



CENTRE FOR QUALITY ASSESSMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION

EVALUATION REPORT

STUDY FIELD of MEASUREMENT ENGINEERING at

Klaipėdos valstybinė kolegija

Expert panel:

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Study Field Data

Title of the study programme	<i>Digital Geodesy</i>
State code	6531EX011
Type of studies	Higher education college studies
Cycle of studies	Bachelor's Degree (1 st cycle)
Mode of study and duration (in years)	Full-time 3 years
Credit volume	180
Qualification degree and (or) professional qualification	Bachelor of Engineering Sciences
Language of instruction	Lithuanian
Minimum education required	Secondary education
Registration date of the study programme	2003-06-06

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I. INTRODUCTION

1.1. BACKGROUND OF THE EVALUATION PROCESS

The evaluations of study fields in Lithuanian Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are based on the Procedure for the External Evaluation and Accreditation of Studies, Evaluation Areas and Indicators, approved by the Minister of Education, Science and Sport on 17 July 2019, Order No. V-835, and are carried out according to the procedure outlined in the Methodology of External Evaluation of Study Fields approved by the Director of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (hereafter – SKVC) on 31 December 2019, Order [No. V-149](#).

The evaluation is intended to help higher education institutions to constantly improve their study process 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 (SER) prepared by HEI; 2) site visit of the expert panel to the HEI; 3) production of the external evaluation report (EER) by the expert panel and its publication; 4) follow-up activities.*

On the basis of this external evaluation report of the study field SKVC takes a decision to accredit study field either for 7 years or for 3 years. If the field evaluation is negative then the study field is not accredited.

The study field and cycle are **accredited for 7 years** if all evaluation areas are evaluated as exceptional (5 points), very good (4 points) or good (3 points).

The study field and cycle are **accredited for 3 years** if one of the evaluation areas is evaluated as satisfactory (2 points).

The study field and cycle are **not accredited** if at least one of evaluation areas is evaluated as unsatisfactory (1 point).

1.2. EXPERT PANEL

The expert panel was assigned according to the Experts Selection Procedure as approved by the Director of SKVC on 31 December 2019, [Order No. V-149](#). The site visit to the HEI was conducted by the expert panel on *1st December, 2022*.

Prof. dr Krzysztof Czaplewski (panel chairperson) *Professor of Gdynia Maritime University, Poland*

Assoc. Prof. dr Peregrina Eloina Coll Aliaga, *Associate Professor in the València University of Technology, Spain*

Mr Audrius Petkevičius, *Head of Real Estate practice, Ellex Valiunas, Lithuania*

Ms Miglė Gervytė, *BSc graduate in Genetics, Vilnius University, Master's degree student, Vilnius University*

1.3. GENERAL INFORMATION

The documentation submitted by the HEI follows the outline recommended by SKVC.

1.4. BACKGROUND OF MEASUREMENT ENGINEERING OF FIELD STUDIES AT KLAIPĖDOS VALSTYBINĖ KOLEGIJA

Klaipėdos valstybinė kolegija (hereinafter – KVK) is a state college offering education in the areas: business management, educational sciences, computer science, engineering sciences, technical sciences, health sciences, and social sciences. The college offers 25 study programs in 21 fields of study. KVK has two governing bodies: the KVK Council and the Academic Council. The KVK Council is the collegiate governing body of the college. The council is responsible for defining: the vision and strategy of the college. In addition, it is responsible for the college's financial management and personnel policy. The Academic Council is the collegial academic governing body of the KVK. The Council is responsible, among others, for: the implementation of the didactic process, the implementation of scientific and research works and the college quality system. The college is headed by the Director and three deputies. The director and his deputies are appointed by the KVK Council. There are three faculties at the college. The assessed field of study is implemented at the Faculty of Technology.

Measurement engineering is one of the most important areas of human activity in Lithuania. The regaining of independence by Lithuania, together with the rapid development of technology,

resulted in the need for highly qualified engineers who would meet the requirements of the transformation of the Country. Therefore, the college implements numerous national and international research projects supporting the didactic process and meeting the requirements of the labour market. Well-educated engineers quickly find their jobs and the acquired knowledge allows them to easily adapt to the needs of the country using the latest measurement technologies.

The study programme Digital Geodesy (hereinafter – DG) has been taught at the College since 2003. The external evaluation of the Study Program was conducted in 2016 year. Due to the change in the names of the fields of study introduced in Lithuania, the field of study Measurement Engineering has not yet been assessed.

II. GENERAL ASSESSMENT

Measurement Engineering study field and *first cycle* at Klaipėdos valstybinė kolegija is given **positive** evaluation.

