



STUDIJŲ KOKYBĖS VERTINIMO CENTRAS

ALEKSANDRO STULGINSKIO UNIVERSITETO  
**ŽEMĖTVARKOS STUDIJŲ PROGRAMOS (621H91001)**  
**VERTINIMO IŠVADOS**

---

**EVALUATION REPORT**  
**OF *LAND USE PLANNING* (621H91001)**  
**STUDY PROGRAMME**  
at ALEKSANDRAS STULGINSKIS UNIVERSITY

Grupės vadovas: Prof. dr. Bernd Teichert  
Team leader:

Grupės nariai: Prof. dr. Mercedes Farjas  
Team members:  
Prof. Janusz Uriasz  
Dr. Saulius Urbanas  
Gražvydas Jakaitis

Išvados parengtos anglų kalba  
Report language - English

Vilnius  
2013

## DUOMENYS APIE ĮVERTINTĄ PROGRAMĄ

Studijų programos pavadinimas	<i>Žemėtvarka</i>
Valstybinis kodas	621H91001
Studijų sritis	Technologijos mokslų studijų sritis
Studijų kryptis	Inžinerija
Studijų programos rūšis	Universitetinės studijos
Studijų pakopa	Antroji
Studijų forma (trukmė metais)	Nuolatinė (2 m.), iššęstinė (3 m.)
Studijų programos apimtis kreditais	120 ECTS
Suteikiamas laipsnis ir (ar) profesinė kvalifikacija	Žemėtvarkos bakalauras
Studijų programos įregistravimo data	1995

## INFORMATION ON EVALUATED STUDY PROGRAMME

Title of the study programme	<i>Land Use Planning</i>
State code	621H91001
Study area	Technological Sciences
Study field	Engineering
Kind of the study programme	University Studies
Study cycle	Second
Study mode (length in years)	Full-time (2 years), part-time (3 years)
Volume of the study programme in credits	120 ECTS
Degree and (or) professional qualifications awarded	Master's Degree in Land Use Planning
Date of registration of the study programme	1995

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

# CONTENTS

CONTENTS .....	3
I. INTRODUCTION .....	4
II. PROGRAMME ANALYSIS .....	4
1. Programme aims and learning outcomes.....	4
2. Curriculum design.....	6
3. Staff .....	7
4. Facilities and learning resources.....	8
5. Study process and student assessment .....	9
6. Programme management.....	11
III. RECOMMENDATIONS .....	12
IV. SUMMARY .....	13

## I. INTRODUCTION

The objective of this report is to evaluate the master study programme of “Land Use Planning” (national code – 621H91001, previous code – 62604T201). Programme is delivered by Aleksandras Stulginskis University (ASU) in Kaunas.

During the visit and meeting with administration and SER group, the visiting team discussed about proper English name of the programme. It occurs that there is a problem of translation from Lithuanian to English language. In Lithuanian language the program is called as “*Žemėtvarka*” which doesn’t have corresponding term in English. In this report term “Land Use Planning” is used and abbreviation LUP (as this should be the official name of programme registered by Ministry for Education) is run by the Faculty of Water and Land Management (hereinafter referred to as the FWLM) and its Institute of Land Management and Geomatics (hereinafter referred to as the ILUPG).

After the study visit and dispute occurred regarding the translation AIKOS officially called the programme as Land Use Planning instead of Land Management. Due to this fact University is recommended to consider to change the name of Faculty from Faculty of Water and Land Management to Faculty of Water and Land Management and respectively Institute of Land Management to Institute of Land Use Planning.

An external evaluation of the “Land Use Planning” study programme was conducted by experts of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (hereinafter referred to as the SKVC) in 2011. Following the evaluation of the programmes, the study programme of “Land Use Planning” was accredited for a period from 16 July 2011 for three years.

Current assessment of “Land Use Planning” programme was carried out basing on self-initiative of Minister for Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania and was organised under the Minister's authority by the SKVC.

On 19th of November, 2013 - following analysis of the programme’s Self-Evaluation Report (SER) and the preparation of Preliminary Reports - the Expert team: Prof. dr. Bernd Teichert (group leader), Prof. dr. Mercedes Farjas, Prof. Janusz Uriasz, Dr. Saulius Urbanas, Gražvydas Jakaitis visited Aleksandras Stulginkis University.

## II. PROGRAMME ANALYSIS

### *1. Programme aims and learning outcomes*

According to information provided in self-evaluation report (SER, page 5, para. 5) the main aim of the study programme run by FWLM is to train Land Use Planning Master of Science specialists who are able to pursue scientific and applied research and solve problems. Minor objective of study programme were formulated in SER (page 5, para. 5) as:

- to deepen the theoretical knowledge in the field of engineering sciences and develop the skills necessary for scientific and practical activity,
- to develop the system of knowledge and abilities required for data processing, consultations and other activities in the field of land use planning,
- to develop the skills of the independent scientific or applied research, to analyse and present the outcomes.

