



STUDIJŲ KOKYBĖS VERTINIMO CENTRAS

Vilniaus universiteto
**STUDIJŲ PROGRAMOS "TARPTAUTINĖ IR EUROPOS
SĄJUNGOS TEISĖ" (valstybinis kodas 6211KX019)
VERTINIMO IŠVADOS**

**EVALUATION REPORT
OF "INTERNATIONAL AND EUROPEAN UNION LAW"
(state code 6211KX019)
STUDY PROGRAMME
at Vilnius university**

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Išvados parengtos anglų kalba
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DUOMENYS APIE ĮVERTINTĄ PROGRAMĄ

Studijų programos pavadinimas	<i>Tarptautinė ir Europos Sąjungos teisė</i>
Valstybinis kodas	6211KX019
Studijų krypčių grupė	Teisė
Studijų kryptis	Teisė
Studijų programos rūšis	Universitetinės
Studijų pakopa	Antroji
Studijų forma (trukmė metais)	Nuolatinė – 1,5 metų
Studijų programos apimtis kreditais	90
Suteikiamas laipsnis ir (ar) profesinė kvalifikacija	Teisės magistras
Studijų programos įregistravimo data	2010-03-17

INFORMATION ON EVALUATED STUDY PROGRAMME

Title of the study programme	<i>International and European Union Law</i>
State code	6211KX019
Group of study field	Law
Study field	Law
Type of the study programme	University studies
Study cycle	Second
Study mode (length in years)	Full-time – 1,5 years
Volume of the study programme in credits	90
Degree and (or) professional qualifications awarded	Master of Law
Date of registration of the study programme	17-03-2010

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The Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education

CONTENTS

I. INTRODUCTION.....	4
1.1. Background of the evaluation process.....	4
1.2. General.....	4
1.3. Background of the HEI/Faculty/Study field/ Additional information.....	4
1.4. The Review Team.....	5
II. PROGRAMME ANALYSIS	5
2.1. Programme aims and learning outcomes.....	5
2.2. Curriculum design	7
2.3. Teaching staff	10
2.4. Facilities and learning resources	11
2.5. Study process and students' performance assessment.....	13
2.6. Programme management	15
III. RECOMMENDATIONS.....	117
IV. SUMMARY	118
V. GENERAL ASSESSMENT	20

I. INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the evaluation process

The evaluation of on-going study programmes is based on the **Methodology for evaluation of Higher Education study programmes**, approved by Order No 1-01-162 of 20 December 2010 of the Director of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (hereafter – SKVC).

The evaluation is intended to help higher education institutions to constantly improve their study programmes and to inform the public about the quality of studies.

The evaluation process consists of the main following stages: *1) self-evaluation and self-evaluation report prepared by Higher Education Institution (hereafter – HEI); 2) visit of the review team at the higher education institution; 3) production of the evaluation report by the review team and its publication; 4) follow-up activities.*

On the basis of external evaluation report of the study programme SKVC takes a decision to accredit study programme either for 6 years or for 3 years. If the programme evaluation is negative such a programme is not accredited.

The programme is **accredited for 6 years** if all evaluation areas are evaluated as “very good” (4 points) or “good” (3 points).

The programme is **accredited for 3 years** if none of the areas was evaluated as “unsatisfactory” (1 point) and at least one evaluation area was evaluated as “satisfactory” (2 points).

The programme **is not accredited** if at least one of evaluation areas was evaluated as "unsatisfactory" (1 point).

1.2. General

The Application documentation submitted by the HEI follows the outline recommended by the SKVC. No following additional documents have been provided by the HEI before, during and/or after the site-visit along with the self-evaluation report and annexes.

1.3. Background of the HEI/Faculty/Study field/ Additional information

Vilnius University is the oldest university in Lithuania. The university is founded in 1579 and the largest university in the country. In 2017 the university had over 3 600 employees including nearly 1 800 teachers and researchers. The university has around 20 000 students, eleven faculties and several institutes and research and study centres. Study programmes of three study cycles are implemented in the areas of humanities, social, physical, biomedical and technological science.

The Faculty of Law was founded 1641 and is the oldest in Lithuania. The Faculty comprises three departments: public law, private law and criminal justice. There are about 1400 students at the Faculty and close to 90 staff members. This includes 12 professors and chief research fellows, 23 associate professors, 18 lecturers with a PhD and 6 lecturers and assistant lecturers.

The Faculty implements one integrated study programme in law. Four second cycle study programmes are implemented: Public Law, European Union Business Law, Criminal Justice and International and European Union Law.

The study programme *International and European Union Law* is designed exclusively for undergraduates in law from universities outside Lithuania. The programme has been given since 2010 and was evaluated externally in 2012.

