![ascal logo - AGJENCIA E SIGURIMIT TË CILËSISË NË ARSIMIN E LARTË]

AGJENCIA E SIGURIMIT TË CILËSISË NË ARSIMIN E LARTË

EXTERNAL EVALUATION REPORT FOR STUDY PROGRAM PHD IN ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN PLANNING OF POLIS UNIVERSITY
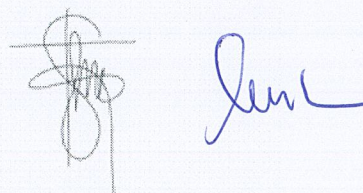
External Evaluation Group:

1. Prof.Ass.Dr. Teuta Jashari Kajtazi
2. Dr. Gjergji Islami

July 2021

STUDY PROGRAM DATA SUMMARY TABLE

Phd in "Architecture and Urban Planning"

Nr.		
1	Applicant HEI:	POLIS University
2	Basic unit that offers:	Department of Scientific Research
3	Name of the study program:	Phd in "Architecture and Urban Planning"
4	Licensing order / DCM:	Order of the Minister of Education and Science No. 563 dated 19.11.2012
5	Reorganization order / DCM:	
6	Diploma registration form:	Order of the Minister of Education, Sports and Youth No. 169 dated 10.09.2020
7	Order / VBA of the first accreditation:	Order of the Minister of Education and Sport No. 187 dated 15.05.2015
8	Study cycle:	Third cycle
9	Duration of the study program:	3 years
10	Total Credits (ECTS):	60 ECTS
11	Form of study:	Full time
12	Language (Albanian / other):	English
13	The program is offered in cooperation with other institutions:	Yes. University of Ferrara, Italy.
14	Joint degree (insert name):	
15	Dual degree (insert name):	Yes. University of Ferrara, Italy.
16	Level in the national qualifications framework:	8
17	PAE / PWD academic staff for the study program:	45/5
18	Number of students:	77
19	Comments / others:	

INTRODUCTION

POLIS University is a private Higher Education Institution with three Faculties: Achitecture and Design, and Engineering; Planning, Environment and Urban Management; and Faculty for Research and Development, specifically oriented towards the issues of academic and applied Research and Development, including the third cycle studies/ Doctoral studies. There are nine Departments, and one Inter-Departmental Unit, known as IFInnovation Factory.

Joint-degree Doctoral Program organized by U_POLIS and the University of Ferrara (UNIFE), in its current form was established in 2012 (Annex.8), gaining its previous/last accreditation on May 15th 2015, valid through May 14th 2021 (Annex.9, and document nr.2432/32). It offers a double doctoral deegre in Architecture and Urban Planning with duration of 6 semesters.

Except for regular accreditation by the Accreditation Agency in Albania, the Joint-degree Program is annually accredited in Italy by the responsible authority (Agenzia Nazionale di Valutazione del Sistema Universitario e della Ricerca (ANVUR) (Annex3-3.2).

Since, the beginning of the doctoral Program, two partner institutions have expanded their partnership with several Associated members: Slovak University of Technology of Bratislava, University of Pecs, Universidade do Minho, Portsmouth University, Lawrence Tech USA and the Industrial Partner-Focchi S.p.A.

The Internal Evaluation of the Doctoral Program was performed, and report prepared by the Group of members assigned by the Academic Senate of U_POLIS (Annex.20; nr.4; dated 17.04.2020).

MEMBERS OF EXTERNAL EVALUATION GROUP (EEG)

1. Prof.Ass.Dr. Teuta Jashari Kajtazi
2. Dr. Gjergji Islami

The external evaluation group is assisted during the external evaluation process by the Technical Coordinator appointed by ASCAL, Msc. Erjon Xhako.
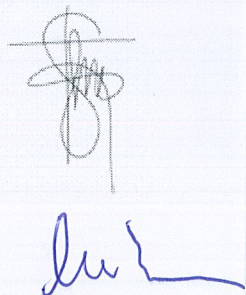
The draft report is sent to the institution through the AMS system on 15.06.2021. The institution on 18.06.2021 through the AMS system and with letter Prot. No 525/21 on date 18.06.2021, has sent comments on the drat report.

The external evaluation group after carefully reading the comments of the institution, states as follows:

Regarding the comment no. 1: The total number of students has been corrected from 74 to 77. The report in this point **changes.**

Regarding the comment no. 2: The report in this point changes, in accordance with the new documentation delivered by the university after the submission of the draft report.

Regarding the comment no. 3: The suggestion refers to courses that are directly related to the scientific formation of the student, which are not based on individual research and are offered by specialist of the respective field. The report in this point **doesn't change.**

Regarding the comment no. 4: The report in this point changes, in accordance with the new documentation delivered by the university after the submission of the draft report.

Regarding the comment no. 5: The report in this point changes, in accordance with the new documentation delivered by the university after the submission of the draft report.

Regarding the comment no. 6: The report in this point changes, in accordance with the new documentation delivered by the university after the submission of the draft report.
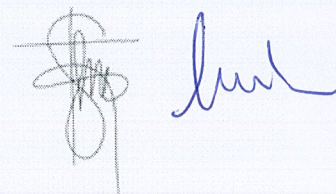
Regarding the comment no. 7: The report in this point is rewritten, in accordance with the new documentation delivered by the university after the submission of the draft report.
The suggestion on elective courses refers to courses that are directly related to the scientific formation of the student, which are not based on individual research and are offered by specialist of the respective field. The report in this point **doesn't change.**

Regarding the comment no. 8: The suggestion is referred to courses that are directly related to the scientific formation of the student, which are not based on individual research and are offered by specialist of the respective field. The report in this point **doesn't change.**

Regarding the comment no. 9: Referring to Standard I3 Criterion 1 "The student admitted to doctorate study program has completed second study cycle with average grade (> 80% of points)…". The report in this point **doesn't change.**

Regarding the comment no. 10: The content of the report in this point is clear. It refers to criterion 6 and 7. The EEG did not identify any evidences presented in the Internal Evaluation Report / File related to criterion 6. Nevertheless, the EEG has gathered the information during the site visit and expressed his opinion in the conclusions of chapter 10. The report in this point **doesn't change.**

MANAGEMENT POLICIES AND ADMINISTRATION OF DOCTORAL STUDY PROGRAMS

1. MISSION AND OBJECTIVES OF DOCTORAL STUDY PROGRAM

Description part

> *Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG **should analyze** and **evaluate** the: aims and objectives of the study program and scientific research, strategies in the short, medium and long terms, the number of students over the years, study programs of third cycle, HEI place (in the national and international contest).*
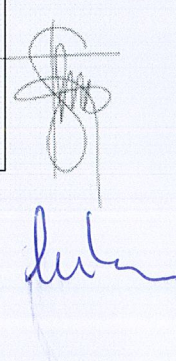
☑ Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution

Except for the documents submitted prior to the site visit, a few of them were requested on site and uploaded by the institution:
- Document from the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth (nr.7872; 08.08.2019)
- Appointment decision about each Program Coordinator
- Example of Evaluation report for an International PHD workshop of Ferrara
- Questionnaire for the quality evaluation of the first year IDAUP
- Minutes/ Records of the Academic Board meeting (example)
- Explanations on statistical data of students enrolled in the Program
- Teaching staff - annex contract (example)
- Academic staff - activity evaluation (tabular presentation of points per activity)
- Form used for peer-to-peer evaluation/review.

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
Standard I.1 - General framework	
Criterion 1 The study program of third cycle (doctorate) is a new program or a reorganized program; **Criterion 2** If it is reorganized, the extent to which it affected the previous program. **Criterion 3** The total number of students studying and number of those who attend this study program each year is in line with the policies of Higher Education Institutions (HEI) where the program is conducted as well as state policy for higher education and scientific research regarding recognition and validation of diploma and number of students studying for doctorate to one scientific mentor.	The study program in its current form was established in 2012 (Annex.8), gaining its accreditation on May 15th 2015, valid through May 14th 2021 (Annex.9, and document nr.2432/32). According to the institution and provided documentation, considering the changes in the Albanian legislation, the Joint Doctorate Program has not been impacted. It embodied provisions of the new legal framework in its structure, while the confirmation letter/answer received from the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth (nr.7872; 08/08/2019) states that in cases of Joint degree Programs with foreign institutions, different standards from the State ones, can be applied or implemented. The total number of registered students in the Joint Doctorate Program, from the beginning is 77, out of

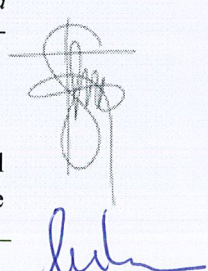|	
Criterion 4 Doctorate study program is supported by national or international research groups accredited for research in relevant field or fields of studies; **Criterion 7** Internal evaluation report of study program of the third cycle is reviewed by the Council of Professors.	which: 36 are active/in process, 36 have completed their studies, while 5 have discontinued their studies (information confirmed during the site visit). Every student is assigned one Mentor and one Co-Mentor from both Partner Institutions (Program regulation; Annex.6; Article.9) The Program is supported by a number of National and International research centers, laboratories, and units: Centre for Architecture and Energy AE, Architectonic restoration laboratories CITER and LABORA, Laboratory of Maintenance and Construction Management LEM, Laboratory of Materials design MD, International laboratory units, including TekneHUB, National Sustainability LAB, MAD Centre and Gallery, POLIS Press. Digital Fabrication Lab (FabLAb) is in process (information during the site visit) According to the Program Regulation (Annex.6; article.6/15), the Internal evaluation report is reviewed by the Academic Board of the Doctorate Program. Based on the information submitted and discussions during a number of meetings on site, the Joint-degree program is evaluated annually by Italian responsible authorities (Annex.3,3.1,3.2) (https://www.universitetipolis.edu.al/?q=en/node/2674)

Conclusions of EEG:

Joint Degree Doctoral Program offered by U-POLIS and UNIFE, including agreements with Associate members specified in the report and other supporting documents, offers interdisciplinary research options within the two main fields, Architecture and Urban Planning. Consortium agreement (Annex.5) covers admission of students at both institutions, considering their successful performance during the last study cycle, including the most successful research proposals. Having in mind that the Program includes/requires student mobilities, **it is suggested** to have the list of partner/Associate members expanded, not only internationally but in the region as well, which will contribute towards more mobility possibilities covered by the Associate members. This suggestion includes the expansion of the list of Industrial partners, as well.

2. ACADEMIC ORGANISATION CHART OF THE DOCTORAL SCHOOL

Description part

*Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG **should analyze** and **evaluate** the: the place of the Doctoral School in the organization chart of the HEI (University / Faculty / Department), data for the academic staff responsible for the doctorate, the number of Full-time Academic Staff (FAS), Part-time Academic Staff (PAS), Administrative employes (AE), teaching coordination with other units.*

Based on the documentation provided and the discussions held at the site assessment, the Doctoral Program in Architecture and Urban Planning, is under the responsibility of the Faculty of Architecture

at the University of Ferrara and the Faculty for Research and Development at the Polis University, respectively the Department of Scientific Research (Annex.5). In this regard, the newly established Innovation Factory Unit, serves as a coordination body at the U_Polis, more specifically in-between all units involved in the concept, theory and production design and development, closely related to the doctoral research topics interests (http://www.universitetipolis.edu.al/?q=sq/node/55).