Study field and cycle assessment in points by evaluation areas

No.	Evaluation Area	Evaluation of an Area in points*
1.	Intended and achieved learning outcomes and curriculum	4
2.	Links between science (art) and studies	3
3.	Student admission and support	4
4.	Teaching and learning, student performance and graduate employment	3
5.	Teaching staff	4
6.	Learning facilities and resources	4
7.	Study quality management and public information	5
	Total:	27

*1 (unsatisfactory) - the area does not meet the minimum requirements, there are fundamental shortcomings that prevent the implementation of the field studies.

2 (satisfactory) - the area meets the minimum requirements, and there are fundamental shortcomings that need to be eliminated.

3 (good) - the area is being developed systematically, without any fundamental shortcomings.

4 (very good) - the area is evaluated very well in the national context and internationally, without any shortcomings.

5 (excellent) - the area is evaluated exceptionally well in the national context and internationally.

III. STUDY FIELD ANALYSIS

3.1. INTENDED AND ACHIEVED LEARNING OUTCOMES AND CURRICULUM

Study aims, outcomes and content shall be assessed in accordance with the following indicators:

3.1.1. Evaluation of the conformity of the aims and outcomes of the field and cycle study programmes to the needs of the society and/or the labour market (not applicable to HEIs operating in exile conditions)

(1) Factual situation

According to the information provided by the SER, the Lithuanian progress strategy “Lithuania 2030”, the expansion concept of the Lithuanian cluster⁵ have been considered and the trends Industry 4.0 have been considered to evaluate the conformity of the aims an outcome of the DG study programme.

The expected results of the DG study program are formulated considering the requirements of college programs at the professional bachelor's level. Following the ideas of the State Progress Strategy developed 'Lithuania 2050'.

These are based on the priorities of smart specialisations Energy and Sustainable Environment and Inclusive and Creative Society of the Government Strategic Analysis Centre (STRATA), expert institution that provides the Government and ministries with independent research-based information.

With the different subjects, the graduates acquire relevant skills for the labour market and these subjects taught respond to the objective of preparing highly qualified and competent specialists with a college education for the solution of tasks related to the application of engineering geodesy, cartography, real estate cadastre, registration, spatial planning and geoinformation systems.

According to the SER, the objective and the results of the review of the DG study program correspond to the needs of the labour market. The analysis of the opinions of employers operating in Western Lithuania on the preparation of KVK graduates for the labour market in

2020-2021, revealed that approximately 84.4-93.4% of them positively assess compliance of the skills of DG specialists with the needs of the labour market. In addition, surveys show that more than 90% of DG specialists working in various companies or organizations providing geodetic services and real estate cadastral data determination services, positively evaluated the relevance of all the results indicated in the study program for the market labour.

The graduate of this study acquired the ability to work in the following areas: perform cadastral detection of structures and land, prepare topographic and geodetic plans, organize and perform detection with modern geodetic devices, GPNS equipment, use stationary 3D scanners, and unmanned aerial vehicles and GIS technologies.

(2) Expert judgement/indicator analysis

During the visit and the meetings with alumni, employers and social agents, it was confirmed that the aims and outcomes of the study programs are in line with the needs of society and the labour market.

3.1.2. Evaluation of the conformity of the field and cycle study programme aims and outcomes with the mission, objectives of activities and strategy of the HEI

(1) Factual situation

According to the information provided by the SER, aims and study outcomes of the DG study program are in line with the KVK's mission stipulated in the Strategic Activity Plan of KVK for 2022-2024.

(2) Expert judgement/indicator analysis

Aims and outcomes of field study programmes are perfectly in line with the mission, objectives of activities and strategy of the KVK.

3.1.3. Evaluation of the compliance of the field and cycle study programme with legal requirements

(1) Factual situation

The scope of the DG study program is 180 credits. The scope of semester studies in full-time studies is 30 credits.

The study plan and the content of the DG program were last updated in 2019. Following the recommendations of international evaluation experts from 2016. The drafting process of the project Creation of Joint Education in GIS to Increase Opportunities was started. Labour in the Region (GISEDU) was initiated by the Interreg V-A Latvia and Lithuania cross-border cooperation program and received funding in 2017.

As of 2018, the adequacy of time spent studying course units at KVK is assessed by conducting a student feedback survey after study of each course unit. The teaching staff, once the results of the feedback have been reviewed, adjust not only the contents and methods used, but also the distribution of hours for the study of the course unit. The improvement plan of the course unit is evaluated by the Study Program Committee and the Department.

Table No. 1 DG Study programme compliance to general requirements for first cycle study programmes of College level (professional bachelor)

Criteria	General* legal requirements	In the Programmes
<i>Scope of the programme in ECTS</i>	<i>180, 210 or 240 ECTS</i>	<i>180 ECTS</i>
<i>ECTS for the study field</i>	<i>No less than 120 ECTS</i>	<i>133 ECTS</i>
<i>ECTS for studies specified by College or optional studies</i>	<i>No more than 120 ECTS</i>	<i>16 ECTS</i>
<i>ECTS for internship</i>	<i>No less than 30 ECTS</i>	<i>35 ECTS</i>
<i>ECTS for final thesis (project)</i>	<i>No less than 9 ECTS</i>	<i>12 ECTS</i>
<i>Practical training and other practice placements</i>	<i>No less than one third of the programme</i>	<i>52%</i>
<i>Contact hours</i>	<i>No less than 20 % of learning</i>	<i>48%</i>

During the period 2019-2021, the study program was reviewed and improved twice: in 2019, the results of the study of the program were adjusted and the descriptions of the course units were updated and in 2020: new course units were added, topics and lists of information sources were updated.