1.4. The Review Team

The review team was completed according *Description of experts' recruitment*, approved by order No. V-41 of Acting Director of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education. The Review Visit to HEI was conducted by the team on 3rd November 2017.

1. **Prof. dr. Jürgen Kohler (team leader)**, *Former Dean of the Faculty of Law and Business Management at Greifswald University, Germany.*
2. **Prof. dr. Rolf Dotevall**, *Professor of Commercial Law at Department of Law, School of Business, Economics and Law, University of Gothenburg, Sweden.*
3. **Prof. dr. Markus Steppan**, *Head of the Institute of the Foundations of Law at Graz University, Austria.*
4. **Mr. Mindaugas Jablonskis**, *lawyer, associate partner of Glimstedt, Lithuania.*
5. **Ms. Vaida Spūdytė**, *student of Management studies of Kaunas University of Technology, Lithuania.*

II. PROGRAMME ANALYSIS

2.1. Programme aims and learning outcomes

The programme offered under the title *International and European Union Law* aims for students with a bachelor degree and leads to the qualification as Master of Law. The overall purpose of the programme is to prepare students for research or highly qualified practice such as advisers in most legal professions, and to serve as judges, prosecutors etc. Students who have graduated from this programme can continue in PhD-programmes.

The master programme mainly aims at giving the students a comprehensive and profound knowledge about international and EU law. The study programme is focused on legal norms which are of importance on the core parts of national legal systems. The students are trained in

the application of these legal norms and to analyse and solve complex legal problems in the context of international and EU law. Matching the balance between research based and practical activities is important for reaching the learning outcomes.

The aim of the study programme is to train for expertise knowledge in a wide-ranging and deep knowledge in international and EU-law fulfill important societal and labour market needs, for Lithuania and other countries, especially for those which have belonged to the former Soviet Union. It is an important strategic purpose of the programme, apart from the academic one already mentioned, to integrate Lithuania into the international and European Union context¹. However it was found that the programme is focused primarily on foreign students, especially from countries which were part of the former Soviet Union; nonetheless, Lithuanian students can also be admitted. It is important to strengthen furtherly admission of Lithuanian students.

It is possible to study the programme in English or Russian. The possibility to study a programme in Russian at a university in an EU-member state is unique and of importance. The programme's value is to be seen in its bridge-building and networking capacity, and in serving as a device for developing the capacity of former USSR republics to handle current international legal issues.

The information of the purpose, learning outcomes, content of the programme and admission requirements could be found in the internet on the official VU website, the Faculty and other relevant websites which are accessible for those who have an interest in information of the programme.

The Review Team judges that the programme objectives, both academic and strategic, and intended learning outcomes are relevant for the national legal system. The Review Team can also conclude that both the aims of the programme and its learning outcomes are well-defined and accessible for the public, although the purpose on integrating Lithuania into the international and EU context could be more visible. It is also clear from the meetings during the visit at VU that those who participates in the programme in different roles, teachers, students, alumna and social partners, are well familiar with the programme objectives and have accepted them. It was evident from the meetings with teachers, students, alumna and social partners that they all are informed about the aims and purposes of the programme.

The Faculty of Law at VU, the oldest in Lithuania, has a clear ambition to offer programmes with a high academic quality. The Faculty comprises departments for public law, private law and criminal law. The departments are participating in this masters' programme. The programme should correspond with aspiration for the Faculty to provide academic education of a

¹ SER p. 7.

high quality.² There is no doubt for the Review Team that the purpose of the programme and the learning outcomes are in conformity with the requirements for the second cycle studies. Therefore, the degree, Master of Law, is correctly conferred after successful completion of the programme.

The objective and learning outcomes for this programme match academic and professional requirements. It was found that the programme gives the students and graduates a deep and comprehensive competence in international and EU-law. VU has an ambitious procedure when members of the staff are recruited. This procedure is a guarantee for high academic and professional accomplishment. The Review Team concludes that the programme objectives and intended learning outcomes are linked on high academic and professional requirements.

Programme objectives and intended learning outcomes meet the expectations which an academic programme at master level should fulfil. The programme is in line with the mission, operational objectives and strategy of VU and has a strong connection to academic and professional standards. The title of the programme, *International and European Union Law*, is in relation to the intended learning outcomes and the qualifications to be obtained well-tuned and adequate.

2.2. Curriculum design

The structure of the programme is in coherence with the legislative requirements.³ The length of the programme is one and a half year – 90 ECT-credits.

The design of the curriculum is based on the holistic idea that students should get an advanced understanding and application of *International Law and European Union Law*⁴. The studies are focused on different aspects of “interaction between supranational and national law with an aim of building capacities to identify the problems of this interplay and resolve them”⁵. The students will develop skills in the legal methodology of finding applicable legal norms and to interpret them.