Measurable indicators:

☑   Organizational structure (chart)

Organizational structure/chart of the institution is shown in the (Annex.24) (http://www.universitetipolis.edu.al/?q=en/node/109), among others consisting of three faculties: Architecture and Design, and Engineering; Urban Planning and Environmental Management; and Research and Development. Each of the faculties consists of two departments and one research unit. In this regard, the faculty for Research and Development (responsible for the PHD Program) consists of the department of Scientific Research (as PHD Organizer), department of Applied Research, and Resource and Information Centre.
Cross-discipline Innovation Factory (IF) combines research activities of the three Faculties (http://www.universitetipolis.edu.al/?q=en/node/1116).

☑   Bodies selected/nominatet at all levels

According to program regulation, Article.5 (Annex.6) and consortium agreement (Annex.5), the responsible and governing bodies are:
-   The Academic Board (Joint Academic Board) (Annex.5, Art.10-10.1)
-   The Doctorate Program Coordinator (Annex.5, Art10-10.3 and 10.4)
-   The Coordination Committee (Joint Coordination Committee) (Annex.5, Art.10-10.2)
-   In addition, the Academic Senate structure of the institution, can be found in the following: (https://www.universitetipolis.edu.al/?q=en/node/112)
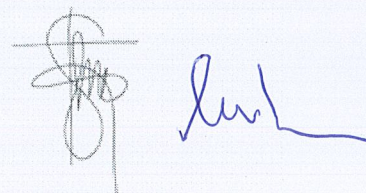
☑   Hierarchical units, decision- making

According to (Annex.5), the consortium agreement, Article.11 dealing with the responsibilities, specifically explains the hierarchical functioning and decision-making within the program.

☑   Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution.

Relevant documents for this section of evaluation were requested on site and uploaded by the institution:
-   Document from the Ministry of Education, Sports and Youth (nr.7872; 08.08.2019)
-   Appointment decision about each Program Coordinator
-   Example of Evaluation report for an International PHD workshop of Ferrara
-   Questionnaire for the quality evaluation of the first year IDAUP
-   Minutes/ Records of the Academic Board meeting (example)
-   Explanations on statistical data of students enrolled in the Program

☑   Academic Structure of doctoral school

Faculty for Research and Development (responsible for the PHD Program) consists of the Department of Scientific Research (as PHD Organizer). The following are staff members engaged within the responsible Department for Doctoral School:

Dr. Llazar Kumaraku (Program Coordinator)
Prof. Em. Dr. Luljeta Bozo
Prof. Dr. Besnik Aliaj
Prof. Dr. Tamara Luarasi
Dr. Skënder Luarasi
Dr. Peter Nientied
MSc. Albina Toçilla
(http://www.universitetipolis.edu.al/?q=en/node/1934)

☑ Database of HEI, updating and the responsibility for retaining and sharing information;

Institution's General Regulation (Annex.22) contains Article.92, which regulates: Registration, Data Storage and Reporting. Meetings during the site visit gave a possibility to be more informed and confirm the presented documentation. In addition, development Strategy 2021-2026, includes the Digitalization strategy in part.V
(http://www.universitetipolis.edu.al/sites/default/files/pdf/Development%20Strategy%202021-2026.pdf) .

☑ Number of accademic staff (verify the data, according to Table 1 and 2)
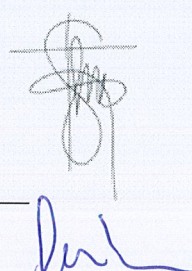
Table 1

Doctoral School University/ Faculty/ Department	Number of FAS		Number of PAS		Number of AE		Total number	
	Total number	Number of Degree's	Total number	Number of Degree's	Total number	Number of Degree's	Total number	Number of Degree's
	45 '	36	5	0	12 +	0	60 +	36

The information presented in documents, including the discussion and verification at the site visit reflects the above Table.1

☑ Council of Professors and the coordinator of the study program

Table 2

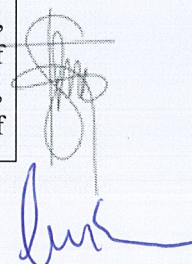| Name /Surname	Degree	Position (Member / Chairman)
		U-POLIS
Luljeta Bozo	Full Prof.	Member
Vezir Muharremaj	Full Prof.	Chairman
Besnik Aliaj	Full Prof.	Member
Tamara Luarasi	Full Prof.	Member
Sherif Lushaj	Full Prof.	Member
Gjergji Ikonomi	Full Prof.	Member
Elizabeta Susaj	Prof.Asoc.	Member
Llazar Kumaraku	Dr.	Program Coordinator (Annex.33)
		Department of Architecture/ University of Ferrara
Roberto Di Guilio	Full Prof.	Program Coordinator
Theo Zaffagnini	Prof.As.Dr	Program Supervisor IDAUP
Marcello Balzani	Full Prof.	Member
Riccardo Dalla Negra	Full Prof.	Member

Alessandro Ippoliti	Full Prof.	Member
Rita Fabbri	Prof.As.Dr	Member
Romeo Farinella	Prof.As.Dr	Member
Federica Maietti	Prof.As.Dr	Member
Vincenzo Mallardo	Prof.As.Dr	Member
Nicola Marzot	Prof.As.Dr	Member
Alessandro Massarente	Prof.As.Dr	Member
Giuseppe Mincolelli	Prof.As.Dr	Member
Marco Mulazzani	Prof.As.Dr	Member
Paola Puma	Prof.As.Dr	Member
Dario Scodeller	Prof.As.Dr	Member
Michela Marioa Toni	Prof.As.Dr	Member
Michele Bottarelli	Dr.	Member
Veronica Dal Buono	Dr.	Member
Emanuele Piaia	Dr.	Member

According to the institution, documentation provided, and the site visit, the table above shows Council of Professors and Doctoral Program Coordinators at the Joint Program (U-POLIS and UNIFE).

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
Standard III.1 - Management and financing tools for doctorate study program	
Criterion 1 Unit that organizes doctorate study program has accredited two first cycles of studies in the field, in which it offers the doctorate study program; **Criterion 2** Unit that organizes the doctorate study program has adequate administrative premises to realize its good functioning; **Criterion 3** In order to carry out the doctorate study program, the unit that proposes its opening engages the necessary personnel, ranging from teaching secretary that follows the third cycle progress; **Criterion 4** Responsible bodies for its supervision are established in doctorate study program regulation; **Criterion 5** Board of Professors, which is responsible for organizing and supervising doctorate study program has a sufficient number of members that cover all its issues. Minimum number of professors in PC should be 7 (seven). Board of Professors may be also raised to the level of higher education institution, when its main units do not	In its academic structure, the institution has two first cycles of accredited studies, Bachelor and Master, in the fields of interest of the Joint-degree PHD Program in Architecture and Urban Planning (http://www.universitetipolis.edu.al/?q=en/node/169) Considering the submitted documentation and performed site visit by the EEG, the Unit responsible for organizing and coordination of the Program, fullfils administrative premises. (Annex.10) The presented Teaching Secretariat, regulates the entire teaching infrastructure, including the functioning of the third cycle. (http://www.universitetipolis.edu.al/?q=en/node/171) Responsible bodies are regulated with the General Regulation (Annex.22; Article.44), Program regulation (Annex.6; Article.5) and Consortium Agreement (Annex.5; Article.10). As indicated in the above Table.2 the Board of Professors/Academic Board has a sufficient number of 7 Professors (U-Polis). Being a Joint-degree Program, the same table shows Members of the University of Ferrara as well as Associate members, contributing in, and supporting the Program. The Board of

meet the required number of full-time professors; **Criterion 6** Board of Professors of the main unit that organizes and manages the doctorate study program meets periodically throughout the year;	Professors/Academic Board meets at least twice a year, specified in the program regulation (Annex.6; Article.6) and verified during the site visit and meetings in person.

Conclusions of EEG:

Consortium Agreement (Annex.5) includes articles required for the Join Program to function properly and in a professional manner. It as well includes specifics and structures of both institutions, considering the fact of two different physical and legal environments. Contributions of U-POLIS and UNIFE are regulated by common agreements respecting their individual organizational structures.

For the best performance of the program, coordination bodies coming from both institutions are assigned and meet occasionally as described in Article.10 and Article.11 of the Consortium Agreement.

This part of evaluation **suggests** and encourages the institution to further implement the internationalization of the program (as planned in the Development strategy 2021-2026)
(http://www.universitetipolis.edu.al/sites/default/files/pdf/Development%20Strategy%202021-2026.pdf)

3. QUALITY OF ACADEMIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE (SUPPORT) STAFF

Description part

*Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG **should analyze** and **evaluate** the: dates for qualifications of academic staff, FAS/PAS/AE rate, Academic Staff/student rate; work load for FAS, PAS and AE; staff recruitment criteria; Contracts, data base for human resource; etc.*

The joint-deegre doctoral program offered by UPOLIS and UNIFE (as documented and verified during the site assessment) has qualified academic and administrative staff (presented bellow in: Table.3, Table.4 and Table.5). In addition to academic staff engaged at the two partner institutions, associate partners offer lecturers and supervisors to broaden the diversity of academic staff.