Table 1.2 of the SER is shown to present the compliance of the study results of the DG study program with the study results of the first study cycle.

(2) Expert judgement/indicator analysis

The cycle study program is well balanced and covers the most important areas of the field and the credits and their respective distribution is fully in accordance with the regulations. The study subjects comprise courses distributed continuously and logically during semesters. The content of the subjects seems to be consistent with the type and level of the studies.

3.1.4. Evaluation of compatibility of aims, learning outcomes, teaching/learning and assessment methods of the field and cycle study programmes

(1) Factual situation

The results of the DG study program are achieved by studying general course units, field study course units, and undertaking professional placements (internships). These links are presented in the SER in the Table 1.3.

The descriptions of the course units include teaching-learning methods applied during the studies, e. g. lectures, discussions, seminars are held. The evaluation methods used are: presentation of the project methodology, presentation of the evaluation of engineering decisions, presentation and defence of the results of the project, evaluation and presentation of the presentations, reports of practical activities and case studies, as well as exams.

There is an e-learning environment installed that helps the student through links to self-study using practical examples, as well as the possibility of self-assessing their achievements. The completeness and compatibility of the topics of the taught course units with the results of the study are evaluated by the Study Program Committee.

The study results, study methods and evaluation methods are compatible with each other. Examples are presented in the SER clarifying these compatibilities.

(2) Expert judgement/indicator analysis

The meetings at the college confirmed that students are pleased with the teaching staff, learning outcomes and teaching/learning and assessment methods. Alumni also confirmed this.

3.1.5. Evaluation of the totality of the field and cycle study programme subjects/modules, which ensures consistent development of competences of students

(1) Factual situation

The number of hours dedicated to practical classes increases steadily in the second and third year of studies. Units of the field study course are studied from the beginning and throughout the study period. The scope of practical training is constantly increasing with each year of study, which allows for the systematic development of students' practical skills. All course units are interconnected by reflection on practice and theory.

(2) Expert judgement/indicator analysis

In the meetings with the teaching staff and with the students, it is confirmed that there are no overlaps between the subjects and that there is good coordination between the teaching staff to ensure that the students acquire the competencies.

3.1.6. Evaluation of opportunities for students to personalise the structure of field study programmes according to their personal learning objectives and intended learning outcomes

(1) Factual situation

There are two specialties: Applied Geodesy and Geoinformation Systems with 3 subjects that appear in annex with 6, 6 and 5 credits, respectively, however in the SER they indicate that 6 credits are assigned for each specialty (2 units of 3 credits each). There are 14 practices for each specialty.

(2) Expert judgement/indicator analysis

In the meetings with the students, it is confirmed that they can choose several elective subjects to personalise their study program.

3.1.7. Evaluation of compliance of final theses with the field and cycle requirements

(1) Factual situation

The thesis has 12 credits. To defend the final thesis, you must have passed all the credits of the study program. In order to achieve the quality of the final degree project, reviews are carried out in the department. There is a commission that accepts suitability for public defence. The topics

are coordinated with the companies when the students are doing the practices. All the topics of the postgraduate work are related to the field of studies of Measurement Engineering.

(2) Expert judgement/indicator analysis

Topics of the final theses are directly related to the place of the final internship and the outcomes of the study program. During the interviews, the students expressed their satisfaction with the theses and with the teaching staff.

Strengths and weaknesses of this evaluation area:

(1) Strengths:

1. The aims, learning outcomes and content of courses are regularly reviewed. The content is based on new technologies and the needs of the labour market.
2. Realistic final thesis with the participation of stakeholders.

3.2. LINKS BETWEEN SCIENCE (ART) AND STUDIES

Links between science (art) and study activities shall be assessed in accordance with the following indicators:

3.2.1. Evaluation of the sufficiency of the science (applied science, art) activities implemented by the HEI for the field of research (art) related to the field of study

(1) Factual situation

According to the SER, the College carries out a whole range of scientific and research and applied works in line with the college's strategy. Academic Staff conducts research in accordance with college priorities in the field of sustainable environment, information technology, inclusive and creative society. Most research related to the assessed field of study is conducted in the field of remote sensing, GIS and the study of object deformation. The college conducts research together with Lithuanian and foreign partners. In the last three years, research projects have been carried out together with partners from Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Spain and Latvia. Information on the subject of research work is presented in the SER. The results of the conducted research are disseminated in articles and conference papers.