The Review Team is convinced after the meeting with the students and the documentation VU has provided that the compulsory courses offered in the first semester of the programme are relevant for a master programme with this aim and purpose. The Review Team observes, which was emphasised in the meeting with students and alumni, that it would be useful to have a course of an introductory character to ensure that all students of the programme, who

² SER p. 6.

³ *The Description of General Requirements for Master Study Programmes, the Regulation of Study Programmes of Vilnius University and the Description of Law Study Field.*

⁴ SER 2.2.

⁵ SER p. 13.

have a different background and knowledge from their undergraduate programmes, are well prepared to follow the subsequent more specialized courses and to produce a Master thesis of even more sufficient quality.

The subjects of study, course modules, are taught in a consistent manner, subjects or topics are not repeated. The compulsory courses on the first and second semester are aimed to give a profound understanding of the structure and the overarching principles of international law and EU-law. The courses give an important background to go deeper in to the main subject for this programme.

The mandatory courses on the first two semesters of the programme were changed in 2014. The new compulsory course unit has the title “Intergovernmental and Supranational Institutions’ Law of European Union Law”. This course is intended to provide students with knowledge about the law of international organizations and the interaction between national and supranational law and the co-existents and competition between different supranational legal systems.

A course with the title “Research Paper” was introduced in order to prepare students for research and to improve the quality of the master thesis. It is the aim of this unit to improve the proficiency in legal writing and to give the students better insight into legal research methods. The Review team believes that teaching students to address specific challenges of research-led studies and academic writing should be enhanced even more and be brought forward into some earlier stages of the programme.

Each student has a possibility to create his or her individual profile within the main subject for the programme in the choice of optional courses. Several elective courses are offered within the programme, for example “European Company Law”, “International Commercial Arbitration”, “External Relations Law of the European Union” and also courses in international law such as “European Human Rights Law in the Global Context” and “External Relations Law of the European Union”. If the number of students increase there will be other options in international, for example “International Humanitarian Law” and “Refugee Law”.

The Review Team judges that the structure of the programme is coherent with the requirements. The Review Team also concludes that the content of subjects (modules) and study methods enable to achieve the intended learning outcomes.

A rather extensive number of freely optional courses are offered with subjects which are relevant for the Programme.⁶ This supply of courses gives each student a possibility to design his or her own “studies profile by opting for 2 course units out of 7 per semester” according to their interest. This makes it possible for a student to compose his or her own agenda for the Master.

⁶ See Appedix No 2 Course Unit Descriptions.

The programme is to a certain extent a self-designed programme. The Team is very positive towards the idea of a self-designed programme. The curriculum is extensive, and rather a broad variety of courses are offered. However, the Review Team concludes, after its meeting with the students and alumni, that the number of students on this programme is not enough to guarantee that all optional courses on the curriculum will be given. Due to this factor, sometimes uncertainty emerges among the students if a specific course will in fact be held or not because a lack of applicants. The Review Team recommends the Faculty to intensify its ambition and effort to increase the number of students enrolled in the programme. If this is not done, the idea of a self-designed programme will be hard to sustain in the future.

The Review Team is confident that all optional courses are adequate for a Masters level programme. The courses are also appropriate to achieve the aims and learning outcomes for the programme. Because of the different background of the students it is relevant to have an introductory part in each course unit.

Students are informed about the content of each course unit. Such information is for example found on the Faculty's website. It is necessary for the students to choose course units as the programme offers self-design opportunities in a great extent which requires that the students have adequate and sufficient information about each course unit and also a possibility to be guided in their choice to facilitate for them to shape a certain profile. The Review Team finds it important to strengthen further the possibility for each student to get sufficient guidance of relevant courses needed to attend to acquire the specific profile which each student wants to achieve. In this aspect, there is some scope for improvement at the Faculty.

During self-study-period each student has the possibility to consult staff, often via e-mail. Each teacher spends at least two hours to support an individual student. The amount of self-study increases during the study programme.

In the third semester, the master thesis is prepared. During this preparation, the students can attend seminars which cover different topics related to research methodology. The students are guided to develop the research objective and to peer review.

The Review Team finds that preparation of the thesis could be more structured, although the students on the programme said that they have the possibility to get supervision during the self-study period. Seminars with the purpose to give the students a profound insight in different methodological aspects of legal research are offered. The Review Team finds that the students wished for more seminars of this kind.

The main forms of teaching are lectures and seminars. The aspiration from the Faculty is that teaching should be interactive. In general, the various teaching methods comprise presentation of written or oral arguments.

The requirement for the master thesis, which is written individually, is based on the fact that the thesis should reflect the ability to apply the knowledge and skill acquired during the studies. The subjects for the theses are proposed by the department or, after a permission from the head of the department, from a student. This permission should be grounded in a motivated application of the student. The Faculty staff supervise the students in their work on the thesis.

