, which is quite important in attracting new students, is recommended.

In conclusion, the rules of for the programme management and documentation are clearly settled in the ŠU. The organization of the self-assessment of the study programme assures continuous monitoring of the programme quality and gives the necessary feedback for the implementation and development of the programme. The principal components of the internal self-assessment process are regular feedback of students, graduates and faculty members, and the analysis and synthesis of the results.

Recommendation

Effective involvement of the social partners to ensure programme improvement and the improving its public image, which is quite important in attracting new students, is recommended.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Due to the similarity of the second study cycle programmes in Economics offered at the Universities of Lithuania and abroad, students and academic staff of the Faculty of Social Sciences have continuously to be dynamic, focusing on finding their niche in the Lithuanian labour and educational market and identifying possibilities for deeper specialization.

2. To increase the number of elective subjects and to increase the students' ability to have more optional subjects.

3. To introduce any subject related to international economics topic in order subjects better meet the goals and outcomes of the programme.

4. To add new foreign books and articles in the reference list of the subject *Sustainable Economic Development*, revise the content and the reference list of the course *Recent Economic Theories* and *Public Social Economic Policy*.

5. To find more friendly form of course syllabus.

6. To keep the positive trend of quality improvement of programme teachers by better English language skills.

7. To give the financial resources available to the books and publications that best suit the programme and allow students and teachers to access e-learning supplements.

8. Look for opportunities for students to go to study abroad for less than a semester period as well.

9. Put efforts to find additional opportunities for financial incentives for good students.

10. Five new subjects in English those are prepared in this programme has to be implemented in order to improve the English language of students, to attract foreign students and to keep improvement teachers' language. The attracting foreign students is crucial for programme internationalization.

11. Effective involvement of the social partners to ensure programme improvement and the improving its public image, which is quite important in attracting new students, is recommended.

IV. SUMMARY

1. Strengths:

1) The programme aims and outcomes well correspond to Regional needs and at the same time improves skills of participants for long life learning and international cooperation.

Weaknesses:

1) Underestimate competitors of the programme (the programme is compared only with Kaunas Technology University (KTU Economics, 621L10008) but not for egz. Vilnius University, as states self evaluation report).

2. Strengths:

1) The programme content gives real possibility for students without bachelor degree to enter this programme.

2) Well organized process of writing Master thesis.

3) Comprehensive subject syllabus

Weaknesses:

1) Although students have a possibility to choose a specialisation, the number of elective courses is rather low (one subject per semester for two semesters).

2) There is not a subject of *European Integration* or other international economics subject while one of the programme aims and outcomes emphasize the international aspect.

3) The description of some subjects call into question the suitability of the content to the level of study.

4) Too much complicated syllabus form.

3. Strengths:

1) Rather good composition of staff age.

2) Active international and Project activity.

3) Impressive progress of qualification development of teachers.

4. Strengths:

1) The continuous improvement of premises and learning recourses.

Weaknesses:

1) Reduced funding for the acquisition of publications.

5. Strengths:

1) Clear and wide range students' support system

2) Well designed and efficient students' assessment system.

3) High quality self-evaluation.

Weaknesses:

1) Decreased number of students, low international mobility of students.

2) The financial support has been rather small so far.

3) The lack of English language skills of students.

6. Strengths:

1) The faculty created and continuously updates the system of study quality management.

2) The management of the programme is dynamic and innovative.

Weaknesses:

1) Activity coordination of separate groups in programme management system is not sufficient.

V. GENERAL ASSESSMENT

The study programme *Economics* (state code – 621L10013) of Šiauliai University is given **positive** evaluation.

Study programme assessment in points by evaluation areas.

No.	Evaluation Area	Evaluation Area in Points*
1.	Programme aims and learning outcomes	3
2.	Curriculum design	3
3.	Teaching staff	4
4.	Facilities and learning resources	3
5.	Study process and students' performance assessment	3
6.	Programme management	3
	Total:	19

*1 (unsatisfactory) - there are essential shortcomings that must be eliminated;

2 (satisfactory) - meets the established minimum requirements, needs improvement;

3 (good) - the field develops systematically, has distinctive features;

4 (very good) - the field is exceptionally good.

Grupės vadovas:

Team leader:

Prof. Dr. Dzevad Sehic

Grupės nariai:

Team members:

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Aušra Rasteniene

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Maik Huettinger

Dr. Victor Gomez Frias

Kristina Šmotaitė

**ŠIAULIŲ UNIVERSITETO ANTROSIOS PAKOPOS STUDIJŲ PROGRAMOS
EKONOMIKA (VALSTYBINIS KODAS – 621L10013) 2013-01-07 EKSPERTINIO
VERTINIMO IŠVADŲ NR. SV4-17 IŠRAŠAS**

<...>

V. APIBENDRINAMASIS ĮVERTINIMAS

Šiaulių universiteto studijų programa *Ekonomika* (valstybinis kodas – 621L10013) vertinama **teigiamai**.

Eil. Nr.	Vertinimo sritis	Srities įvertinimas, balais*
1.	Programos tikslai ir numatomi studijų rezultatai	3
2.	Programos sandara	3
3.	Personalas	4
4.	Materialieji ištekliai	3
5.	Studijų eiga ir jos vertinimas	3
6.	Programos vadyba	3
	Iš viso:	19

* 1 - Nepatenkinamai (yra esminių trūkumų, kuriuos būtina pašalinti)

2 - Patenkinamai (tenkina minimalius reikalavimus, reikia tobulinti)

3 - Gerai (sistemiškai plėtojama sritis, turi savitų bruožų)

4 - Labai gerai (sritis yra išskirtinė)

<...>

IV. SANTRAUKA

1. Programos tikslai ir numatomi studijų rezultatai. Pagrindinės stipriosios pusės:

1) Programos tikslai ir studijų rezultatai gerai atitinka regiono poreikius ir tuo pačiu metu leidžia mokymosi visą gyvenimą programos dalyviams gerinti įgūdžius, o taip pat skatina tarptautinį bendradarbiavimą.