Programme is coordinated with Land Use Planning companies and enterprises. Representative of them took part in meeting with evaluation team and confirmed that fact. They expressed the view that this programme is needed for labour market. Some examples were indicated by representatives of companies showing that due to changes in the law new specialists

will be needed in near future. However the evaluation team did not find any researches or proofs acknowledging that statement.

The programme aims and learning outcomes are properly defined and publicly accessible. They are available in electronic (university web page) and written form (leaflets – what was confirmed by students – are handed over to them, booklet etc.). Learning outcomes are delivered also in oral form by teachers in most cases at the beginning of lessons in each semester. Learning outcomes are also introduced in external places during meetings with school graduates at different schools and during various events.

It was verified during the visit that most of above mentioned aims are achieved. Programme delivers Land Use Planning Master of Science specialists, but the Reviewers team found that impact of researchers on programme should be enhanced and more visible, as it is in correlation with the programme aims and learning outcomes. Evaluation team did not notice existence of any research team consisting of 2-3 or more researchers at the Faculty. Team work could be much more efficient, thus research groups could easily involve students in the researches.

Self-evaluation report (page 5, para. 6) indicates scope of knowledge/competences that students will have upon completion of the study programme as follow:

- “will have the knowledge of and will be able to use the geographic and other databases, distance research, analysis and modelling of spatial data, and general research methodology,
- will have the knowledge of legal regulation of Land Use Planning and construction, the system of land administration in Lithuania, the structure of landscape and aspects related to the development of rural and urban areas,
- will be able to evaluate environmental, economic and social impact of the solutions of the territorial planning documents and apply the research methodology of the real estate market,
- will be able to identify scientific problems and initiate scientific hypotheses, apply the progressive methods in the scientific and applied research, interpret research results and define their reliability,
- will be able to search for, accumulate, systematise and evaluate GIS information, process the data and apply modelling methods by using special computer software,
- will be able to apply the Land Use Planning research methodology and other research methodologies; consider the issues of territorial landscape integration; present and evaluate the scenarios for the sustainable rural and urban development.”

Quality of thesis has been improved in last three years. Some of the topics of thesis are proposed by external stakeholders. Content of thesis correspond to the competences described above.

SER (page 6. para. 6) shows good cross-references between aims-skills-learning outcomes and study subjects (table 3). Up to ten subjects are needed to achieve particular sub-aim.

Programme and learning outcomes are updated and improved to meet special requirements of study programmes. Few of the teachers during the meeting with evaluation team indicated that they have made amendments in last few years or they amended the learning methods. According to SER (page 8. para. 9) learning programme is annually reviewed. However University should make and keep clear evidence of any improvements with justification of decision undertaken. It was not clear what in particular has been amended. For instance some teachers which took part in meeting with visiting team were not aware of all amendments. Also not all of the students were aware of new changes in study programme (for instance, that they should publish an article).

Similar reflection could be mentioned about researches. It seems that results of researches done are not well disseminated among academic staff and students. These two groups should be well informed about achievements of their colleagues.

University introduced the provision of Bologna process. Programme delivers qualifications at level 6 (Lithuanian Qualifications Framework approved under Resolution No. 535 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 4 May 2010).

University undertook measures for implementation of Lithuanian Seimas resolution of required specialists of following tasks:

- to complete the restitution of ownership rights to surviving real estate; to speed up and support the implementation of land consolidation, which will contribute to a more efficient use of land plots as well as improvement of farming conditions and the settlement of new farmers;
- to improve, accelerate and promote territorial planning processes: to extend the list of cases where detailed plans are not necessary and to simplify the procedures for the amendment of a detailed plan;
- to improve the procedures of land acquisition, alteration of the purpose of land, registration of construction, redemption of land for the purposes of the state, etc.,

The faculty community maintains close cooperative relations with manufacturing companies and state institutions.

One of the objectives of second cycle programme in “Land Use Planning”, as stated in SER (page 10 para. 21), is to allow master’s students acquire more knowledge necessary for preparation of the territorial planning documents set forth in the Law on Land, and pursues other land administration activities stipulated in this Law.

Main deficiency noted in previous assessment (in 2011) of this programme was the strong orientation of the programme to the practical work and lack of scientific orientation. Assessment team during current evaluation mission observed that faculty has put a lot of efforts to improve learning outcomes. Students are encouraged to make researches and each of them should publish at least one article. Students organized “Studentų mokslinės konferencijos” in 2013. However the period of two years seems to be too short in order to obtain visible scientific orientation of the study programme. The programme aims and learning outcomes are consistent with the type studies but level of studies should be enhanced by increased impact of results of researches. Especially teachers should be more encouraged to perform researches in the field of the programme. Majority of the staff should perform deeper researches and involve students in researches. Participation in scientific projects could help to improve the situation. Faculty indicated just four projects which have been carried out as follow:

- analysis of possibilities for creation/reconstruction of wetlands in order to reduce organic and biogenic waste into water bodies;
- research on land use planning works perspective;
- scientific grounding of land use means;
- preparation of hydraulic monogram for drainage.