(2) Expert judgement/indicator analysis

The scope of the research is conditioned by the available funds. The college tries to optimize expenditures on science in such a way as to maximize the effects of research. The conducted research helps the teaching staff in improving their professional qualifications and in obtaining academic degrees. Research is related to the field of study and is an important factor activating students.

3.2.2. Evaluation of the link between the content of studies and the latest developments in science, art and technology

(1) Factual situation

The expert panel confirmed the information contained in the SER during a visit to the college. The college showed the results of its research work. During meetings with students and Academic Staff, it was confirmed that the conducted research has a direct impact on the practical training of students. In addition, the results of research work are an important source of knowledge during preparing diploma theses. The scope of cooperation with external partners was confirmed during a meeting attended by representatives of Lithuanian companies. Plans for acquiring research works and plans for improving the qualifications of academic teachers were also presented.

(2) Expert judgement/indicator analysis

The expert panel noted that too many publications are presented at conferences and seminars. This method of presentation limits the range of promotion of conducted research and the number of recipients. The publishing activity in recognized scientific journals indexed on WoS and Scopus should be increased. In addition, little research activity in the area of lower geodesy (engineering geodesy, cadastre) was noticed. During the meeting with teachers and students, international cooperation, and students' involvement in the implementation of international projects were confirmed. The use of new technologies (e. g. Lidar, UAV) in research works confirms the link between the content of subjects during studies and the latest achievements, but one should not forget about the basic works in engineering geodesy.

3.2.3. Evaluation of conditions for students to get involved in scientific (applied science, art) activities consistent with their study cycle

(1) Factual situation

The SER informs that students are involved in the implementation of applied research by participating in professional practices, laboratory classes as well as research projects. Almost all diploma theses present solutions to real research problems or present solutions obtained during the implementation of research projects. In 2019-2021, an average of 25% of students in the evaluated field of study were authors or co-authors of articles and scientific papers. The specific number of students who participated in the research work was not specified.

(2) Expert judgement/indicator analysis

During the meeting with the students, the expert panel learned that many students were involved in short-term ERASMUS projects. At that time, they took part in the practical implementation of research projects. In addition, students actively participate in student conferences during which they present their practical achievements.

Strengths and weaknesses of this evaluation area:

(1) Strengths:

1. Carrying out research projects with the use of new technologies.

(2) Weaknesses:

1. Too small a number of publications in recognized scientific journals indexed in WoS and Scopus.

3.3. STUDENT ADMISSION AND SUPPORT

Student admission and support shall be evaluated according to the following indicators:

3.3.1. Evaluation of the suitability and publicity of student selection and admission criteria and process

(1) Factual situation

KVK has one *first cycle* study programme (*Digital Geodesy*) in Measurement Engineering field. Rules for admission and competitive admission score calculations are described in the rules for admitting KVK students. Admission is organized regarding requirements and regulations of Ministry of Education, Sciences and Sports, and the rules for admission of students approved by the order of the KVK Director which can be found on the KVK website.

According to SER and on-site visit, 0, 16 (5 SF study places and 11 NSF) and 9 (2 SF and 7 NSF) students have been admitted in 2019-2021 respectively. During 2020-2021 average competitive score was accordingly 3.98 and 5.16. In order to attract more students KVK gives lessons in high schools in Western Lithuania, organizes open days and popularization events.

(2) Expert judgement/indicator analysis

Even though number of admitted students is not large, after 2019 enough students were admitted for group to be formed showing that measurements taken to inform pupils about this study field is working. Since KVK is the only higher education institution that has Measurement Engineering field study program in this region of Lithuania, KVK should keep informing high school pupils of DG study program to increase their interest. In the SER it was claimed that in 2022 this study program was announced in English in order to attract students from Ukraine. Even though no student were admitted to DG program in English in 2022, attracting students from abroad is assessed positively.

During on-site visit it was claimed that some people were interested in DG program in English, therefore it could be continued in the future in order to attract more students.

3.3.2. Evaluation of the procedure of recognition of foreign qualifications, partial studies and prior non-formal and informal learning and its application

(1) Factual situation

The information about process for recognition of foreign qualifications, partial studies and non-formal and informal learning is provided in the “Study Outcome Accreditation Procedure of KVK” and in “KVK Procedure for Assessment and Recognition of Non-Formal and Informal Learning and Self-Study Achievements”. During 2019-2021 2 students got their Non-Formal and Informal Learning achievements recognised and in 2019-2021 6, 4 and 9 accreditation cards were prepared with 617 recognized credits with 53 of them being Erasmus+ credits.

(2) Expert judgement/indicator analysis

KVK has procedures that are described and published in KVK website. Since there were students in 2019-2021 who had both their Non-Formal and Study Outcomes achievements recognised, it can be claimed that students of KVK are informed and tend to get their previous experiences can be assessed.