Measurable indicators:

☑ EEG should analyze and evaluate some data such as:

- Number of professors;
- Number of associated professors
- Number of doctorial degree holders (or PhD)
- Number of assistants
- Number of administrative and support staff (lab assistants, technicians, administrative staff etc)

Professors, Associated Professors and Doctoral degree holders are presented in the Table.3 below, while the number of administrative staff supporting the joint-degree doctoral program is indicated in Table.4 and Table.5 presented below (12+). In addition, the administration structure for every Faculty, including the one responsible for the doctoral program is indicated in the following (https://www.universitetipolis.edu.al/?q=en/node/1620)
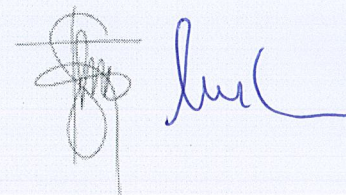
☑ Verify the data, according to Table 3

Table 3

Institution / Basic Unit / Doctoral School						
Full-time Academic Staff (Name/Surname)	*Position in the Department*	Degree		*Part-time Academic Staff (Name/Surname)*	Degree	*Institution where he/her works full time*
U-POLIS/ Scientific Research Department						
1	Llazar Kumaraku	Chair	Dr			
2	Vezir Muharremaj	Member	Full Prof.			
3	Luljeta Bozo	Member	Full Prof.			
4	Besnik Aliaj	Member	Full Prof.			
5	Tamara Luarasi	Member	Full Prof.			
6	Konstantinos Giakoumis	Member	Prof.As.			
7	Skender Luarasi	Member	Dr			
8	Peter Nientied	Member	Dr			
9	Edmond Agolli	Member	Msc			
10	Eralda Ribaj	Member	Msc			
University of Ferrara/ Department of Architecture						
1	Alessandro Ippoliti	Chair	Full Prof.	1	Silvia Brunoro	Researcher	Freelancer
2	Alfonso Acocella	Member	Full Prof.	2	Maddalena Coccagna	Researcher	Freelancer
3	Gastone Ave	Member	Full Prof.	3	Federico Ferrari	Researcher	Freelancer
4	Marcello Balzani	Member	Full Prof.	4	Emanuele Piaia	Researcher	Freelancer
5	Riccardo Dalla Negra	Member	Full Prof.	5	Marco Zuppiroli	Researcher	Freelancer
6	Pietromaria Davoli	Member	Full Prof.			
7	Roberto Di Giulio	Member	Full Prof.			
8	Giovanni Zannoni	Member	Full Prof.			
9	Marco Mulazzani	Member	Full Prof.			
10	Fabio Conato	Member	Prof.As			
11	Rita Fabbri	Member	Prof.As			
12	Romeo Farinella	Member	Prof.As			
13	Gianluca Frediani	Member	Prof.As			
14	Manuela Incerti	Member	Prof.As			
15	Gabriele Lelli	Member	Prof.As			
16	Federica Maietti	Member	Prof.As			
17	Vincenzo Mallardo	Member	Prof.As			
18	Nicola Marzot	Member	Prof.As			
19	Alessandro Massarente	Member	Prof.As			
20	Sante Mazzacane	Member	Prof.As			
21	Giuseppe Mincolelli	Member	Prof.As			
22	Renata Samperi	Member	Prof.As			
23	Dario Scodeller	Member	Prof.As			
24	Marco Stefani	Member	Prof.As			
25	Antonello Stella	Member	Prof.As			
26	Michela Toni	Member	Prof.As			
27	Theo Zaffagnini	Member	Prof.As			
28	Michele Bottarelli	Member	Prof.As			
29	Veronica Dal Buono	Member	Prof.As			
30	Giacomo Bizzari	Member	Dr			

31	Domenico Capuani	Member	Dr				
32	Alessandro Gaiani	Member	Research				
33	Francesca Leder	Member	Research				
34	Andrea Rinaldi	Member	Research				
35	Davide Turrini	Member	Research				

Data verified during the site visit/meetings of EEG and relevant group of participants

☑ Qualification data and reports between them (verify the data, according to Table 4)

Table 4

Academic and administrative staff	FAS	PAS		FAS/PAS rate
		Albanian	Foreign (invited)	
Professors	12			
Associate Professors	20			
Doctor Degree or PHD degree (taken at European Universities)	11		5	2.2/1
Administrative employes	12+			

Data verified during the site visit/meetings of EEG and relevant group of participants.

☑ Data by age (verify the data, according to Table 5)

Table 5

Academic and administrative staff	Data by age (years old)							
	(36-45)		(46-55)		(56-65)		(66-68)	
	FAS	PAS	FAS	PAS	FAS	PAS	FAS	PAS
Professors			1		4		10	
Associate Professors			8		10		4	
Doctor Degree or PHD degree (taken at European Universities)	14	2	9	3	1			
Administrative employes	12+							

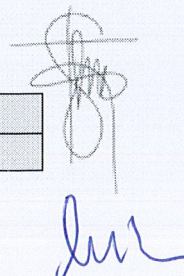*Data verified during the site visit/meetings of EEG and relevant group of participants.*

☑ Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution.

Relevant documents for this section of evaluation were requested on site and uploaded by the institution:
- Teaching staff - annex contract (example)
- Academic staff - activity evaluation (tabular presentation of points per activity)
- Form used for peer-to-peer evaluation/review.

Evaluation according to the Standards

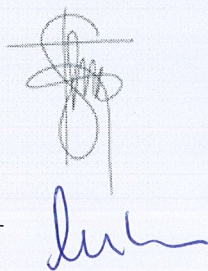| Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
Standard I.1 - General framework	

Criterion 6 The number and level of researchers engaged in this program constitutes a guarantee for program implementation (60% of them should be internal academic staff, engaged in research and holders of academic titles "Professor", "Associate Professor" or scientific degree "Doctor" or "PhD" awarded in universities well known in the world for quality and rich research and publishing activities in the relevant field;	Joint-degree doctoral program has a sufficient number of internal academic staff in both partner institutions as specified in the criterion (shown in tables: 3 and 4).
Standard II.1 - Capacities for scientific research	
Criterion 2 The institution that offers programs of study of third cycle (doctorate), has sufficient academic staff with scientific titles and degrees; Criterion 3 The institution has sufficient administrative and research structures for activities provided in the study program to conduct research. The institution may organize joint programs of doctorate study with one or more other institutions, based on agreements between them;	Based on evidence presented and meetings during the site visit, this study program has sufficient academic staff with required academic degree for this specific level of studies: Full Prof., Prof.As and Dr. from prestigious Universities. The institution presented a number of laboratories at the premises consisting of: Computer Aided Design CAD_Lab; the MAC Lab; HVAC Laboratory; Environmental Laboratory and Modeling Laboratory. The ongoing project is the FAB_Lab (fabrication laboratory) as part of the "EU for initiative" and SIDA winning project. Being a joint-degree program, based on the Consortium Agreement (Annex.5; Article.7) including associate members, students are as well offered international administrative and research structures.

Conclusions of EEG:

Joint-degree doctoral program offers a considered number of teaching staff members as well administrative staff in order to support the entire process of the program. Further internationalization of the program and inclusion of a greater number of partners from the industry would further diversify qualified teaching staff members, and will at the same time contribute towards research possibilities for current and future doctoral students.

4. FASILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE, LOGISTICS AND OTHER SERVICES OF DOCTORAL PROGRAM

Description part

Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG should analyze and evaluate the: infrastructure, material resources, logistics and other services, information technology (IT), libraries, other services for students.

The joint-degree doctoral program at the institution organizes classes and all other supporting relevant teaching activities, including the library, laboratories, on the ground, mezzanine, first and the second floor of the building (gross area 3530m2). Basement and the third floor (gross area 615m2) are compiled of service areas, including the canteen, toilets. In addition, the premises contain: underground parking, outdoor parking, and outdoor common areas/green areas.

All above mentioned areas were assessed during the site visit, while the specific location for the Fabrication Lab (FabLab) which is in process, was indicated.

Measurable indicators:

☑ EEG should analyze and evaluate: the Facilities, infrastructure, and logistics for doctoral school (verify the data, according to Table 6)
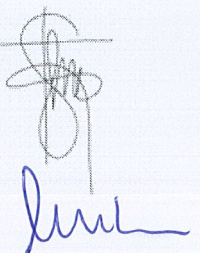
Table 6

Fasilities for doctoral school or study program	Number or Square m²
Auditoriums	563 m2
Classrooms	1458 m2
Laboratories	367 m2
Computer/internet laboratories	307 m2
Library buildings	155 m2
Corridors / halls	1235 m2
University sports facilities	outdoor
Buildings for tertiar services	85 m2
Rooms for student government activities	50 m2
Recreational facilities such as cafeterias / fast-food/etc	563 m2
Toiletes for students	238 m2
Logistics Room (for photocopying machines, etc.)	164 m2
Officies for Dean/ Chancellory/etc	142 m2
Administrative offices	107 m2
Department offices	100 m2
Quality assurance Unit Office	68 m2
Meeting halls	120 m2
Toilet units for staff	40 m2
Etc	253 m2
Rate m²/per student	6015 m2 total

Infrastructure specifics provided by the Institution, all layouts of the building (Annex.10-10.5), and the site visit/assessment confirmed the above table specifying the content of the U-Polis facilities, required for the proper functioning of the study program, all the above supporting both, teaching and the research process.

☑ EEG should analyze and evaluate other logistics database, as:

- number of PC per doctoral students;
- number of PC furnished labs per students;
- number of PC for academic staff
- number of PC for administration
- number of printers for each one
- number of photocopying machines for each one
- number of head projectors
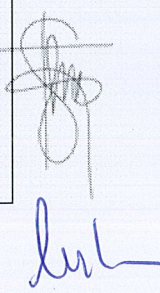- number of video-projectors
- number of scanners

CAD and MAC Laboratories (located on the first floor/Mezzanine) are equipped with PC-s dedicated (among others) to all doctoral students and their research purposes, including the office for research groups located on the first floor. Rooms/offices allocated to academic staff as well the administration, are well equipped with PC-s, printers, and photocopy machines, including the copy room on the ground floor. (Annex.10-10.5)

Head and video-projectors are installed in classrooms and auditoriums, dedicated to theoretical part of the teaching process.

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
Standard II.2 - Didactic basis and technical support	
Criterion 1 Students admitted in the third cycle study program have necessary conditions to realize the study program with academic and research character; **Criterion 2** Doctorate studies program provides harmonization of student's goals in scientific-research field, approved research projects and, at its conclusion, even the possibility of academic career and employment; **Criterion 3** A scientific library with publications in hardcopy and electronic form and complete IT infrastructure available to of third cycle study program; **Criterion 4** Students have sufficient technical support for scientific research development; **Criterion 5** Researches that include laboratory researches are supported by sufficient scientific laboratory basis.	Documentation presented and followed by the site visit at the premises, confirmed the presence of a number of laboratories and other required conditions supporting third cycle students during their academic and research process. According to the institution, documents provided and discussions during the site visit, it was noticed that there is compliance and coherence between students research topics and institutions research interests, which intend to be met during the application and selection procedure, considering applicants research project proposal, and according to program regulation (Annex.6; Article.s, and Article.9, Sub-Curricula of the Doctorate Program). According to the institution, the physical library named Biblio_POLIS, started with its operation in 2006 and is further advancing, currently including 10000 books. It covers various disciplines, focusing on Architecture, Design, Urban Planning, Computer Science, Environmental Studies, Social Sciences, Civil Engineering, Information Technology, Administration, etc. Students have acces to online libraries: EBSCO, JSTOR and E-Library EBSCO. (Annex.27), (http://www.universitetipolis.edu.al/?q=en/node/1336) The Faculty for Research and Development in cooperation with the Inovation Factory as a Unit, support students by applying for research funding at internatonal institutions, including TEMPUS, CEPUS, ERASMUS+ and other relevant projects. Students are given a possibility for scholarship and research didactic work, as well. (Program regulations, Annex.6; Article.16) The institution presented a number of laboratories at the premises consisting of: Computer Aided Design CAD_Lab; the MAC Lab; HVAC Laboratory; Environmental Laboratory and Modeling Laboratory. The ongoing project is the FAB_Lab (fabrication

	laboratory) as part of the "EU for initiative" and SIDA winning project. Since, students are obliged to have a 6 month mobility, partner institution and associate members, offer their infrastructure for research purposes, as well.