Programme and its content and qualifications delivered are compatible with each other.

## ***2. Curriculum design***

The “Land Use Planning” curriculum of Master of Science composed to train Land Use Planning Master of Science specialists who are able to pursue scientific and applied research and solve problems. Faculty of Water and Land Management runs first and second level of “Land Use Planning” programme. Curriculum is designed in such way that not only graduates from first level can undertake it. However majority of students came from first circle of LM programme.

After study of self-evaluation report it should be clearly stated that “Land Use Planning” programme fulfils formal requirements set by “Law on Higher Education and Research” position No. XI-242, dated 30.04.2009. Details of programme are as follow:

- the value of the study programme is 120 ECTS,
- the subjects of study field have got 60 ECTS,
- the total volume of the electives subjects is 30 ECTS,

- preparation and defence of the final thesis has got 30 ECTS,
- independent work is not less than 30% of the volume of every study. In fact total volume independent work expressed in hours in the study programme is 54%,
- number of study subjects studied during one semester within a programme is 5.

Programme meets formal requirements (ECTS). Subjects are not repetitive. Distribution of workload between semesters is correct. The sequences of the subjects are appropriate. At the beginning (first and second semester) subjects of study field are undertaken, later elective (third semester) and other subjects. During evaluation visit administration and teachers informed visiting team that in order to reflect in programme the latest achievements programme has been changed. Also SER (page 8. para. 9) indicates that learning programme is annually reviewed. However evidence of revision or amendments was not presented for the team. Additional comments were provided in written form to the team after completion of the evaluation visit. Faculty after previous evaluation changed the program by removing following subjects: real property transactions, protection of soils, methods of soils cartography. The decision was grounded, that these subjects are not needed for Land Use Planning master studies. There is still lack of information which subjects were introduced instead of deleted ones. Ten subjects were also divided into two groups: ones, which aim to prepare for scientific activity (doctoral studies), others, which aim to prepare for practical activity.

Learning methods applied seem to be appropriate for the achievement of the intended learning outcomes. As mentioned above curriculum meets formal minimum requirements and it is sufficient to secure achievement of planned learning outcomes. Discussion during meeting with students and Alumni showed that students have opportunity to propose content of the curriculum. Students expressed the view that practical exercises could be improved. Employers added that remote sensing could be more emphasised in the curriculum. Alumnus expressed that subjects are good but more practical exercises should be considered. Content of the subjects is consistent with second level of Land Use Planning studies.

### **3. Staff**

The teachers of the master's study programme in "Land Use Planning" consist of members of the Institute of Land Use Planning and Geomatics, ILUPG, FWLM and other University units. Total number of staff involved in the programme is seventeen including three professors and eleven associated professors. 82% of the teachers of all study subjects are having scientific/academic degree (requirement of the Order No V-826 of the Minister of Education and Science form 3 of June 2010 to have more than 80% is met). However Faculty did not present to evaluation team the justification why seventeen teachers are involved in the programme. Evaluation team basing on cross-references in curriculum, workload, discussion with teachers and administration found that this number is sufficient to deliver learning outcomes.

According to information provided in SER (page 13, table 4) two of the staff members teach four subjects while four teachers just one subject each of them. These "single subject" teachers provide elective subjects. Taking into account that students choose three elective subjects it could happen that at least one of the teachers delivering one subject would be not involved in the teaching in a given year.

Teachers are employed on 5-year term teacher's position in the ASU and are certified. This certification is performed for every 5 year period. Certification includes evaluation of the research, methodological, pedagogical, organisational and other activities of the candidates.

Scientific fields of the majority (about 95 %) of teachers engaged in the programme are directly related to the "Land Use Planning". Teachers published: 61 scientific articles, 22 popular science papers and other publications, 4 scientific research papers and 2 monographs. Number of publication differs between teachers. Nevertheless taking above numbers into account in the period of last five years it gives just one publication per teacher per year. This average number

seems to be to less to provide visible impact on programme aims and learning outcomes. Teachers should be encouraged to enhance their researchers, to make more publications, to involve students in the researchers. Their qualifications are still adequate to ensure learning outcomes.

Teachers holding academic professors degree teach 37% of major study field's subjects what satisfy requirements of minimum 20% which should be taught. The study programme is provided by the staff meeting legal requirements.