The Review Team judges that the scope of the programme is sufficient to achieve the learning outcomes. There is no doubt that the content of the programme corresponds to the latest academic achievements. However, the curriculum, or rather its presentation from students' perspectives, could be more stringent. Such stringency should consist of even better information about the content of each course unit and better guidance as to how to create a profile within the frameworks of the programme.

2.3. Teaching staff

The amount of academic staff members engaged in the programme is 26 altogether, four of them are full professors and one is a visiting professor. There are nine associate professors in the staff and ten lecturers with a doctoral degree in law and two without this degree. More than 70 % of the programme are coordinated by the professors or associate professors. The majority of the teachers involved in the programme are highly skilled practitioners as judges, attorneys and experts at the Ministries. The Review Team concludes that the legal requirements for the teaching staff for a master's programme are completely fulfilled.

The Review Team observes that the members of the academic staff are recruited or promoted in an open competition. The employment contract will expire after five years. If he or she is qualified in an open competition the employment contract is unlimited. However, the performance of each member of the academic staff is evaluated every fifth year. The turnover of the staff is, according to the SER, at a minimum level. The number of teachers is enough to ensure that the programme can be given effectively.

The extensive and detailed information of the SER indicates that a vast majority of the staff conduct research in the same area as they teach. The SER also indicates that most teachers are also very well qualified practitioners.

Professors' involvement in the programme as teachers is very good and fully acceptable. Also, professionals – lawyers, judges etc. – are involved in the programme as teachers or instructors. The Review Team concludes that as far as qualitative and quantitative features of staff qualification are concerned the Master's programme fulfils the national requirement for similar programmes.

The SER shows that the Faculty members are expected to be engaged in activities outside academia. It is a question for each individual what kind of engagement he or she should undertake. According to the SER it seems to be activities which are relevant for the teaching in the Masters programme. Examples of external activities are delivering lectures at other universities, provision of advanced consultancy or drafting statutes. The teachers of this programme are engaged in socially important activities and some of them are well known professionals in Lithuania. There is no doubt that this kind of experience is of importance for the students at the programme.

The Review Team finds that the teachers and instructors who are involved in the programme are very well qualified and have enough academic and practical experience to fulfil their academic duties and deliver the programme efficiently. The competent teachers will ensure that the students will have the best conditions to reach the learning outcomes. The teachers involved in the programme speak English and Russian. It can also be concluded that the number of teachers in relation to the relatively limited number of students on the programme is of course a positive factor.

A system for the development of the pedagogical competence of the academic staff is going to be established. Up to the present time such pedagogical development is, according to the SER, subject to “only ad hoc initiatives”.

The number of the publications, articles and books, are counted. The CVs for the academic staff shows that many members of the Faculty have a quite extensive list of publications. As the Review Team found, the Faculty members have also published in well-known international periodicals. Also, the Faculty encourages the teachers’ participation in research projects. The SER and the added CVs states that most members of the academic staff have an extensive experience of highly qualified professional practice.

The Review Team considers the teaching staff in general to be highly qualified, which ensures that the learning outcomes will be achieved efficiently. There is no doubt for the Review Team that the number of teachers is adequate for the programme. Also, the low degree of teaching staff turnover can ensure more than adequate provision of the programme.

2.4. Facilities and learning resources

The Review Team judges that the premises for studies are very well equipped both in their size and quality and generally very good for their purpose to operate the programme, which is small in numbers of enrolment. VU provides space and equipment for lectures to be delivered for more than two thousand students. Newly renovated auditoria are equipped with modern devices for presentations. Some auditoria are equipped by social partners of the programme as

court rooms. A specific classroom is exclusively available for the students on the programme: computer, stationary multimedia technique with internet connection. The Faculty's website provides good information about the facilities. The Faculty provides also for disabled students. In addition, the Faculty premises provide spacious and pleasant location for students to socialise. All the full-time staff members have their own offices.

The library is situated in another, modern building in walking distance from the Faculty. It is equipped with modern technology and is very functional and an attractive place for studies, accessible 24 hours each day of the week. In all the premises of the Faculty and in the library students can connect to the wireless internet network EDUROAM. The library is very well stocked with adequate national and international books, periodical publications, and databases. The books are stored in a way which made them easy to access. The library offers several hundred work stations. It also offers a range of computer enabled places both for individual study and group work. The library subscribes to more than 80 foreign databases including Litlex and Westlaw International.

The available databases and books contain many of the main and most important legal sources in English language in EU and International Law profile. While the learning resources in Russian is rather limited, comparing to written in English that is far more extensive in the literature covering EU and International Law. The language skills in English which the Faculty foresees as a strict requirement in the nearest future will ensure that also those students studying in Russian should be able to read and understand English legal texts. Even today, according to statements made by the teachers, this seems to be a reality. The Review Team concludes that the library and electronic tools are very good to fully support the programme of Master level.