3.3.3. Evaluation of conditions for ensuring academic mobility of students

(1) Factual information

The DG study programme students can choose from 13 Erasmus+ partner institution for partial studies. KVK students are provided with information about mobility opportunities by the International Relations Department, group curators, Faculty of Technologies administration and during meetings with students to introduce them with mobility opportunities that are organized twice a year. KVK students also have opportunity to participate in intensive training programmes in Latvia, Austria, Poland and Spain. During 2019-2021 respectively 3, 5 and 12 students have used academic mobility opportunities for internship or partial studies and also 21 students have gone abroad for short intensive trainings.

(2) Expert judgement/indicator analysis

Students of DG program tend to use academic mobility opportunities, especially short intensive training programs. It is commendable that KVK can offer this opportunity for those students that have personal reasons for not being able to leave for more than a few weeks. Furthermore, during study years DG study program students can learn from teachers from abroad which is great especially for those students who are unavailable to leave Lithuania even for a short time. On the other hand, using academic mobility for longer period of time gives students way broader experience therefore KVK should be paying more attention to encourage DG students to use this opportunity.

3.3.4. Assessment of the suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the academic, financial, social, psychological and personal support provided to the students of the field

(1) Factual situation

Information about academic, financial, social, psychological and personal support can be found on KVK website. A wide spectrum of scholarships is available for the KVK students according to Lithuanian laws and include incentives, targeted support for disabled people, and one-time scholarship to support research, sports, social and cultural activities, promotion of KVK's name. KVK Faculty of Technologies has psychologist who provides consultations once a week, by prior registration. Academic support also includes counselling students on study-related issues and is

provided by the Dean's Office, the Department, the Centre for Studies and Careers and teaching staff that consults students according to prepared schedule.

KVK students can receive necessary information and support from KVK Student Representative Body (SRB) which organizes cultural and entertainment events and provides information about ongoing social campaigns, projects, lectures, visits of social partners.

(2) Expert judgement/indicator analysis

The panel judges that students' academic, financial, social support is adequate and suitable. During on-site visit students claimed that they know what academic, financial and social help they can receive and that information can be easily found which was seen as a really positive thing.

3.3.5 Evaluation of the sufficiency of study information and student counselling

(1) Factual situation

Student counselling starts from the first days at KVK during an adaptation programme for first-year students. In the first week of studies introductory lectures are given by the Vice Dean, Head of the Department, library staff. Also, students have group curators who can help students solve their problems related to their studies during all study period. Students can evaluate effectiveness of the adaptation programme at the end of the first semester by filling a conducted survey.

Students are involved in study process through Student Representative Body, filling surveys after every semester and by directly communicating with teaching staff. Student representatives are included in the Study Programme Committee, KVK Academic Council and the Council. Also, Student Representative Body regularly conducts meetings with students where issues can be discussed and the results would be talked over with responsible administrative staff.

(2) Expert judgement/indicator analysis

During on-site visit students expressed that counselling is sufficient and there is no deficiency of study information dissemination. Students also expressed that they are grateful for teachers who tend to always give needed help and answer their questions effectively. During site visit student

assured that their opinion is heard and comments given to teachers or administration give results (for example, time of lectures were changed so it would be more convenient for students).

Strengths and weaknesses of this evaluation area:

(1) Strengths:

1. High feedback culture and decision-making based discussion with students.
2. Academic mobility opportunities for students that cannot go abroad for a longer period of time.
3. Effective and continuous communication between teaching staff and students.

(2) Weaknesses:

1. Small number of students using academic mobility opportunities for a whole.

3.4. TEACHING AND LEARNING, STUDENT PERFORMANCE AND GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT

Studying, student performance and graduate employment shall be evaluated according to the following indicators:

3.4.1. Evaluation of the teaching and learning process that enables to take into account the needs of the students and enable them to achieve the intended learning outcomes

(1) Factual situation

The links between the study aims, study outcomes, teaching (learning) and assessment methods of the DG study program are implemented. Teaching (learning) methods focused on the development of general and special competences and the development of creativity encouraging students to be active participants in the study process are applied in the study process. Studies adopted to individual needs, about 52 percent of scope is individual work.

Students' satisfaction is regularly measured during electronical questionnaire every semester. Results submitted to administration and teachers for improvements.

(2) Expert judgement/indicator analysis

Teaching and learning process well organized. Social partners have very little participation in the study process.

3.4.2. Evaluation of conditions ensuring access to study for socially vulnerable groups and students with special needs

(1) Factual situation

Study process is adapted for socially vulnerable groups of students and students with special needs. There are some students with special needs.

(2) Expert judgement/indicator analysis

KVK is in line with minimum for students from socially vulnerable groups and students with special needs.