Self-evaluation report indicates that there are currently 14 students per one full-staff teacher of the programme (49 students participated in both years' full time Land Use Planning Master's programme studies, and 23 students participated in part-time studies). In fact due to the fact that 17 teachers are engaged in the programme total ratio student per teacher is 5. This number is relatively small what gives the opportunity to have good personal, not limited contact for both sides (students and teachers). Some teachers teach also in other programmes and in such cases weekly workload is very high.

Teachers' turnover is minor and it does not have any impact on quality of the study programme. Few teachers take part in the mobility programs. Also SER (page 17, para. 41) indicates that during a 5-year period teachers took part in the short term on-the-job trainings abroad. Every year teachers from abroad on average take part in two on-the-job training sessions. It is not clear how these training sessions correspond to the learning outcomes however just fact of providing them in external places is positive.

Faculty provides also courses aiming to upgrade teacher's skills focusing on scientific researches. Number of such courses is relatively high (12 as indicated in SER: page 18 para. 45) for just 17 teachers.

Staff seems to be stable in terms of age and distribution of qualifications.

#### ***4. Facilities and learning resources***

Programme is delivered in premises owned by Aleksandras Stulginskis University, which are currently under comprehensive repairs. They are located in the Faculty of Water and Land Management. Total floor space of the classrooms is 1598 m<sup>2</sup>. Most of lecturers are delivered in 4 classrooms. Three classrooms are equipped with computers with sufficient number and access to Lithuanian geodatabases indicated in self-evaluation report as follow: GDR\_5LT, GDR\_10LT, GDR\_50LT, GDR\_250LT and ORT\_2LT ORT\_5LT, ORT\_10LT (GDR georeference databases, ORT – ortophotomap databases), as well as topical databases and other geodatabases related to the land and other real estate: EBM\_100LT, EGM\_1000LT, ERM\_250LT, SŽNS\_DB10LT, DIRV\_DR10LT, MEL\_DB10LT, KŽS\_DB10LT (small scale georeference, special land use conditions, soil, reclamation and land use database). The premises available for studies are adequate in quality and especially in their size. Faculty does possess real geodesy devices as follow:

1. Electronic tachymeters:
  - Nikon-NPL 350 – 3 items,
  - Geodimeter Constructor – 1item,
  - Geodimeter- 520 – 3 items,
  - Trimble M3 – 1 item,
  - Trimble VX0- 1item.
2. GPS receivers:
  - Trimble 580 – 2 items,
  - GPS receiver Trimble R6– 1 item,
  - Precision digital levelling Trimble DiNi – 1 item,
  - Laser distance meter Leica Disto – 2 items.
3. Levels:



- Optical levels N-3 – 15 items,
- Optical levels Sokia C410 – 10 items,
- Precision optical level H-05 – 1 item,
- Self-levelling level Ni007 – 1 item.

Above items are listed in the self-evaluation report but they are rather not used in the subjects in Master of Science course. Some of them could be used in researchers performed by students. In such case additional modern equipment should be considered for research purposes like: laser scanning devices, EGNOS receivers etc. Precise description cannot be recommended here but faculty should keep ongoing self-evaluation in this aspect to find what is needed. Active participation in the projects could be good excuse and source for new purchases. What is important students can use specialised software like: Autodesk Robot Millennium, AutoCAD - 2012, Geomap – 2012, Byla, Inventorizacija, ArcGIS 10.1 (ArcGIS 10), Software ArcGis 10.1. Faculty has also comprehensive cooperation with external parties which offer their facilities for use like the USA Company TRIMBLE, UAB “Infoera”, UAB „Geo Systems Baltija” and UAB „Kordab”. UAB „Infoera” grants the right to use the software for computerized development of topographic drawings and maps, and files of cadastral measurement of land plots and buildings. UAB „Kordab” also gives permission to use devices for training practices. UAB „Geo Systems Baltija” and UAB “Infoera” carry out maintenance operations of the electronic geodesic equipment.

Teachers use system „Moodle” for distance education. As moodle system is just a tool for distance learning, the faculty shall elaborate the comprehensive distance learning system ensuring that:

- staff have proper skills to use distance learning techniques;
- system is well protected;
- system enables self-assessment for students;
- content of the system is updated regularly and consistent with planned learning outcomes.

All students have free access to the wireless network „Eduroam”. Internet is available in premises and in the library reading room (Central Building, room 209), internet reading room (Central Building, room 105) and in all hostel living rooms.

According to the self-evaluation report library has sufficient number of books, textbooks etc. Library provides access to electronic databases. Number of staff employed in library ensures proper availability of library for full time and part time students. Library is opened whole week except Sundays. Head of library informed visiting team that there are resources available for new purchases. Most of demands are covered by own finances. Books indicated in the particular subject syllabuses are available in the library. Additionally staff engaged in course developed own teaching materials as follow: 20 teaching guides, 3 textbooks and 17 guidelines. It secures majority of student’s needs, are adequate and accessible.