Conclusions of IEG:

Except for the physical infrastructure (facilities) allowing for the doctoral program to be performed and conducted succesfully, U-POLIS has a physical library and access to a number of online libraries required for student research activities. Various laboratories, depending on the topic of the thesis, are as well at students disposal. The Fabrication Library (FAB Lab) is in process and the location planned for it was indicated during the site visit, however **it is suggested** to see possibilities of bringing this laboratory to a stage of its completion, having in mind that it will further contribute to research activities, along with other available laboratories within both partner institutions. As mentioned in Section 1 of this report, herewith it is as well **suggested** to continue further with expanding the list of associate and partner members to be able to further support students research activities which include mobility and use of specific infrastructure based on specific research topics. (already indicated as future objective within U_POLIS Development Strategy 2021-2026 (Part.IV; Internationalization Strategy) (http://www.universitetipolis.edu.al/sites/default/files/pdf/Development%20Strategy%202021-2026.pdf)

5. FINANCING AND MANAGEMENT OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES

Descriptions part

> *Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG **should analyze** and **evaluate** the: financial resources, data over the years, expenditures, costs per students, financial auditing, managing capacities.*

Based on the documentation provided and discussions, the U-Polis has several funding resources, both internal and external. Sources and documents used, that support the financial strategy of the institution in general, financial auditing, managing capacities, are as follows:

- the Statute; Annex.21; Article.XIII-77
- General regulation of the U-POLIS; Annex.22; Article.4; Article.28, 29, 30
- POLIS financial strategy; Annex.30
- U-POLIS development strategy 2021-2026 http://www.universitetipolis.edu.al/sites/default/files/pdf/Development%20Strategy%202021-2026.pdf
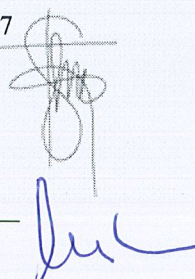- Consortium agreement; Annex.5; Article.6; Article.12

Annual U_POLIS report amongst others includes the financial report for the previous year as well as planning for the following three years (Annex.32, part B; B-2)

Measurable indicators:

☑ EEG should analyze and evaluate the Financial resources, data over the three years (verify the data, according to Table 7)

Table 7

RESOURCES FROM:	For three or four years (as the PhD study program continues)
PUBLIC FUNDS:	

Central government	National funds
Local government	660,000 ALL
NON-PUBLIC FUNDS:	
Grants on research and contracts	8,811,000 ALL
Consultations, services	1,911,000 ALL
All kinds of tuition fees	12,537,500 ALL
Sponsorships	-
Donations, assurance activities, foundations etc.	-
U-POLIS funds	4,949,000 ALL

Data verified during the site visit/meetings of EEG and relevant group of participants.

☑ EEG should analyze and evaluate the Costs for students and their mobility costs;

Based on the evidence provided, the cost per student in the last three years was 212000 ALL (per academic year). The program requires at least 6 months of mobility (study abroad) for each student during the entire course of study (3 years). Mobility is supported by ERASMUS+ project and associated member institutions.

☑ Transparency and internal financial control, audit and outcomes;

This point is regulated by the general regulation of the U-POLIS (Annex.22; Article.101)
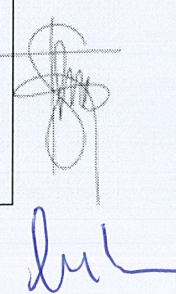
☑ Financial management capacity;

Financial management capacity is supported by documents as financial and funding policy (Annex.30; financial sustainability; the diversification of resources) and Consortium agreement (Annex.5, Article. 6, Article.11 and Article.12)
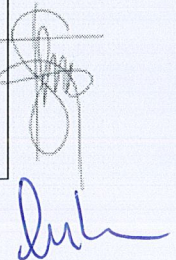
☑ Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution;

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
Standard I.1 - General framework	
Criterion 5 Doctorate study program is supported by a sufficient budget for research;	Based on presented evidence, both documented and during the coversations held at the institution (including the presentation in Table.7 above), the study program currently has sufficient budget for research.
Standard II.1 - Capacities for scientific research	
Criterion 8 External funding received for scientific research is indicative of high level research activity and they are administered for the progress of relevant study program.	The research activity, when external funding is addressed, is supported by the partner Institution University of Ferrara, ERASMUS+ Program, and other European Partner Universities. Documenation provided as well as the discussions on-site, show a number of research activities/projects funded under international research projects and

	initiatives. The same include: ERASMUS+ project (4 doctoral students and 6 scientific supervisors), funding by Associated partner institutions (mobility for 11 doctoral students).
Standard III.1 - Management and financing tools for doctorate study program	
Criterion 7 Financial budget of doctorate study program is sufficient to achieve research objectives for each doctorate student; **Criterion 8** Financial budget distribution structure of doctorate study program matches with scientific research policy and needs.	Consortium agreement (Annex.5, Article.12) supports achievements related to research objectives of each doctoral student. Financial budget for doctoral studies and research purposes related to it, is jointly allocated by both Partner Institutions, U_POLIS in this particular case. The same as above, Consortium agreement covers the report between the scientific research policy on one and research needs on the other side.
Standard III.3 - Financing of doctorate study program	
Criterion 1 Number of research works funded by the ministry; **Criterion 2** Distribution of funds to host and supervision teams of scientific research works is done in a balanced way; **Criterion 3** Number of research works funded under national research projects, benefited by scientific supervisors of doctorate students for this study program; **Criterion 4** Number of research works funded under international research projects benefited by scientific supervisors of doctorate students for this study program;	There is no evidence that any of the research projects have been financed by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports. Being the Joint Degree Program, evidence shows that distribution of funds between both partner Institutions, U_POLIS and the University of Ferrara, is done in a balanced way (Consortium agreement, Annex.5, Article. 6, Article.11 and Article.12) The information provided shows one doctoral candidate funded under national research project, more specifically by National Agency for Research and Innovation AKKSHI. As mentioned above, the documenation provided as well as discussions on site show a number of research activities/projects funded under international research projects and intiatives. The same include: ERASMUS+ project (4 doctoral students and 6 scientific suervisors), funding by Associated partner institutions (mobility for 11 doctoral stduents) The above can as well be supported by the following: (Annex.30; 3. Financial Sustainability; the diversification of resources).

Conclusions of EEG:

The Doctoral Program has several sources of funding, both internal and external and international. U-POLIS in particular, has a Statute (Annex.21; Article.28) that deals with and regulates the Budget and Strategic Plan approval for one up to three years. It should be mentioned that budget planning goes along with research planning and objectives as specified within Research strategy plan (Annex.18.2) and U_POLIS development strategy 2021-2026 (part.III; Research strategy and part.VI; Financial Strategy) (http://www.universitetipolis.edu.al/sites/default/files/pdf/Development%20Strategy%202021-2026.pdf)

On the other hand, Consortium Agreement shows the ballanced distribution of funds between two Partner Institutions (U_POLIS and UNIFE), in regards to proper financial functioning for the joint-degree doctoral Program. Associate member Institutions are to be considered important source when addressing required students mobility and their specific research interests and topics.

Since, there is no evidence that any of the research projects have been financed by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, as well as the existing evidence of funding only one doctoral candidate by the National Agency for Research and Innovation AKKSHI, **it is suggested** to take steps in this direction (this suggestion does not refer to the Institution in particular, but can be a general one towards State administered capacities).

6. INTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM (IQAS)

Description part

> *Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG **should analyze** and **evaluate** the: Internal Monitoring for Quality Assurance Unit (IQAU), its functions in doctoral programs, self-assessment and continuous quality improvement.*

Polis University seems to have a consolidated Internal Quality Assurance System which is applied also to the doctoral program subject of this assessment. The quality system operates referring to the Internal Quality Assurance Unit Regulation (Annex 31). The system is based on Student Assessment, Self-Assessment and Pier Assessment (Site Visit). The PhD candidates deliver an annual evaluation for the program (Annex 19) (SER pp.36).

The quality of the candidates and their work is assured through the admission procedures (SER pp.36) and in the periodic assessments from the Joint Academic and Supervisory Board (Annex 14).

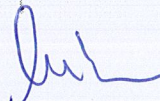The thesis work is checked for plagiarism through the Turnitin system (Site Visit) (SER pp.37).

The program is also accredited in Italy by ANVUR as a Joint/Double program offered by the University of Ferrara (Annex 3).

Measurable indicators:

- ☑ EEG should analyze and evaluate the quantitative data for IQAU, as:
    - How many surveys are made with students?
    - How many students were surveyed?
    - How many surveys are processed, and what problems are issued?
    - Which have been the next steps?
    - etc.

Considering the small number of students, all students participate to the annual surveys regarding the quality of the program. The findings of the surveys have recorded positive indicators which have been analysed by the Internal Quality Assurance Unit. Examples of surveys conducted in the university were provided upon request (Supplementary Documents 5 & 7).

- ☑ EEG should analyse and evaluate the analyses for *Internal quality control*, as:
    - Responsibilities in monitoring and quality management, until the department level
    - Self assessments conducted, and their results
    - Quality improvement policies, on the basis of periodic self-assessment

- The results of the audit and preview external assessment
- Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution

The academic advancement of the program is monitored by the Joint Academic Board, while the research advancement of each candidate is monitored by the supervisor(s) and the Supervisory Board for Scientific Research. These structures ensure the evaluation of academic advancement for the candidates (SER pp.36 & 37) (Site Visit).

The coordinator of the program is at the same time Head of the Department hosting the program. He is keeping routine contact with all the parties involved (including students) and coordinates the activities and actions to be taken in regards to quality assurance (Site Visit).

7. STUDY PROGRAM, ITS ORGANIZATION

Description part

> *Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG **should analyze** and **evaluate** the: Title of Diploma (in Albanian and English), mission and objectives of the research program, the organization of the first year in doctorate school, the curriculum content of all its elements (subjects / modules, corresponding credits, sharing teaching hours per study forms, classes in /outside of auditorium under the forms of teaching), literature and other auxiliary materials, etc.*

The Double / Joint International Doctorate in Architecture and Urban Planning (IDAUP) is a third cycle programme that enables candidates to gain the degree of Doctor in Architecture and Urban Planning equivalent to *Doktor në Arkitekturë dhe Planifikim Urban* issued both by the University of Ferrara and Polis University (Annex 8). The program is structured according to third cycle standards, focusing on research. The fields of research vary in accordance with the research proposals, but mostly they focus on the built environment studies.

Measurable indicators:

☑ Analyses and evaluation for: general elements of the study program:
- Duration: not less than 3 years
- Year for advancing theoretical studies (1 year or 60 ECTS)
- Search / Creation: at least 2 years
- Thesis (within 4 years of enrolment)

The regular duration of the program consists of three academic years. The studies are organised in a first year of theoretical studies with 60 ECTS, while the second and third year are dedicated to supervised individual research of the candidates. The activities during the three years are shared in the two institutions in relatively equal workload (Site Visit) (SER pp.38 & 39).