3.4.3. Evaluation of the systematic nature of the monitoring of student study progress and feedback to students to promote self-assessment and subsequent planning of study progress

(1) Factual situation

Monitoring of the study progress of the Measurement Engineering students is systematically carried out at the individual, ECE Department, and Faculty levels. Students are also encouraged to be responsible for monitoring their own progress and being proactive in obtaining study-related assistance. System implemented in place. KVK uses the Study Management System (EDINA), where students can review their semester interim and final assessments, and the teaching staff can provide individual comments to the student (e.g., strengths and weaknesses of the individual assignment). KVK also uses other IT programs to provide students with feedback: Moodle, Microsoft Teams, etc.

(2) Expert judgement/indicator analysis

Monitoring system implemented and work on regular base. Students and teachers use it regularly.

3.4.4. Evaluation of employability of graduates and graduate career tracking in the study field

(1) Factual situation

Monitoring of KVK graduates' careers is a purposefully organized continuous process of collecting and analysing data on graduates' careers. Graduates of the DG study program who participated in the study were satisfied with their studies (87%) and expressed that the teaching quality was of a high level, while knowledge and skills (competences) achieved during studies are in great request.

(2) Expert judgement/indicator analysis

Monitoring of careers of graduates is implemented but contact with social partners is very formal. Contact with social partners must be more detail and regular with more social partners.

3.4.5. Evaluation of the implementation of policies to ensure academic integrity, tolerance and non-discrimination

(1) Factual situation

KVK Code of Academic Ethics sets values and ethical norms for the activities and behaviour of members of the academic community. Each student who is admitted to KVK signs a study agreement and a Declaration of Integrity of a Student.

No cases of violation of the principles of academic integrity, tolerance, and non-discrimination were recorded during the analysed period.

3.4.6. Evaluation of the effectiveness of the application of procedures for the submission and examination of appeals and complaints regarding the study process within the field studies

(1) Factual situation

A KVK student has the right to submit appeals to the Dean no later than within five calendar days from the date of publication of the examination assessment regarding: the assessment of study outcomes achieved during the semester; the violations of the procedure applicable to the assessment of course unit study outcomes achieved during the semester; satisfactory and unsatisfactory final assessment of the study outcomes of the studied course unit. In the period 2019-2021, no complaints were received regarding the DG study process.

Strengths and weaknesses of this evaluation area:

(1) Strengths:

1. Strong institutional organization.

(2) Weaknesses:

1. Small numbers of students and weak cooperation with market/social partners.

3.5. TEACHING STAFF

Study field teaching staff shall be evaluated in accordance with the following indicators:

3.5.1. Evaluation of the adequacy of the number, qualification and competence (scientific, didactic, professional) of teaching staff within a field study programme(s) at the HEI in order to achieve the learning outcomes

(1) Factual situation

As can be seen in the SER, the admission of teaching staff is carried out in accordance with the planned internal procedures of KVK and the documents regulating the staff admission process: The Labour Code of the Republic of Lithuania, the Statute of the University, The Description of the Qualification Requirements for the Positions of Teaching Staff of Klaipeda State University of Applied Sciences. The 2019-2021 courses were taught by 15 teachers. More than 85% are lecturers and the other 15% associate professors. More than 70% have work experience from 3 to 40 years. Annex 3 shows detailed information on teaching staff. Each lecturer at most teaches from 2 to 5 subjects and a maximum of 3 of them share a subject. There is coordination between them so as not to repeat the contents and they strive for students to improve their soft skills. One lecturer supervises the final theses of no more than eight students. As additional consultants are appointed for the parts of theoretical analysis and literature review, as well as for the project preparation and conduction of the research of the final thesis.

(2) Expert judgement/indicator analysis.

The teaching staff of the program meets the legal requirements and has the appropriate qualifications. All teachers in the study program have at least 3 years of practical professional experience in the field of the subject taught. During the interview with the students the image of a qualified and dedicated teaching staff was confirmed. The students find in them a great support and are satisfied with them. There is strong personal contact between teaching staff and students.

3.5.2. Evaluation of conditions for ensuring teaching staffs' academic mobility (not applicable to studies carried out by HEIs operating under the conditions of exile)

(1) Factual situation

The College is a member of the Erasmus+ Charter for Higher Education (ECHE), which guarantees the quality of the execution of Erasmus activities. Funding for Erasmus mobility increases every year and the KVK guarantees academic mobility. The College develops an Internationalization

Strategy, which includes an action plan to promote internationalization. The College has more than 20 cooperation agreements with foreign higher education institutions in the field of Measurement Engineering studies. According to the SER, they had an outgoing in 2020 of 64.3% of all teaching staff in the field.

(2) Expert judgement/indicator analysis.

In the meetings held with the teaching staff and the students, it was reflected that they are very interested in internationalization and that both the teachers and the students do Erasmus+ stays. The panel of experts considers that it is interesting to try to improve the visits of foreign personnel to the school to open up more possibilities for collaboration and promote internationalization even more.