Teachers informed visiting team during meeting that they have rooms available where they can meet students, give consultations, prepare themselves for lessons. Not all of them possess portable computers. University owns dormitory. Students confirmed that there are places available there. They didn’t experience any problems to find a free place.

Infrastructure is prepared and accessible for disabled students.

## ***5. Study process and student assessment***

Admission requirements are shown in self-evaluation report. Requirements for admission are as follow:

- who have completed undergraduate university studies in the field of Land Use Planning or landscape management;

- who have completed undergraduate university studies in other fields of technology studies if the gross number of ECTS of the subjects in landscape management of the completed study programme or passed other exams is not less than 30 ECTS;
- who have completed undergraduate university studies in other fields of studies if the gross number of ECTS of the subjects in landscape management of the completed study programme or passed other exams is not less than 60 ECTS;
- who have completed higher non-university studies, has one year working experience and after finished additional studies according to Land Use Planning programme.

Admission requirements are objective except last bullet which is not quite clear. The minimum volume of additional studies should be indicated directly. Faculty provided additional comments to this fact. Faculty Council approved on 5 of June 2013 (minute no. 33) list of required study subjects (volume 54 ECTS) which should be completed upon assignment to the programme.

The way of calculation of competitive grades for admission is clear and publicly accessible. Discussion about limits (maximum number of students) for admission should be considered by Faculty. Ratio of applicant and admitted students has been increased from 1,05 to 1,68 in last five years. Faculty provides full and part time training. It was assessed during the visit that fulltime and part time students receive the same quality of training. Since the ratio of dropouts is relatively small – 95.5% of the admitted students successfully completed the studies, there is no need to analyse the reasons of student's dropouts.

Organisation of the study process is good enough to ensure proper delivery of the programme and the achievement of the learning outcomes. Faculty offers mobility programs for its students and teachers.

Information about study process is delivered to the students in comprehensive and various ways (participation of programme representatives in different events presenting the studies, university web page, faculty web page, smaller unit's web pages, written materials, news-board).

Students are encouraged to publish at least one article during studies. Faculty provides the possibility to publish them in its own academic book. Their engagement in researches should be more visible.

University provides scholarships for students. In SER (page 27, para. 98) short information about scholarships is given. Holders of scholarship continue to get the scholarship during their studies at foreign universities. Students asked about scholarships during meeting didn't complain. Students know also that they can have opportunity to take loans for studies. The academic and social support provided by Faculty is on good level.

Information connected with study process and Rector's orders and Dean's ordinances are put on the news-board.

Assessment system (timetables, exams, schedules, grades) is clear. Questioned students were aware about assessment criteria. They know where to find them (where are published) and confirmed that teachers inform them at the beginning of each subject. In the assessment system teachers and administration are engaged. Details of assessment are kept by Dean's office. Principles of assessment, scope etc. were developed according the Recommendations for the Improvement of the Assessment of the Study Progress issued by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania. They are shown in paragraphs 85-92 of self-evaluation report. The system of evaluation of students' performance is good and publicly available.

Study process is normalized as follow: the contact work accounts for 992 hours, i.e. 31% (including: lectures 624 hours (19.5 %), laboratory-based work, workshops and practicums 260 hours (8.1%), consultations and examinations 108 hours (3.4 %)) and independent work including all elective subject amounts to 2208 hours (69 %).

Number of students taking part in mobility programs is relatively small (1-2 persons a year). University provides mobility programs like Erasmus. At University carrier centre is functioning. It organises days of carrier.

University carries out researches on employment of graduates. Results are presented on University web page. Ratio of employed graduates is relatively high (about 80% are employed). It is not clear if they are employed in the field of study. During meeting with alumni visiting team was informed that some of them had to undertake additional courses after graduation in order to get the job. Awareness of lifelong training and ability to take such trainings is positive.

The students are offered opportunities to participate in art and sport activities. University possesses suitable sport infrastructure.

Study process is evaluated by Methodological Commission which evaluates the quality of the subject content and its realisation. Process is monitored by self-evaluation team consisting of the representatives of the Faculty institutes. Team and Dean's Office analyse students achievements, the content and quality of subjects, compliance of the programme with the regulation requirements and description of studies.

Faculty includes social partners for study process. According to information provided by Faculty: "Institute of land use planning and geomatics has official agreements about social partnership with National land service under the ministry of agriculture and public institution *Registru centras*. With other social partners Faculty cooperates more informally".

Meeting with employers confirmed that most of graduate students meet their expectations.

## **6. Programme management**

Documents that describe the responsibilities the implementations of questioned study programmes are as follow: ASU statute, The Code of Academic Ethics of Aleksandras Stulginskis University, Faculty of Water and Land Management Regulations and Description of the University Study Structure, Methods and Forms. They are properly allocating implementation of study programme and responsibilities for decisions.