☑ Analyses and evaluation for: academic curriculum plan of the first year, the division of subjects in credits, and according to the forms of teaching (verify the data, according to Table 8)
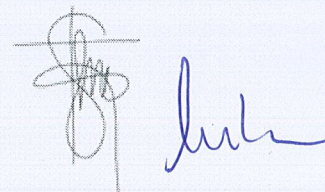
Table 8

	Year I Subjects/ Modules	Semester	Credits (ECTS)	Lecture (hour)			Seminar (hour)			Studio (hour)			Practice (hour)			Total In class	Total Individual student work
				Total credits	In class	Individual student work	Total credits	In class	Individual student work	Total credits	In class	Individual student work	Total credits	In class	Individual student work		
1	International PhD Workshop - Tirana	1	18	5	30	95	5	30	95	8	48	152	0	0	0	108	342
2	International PhD Workshop - Ferrara	1	18	8	48	152	2	12	38	8	48	152	0	0	0	108	342
3	Research and Methods	1&2	24	4	24	76	2	12	38	18	108	342	0	0	0	144	456
Total			60	17	102	323	9	54	171	34	204	646	0	0	0	360	1140

Referring to the updated document submitted by the university after the draft report, the first year curriculum is structured in three main teaching activities with a total of 60 ECTS, corresponding of 360 class hours and 1140 individual hours of student work. The weight of the activities in the curriculum is as follows:

Lectures	17 ECTS
Seminars	9 ECTS
Studios	34 ECTS
Practice	0 ECTS
Total	60 ECTS

Even though being a third cycle program based on research, it is recommended that at least 30% of the 1500 hours planned for studies during the first year should be class activity with the assistance of academic staff. The actual class hours cover 24 % of the total study hours.
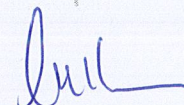
The above ratios define a balance between theoretical and practical activities.

Although the program is relatively flexible, it does not include elective courses, which might be useful to deepen the theoretical knowledge in specific research subjects that are not covered by the Academic Curriculum Plan.

☑ Analyses and evaluation for Academic Curriculum Plan, related to the relevant academic staff (verify the data, according to Table 9)

Table 9

	Subject/Module	Responsible professor/s (Name Surname)	Title/degree	Department	FAS or PAS
1.		B. Aliaj	Prof.	SRD / FRD	FAS
		V. Muharremi	Prof.	SRD / FRD	FAS
		L. Bozo	Prof. Emeritus	SRD / FRD	FAS
	International PhD Workshop - Tirana	Sh. Lushaj	Prof.	SRC / FUPEM	FAS
		S. Dhamo	Dr. / Doc.	RIC / FRD	FAS
		S. Luarasi	Dr.	SRD / FRD	FAS
		L. Rossi	Dr.	ARD / FRD	FAS

		Ll. Kumaraku	Dr.	SRD / FRD	FAS
2.	International PhD Workshop - Ferrara	R. Di Giulio	Prof.	DA	FAS
		G. Ave	Prof.	DA	FAS
		M. Balzani	Prof.	DA	FAS
		G. Zannoni	Prof.	DA	FAS
		T. Zaffagnini	Assoc. Prof.	DA	FAS
		L. Emanuelli	Dr.	DA	FAS
		L. Gabrielli	Assoc. Prof.	DA	FAS
		N. Marzot	Assoc. Prof.	DA	FAS
		F. Maietti	Assoc. Prof.	DA	FAS
		A. Massarente	Assoc. Prof.	DA	FAS
		G. Lelli	Assoc. Prof.	DA	FAS
3.	Research and Methods	B. Aliaj	Prof.	SRD / FRD	FAS
		V. Muharremi	Prof.	SRD / FRD	FAS
		L. Bozo	Prof. Emeritus	SRD / FRD	FAS
		Sh. Lushaj	Prof.	SRC / FUPEM	FAS
		S. Dhamo	Dr. / Doc.	RIC / FRD	FAS
		S. Luarasi	Dr.	SRD / FRD	FAS
		L. Rossi	Dr.	ARD / FRD	FAS
		Ll. Kumaraku	Dr.	SRD / FRD	FAS

The staff engaged in the courses is composed mainly of Professors and Associated Professors, while part of the activities are supported by Assistant Professors (Phd).

☑ EEG should analyse and evaluate the: the syllabuses for each subject, with all the elements

The course Research and Methods has a detailed Syllabus presented in the documentation submitted by the IEG (Annex 16). The workshops on the other hand, do not have a specific syllabus. The content of each workshop is defined in relation to the workshop topic (Annex 12). The approval of such program is carried by the Joint Academic Board.

Analysing the Syllabus of the Research and Methods course the following mismatches are identified:
- The teaching staff / responsible professors are not the same
- The class hours count a total of 94 hours while in the curriculum (updated), a total of 144 hours are foreseen. A workload of 2-3 hours per week was confirmed in the meeting with the students.
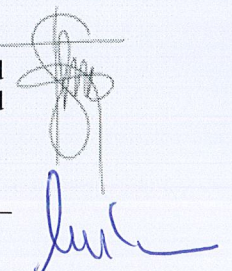
Analysing the workshop(s) program, the following mismatches are identified:
- The workshop are organised on a 10 day base with a frontal activity load of about 80 hours (Meeting with the students) (Annex 12.17, 12.19, 12.21, 12.22, 12.23). Referring to the curriculum (updated), a total of 108 frontal hours are foreseen for one workshop.
- The workshops are organised in uninterrupted cycles, allowing no time for the 342 hours of individual study to take place (Annex 12.17, 12.19, 12.21, 12.22, 12.23).

Beyond the technical evaluation, the content of the courses seems to be of a high level, with appropriate literature and research-oriented workshop topics.

☑ EEG should analyse and evaluate: the procedures followed for the research project, proposed by candidates

The candidates in collaboration with their supervisors submit a complete research proposal at the end of the first year of studies. The proposal is reviewed and approved by the Joint Advisory Board (Annex 6).

☑ EEG should analyse and evaluate the second year of PhD: (Research/Creation), as database for institutions in/outside the country, where students have completed their scientific research, such as:
- university / research centre and development of a University
- Institute / non-academic research unit
- Foundation / public entity / private entity
- Hospital structure
- Other

The second year of studies consists mainly in individual research which is depending on the research plan approved by the supervisors. In most cases, the research is conducted at Polis University, where most of the candidates are employed as research / teaching assistants, and where the research can be assisted by the lab equipment available (Site Visit).

☑ Analyses and evaluation of third year of PhD: Research/creation/data processing /publication of articles /presentations to international conferences
- Data for publications / references of students;
- Data for Magazines, publishing entities where these articles are published

Referring to Annex 6, the second year can be passed when he has participated at least to one scientific conference or has published at least one scientific article.
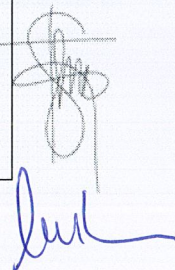
☑ EEG should analyse and evaluate the: doctoral thesis and its presentation

The thesis is evaluated firstly by two Professors who judge if the thesis is ready for presentation. The thesis is presented in front of a jury composed of 5 members from both institutions, all of the category "Professor". One of the members should not be part of the Joint Academic Board (Annex 6).

☑ Relevant documentation, received in visits to the institution

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards/ criterions
Standard I.4 - Design and realization of theoretical course of third cycle studies (Doctorate)	
Criterion 1 Programs of third cycle studies include 60 credits for theoretical organized studies; **Criterion 2** Theoretical organized studies anticipate balanced ratio of classes for academic and scientific general and specific training; **Criterion 3** Detailed teaching program is approved pursuant to bylaws in force; **Criterion 4** Theoretical doctorate course is evaluated with a general theoretical examination in relevant field of study, organized by Dean's office and Professors' Council, with a commission consisting of 5 (five) professors in the relevant research field or approximate to it. Candidates who achieve over 80% points are allowed to attend the doctorate research studies. Those who do not reach this result receive a certificate for conducted modules, together with accumulated credits and interrupt doctorate studies.	Although this is not anymore a legal request, IDAUP consists of a first year of studies composed of activities equivalent of 60 ECTS. The subjects included in the first year offer a flexible content and are mainly focused on methodological issues. 36 ECTS are offered as thematic workshops while 24 ECTS relate to classical teaching related to Research Methods. The Syllabus and Workshop programs are approved by the Joint Academic Board and then in the Academic Senate. The evaluation of the first year's courses and the advancement of the candidates are presented to the Joint Academic Board. A report with a research proposal is also presented to the Board. The exams are graded with Fail or Pass evaluation where Pass means 80% or more of the needed points

	(SER pp.42) (Site Visit). Although this is considered an ethical method for the third cycle, grades would help to identify excellent candidates.
Standard II.3 - Drafting and approval of proposed research project	

Criterion 1 Applicant who requires to be admitted to doctorate studies program has submitted the request for a particular research area and this has been discussed with him in the interview;
 	
Criterion 2 Scope of research is selected in such a way that doctorate studies program can support it;
 	
Criterion 3 Proposal is approved by Professors' Council if criteria prescribed and announced in regulation of doctorate studies are met.
The following should be also confirmed:
  a) Duration of study program;
  b) Modalities of verification of research or creative activity of doctorate students;
  c) Manner of final presentation of scientific research result that doctorate student will achieve;
 	
Criterion 4 A member of academic staff with the title "Professor", "Associate Professor" or with scientific degree "Doctor" or ("PhD") awarded in the scientific field in which doctorate student follows the studies in universities known in the world, for quality and rich researching and publishing activities in the relevant field, is appointed by Board of Professors to supervise and support student's research work;
 	
Criterion 5 Doctorate student presents to Board of Professors the research development plan, designed by him and discussed with his supervisor;
 	
Criterion 6 Supervisor has advised repeatedly the students that he supervises for didactic duties and research activities as well as research methodology to ensure the progress of his studies in this program.
	Upon application, candidates present an initial research proposal, which is reviewed during the first year of studies. The proposal is discussed with the candidate and it is evaluated if it fits the research agenda of the university. Nevertheless a certain degree of flexibility is available at admission moment and during the first year, when the proposal is shaped in accordance with the resources of the university (Meeting with Students).
	The proposal is consulted with the academic supervisors and it is submitted for approval at the end of the first year to the Joint Academic Board. The Board reviews the form and the content of the proposal with reference to the criteria of the program. At the same time, the board can give suggestions or reject the proposal (rejection cases were not identified) (Annex 6).
	The candidates are supervised by two supervisors, one from both institution, which is chosen in consensus and approved by the Joint Academic Board. At least one of the supervisors belongs to the category "Professor" and fulfils Criterion 4 requirements (Meeting with the Academic Staff).
	The supervisor is member of the Academic Board (Annex 6) and is responsible about the research plan, methodology and research quality during the research period.