3.5.3. Evaluation of the conditions to improve the competences of the teaching staff

(1) Factual situation

According to the Order 'On Approval of the Guidelines for Competence Enhancement of Teaching Staff of Higher Education Institutions' of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania KVK implements systematic and continuous competence enhancement of teaching staff and finances professional development itself or EU Structural Funds are used for it.

There is an annual report of activities carried out by the teaching staff, which is used to plan the activities for the academic year, both for their teaching and their competence improvement.

(2) Expert judgement/indicator analysis

The conditions to improve the competences of the teaching staff are aligned with the needs of the teaching staff and the college is concerned that the teachers use them.

Strengths and weaknesses of this evaluation area:

(1) Strengths:

1. There is strong personal contact between teaching staff and students and the students are very satisfied with the teaching staff.
2. Extensive experience in practical work of the teaching staff.

(2) Weaknesses:

1. Attraction of teaching staff from abroad.

3.6. LEARNING FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

Study field learning facilities and resources should be evaluated according to the following criteria:

3.6.1. Evaluation of the suitability and adequacy of the physical, informational and financial resources of the field studies to ensure an effective learning process

(1) Factual situation

According to the information provided by the SER, the auditoriums, laboratories and computer rooms (equipped with all the necessary licensed software) are adequate in number, size and quality and fully meet the study requirements.

Students of the DG study program can use other KVK facilities: assembly hall, sports halls, sports fields, gymnasiums, etc. They can also use the resources of the KVK libraries.

The DG study program provides students with 13 specialized laboratories using modern hardware and software to develop their practical skills. The SER shows in Table 6.1 a detailed description of these laboratories.

The SER explains the projects and the money allocated to the purchase and updating of materials.

(2) Expert judgement/indicator analysis.

During the site visit, the adequacy and suitability of the physical, computer and financial resources of the field studies to ensure an effective learning process was verified. The college has ramps, lifts and toilets adapted for people with reduced mobility. Laboratory and computer hardware/software used for studies are systematically updated.

3.6.2. Evaluation of the planning and upgrading of resources needed to carry out the field studies

(1) Factual situation

The renewal of material resources is carried out using a requirement planning procedure. A procurement priority list is drawn up, discussed within the Department and approved through a protocol. An annual procurement demand plan and spending plan are prepared. The material resources will also be renewed during the execution of the research projects.

(2) Expert judgement/indicator analysis.

There is a good planning and upgrading of resources needed to carry out the field studies.

Strengths and weaknesses of this evaluation area:

(1) Strengths:

1. Very good learning facilities and resources to achieve the learning outcomes of the KVK.

3.7. STUDY QUALITY MANAGEMENT AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

Study quality management and publicity shall be evaluated according to the following indicators:

3.7.1. Evaluation of the effectiveness of the internal quality assurance system of the studies

(1) Factual situation

At KVK, the quality system complies with the LST EN ISO 9001:2015 standard. Detailed quality management procedures are described in the college's internal documents. Surveys are conducted on an annual basis. The surveys are addressed to students, external stakeholders and college employees. The annual surveys are analysed and stored by the KVK Quality Centre. Results of the survey analyses are submitted to the management of the College, faculty and departments as well as the Program Committee of Studies. Each level of management, in accordance with its competences, introduces changes to the process of educating students. The head of staff is responsible for the preparation and implementation of the plan to improve the education process.

(2) Expert judgement/indicator analysis

A very good confirmation of maintaining the appropriate level of quality of studies is the ISO 9001:2015 certificate. It confirms that the college conducts activities to monitor the education system at the appropriate level. During the meetings, the expert panel confirmed the factual accuracy of all information contained in the SER. In addition, it has been proven that college employees know their obligations under the ISO certificate.

3.7.2. Evaluation of the effectiveness of the involvement of stakeholders (students and other stakeholders) in internal quality assurance

(1) Factual situation

External stakeholders participate in the process of improving the quality of studies by participating in bilateral meetings, seminars and conferences organized by college. Unfortunately, it is not written in the SER whether cooperation with the external environment is formalized, e. g. within the framework of the business council, which holds regular meetings and its activities are embedded in the structures of the college. The companies accept students for field internships, also provide support by carrying out training courses on the use of specialized software and hardware for the needs of the college.

(2) Expert judgement/indicator analysis

Internal stakeholders are involved in the process of maintaining the quality of studies. Teachers, as part of their professional duties, improve study programs. Students take part in surveys. However, the involvement of external partners (external stakeholders) is too dispersed. Not always bilateral meeting could give good effect for improve program of study. Perhaps it would be good to create, for example, a “Business Council” that could give a synthetic picture of the needs of the labour market.