Management consist of the Study Commission of the Council of the Faculty of Water and Land Management and the Committee of the Study Field of Land Use Planning (page 29, para. 110). The Committee consists of leading scientists in the programme field, employers and student representatives.

The assessment of the quality of the study programme is done by detailed procedure prescribed by quality assurance as defined in the Description of the ASU Internal Study Quality Assurance Policy.

All internal parties are effectively involved in management of study programme. Teachers are involved in management of study process by initiating inclusion of new subjects, changes in their volume, sequence of study subjects etc. Evidence of such activities was noted by the visiting team. External bodies like employers public or private and administration (national land service) are contacted by University. They are involved in management of study process. These contacts seem to be efficient.

In management of the programme essential role plays internal quality system which University possesses. Number of internal documents regulating the assurance of its running was shown in SER (page 30, para. 115). Data for improvement of management and implementation of the programme are collected annually. They consist of questionnaires and surveys among students (students confirmed they take part in questionnaires).

External evaluation of management of the study programme was carried out by SKVC in 2011. Grade for first criteria "program aims and learning outcomes" was given as satisfactory with remark: "because it is observed a demand of the programme in the labour market (big number of applicants, positive reviews of employers and graduates). The program aims to prepare Land Use Planning specialist who will be able to measure, evaluate, analyse land plots, form land plots and so on. It shows that the program focuses on practical activities rather than on research activities which should be typical for master programs. Coordinators of the programme do not present expected outcomes of study programme, so they can only be predicted by

analysing the structure and contents of study subjects and final thesis. Formulation of learning outcomes definitely should be improved not only to advance the study programme, but also to ensure its functioning. Clear identification of the learning outcomes could help to find adequate place for many study courses, delete some study courses and optimize the study programme.” The Reviewers carefully studied what kind of amendments has been introduced in last 2 years. Amendments were deep and comprehensive what confirms that management of the study programme is on good level. However evidence of steps undertaken should be well recorded for dissemination purposes.

According to the information in self-evaluation report and discussion of visiting team with all parties following could be noted:

- study quality was improved by: introducing new equipment, printing methodological materials, new books supplies, new books written by teachers, improved management, permanent monitoring of quality, organisation of conference, requirements for evaluation of final works have been changed,
- study programme aims and the description of the intended learning outcomes were corrected by: amendments in subjects, division of subjects in two groups, amendments in content of the subjects (according to teachers land law management),
- programme also anticipates applied/scientific research like: research in Land Use Planning, analysis of land use in region, researchers connected with thesis elaboration, evaluation of land consolidation, case studies. Visiting team is confident that direction of changes is positive, good examples are visible but this activity should be enhanced,
- together with students teachers conduct scientific research and write joint scientific papers, they are more actively engaged in the exchange programmes by methodological approach, compulsory publication of at least one article by students. Again this activity is to be enhanced,
- in order to improve quality of the final thesis teachers include more elements of scientific research. Visiting team was satisfied with quality of thesis revived and grades given,
- cooperation with students and manufacturers continues and is aimed to improve the study programme. Visiting team noted (basing on meeting with employers) visible cooperation with employers.

After study of self-evaluation report and completed study visit following remark could be established – programme management is on good level.

### III. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Researches in the study field should be enhanced, involving academic staff and students in the process.
2. Faculty should encourage setting up research teams.
3. Researches should have visible impact on programme aims and learning outcomes.
4. Result of researches should be disseminated among academic staff and students.
5. Improvements of study programme should be very well documented.
6. Mobility of teachers as well of students should be improved.
7. Workload of some teachers seems to be too high and should be reduced.
8. Faculty should evaluate and supervise the final state of the building renovation project and classroom and laboratory equipment.
9. Admission requirements should be reviewed to make them clear.

#### IV. SUMMARY

Aleksandras Stulginskis University was visited on 19 of November 2013. Final grades were given basing on review of self-evaluation report, meeting and discussions with: administration, authors of self-evaluation report, teachers, students, employers and graduates, and finally after visit of Faculty facilities and assessment of learning resources.

University offered comprehensive support for visiting team allowing finding real and objective ratings of its condition.

Programme is run by Faculty of Water and Land Management. General picture of the programme is positive. Faculty of Water and Land Management elaborated clear mission and vision. Land Use Planning programme is needed for at least regional and national market.

Programme aims are clear. Since previous evaluation of the programme, some of the aspects have been improved. However evidence of any improvements with justification of decision undertaken should be documented in details. Quality of learning outcomes could be still improved. Learning outcomes should be strengthened by visible impact of research's results. Especially researchers should be encouraged to involve students in researches and use those results. Because the "Land Use Planning" curriculum of Master of Science composed to train Land Use Planning Master of Science specialists who are able **to pursue scientific and applied research** and solve problems.