The social partners provide opportunities for practical experience. The internships are made available at some of the leading law firms in Vilnius. The Review Team finds in the meeting with students and alumni that quite many of the students are taking the opportunity to participate in the offered internships. Even if this kind of internships is not mandatory at Master level, this kind of practice is of great value for the students on the programme. Many of the students and alumni the Review Team met had been engaged in such internships. They seem to be very satisfied with the quality of the internships they received. The social partners the Review Team met were eager to provide internships and emphasized that the quality of the students they had engaged were high. This kind of internships is not compulsory in the programme but it might be considered to make it so.

It could be difficult for the Faculty to balance between the Russian and English part of the programme. The difference in available books and other learning resources in Russian and English could result in an imbalance; the English part of the programme can be far more

extensive and profound. The Review team found that earlier the number of books in Russian was even more less, and the Faculty has purchased more books in Russian after the previous evaluation of this programme. In the meeting with the teachers this issue was scrutinized by the Review Team. Although, this is, as the Review Team recognised, not be regarded as a big practical problem. The teachers who are involved in the programme are fluent in Russian. They are capable to present their study material on the initial part of the programme in Russian for those students who need it. The Review Team finds after meeting with the teachers that the students who are participating in the Russian part of the programme have reading skills in English when they commence the programme.

2.5. Study process and students' performance assessment

The students are admitted in accordance with the rules for admission which are adopted by VU. According to these requirements, this programme expects every student to be fluent in reading English or Russian. The study programme is primarily aimed at foreign students and the international academic market. It should be attractive for students who want to have an international degree. It is the foremost ambition of the programme to attract students from countries in the former Soviet Union; also, several students come from Western Europe. One important purpose of the programme is to give students coming from countries outside EU a deeper knowledge in international, international-regional and European Union Law. The Study Programme Committee considers to be fair to require at least reading skills in English for the students in the Russian group. The Review Team strongly support this initiative.

The Faculty Admission Committee decides whether an applicant should be admitted. The Committee then considers the educational merits, a letter where the applicant expresses his or her motivation for studying at the programme and at least two references. The Review Team finds the admission requirements are well-founded, consistent and transparent.

The studies consist mostly of lectures and seminars with a strong focus on case analysis and on activating students, e.g. by means of student presentations. Some courses are operated in block teaching, which is a useful tool to integrate specifically qualified external academics and practitioners on the one hand and appreciated by some students, while there are student voices on the other hand who are not in favour of compacted teaching. In essence, the teaching process delivers knowledge and methodological insights which is enough to embark on PhD-studies. As mentioned, the Review team is advising to strengthen systematic teaching of research-based studying and writing earlier in the programme.

The input to the programme is in some extent provided by non-permanent staff. The availability of, and response from, external lecturers could be increased according to some of the students. But this is not seen as a general problem.

The assessment procedure follows the regulations adopted by VU. Examination criteria are determined by each teacher. The system of assessing student achievements is clear, public and appropriate to assess the learning outcomes. In the beginning of the course each teacher in the programme is introducing the purpose of the course, learning outcomes and assessment methods. In the programme, several assessment methods are used. VU use a 10-point scale in the assessment process.

VU are trying to uphold the academic ethics in different ways. There is a common code on this subject for VU. The students' master thesis is checked electronically to prevent plagiarism.

Those who disagree with the examination procedure or the results may appeal to the Dispute Investigation Commission of the Faculty level. This should be done within seven days after the result is made public. The commission's decision on results is final at Faculty level. The examination procedure could be appealed at the Dispute Investigation Commission of the university level.

The Review Team judges the assessment procedure are well organized and enough developed. There is a variety of assessment methods, but the written exam is dominant. The Master thesis is defended publicly and evaluated by a Committee. At least one member of this Committee is a person from another research institution, a social partner or from another university. The Review Team finds this procedure for assessment acceptable and adequate.

The quality of the Master thesis which the Review Team inspected during their visit at the Faculty matches well Master level. The theses are of sufficient quality, and they covered relevant subjects according to the programme.

The students enrolled on the programme have a lot of opportunities to take part of different activities outside the class. The activities are usually sports, arts and music. In particular, many conferences, seminars and presentations of research concerning legal science are organized by the VU. Most of them are open for students of the programme. The Faculty of law organizes summer schools in cooperation with foreign universities as partners which students on the programme can attend.

The students enrolled in the programme have many opportunities to study abroad in the ERASMUS framework and bilateral agreements. The Faculty has ERASMUS agreements with universities in 24 countries. However, only few students use mobility opportunities. While this is understandable in view of the short duration of the programme and the fact that most student

participants are in a foreign environment when enrolling in the programme, there is great scope for strengthening international mobility especially in the internship matters by finding ways suitable for the students.