Standard II.1 - Capacities for scientific research	
Criterion 1 A third cycle study program (doctorate) is integrated in research activity of Higher Education Institutions;	Referring to the Site Visit, the research conducted in IDAUP was integrated and coordinated with the work of departments and also with the scientific activities held at the university. Being a relatively small university, such integration happens naturally.
Standard II.4 - Doctorate student's supervision and continuous evaluation of progress of doctorate studies	
Criterion 1 Scientific supervisor of student is responsible for directing, advising, assessment of student's needs and for developing and monitoring progress of student's research work. He has the academic title "Professor", "Associate Professor" or the scientific degree "Doctor" or ("PhD") awarded in Western universities and has a rich	For Criterion 1 refer to Criterion 4, 5, 6 in Standard II.3. The engaged academic staff results to have a broad academic experience which covers the main disciplines concerning the built environment. The experience of the University of Ferrara in this aspect is a very important contribution in creating a solid background that

research and publishing activity;

Criterion 2 All scientific supervisors have had the expertise, instruction and proper guidance for their role in realization of scientific research project of doctorate students;

Criterion 3 Scientific supervisors work to update their knowledge and skills, based on institutional arrangements in order to enable the exchange of best practices and providing advice to support students effectively;

Criterion 4 Board of Professors selects scientific supervisors, capable to supervise doctorate students' research work, based on assessment of their publishing and research activities inside and outside the country;

Criterion 5 The main scientific supervisor and the other supervisor (when program of doctorate studies is offered by more than one university) guarantee that doctorate students receive sufficient support and guidance to facilitate their work to achieve success;

Criterion 6 In all cases, the student must have only one identified contact point, who should be his main supervisor. If his main supervisor is not available, the student must know who will be the person to replace him;

Criterion 7 University ensures that supervisor has enough time to supervise doctorate student;
If the main leader is unable to continue supervision of student, or will be absent for a considerable period, he should be replaced by another his main supervisor before the period of awarding the diploma for scientific degree "Doctor";

Criterion 8 If relationship student-supervisor does not function well, at the request of student or his supervisor, supervisor is changed, provided that this does not affect the project progress;

Criterion 9 Clear and transparent procedures are set for verification of knowledge or periodic evaluation of student (for example, an annual review by a panel called for this purpose or by a special commission set up by Professors' Council).

Criterion 10 Doctorate student and his supervisor should be present during this process. The manner and periods of verification of knowledge or periodic evaluation of doctorate student are stipulated and specified in the beginning of doctorate studies program;

Criterion 11 Continuous evaluation conclusions for realization of scientific research project of program of doctorate studies are clear and transparent including
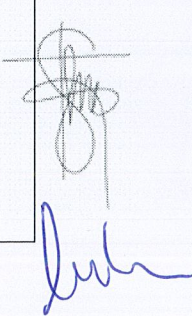
supports the research.

The Joint Academic Board is one of the important instruments where the processes are monitored as well as experience is exchanged. The Board is responsible about the assignment / approval of the supervisors (Annex 6) and suggests the most appropriate expert for the specific proposal / field. If needed, external experts can be engaged in co-supervision (no such cases were identified).

Both supervisors are responsible for the research work, although often only one of them meets the qualification criteria (belonging to the category "Professor"). As noted during the site visit, the most intense contacts of the candidates were with the local supervisor. If the supervisors cannot follow the work of the candidate, the Joint Academic Board can appoint a new supervisor (no such cases were identified). From the verifications made during the site visit resulted that all supervisors have a supervision load in compliance with the local legislation.

Although the research process is conducted in agreement between the candidate and the supervisors, certain intermediate evaluations during the research path do exist.

Five annual meetings, two with the Joint Academic Board and three with the Supervisory Board of Scientific Research are organised every year (Annex 14). In these meetings the candidate's work is being reviewed and suggestions are given. According to the performance, the Boards have the right to propose the interruption of studies (no such practices were identified).

These meetings are being documented through minutes which are kept regularly.

suspension, extension or withdrawal from doctorate studies; **Criterion 12** Meetings between supervisors and doctorate students are documented, especially during the review of progress reports.	

Conclusions of IEG:

Although the organisation of the program is in conformity with the legal framework, the EEG noticed mismatches between the planned activities and the ones organised during the academic year. Measures should be taken to review the syllabus content and to allow time for individual study hours in the two workshop courses. A minimum of 30% class hours are recommended. Elective courses are suggested to be integrated in the theoretical studies of the first year, by creating a more flexible program.

8. TEACHING – LEARNING OUTCOME (IN FIRST YEAR)

Description part

*Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG **should analyze** and **evaluate** the: organization, teaching methods, quality of workload and realisation of it, teaching technologies, internal evaluation of teaching, students' participation in the activities of the doctoral school, control of student knowledge, student scientific leadership etj.*

The first year of studies is organised in 60 ECTS of frontal teaching activity in accordance with the study plan of the program. The types of teaching activities and the class workload are described in table 10.

Measurable indicators:

☑ EEG should analyse and evaluate the student's workload, forms of teaching (verify the data, according to Table 10)

Table 10

Forms of teaching	Class hours for
Lecture	102
Seminars	54
Exercises	-
Studios	204
Practice for subjects	-
Professional practice	-
Etc.	-

Referring to the Academic Curriculum Plan the Class hours are divided 43 % in theoretical activities (lectures and seminars) and 57 % in practical ones (Laboratories/studios and Practice). This division seems appropriate for the structure and objectives of the doctoral program. The total amount of class hours referring to the updated plan is 360 hours. From the documents submitted by the university, it can be noticed a slightly lower number of class hours applied during the workshops and theoretical courses (Annex 12, 16).

☑ EEG should analyze and evaluate the policies for Learning Outcomes control (verify the data, according to Table 11)
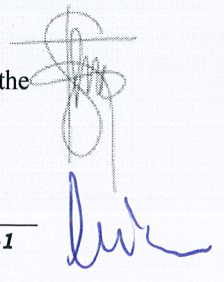
Table 11

Learning Outcomes control	in %
Active participation in lectures, seminars, etc.	30-50%
Implementation of obligations (laboratory course tasks, essays)	50-70%
Intermediate tests	-
Final exam	-
Etc	-
In total	100%

Considering the objectives of the program, the form of controlling the learning outcomes seems reasonable, aiming at the involvement of the candidate in the process and not towards the grading through exams and tests.

☑ EEG should analyse and evaluate the: students' participation in the research activities of the University/Faculty/etc. (verify the data, according to Table 12)
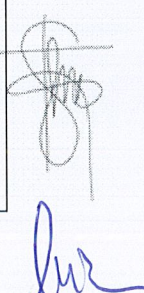
Table 12

HEI scientific activity	Number of students activated
For individual Papers of Lectures	All
For scientific projects of Faculty / Department / Doctoral School	All
For research projects, in collaboration with other	All

Most of the students are employed as research and teaching assistants in Polis University. As such they participate in the research projects of the university and at the same time they fulfil their obligations for publishing and advancing in their research.

Evaluation according to the Standards

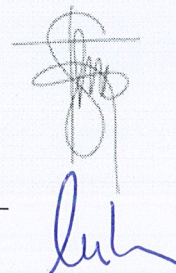| Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
Standard I.2 - Continuous increase of theoretical level and promotion of students' team work are targets of a study program of third cycle, doctorate.	
Criterion 1 Level of scientific research development helps in student training to complete the study program successfully; **Criterion 2** Students have the opportunity to participate in various research activities closely related to the specific area in which they attend doctorate studies, which help him/her to be trained for: a) Acquisition of research methodologies for independent creative activities, such as scientific articles, presentations, standard approach for references, bibliography, indexes and content writing as the basis for doctor a thesis processing; b) Independent work in laboratory; c) Use of information resources (e.g. libraries and Internet) and information management; d) Use of modern technologies for public presentations;	The first year activities are composed of 60 ECTS divided in two workshops and one theoretical course focused on the research methods. The courses integrate theoretical debate and literature research, with field observation, practical activity and project proposals. Referring to the best international practices in the education / research in architecture and city planning, this balancing of the theoretical and practical activities results to be efficient. The workshops deal with specific problems and territories within a more tangible context, while the course of Research and Methods is basically a pre-research training, focusing on methodologies and on the analytic thinking (Annex 12, 16). Although there is a good coverage of the research basics and availability of tools to explore and to train, the generic preparation program in the first year of studies might not result equally efficient for all research interests of the candidates. It is advisable that

e) Acquisition of advanced methods of analysis and data processing;
f) Learning and mastery of specialized terminology associated with the research field of doctorate student;
 	
Criterion 3 Doctorate students participate in foreseen activities young and their research work.
A doctorate student is free to participate as a listener or as a speaker in:
  a) Lectures;
  b) Seminars;
  c) Interdisciplinary debates, organized in the framework of doctorate study program;
  d) Other possibilities of learning such as following presentations of post doctorate students and research projects, even when it is not related directly to the student's research interest.
  e) Scientific mentors advise students to take part in scientific activities and conferences that help them in their scientific research;
 	
Criterion 4 Students have gained skills for appropriate communication with a scientific level (*Student's communication skills include: the competency to write clearly and with an appropriate style, use of persuasive arguments and clear articulation of ideas before the public concerned; the ability to debate and support others, involved in teaching, supervision or demonstrations*);
Criterion 5 Students have acquired the ability to communicate correctly with others, and necessary skill for a scholar, but also in other situations (*being able to develop and maintain cooperation and working relationships with others, awareness that their behavior affects them and others and be willing to listen, to give and to take reactions and responses with sharpness*);
 	
Criterion 6 Development of communication skills of doctorate students encouraged them to be engaged in teaching in study programs of first and second cycle (e.g. by engaging in teaching as lecturers, in support of professors guiding their thesis).
	part of the credits in the first year of studies can be chosen by the candidate in order to gain specific knowledge, tightly related to the research discipline in which he will train. These credits could be gained in Polis or UniFE or other partner institutions.
	At the same time, the plan of studies has to be reviewed in order to not create mismatches between the planned program and the applied one (see chapter 7 of the EER).
	The inclusion of most of the students as research / teaching assistants, allows them to become more familiar with the academic environment and train in communication, presentation and writing skills. Being close to the academic staff, the candidates have the opportunity to gain academic experience and to have research support continuously and in real time.
	Based on the Meeting with Students, the EEG noticed the preparation of the candidates, their communication skills and the cooperative atmosphere within the representatives. Most of the candidates were assisting the teaching in Polis in disciplines relevant to their field of interest.

Conclusions of EEG:

EEG considers the overall policies and the structure of the organisation of the theoretical studies as efficient in terms of teaching-learning outcome. Nevertheless, the university, being in a double degree and considering the recent legislative changes, has the opportunity to adapt and restructure the theoretical studies.

9. DOCTORAL STUDENTS

Description part

*Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG **should analyse** and **evaluate** the: academic criteria and procedures for enrolment of doctoral student, quality of students enrolled, the*

number of students enrolled and who has finished in years, average duration of doctoral studies (in years), statistics, collaboration with students who have received diploma, student's information.

An open call for candidates is published every year in order to invite potential and qualitative candidates to enter the doctoral studies. The call describes the available and reserved positions, the evaluation criteria and the application details (Annex 17).

The data provided by the university show an average duration of the doctoral studies of 3.1-3.2 years which is considered to be a very good advancement with almost no delays. The number of students that entered the program is illustrated below (SER pp.51).