3.7.3. Evaluation of the collection, use and publication of information on studies, their evaluation and improvement processes and outcomes

(1) Factual situation

On the college's website, you can obtain information on study plans, admission requirements, information on the evaluation of the field of study and information on possible professional career. More than information about the offer of studies is available during regional education fairs. Analyses of the conducted surveys and conclusions from previous evaluations are available on the college's website in the "Feedback from stakeholders" tab. The website also includes the Quality Book, a copy of the LST EN ISO 9001:2015 certificate. The SER presents how the information collected on the implementation of the study program and results of survey analyses improve the quality of education.

(2) Expert judgement/indicator analysis

The expert panel does not raise any major objections in the area of collecting and publishing information about the field of study. All activities in this area comply with the procedures in accordance with the ISO 9001 certificate.

3.7.4. Evaluation of the opinion of the field students (collected in the ways and by the means chosen by the SKVC or the HEI) about the quality of the studies at the HEI

(1) Factual situation

Student surveys refer to two levels: the assessment of individual subjects and the assessment of satisfaction with the quality of studies. The results of the survey analysis have an impact on changes in the quality of education and content in study plans. Changes are being introduced in the department, which is responsible for running the field of study.

(2) Expert judgement/indicator analysis

The meetings of the expert panel that took place during the visit to the college confirmed the information contained in the SER. Necessary information about the field of study and timetables are available on the college's website. The results of the analysis of student surveys and opinions of external stakeholders are also available too. Such information significantly affects the monitoring of the quality of studies at the college.

Strengths and weaknesses of this evaluation area:

(1) Strengths:

1. Having the ISO quality certificate.

IV. EXAMPLES OF EXCELLENCE

An excellent distinguishing feature of the college is the possession of the LST EN ISO 9001:2015 quality certificate. The expert panel very positively assesses the possession of the ISO quality certificate by the universities. Thanks to this certificate, the college enforces frequent self-control of the quality of education. In addition, external audits required by ISO verify the quality of education at the college on an ongoing basis. External audits are more frequent than visits by SKVC experts. The certificate has a significant and objective impact on maintaining the level of quality of studies at the College expected by experts.

Students have great communication with teaching staff which helps students with their study process and also builds high feedback culture.

V. RECOMMENDATIONS

Evaluation Area	Recommendations for the Evaluation Area (study cycle)
Intended and achieved learning outcomes and curriculum	N/A
Links between science (art) and studies	Increase the number of publications in recognized scientific journals indexed in WoS and Scopus.
Student admission and support	Not large enough number of students go to study abroad for a full semester. KVK should create more specific plan how invite students to consider studying abroad as a particular aspect for their academic career emphasizing why not only short exchange programmes could be beneficial for them.
Teaching and learning, student performance and graduate employment	KVK need to involve wider and more social partners in formal and informal cooperation.
Teaching staff	Attraction of teaching staff from abroad.
Learning facilities and resources	N/A
Study quality management and public information	N/A

VI. SUMMARY

Klaipėdos valstybinė kolegija is a state-owned college. Academic staff makes contributions in their fields of research works which are important for the development of the college. The field of study which was evaluated becomes an important part of the educational and research offer of college. Graduates of measurement engineering are in high demand on the labor market. Therefore, education should be at the highest possible level which is realized in KVK.

The expert panel would like to thank you very much for the professionally prepared Self-Evaluation Report, which helped a lot in preparing the External Evaluation Report.

The expert panel noted, from the interview with the students, that they are satisfied with the chosen field of study. They appreciate the many forms of support offered to them.

The expert panel had a very positive impression of the connections and relationships that the faculty has developed with social partners, academic institutions, and employers, who expressed their satisfaction with the qualifications that graduates obtained during their studies.

The team of experts positively evaluates: a very good personal relations between teaching staff and students, an excellent distinguishing feature of the college is the possession of the LST EN ISO 9001:2015 quality certificate (having a certificate enables the college to constantly care about the quality of studies), a good learning facilities and resources to achieve the learning outcomes. Students have claimed that they appreciate close contact and efficient communication with teachers and high feedback culture.

The suggestions for improvement made in this report refer to: the number of publications in journals indexed on WoS and Scopus should be increased. In this way, the research results will be recognized all over the world not only in Lithuania, but it can also be a good way to promote your own research teams. Also, should be improved the attraction of study by invite teaching staff from abroad on lectures in college.

It is commendable that KVK provides short academic mobility opportunities for students that are not able to go abroad for a whole semester. Nevertheless, more attention should be paid in order

to inform students about benefits of longer academic mobility activities as well as encourage them to use it.

The only major point of concern the expert team identified is small number of students in the evaluated field of study. The team of experts proposes to increase the activity of the college during the recruitment period.

At the end team of expert would like to thank all staff, students, social partners and administration staff involved in evaluation and took part in our meetings for their commitment and help during site visit. We wish to assure all concerned that we have made every effort to scrupulously analyze the evidence presented to us and have thoroughly discussed and considered our recommendations.

Expert panel chairperson signature:

Prof. dr. Krzysztof Czaplewski

(signature)