The majority of the graduates, 36 of 39, are employed after graduation from the programme. One of the PhD-student is unemployed and two others are combining job and study. A vast majority of the graduates has adequate jobs, such as lawyers, attorneys, in-house lawyer in companies etc.

The study process consists of lectures and seminars. The process is focused, according to our meeting with the staff, on case analysis. The study process enables students to reach the intended learning outcomes. Evidence is given by the quality of the inspected final theses.

The Team concludes that the students are sufficiently supported and informed in an acceptable way on which criteria their exams and other performances are assessed. Judging from the Review Team's meeting with students and alumni it is also clear that they are advised when and after selecting the topic for the final thesis. Also, the foreign students have very good support from the university for the adaptation in Vilnius and to university studies at VU. The low participation in ERASMUS should be addressed and the mobility opportunities need to be adopted better.

2.6. Programme management

Both the Faculty council and the VU senate have an important role in the supervision and governance of the Masters programme. The prime responsibility for the management of the programme is vested in the Study Programme Committee. Members of the Study Programme Committee are the Dean, Vice Dean for planning and science, and representatives of teachers, students and social partners. The Committee meets each semester.

All study programmes are monitored by the VU Department of studies. The main document for the internal quality control is the Vilnius University's Quality Manual. A study programme is updated and it is quality censored regularly. Data and other information regarding programme implementation are collected and analysed periodically. The Faculty uses the Vilnius University Information System of Studies (VUSIS) which is an administrative system managing the programme, data about results from examination etc. However, this system provides information only in Lithuanian.

The evaluation and improvement processes involve stakeholders.

The Review Team concludes that responsibilities for decisions and monitoring of the implementation of the programme are clearly allocated. The outcomes of internal and external evaluations of the programme are used for improvements of the programme. Nonetheless, the

Review Team sees here some scope for improvement to get more ex-post feedback from alumni in more formal and regulated manner.

Cooperation with social partners is extensive and has close ties. The Committee for Strategic Planning has been working for a period of ten years. This is an advisory board which consists of persons who are graduates of the faculty and are practitioners working outside academia. The Committee advises the faculty dean on important developments which have to be considered for developing the study programme. The alumni organization is active and supports the relation with professionals.

Based on agreements, there is cooperation with important legal institutions in the country; such cooperation with social partners consists of representation in the Study Programme Committee and participation in the Master Thesis Defence Committee. Students of the programme can take voluntary professional practice at the social partners, mainly international law firms.

The Review Team concludes also that the information about the study programme is public, relevant and easily accessible on the internet.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The programme is, to a certain extent, a programme which offers self-design opportunities and necessities to its students. This requires better provision of sufficient information for the students and guidance in the choice of courses to facilitate shaping a specific profile.
2. Most teachers are fluent in Russian and could give support to those of the Russian speaking students who do not have sufficient reading capabilities in English. Considering the difference in quantity and quality of the learning resources available in Russian, the Faculty should consider to have a language test in the admission procedure or restrict admission to the programme for those students who do not have solid reading skills in English.
3. It is important to increase the number of students in the programme. The rather small number of students, around 20, makes it difficult to guarantee that each course in the programme will be made available. If the number of students are not increased the Faculty should consider the idea of a fully tailor-made Master programme for each student.

IV. SUMMARY

The master programme “International and European Union Law at university of Vilnius shows a number of positive aspects. Among these are the following:

VU has identified the objectives of Masters Programme in International and European Union law in an adequate and holistic way. VU informs about the programme in an extensive way and admits student from different countries with an emphasis from countries which were parts of the former Soviet Union. The programme has an ambitious academic and strategic purpose. The intention is to educate legal experts with a comprehensive and profound knowledge of legal norms in international, inter-regional and EU-law. The aim with the programme and learning outcomes are well defined in the curriculum. The aim of the programme is two-folded: The programme is directed to those who have at least a bachelor degree in law and wish to prepare themselves for independent academic research or advanced professional practice.

The master’s programme is in a great extent self-designed. The curriculum offers a number of courses to choose which each student a possibility to create his or her individual profile within the main subject for the programme in the choice of optional courses.

Social partners and stakeholders provide opportunities for students to get adequate practice.

The main forms of education are lectures and seminars with a strong focus on case analysis and on activating students, e.g. by means of student presentations. Some courses are operated in block teaching. This is a useful tool to integrate qualified external academics and practitioners and is appreciated by most students. In essence, the teaching process delivers knowledge and methodological insights which is enough to embark on PhD-studies.

The students who are admitted are enough qualified academically to meet the requirements and reach the learning outcomes.