Candidates from within the university: 29
Candidates from outside the university: 48
Total enrolled students: 77

Interrupted the studies: 4
Completed the studies: 36
Continue the studies: 36

A total of 37 / 77 enrolled students are international (EU, Kosovo, other countries), a good indicator of the internationalization of the school.

Measurable indicators:

☑ EEG should analyse and evaluate the statistical data for doctoral students:

- The total number of PhDs students and the number for each year;
- The number of PhDs students coming from outside of the university;
- Number of graduates each year;
- The average duration of doctoral studies and what has been the trend of this indicator;
- Number and percentage of students, who have interrupted his doctoral studies.
- Number and percentage of students, who come from Kosovo, Albanian territories, as well as from the Albanian diaspora;
- Number and percentage of foreign students, who come from the Balkan region;
- Number and percentage of students, who come from EU countries;
- Number and percentage of students, who come from other countries of the world;

Referring to the above data, the number of enrolled students shows a constant trend of 6-13 candidates each year. More than half of the candidates come from outside the university to obtain a Doctoral degree.
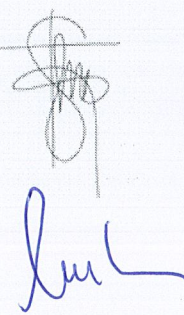
Most of the candidates find no difficulty to finish in time their PhD. The percentage of candidate that interrupted their studies is 5.2%. The two last indicators can be related to the selection of motivated candidates in the admission procedure.

The program seems not to be very popular in the region, where only 5% of students come from Kosovo and Albanian diaspora, and no candidates have shown interest from the other Balkan countries. The program should try to increase its regional influence by establishing relations in the Balkan region and attract students from these countries.

Considering that the double degree is offered in collaboration with the University of Ferrara, 42% of the enrolled candidates come from the European Union (mostly from Italy). This is a good indicator for the internationalization of the program.(SER pp.51)

☑ EEG should analyse and evaluate the information for the mobility of doctoral students at universities abroad

All students based in Polis have at least a 10 day mobility period to the University of Ferrara during the first year for the organisation of the workshop, and vice versa. Other mobilities, mainly Erasmus

+, are used during the research phase, based in availability of the mobilities with partner universities (Site Visit).
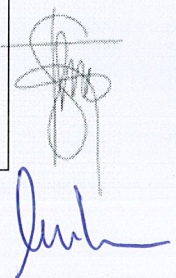
☑ Analyses and evaluation of data for the final evaluation of doctoral students

A positive performance is noticed during the program. A good indicator at this point is the fact that after enrolment, most of the candidates (83%) work as research / teaching assistant in the university. This helps them in a constant and qualitative advancement till the conclusion of their studies.

☑ Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution
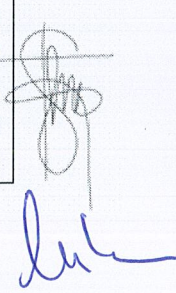
Evaluation according to the Standards

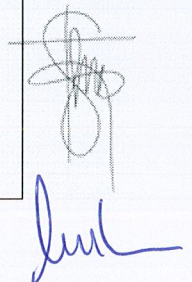| Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards
Standard I.3 - Admission of students in a doctorate study program	
Criterion 1 The student admitted to doctorate study program has completed second study cycle with average grade (> 80% of points) and was awarded the university degree "Master of Science"/ "Master of Fine Arts" or an equivalent degree, following completion of university studies that include a scientific thesis evaluated with 30-40 ECTS; **Criterion 2** Candidate who applies to continue the third cycle program, the doctorate, has profound theoretical knowledge in the relevant field of study. Some basic knowledge that doctorate student has is: a) Creative thinking; b) Development of critical sense about research; c) Connections between different fields of research; d) Skills developed for solving problems arising during research work; e) Competence to manage research complexity and to propose new ideas in research field; **Criterion 3** The student admitted to doctorate study program is ready to apply in practice the knowledge gained from research in relevant field of studies; **Criterion 4** Student owns the English language certified in the international level, at least "C1", based on internationally recognized tests and a second foreign language as French, German, Italian, Spanish or Russian. In social sciences it may be Latin, Ancient Greek, Persian or other languages needed for research in the area; **Criterion 5** Professors' Council set the criteria for admission to program of doctorate studies contained in regulation of doctorate program of studies; **Criterion 6** The applicant has received detailed information about doctorate program of study, before being admitted into it. He is fully informed regarding:	There is no specific requirement in the admission procedure that the candidates have completed second cycle studies with average grade >80/100. Although the candidates are required to obtain more than 80% of the points in the admission procedure, Criterion 1 indicates a parameter which is not mentioned in the Regulation of the program or in the Call (Annex 6, 17). The admission procedure is divided in two phases. Phase 1 is related to the evaluation of documentation presented by the candidate, and then, candidates who pass phase 1, enter the second phase which is the interview. During the interview, the parameters indicated in Criterion 2 and 3 are evaluated (Annex 6, 17). All students have to speak fluently English in order to attend the program. Referring to Annex 17, the English language fluency is tested in the interview, while no other requirements have been identified in the admission phase. The call of the program where the admission criteria are specified are proposed by the Joint Academic Board and approved by the university Senate (SER pp.54). The detailed information of the program is described in the call (Annex 17) and also in the institution webpage. Information is also available at Polis University, where all the candidates can obtained detailed information from the university staff. There is no a classical admission exam, while the admission procedure is evaluated in point in both phases of the procedure (Annex 6).

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a) Duration of study program;

b) Conditions that student should meet before appearing in doctorate exam;

c) Support that institution provides to the student through administrative and research structures for activities envisaged in the study program (laboratories, libraries, etc.).

d) Modalities of exercise of research or creative activity of doctorate students, especially with regard to preparation of doctorate thesis;

Criterion 7 Admission criteria include also interviews and supports that can be provided by references and additional documents;

Criterion 8 Admission policies include also doctorate admission exam.

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Standard II.5 - Final evaluation of students in this cycle of studies

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Criterion 1 Student provides evidence that he has acquired:

    a. Profound knowledge in relevant scientific field;

    b. Profound knowledge in some areas approximate to it;

    c. Professional skills in using modern technology to solve critical problems related to his field of scientific research;

    d. Innovation, to expand and update existing knowledge;

    e. Autonomy, scientific, professional integrity and dedication for development of new ideas that encourage scientific research;

Criterion 2 Student provides evidence that he has brought original scientific products, scientific works of a high scientific level through conducted scientific research, some of which have deserved or deserve publication in scientific national and international magazines;

Criterion 3 Final evaluation of doctorate students is based above all on an assessment of their scientific research product;

Criterion 4 On the basis of an agreement reached in the phase of the study program approval, scientific research result is presented as a dissertation thesis, or cumulative with 3 scientific articles published in international journals with impact factor coefficient above 1;

Criterion 5 In case of doctorate examination with dissertation thesis, doctorate student meets the following conditions:

    a. He has realized as first author at least three scientific papers or presentations (poster), of

</td><td>

Referring to the previous sections of this report and to the Regulation of the program (Annex 6), to the SER and the site visits, the EEG has noticed:

- The program is organised in a first theoretical year of 60 ECTS
- The theoretical studies combine theory and methodology of research with workshops and practical activity
- The second and the third year are dedicated to research and are co-supervised by at least two supervisors
- The academic staff of both universities has the relevant qualification and expertise
- Several laboratories are available to assist the studies and the research work
- The candidates show good results in research involvement, publications, and participation in scientific activities
- The university offers opportunities for publishing and participating in research activities (Forum A+P, TAW/TDW, other conferences and seminars organised)

Based on the above, the topics related in Criterion 1 and 2 result to be fulfilled.

The final output of the research phase is presented as a dissertation / thesis, written in English, which is exposed to several scientific filters, starting with the supervisor approval. After that, the thesis is reviewed by two professors (external referees / opponents), specialists of the field, who should give their consent for the research to be presented to the jury. The opponents have at least 30 days to study the material and at the end they can allow the presentation, give

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which two papers or presentations are held in a international scientific event, in a western country (symposium, conference, congress), accepted on the basis of a preliminary scientific assessment, published in "Proceedings", indexed with an ISBN code;

b. He has published as first author, at least three scientific articles in scientific journals. At least two of the articles have been published or accepted for publication in well-known western journals with editorial board;

c. He has prepared and presented to Faculty Board of Professors the dissertation, along with a summary, approved by scientific supervisor. Structure of dissertation and its summary are defined in doctorate study regulation;

Criterion 6 Board of Professors defines two or three opponents, one of which is from outside the institution. Opponents are also members of the jury to assess dissertation. They have required academic titles and rich research and publishing activities inside and outside the country in the relevant field of study in which program doctorate studies is offered;

Criterion 7 Opponents who have had a substantial involvement in the work of doctorate student, or whose work is the very focus of research project;

Criterion 8 A dissertation copy is given to every opponent, giving enough time to read it and to write a separate report. Opponents should not communicate among themselves, with doctorate student or its scientific supervisor during this period. Opponents must verify the authenticity of data used in dissertation, observance of scientific research practice as well citations of scientific research works and articles of other authors;

Criterion 9 Opponents express clearly that scientific paper is free of plagiarism. If they notice and find that this has happened, they ask for termination of dissertation assessment;

Criterion 10 Dissertation is accompanied by a summary, about 10 pages in English. This review is published in the official website of the institution, in the section designated for information for this study;

Criterion 11 Scientific supervisor of the student should not be an opponent;

Criterion 12 When opponents have completed their reports, they are called by the Dean and Head of Board of Professors to agree to conduct oral examination;

minor suggestions to be reflected prior to presentation, or deny the presentation to the jury. In case of denial, the candidate can resubmit the material in not less than 6 months.

The Joint Academic Board verifies the fulfilment of the academic criteria before the final presentation, checking whether the candidate has completed the needed number of publications and conference participations according to the legal requirements in force. All the above activity is documented in written form (Annex 6) (Site Visit).

Before the presentation to the Jury, the thesis is checked for plagiarism through the online system available at the university.

The Jury (Joint Thesis Examination Committee) is composed of 5 members:
- 3 members that are not part of the Joint Academic Board
- 2 members representatives of each institution (polis and UniFE)

Criterion 13 is usually fulfilled by the presence of Professors from the University of Ferrara.

The decision of the Jury is reached in consensus (Fail / Pass). Up to now there is no cases of "Fail" evaluation. The date of presentation is announced at least 30 days before. The thesis presentation are opened and are mostly organized in one of the two partner institutions. In specific cases (during COVID 19), presentations are organised online (Annex 6) (Site Visit).

The thesis is submitted in 5 copies, one of which is delivered to the National Library in Tirana, one to the Ministry of Education, one to the Library of UniFE and two copies remain in Polis Library and archive. An electronic copy of the thesis is published online and available through universitetipolis.edu.al.
https://www.universitetipolis.edu.al/?q=sq/node/2355
The degree issued in Albania is given to the candidates after the final registration in the National Register held at the Ministry of Education in Albania and contains the registration number (Annex 6) (SER pp.56).