Silpnosios pusės:

1) Nepakankamai įvertinti programos konkurentai (savianalizės suvestinėje programa palyginta tik su Kauno technologijų universitetu (KTU Ekonomika, 621L10008), bet, pavyzdžiui, ne su Vilniaus universitetu).

2. Programos sandara. Pagrindinės stipriosios pusės:

1) Atsižvelgiant į programos turinį, galima teigti, kad studentams, neturintiems ekonomikos bakalauro laipsnio, sudaromos realios galimybės įstoti mokytis į šią programą.

2) Gerai organizuotas magistrinių darbų rengimas.

3) Išsamūs studijų dalykų aprašai.

Silpnosios pusės:

1) Nors studentai gali rinktis specializaciją, laisvai pasirenkamų dalykų skaičius yra gana mažas (du semestrus po vieną dalyką per semestrą).

2) Nėra tokių studijų dalykų kaip *Europos integracija* ar kito tarptautinės ekonomikos dalyko, nors viename studijų tikslų ir numatomų rezultatų pabrėžiamas tarptautinis aspektas.

3) Kai kurių studijų dalykų aprašymas kelia abejonių dėl to, ar jų turinys atitinka studijų lygį.

4) Per sudėtinga studijų dalyko aprašo forma.

3. Personalas. Pagrindinės stipriosios pusės:

1) Pakankamai gera personalo sudėtis pagal amžių.

2) Aktyvi tarptautinė veikla ir dalyvavimas projektuose.

3) Įspūdingas dėstytojų kvalifikacijos tobulinimo progresas.

4. Materialieji ištekliai. Pagrindinės stipriosios pusės:

1) Nuolatinis patalpų ir mokymosi išteklių gerinimas.

Silpnosios pusės:

1) Sumažintas finansavimas leidiniams įsigyti.

5. Studijų eiga ir jos vertinimas. Pagrindinės stipriosios pusės:

1) Aiški ir plataus spektro studentų paramos sistema.

2) Gerai suformuota ir efektyvi studentų vertinimo sistema.

3) Aukštos kokybės įsivertinimas.

Silpnosios pusės:

1) Sumažėjęs studentų skaičius, sumažėjęs studentų tarptautinis judumas.

2) Iki šiol finansinė parama studentams buvo gana maža.

3) Studentų anglų kalbos įgūdžių trūkumas.

6. Programos vadyba. Pagrindinės stipriosios pusės:

1) Fakultetas įkūrė ir nuolat atnaujina studijų kokybės valdymo sistemą.

2) Programos vadovybė yra dinamiška ir novatoriška.

Silpnosios pusės:

1) Atskirų grupių veiklos koordinavimas programos valdymo sistemoje yra nepakankamas.

III. REKOMENDACIJOS

1. Dėl Lietuvos universitetuose ir užsienyje teikiamų antrosios pakopos ekonomikos programų panašumo Socialinių mokslų fakulteto studentai ir akademinis personalas turi nuolat būti dinamiški, daug dėmesio skirti savo nišos paieškoms Lietuvos darbo ir aukštojo mokslo rinkoje bei atrasti galimybių toliau specializuotis.

2. Rekomenduotina didinti pasirenkamųjų studijų dalykų skaičių ir suteikti studentams daugiau galimybių rinktis studijų dalykus.

3. Rekomenduotina įvesti studijų dalyką, susijusį su tarptautinės ekonomikos tema, tam, kad studijų dalykai labiau atitiktų programos tikslus ir numatomus studijų rezultatus.

4. Rekomenduotina į studijų dalyko *Darnus ekonomikos vystymasis* lietratūros sąrašą įtraukti naujas užsienio knygas ir straipsnius, peržiūrėti studijų dalykų *Naujausios ekonomikos teorijos* ir *Valstybės socialinė-ekonominė politika* turinį ir informacijos sąrašą.

5. Rekomenduotina rasti patogesnę studijų dalykų aprašo formą.

6. Rekomenduotina palaikyti teigiamą programos dėstytojų tobulinimo tendenciją, leidžiant jiems tobulinti anglų kalbos įgūdžius.

7. Rekomenduotina skirti galimus finansinius išteklius toms knygoms ir leidiniams, kurie labiausiai tinkami programai, ir leisti studentams bei dėstytojams prisijungti prie elektroninio mokymosi priedų.

8. Reikėtų ieškoti galimybių studentams išvykti studijuoti į užsienį ir trumpesniam nei vieno semestro laikotarpiui.

9. Reikėtų stengtis rasti papildomų galimybių finansinei paramai geriems studentams.

10. Reikėtų įgyvendinti penkis naujus studijų dalykus anglų kalba, kurie yra parengti šiai programai, kad būtų galima pritraukti užsienio studentų ir palaikyti besitobulinančių dėstytojų kalbos žinias. Užsienio studentus būtina pritraukti didinany programos tarptautiškumą.

11. Rekomenduotina į programą aktyviai įtraukti socialinius partnerius, kad būtų užtikrintas programos vystymas ir gerinamas jos įvaizdis visuomenėje. Tai yra gana svarbus žingsnis pritraukiant naujus studentus.

<...>

Paslaugos teikėja patvirtina, jog yra susipažinusi su Lietuvos Respublikos baudžiamojo kodekso¹ 235 straipsnio, numatančio atsakomybę už melagingą ar žinomai neteisingai atliktą vertimą, reikalavimais.

Vertėjos rekvizitai (vardas, pavardė,
parašas)

¹ Žin., 2002, Nr.37-1341