The teachers engaged in the programme are generally very well qualified. They have an academic standard and practical experience which is relevant for a programme at master level. The vast majority of the staff has an academic degree or conducted research in the same area as they teach. Some teachers are very well qualified practitioners with a good professional reputation. The number of teachers is enough to ensure that the programme can be given effectively. Professors’ involvement in the programme as teachers is more than just satisfactory and fully acceptable. Also, professionals – lawyers, judges etc. – are involved in the programme as teachers or instructors. The Faculty encourages the lecturers to take part, not only in scientific activities, in professional and public activities.

The premises for studies are adequate both in their size and quality and generally good for their purpose to operate the programme. The library is situated in a modern building in a

short distance from the Faculty and is very well stocked with adequate national and international books, periodical publications, and databases. It is equipped with modern and functional technology. In all the premises of the Faculty and in the library students can connect to the wireless internet network EDUROAM.

The Master's programme at VU could be improved with regards to the following aspects:

As the programme is partly a self-designed programme, this model requires a well-developed system which gives the students easy access to adequate and extensive information about each available course. The students need also better guidance in the possible combination of courses to facilitate for the students to shape a certain profile.

The importance of reading capabilities in English should be emphasised. Most teachers are fluent in Russian and could give support to those of the Russian speaking students who do not have sufficient reading capabilities in English. However, considering the difference in quantity and quality of the learning resources available in Russian, the Faculty should consider to have a language test in English in the admission procedure or restrict admission to the programme for students who do not have solid reading skills in English.

It is important to increase the number of students in the programme. The rather small number of students, around 20, makes it difficult to guarantee that each course in the programme will be made available.

V. GENERAL ASSESSMENT

The study programme *International and European Union Law* (state code – 6211KX019) at Vilnius University is given **positive** evaluation.

Study programme assessment in points by evaluation areas.

No.	Evaluation Area	Evaluation of an area in points*
1.	Programme aims and learning outcomes	3
2.	Curriculum design	3
3.	Teaching staff	4
4.	Facilities and learning resources	4
5.	Study process and students' performance assessment	3
6.	Programme management	3
	Total:	20

*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:

Prof. dr. Jürgen Kohler

Team leader:

Grupės nariai:

Prof. dr. Rolf Dotevall

Team members:

Prof. dr. Markus Steppan

Mr. Mindaugas Jablonskis

Ms. Vaida Spūdytė

**VILNIAUS UNIVERSITETO ANTROSIOS PAKOPOS STUDIJŲ PROGRAMOS
TARPTAUTINĖ IR EUROPOS SAJUNGOS TEISĖ (VALSTYBINIS KODAS –
6211KX019) 2017-12-21 EKSPERTINIO VERTINIMO IŠVADŲ NR. SV4-251 IŠRAŠAS**

<...>

V. APIBENDRINAMASIS ĮVERTINIMAS

Vilniaus universiteto studijų programa *Tarptautinė ir Europos Sąjungos teisė* (valstybinis kodas – 6211KX019) 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	4
5.	Studijų eiga ir jos vertinimas	3
6.	Programos vadyba	3
	Iš viso:	20

* 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

Vilniaus universitete dėstoma magistrantūros studijų programa *Tarptautinė ir Europos Sąjungos teisė* turi daug teigiamų aspektų.

Studijų programos tikslai tinkamai ir išsamiai apibrėžti. VU suteikia visą informaciją apie studijų programą. Į studijų programą priimami studentai iš įvairių šalių – ypač pageidautini studentai iš buvusių Sovietų Sąjungos respublikų. Studijų programa siekia ambicingų ir strateginių tikslų. Studijų programos skirta parengti teisės specialistus, gerai išmanančius tarptautinės, regioninės ir Europos Sąjungos teisės normas. Studijų programos tikslai ir studijų rezultatai aiškiai apibrėžti ir susieti su dalykų tikslais. Studijų programa siekia dviejų tikslų: ji skirta įgijusiems teisės bakalauro laipsnį ir norintiems pasirengti doktorantūros studijoms arba siekiantiems užsiimti kvalifikuota profesine praktika.

Studijų programa suteikia studentams galimybę susidaryti individualius studijų derinius. Studentai gali pasirinkti dalykus ir šalia pagrindinių studijų turėti savo individualų studijų profilį, sudarytą iš pasirenkamų dalykų.

Socialiniai partneriai ir dalininkai suteikia studentams galimybę įgyti reikiamų praktinių žinių.