Study programme meets formal requirements. Subjects are not repetitive. Distribution of workload between semesters is correct. The sequences of the subjects are appropriate. Learning methods used for delivery the programme are appropriate. They secure the achievements of the intended learning outcomes. Number of teachers is sufficient to run the study programme. Distribution of qualifications and assignment to particular subjects to them are correct. Staff meets formal requirements. Academic teachers published scientific publications. Number of publication differs between teachers. Statistically it is one publication per teacher per year. This average number seems to be to less to provide visible impact on programme aims and learning outcomes.

The infrastructure is at present undergoing renovation and the final state of this work and any new equipment should be closely supervised. The software equipment are adequate both in size and quality for the implementation of the programme. The teaching materials are adequate and e-learning platform is used in the learning process. The library offers different types of publications and various foreign databases.

Organisation of the study process ensures proper delivery of the programme and the achievement of the learning outcomes. Ratio of dropouts is relatively small – almost 95.5% of the admitted students have successfully completed the studies so far. Admission requirements are objective and clear except one point where the minimum volume of additional studies is required. This volume should be indicated directly. Faculty offers mobility programs for its students and teachers. Despite this opportunity the numbers of students and teachers mobility is quite low. Information about study process is delivered to the students in comprehensive and various ways.

University implemented quality system. The assessment of the quality of the study programme is perform by defined in the Description of the ASU Internal Study Quality Assurance Policy. All internal stakeholders are involved in management of study programme. Teachers are involved in management of study process by initiating inclusion of new subjects, changes in their volume, sequence of study subjects. External bodies like employers public or private and administration are contacted by Faculty. Their impact is visible in the programme management. Data for improvement of management and implementation of the programme are collected annually. Management of the programme is good.

The faculty has introduced amendments according to remarks obtained from assessment in 2011. The trend of these amendments is positive and the first results are visible, for example: improved quality system, motivated staff, improved curriculum, involvement of students and social partners in daily activity, improved quality of thesis. However current recommendations should help to achieve expected level of study programme.

## V. GENERAL ASSESSMENT

The study programme *Land Use Planning* (state code – 621H91001) at Aleksandras Stulginskis 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	2
2.	Curriculum design	3
3.	Staff	3
4.	Material resources	3
5.	Study process and assessment (student admission, study process student support, achievement assessment)	3
6.	Programme management (programme administration, internal quality assurance)	3
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>17</b>

\*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. Bernd Teichert

Grupės nariai:  
Team members:

Prof. dr. Mercedes Farjas

Prof. Janusz Uriasz

Dr. Saulius Urbanas

Gražvydas Jakaitis

## Santraukos vertimas iš anglų kalbos

<...>

### V. APIBENDRINAMASIS ĮVERTINIMAS

Aleksandro Stulginskio universiteto studijų programa *Žemėtvarka* (valstybinis kodas – 621H91001) vertinama **teigiamai**.

Eil. Nr.	Vertinimo sritis	Srities įvertinimas, balais*
1.	Programos tikslai ir numatomi studijų rezultatai	2
2.	Programos sandara	3
3.	Personalas	3
4.	Materialieji ištekliai	3
5.	Studijų eiga ir jos vertinimas	3
6.	Programos vadyba	3
	<b>Iš viso:</b>	<b>17</b>

\* 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

Aleksandro Stulginskio universitete ekspertų grupė lankėsi 2013 m. lapkričio 19 d. Galutinis įvertinimas atliktas remiantis savianalizės suvestine, susitikimais ir diskusijomis su administracijos atstovais, savianalizės suvestinės autoriais, dėstytojais, studentais, darbdaviais ir absolventais ir, galiausiai, apsilankius Fakulteto patalpose ir įvertinus metodinius išteklius.

Universitetas apsilankiusiems ekspertams pasiūlė visapusišką pagalbą, kuri leido susipažinti su realia jo būkle ir atlikti objektyvų įvertinimą.

Programą vykdo Vandens ūkio ir žemėtvarkos fakultetas. Bendras programos vaizdas yra vertinamas teigiamai. Vandens ūkio ir žemėtvarkos fakultetas parengė aiškią misiją ir viziją. Žemėtvarkos studijų programa yra reikalinga bent jau regioninėje ir šalies rinkose.

Programos tikslai aiškūs. Nuo ankstesnio programos vertinimo kai kurie aspektai buvo patobulinti. Tačiau tokie patobulinimai turėtų būti išsamiai įforminti raštu, kartu aprašant tokio sprendimo pagrindimą. Studijų rezultatų kokybė dar gali būti gerinama. Programos tikslai ir studijų rezultatai turėtų būti stiprinami nurodant akivaizdų mokslinių tyrimų rezultatų poveikį. Tyrėjai turėtų būti ypač skatinami įtraukti studentus į tyrimus ir užtikrinti rezultatų naudojimą. Žemėtvarkos magistro laipsnio programa sudaryta rengti žemėtvarkos studijų magistro specialistus, kurie galėtų vykdyti mokslinius ir taikomuosius mokslinius tyrimus bei spręsti problemas šioje srityje.

Studijų programa atitinka formaliuosius reikalavimus. Dalykai nesikartoja. Darbo krūvio paskirstymas semestruose yra teisingas. Dalykų seka tinkama. Naudojami programos dėstymo metodai tinkami. Jie užtikrina numatomų studijų rezultatų pasiekimą. Dėstytojų skaičius pakankamas studijų programos dėstymui garantuoti. Kvalifikacijų pasiskirstymas ir jų priskyrimas konkretiems dalykams teisingas. Darbuotojai atitinka formaliuosius reikalavimus. Akademinis personalas skelbia mokslines publikacijas. Skirtingų dėstytojų publikacijų skaičius

skiriasi. Statistiškai skaičiuojama, kad vienas dėstytojas paskelbia po vieną publikaciją per metus. Šis vidurkis atrodo yra per mažas, kad būtų užtikrintas akivaizdus poveikis programos tikslams ir studijų rezultatams.

Infrastruktūra šiuo metu renovuojama ir reikėtų labai atidžiai kontroliuoti ir įvertinti galutinį darbo rezultatą ir naują įrangą. Programinė įranga tinkama savo apimtimi ir kokybe šiai programai įgyvendinti. Tinkama studijų medžiaga, studijų procese naudojama e. mokymosi aplinka. Biblioteka siūlo įvairių leidinių ir užsienio duomenų bazių.

Studijų proceso organizavimas užtikrina tinkamą programos vykdymą ir studijų rezultatų pasiekimą. Iškritusių studentų skaičius yra palyginti mažas ir beveik 95,5 proc. visų priimtų studentų sėkmingai iki šiol baigė studijas. Priėmimo sąlygos ir reikalavimai objektyvūs ir skaidrūs, išskyrus vieną punktą, kuris reikalauja minimalaus papildomų studijų skaičiaus. Ši apimtis turėtų būti nurodoma tiesiogiai. Fakultetas savo studentams ir dėstytojams siūlo judumo programas. Nepaisant šios galimybės, studentų ir dėstytojų mobilumo skaičiai yra gana žemi. Informacija apie studijų procesą studentams pateikiama išsamiai ir įvairiais būdais.

Universitetas yra įdiegęs kokybės sistemą. Studijų programos kokybės vertinimas atliekamas vadovaujantis ASU Veiklos valdymo kokybės vidinio užtikrinimo politikos aprašu. Visi vidaus suinteresuotieji asmenys dalyvauja studijų programos vadybos procese. Dėstytojai dalyvauja studijų valdymo procese inicijuodami naujų dalykų įtraukimą, keisdami jų apimtį ir studijų dalykų dėstytojų seką. Su išorės asmenimis, pavyzdžiui, viešojo ir privataus sektoriaus darbdaviais ir administracija, susisiekiama pats fakultetas. Akivaizdi jų įtaka programos valdymui. Duomenys apie programos valdymo tobulinimą ir įgyvendinimą renkami kasmet. Gera programos vadyba.

Fakultetas įgyvendino pakeitimus atsižvelgęs į pastabas, kurios buvo pateiktos per 2011 m. atliktą vertinimą. Šių pakeitimų tendencija teigiama ir pirmieji rezultatai yra akivaizdūs, pavyzdžiui, patobulinta kokybės sistema, motyvuoti darbuotojai, pagerėjo programos turinys, studentų ir socialinių partnerių dalyvavimas kasdienėje veikloje, pagerėjo baigiamųjų darbų kokybė. Tačiau šios rekomendacijos turėtų padėti pasiekti numatomą studijų programos lygmenį.

### III. REKOMENDACIJOS

1. Reikėtų stiprinti mokslinius tyrimus šioje studijų kryptyje, įskaitant akademinio personalo ir studentų įtraukimą į šį procesą.
2. Fakultetas turėtų skatinti mokslinių tyrimų grupių steigimą.
3. Tyrimai turėtų atspindėti akivaizdžią įtaką programos tikslams ir studijų rezultatams.
4. Dėstytojai ir studentai turėtų būti supažindinami su tyrimų rezultatais.
5. Studijų programos patobulinimui turėtų būti nuosekliai aprašyti dokumentuose.
6. Turėtų būti skatinamas dėstytojų ir studentų judumas.
7. Kai kurių dėstytojų darbo krūvis atrodo per didelis ir turėtų būti sumažintas.
8. Fakultetas turėtų įvertinti ir prižiūrėti pastato renovacijos projekto, o taip pat auditorijų ir laboratorijos įrengimo galutinį rezultatą.
9. Turėtų būti peržiūrėtos priėmimo sąlygos ir reikalavimai bei garantuotas šios informacijos aiškumas.

<...>