Pagrindinės studijų formos – paskaitos ir seminarai. Daug dėmesio skiriama konkrečių atvejų tyrimams, skatinamas aktyvus studentų dalyvavimas, pavyzdžiui, pristatymų rengimas. Kai kurie dalykai dėstomi taikant „block teaching“ metodą (kai per trumpą laiką koncentruotai dėstomas tik vienas dalykas). Naudojant šį metodą į studijų procesą galima įtraukti kvalifikuotus dėstytojus ir praktikus iš išorės. Šį metodą palankiai vertina dauguma studentų. Studijos suteikia studentams žinių ir metodinių įgūdžių, kad jie galėtų pasirėngti doktorantūros studijoms.

Į studijų programą priimti studentai yra pakankamai akademiškai išprusę – jie atitinka reikalavimus ir geba pasiekti studijų rezultatus.

Studijų programos dėstytojų kvalifikacija tinkama. Dėstytojai atitinka akademinis reikalavimus ir turi praktinės patirties, kurios reikia dėstant magistrantūros studijų programą. Dauguma dėstytojų turi akademinį laipsnį arba yra atlikę savo dėstomos srities tyrimus. Kai kurie dėstytojai yra kvalifikuoti praktikuojantys specialistai, pelnę profesionalų reputaciją. Dėstytojų skaičius pakankamas, kad studijų programa būtų veiksmingai vykdoma. Pagirtina, kad tarp studijų programos dėstytojų yra profesorių bei specialistų – teisininkų, teisėjų ir kt. Fakultetas skatina dėstytojus dalyvauti ne tik mokslinėje veikloje, bet ir profesinėje bei visuomeninėje veikloje.

Studijoms skirtos patalpos kokybiškos ir jų pakanka, kad studijų programa būtų tinkamai vykdoma. Biblioteka įrengta šiuolaikiniame pastate netoli fakulteto. Ji gerai aprūpinta studijoms skirta šalies ir užsienio autorių literatūra, periodiniais leidiniais ir turi prieigą prie duomenų bazių. Bibliotekoje veikia šiuolaikinės technologijos. Visose fakulteto patalpose ir bibliotekoje studentai gali prisijungti prie belaidžio tinklo EDUROAM.

Tačiau ekspertų grupės nuomone, magistrantūros studijų programa *Tarptautinė ir Europos Sąjungos teisė* galėtų būti pagerinti, ypač šiose srityse:

Kadangi studijų programa iš dalies suteikia studentams galimybę susidaryti studijų derinius pagal savo poreikius, studentams reikia suteikti daugiau informacijos ir pagalbos, kad jie pasirinktų dalykus ir susikurtų individualų studijų profilį.

Reikia skirti daugiau dėmesio skaitymo gebėjimų anglų kalba ugdymui. Dauguma dėstytojų gerai moka rusų kalbą ir gali suteikti pagalbą rusakalbiams studentams, kurie neturi gerų skaitymo anglų kalba įgūdžių. Atsižvelgiant į prastesnę mokymosi išteklių rusų kalba kokybę ir nepakankamą jų kiekį, fakultetas turėtų apsvarstyti galimybę įvesti kalbos testą

stojantiesiems arba nepriimti į studijų programą kandidatų, kurie neturi gerų skaitymo anglų kalba gebėjimų.

Būtina padidinti studijų programos studentų skaičių. Apie 20 studentų – tai gana mažas skaičius. Dėl to sunku užtikrinti, kad bus dėstomi visi studijų programos dalykai.

<...>

III. REKOMENDACIJOS

1. Studijų programa iš dalies suteikia studentams galimybę susidaryti studijų derinius pagal savo poreikius. Todėl studentams reikia suteikti daugiau informacijos ir pagalbos, kad jie pasirinktų dalykus ir susikurtų individualų studijų profilį.

2. Dauguma dėstytojų gerai moka rusų kalbą ir gali suteikti pagalbą rusakalbiams studentams, kurie neturi gerų skaitymo anglų kalba įgūdžių. Atsižvelgiant į prastesnę mokymosi išteklių rusų kalba kokybę ir nepakankamą jų kiekį, fakultetas turėtų apsvarstyti galimybę įvesti kalbos testą stojantiesiems arba nepriimti į studijų programą kandidatų, kurie neturi gerų skaitymo anglų kalba gebėjimų.

3. Būtina padidinti studijų programos studentų skaičių. Apie 20 studentų – tai gana mažas skaičius. Dėl to sunku užtikrinti, kad bus dėstomi visi studijų programos dalykai. Jei nepavyks padidinti studentų skaičiaus, fakultetas turėtų apsvarstyti galimybę sukurti visiškai individualias magistrantūros studijas.

<...>

Paslaugos teikėjas patvirtina, jog yra susipažinęs su Lietuvos Respublikos baudžiamojo kodekso 235 straipsnio, numatančio atsakomybę už melagingą ar žinomai neteisingai atliktą vertimą, reikalavimais.

Vertėjos rekvizitai (vardas, pavardė, parašas)