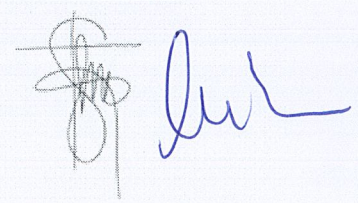| Criterion 13 It is recommended, that a jury member of doctorate examination be from universities known in the world for quality and rich research and publishing activities in the relevant field, which has at least the scientific degree "Doctor" awarded in the scientific field in which doctorate student follows the studies and over 5 years academic and research experience. This criterion may not be applied to Albanology sciences. Assessment of doctorate student in examination is made open by consensus, provided that all members are pronounced for a passing grade. Even if one member has evaluated doctorate student by convincing arguments, with a failing grade, the final outcome will be failing;	
Criterion 14 Opponents submit to dean of unit that organizes the program of doctorate studies and chairperson of doctorate examination jury a copy of their individual reports;	
Criterion 15 Dissertation defence for obtaining the diploma for scientific degree "Doctor" is public. It is announced at least 4 weeks before and it is done in the presence of department interested members, students and teachers in the relevant Higher Education Institution;	
Criterion 16 Evaluations that opponents can make include: granting diploma of scientific degree "Doctor", or resubmission of written scientific research paper after completion of their recommendations, or a further extension of study program, or denial of diploma for scientific degree "Doctor";	
Criterion 17 A copy of dissertation of student who received a diploma for scientific degree "Doctor" is deposited in library of faculty, research institute, university research centres, university where study program is carried out and scientific paper and a copy in National Library. Scientific degree "Doctor" is not issued without dissertation being deposited in aforementioned institutions, published in paper and on disk (CD) and without making it public in the official website of respective higher education institution;	
Criterion 18 Scientific degree "Doctor" is not issued without being registered in National Register of Doctorates of Securities Commission Academic Assessment (KVTA) in MES.	
Standard III.2 - Quantitative aspects of doctorate study program	

Criterion 1 Total number of registered doctorate students and doctorate number for each year; **Criterion 2** Number of registered doctorate students coming from outside the unit that has opened the doctorate study program; **Criterion 3** Number of diplomas issued to receive "Doctor" degree for each year; **Criterion 4** Average duration of doctorate studies and trend of this indicator; **Criterion 5** Number and percentage of those who gave up doctorate studies in the level of study program.	As mentioned in the sections above, there is 77 enrolled candidates where 36 of them have completed the program and 4 have interrupted the studies. In admission moment, the number of candidates coming from outside the university is >50%, while after admission, most of them are hired in a teaching / research assistantship. This is a good practice to identify and attract potential candidates for the future academic staff. In the last 4 years, a total of 36 candidates have completed the program (in average 9 every year), 22 in Polis and 14 in UniFe. The average duration of studies is 3.1-3.2 years which is proof of motivated candidates and of efficient organisation. 4/77 enrolled candidates have interrupted their studies, failing to fulfil the requirements of the program.
Standard III.4 - Internationalization of doctorate study program	
Criterion 1 Number, expressed in percentage, of registered doctorate students coming from Kosovo and other areas where Albanians live and Albanian diaspora; **Criterion 2** Number, expressed in percentage, of registered doctorate students coming from Balkans region. **Criterion 3** Number, expressed in percentage, of registered doctorate students coming from the EU countries; **Criterion 4** Number, expressed in percentage, of registered doctorate students coming from other countries of the world;	The program offered by the two partner universities has a considerable presence of international students which is a very promising indicator for the future of the program (see data above). Nevertheless the program has not attracted candidates from the Balkan region (excluding 4 candidates from Kosovo or the Albanian diaspora). The 77 enrolled candidates belong to the following nationalities: - 36 Albania - 32 EU countries (mainly Italy) - 4 Kosovo and Albanian diaspora - 1 USA - 1 Iran - 1 Singapore - 1 Lebanon - 1 Ecuador
Conclusions of IEG: The path of the student from enrolment to the conclusion of the program is well defined and documented. It is suggested that the admission procedure includes a specific minimum criteria for admission of second cycle studies grade average >80/100 (Standard I3 Criterion 1).	

SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH POLICIES

10. RESEARCH IN DOCTORAL SCHOOL AND INVOLVEMENT OF DOCTORAL STUDENTS

Description part

The university provides a strategic document related to research, which serves as a general guideline of the research topics and activities in Polis (Annex 18). Table 13 illustrates some of the activities in which are involved the PhD candidates. Many of the activities are organized by the university with the active participation of the academic staff and the PhD candidates. It has to be mentioned, that most candidates are employed in Polis as research assistants which naturally become part of the institutional academic and research policies and agendas.

Measurable indicators:

☑ EEG should analyse and evaluate: data for research (verify the data, according to Table 13)

Table 13

	Planned activities, individual and institution, who are involved in doctoral students	Number	The titles of scientific journals, projects, research activities
1.	Publications, where students have scientific articles	36	Forum A+P, OMB series, etc.
2.	Research projects, acquired by leading professors or doctoral students	36	Horizon 2020 Inception, Bilateral Albania-Austria, Drive.
3.	Projects Implemented	36	Durana, Albania Riviera, When a River Flaws, Projecting Shkodra, Prishtina – the new image of the city, Rurban sequences, Rethinking Gjirokastra.
4.	Scientific activities organized by the HEI	36	Tirana Design / Architecture Week, ENHR 2017, ISCPS 2016 & 2017 etc.
5.	Participants in scientific activities	36	Various
6.	Students involved in research	36	Various

☑ Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution

Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards/ criterions
Standard II.1 - Capacities for scientific research	
Criterion 1 A third cycle study program (doctorate) is integrated in research activity of Higher Education Institutions; **Criterion 4** The institution has the capacity to perform supervision of each doctorate student in research activities and respective didactic duties; **Criterion 6** Academic staff must show achievements in the research field through such creative activities as: presentations, scientific publications, magazines, books or monographs; **Criterion 7** Indicators of high level research activity are	IDAUP is a doctoral program which is based on the research of candidates and their academic supervisors, one form each partner university. Considering that this is the only third cycle program offered in Polis, it represents the main research nucleus of the university. The research topics are mainly related to Architecture and Urban Planning as the base field of the competence of the university. Although the research activity seems to be intensive, there is no clear structure of organisation of the research, where the

publications that contain statements from publishing and scientific research activity by other scholars outside doctorate study program, especially international, regarding the outcome of scientific research in the institution that offers doctorate programs;	proposals are mainly generated from the candidates, and no long term funded research project has been identified. At least one of the supervisors for each candidate, belongs to the category Professor (Site visit). The overall research environment seems to be rich and active. Beyond the regular academic activity, there is other periodical research activities and publications such as Tirana Design / Architecture Week and Forum A+P, where the academic staff and the PhD candidates are regularly publishing and presenting their research activity (Site visit). Although the university has not provided a detailed list of the research activity for the members of the academic staff, there is evidence of published research work in the documentation of each candidate that has submitted the thesis. The publications and participations in scientific conferences required for the candidates refer to the local legislation (Site visit).

Conclusions of EEG:
The research environment in Polis seems to be quite active and supported by qualified academic staff. The PhD candidates are involved in research and supervised by two members of the academic staff.

11. NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, IN FUNCTION OF DOCTORAL STUDY

Description part

*Terms of reference: Based on the SER and visits to institutions, EEG **should analyze and evaluate** the: Doctoral School's cooperation with institutions /national or international research organizations, invited academic staff, etc..*

IDAUP is supported by a considerable number of national and international partners. Beyond the two founding partners, the program has six associate partners (universities and industry) based in Europe and in the US.
The program has been supported also by mobility agreements and by institutions both in Albania and Italy. There is a constant presence of international academic staff, both in thesis supervision and in teaching. Such environment has created good opportunities for the development of the reputation and impact of the Doctoral program (Site visit) (SER pp.62-65) (Table 14, 15).

Measurable indicators:

☑ EEG should analyse and evaluate: the national and international cooperation (verify the data, according to Table 14)
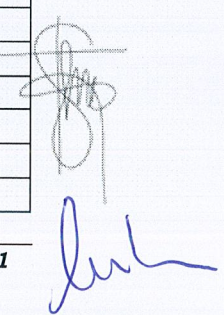
Table 14

	Scientific activities in the framework of international cooperation	
1	Number of students participating as partners in national and international projects	20
2	Number of Students participating in scientific activities, outside of HEI / presentations abroad	36
3	The number of foreign lecturers, who are invited to teaching	Various (related to

		workshops)
4	The number of classes held by invited foreign lecturers	10
5	Number of participants in training, in the field of abroad research	36
6	Mobility of students to and from HEI	20 (outgoing)
7	The number of international awards in the field of research	3

☑ EEG should analyze and evaluate: the Cooperation with scientific institutions (verify the data, according to Table 15)
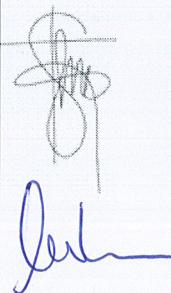
Table 15

Institutions and scientific organizations, which is cooperating with	
1. Higher education institutions	**Type of cooperation**
University of Ferrara	Double / Joint PhD
IHS/ Erasmus University	Double degree Master
Lawrence Technological University	Exchange of staff and students
IPAG Business School	Exchange of staff and students
Universiteti i Tiranës	Joint Conference
Universiti Aleksander Moisiu	Exchange of capacities and technical knowledge
Minho University	Exchange of capacities and technical knowledge Erasmus+ KA1
Polytechnic University of Bari	Erasmus+ KA1
University of Molise	Erasmus+ KA1
University FH Joanneum	Erasmus+ KA1
2. Public institutions	
Akademia e Shkencave	Exchange of capacities and technical knowledge
Ministria e Zhvillimit Urban dhe Turizmit	Exchange of capacities and technical knowledge
Arkiva Qëndrore Teknike e Ndërtimit	Exchange of capacities and technical knowledge
Ministria e Integrimit Europian	Exchange of capacities and technical knowledge
Ministria e Mjedisit, Pyjeve dhe	Exchange of capacities and technical knowledge
Ministria e Punës dhe Mundësive të	Exchange of capacities and technical knowledge
Ministria e Turizmit, Kulturisë, Rinisë dhe	Exchange of capacities and technical knowledge
Ministria e Mbrojtjes	Exchange of capacities and technical knowledge
Bashkia Tiranë	TAW, TDW Exchange of capacities and technical knowledge
American Embassy	Projekti "Do It Now"
German Embassy	Ekspozita "I.C.O.N.S"
Swiss Embassy	Ekspozita of Swiss Positions
Austrian Embassy	Konferencë e përbashkët
Austrian Development Agency	Environmental Film Festival
Bashkia e Tetovës	Visioni per zhvillimin e qytetit
Instituti i Monumenteve Kulturore	Exchange of capacities and technical knowledge
Komuna Kashar	Exchange of capacities and technical knowledge
Bashkia e Sarandës	Exchange of capacities and technical knowledge
Bashkia Burrel	Exchange of capacities and technical knowledge
Deutschzentrum	Exchange of capacities and technical knowledge
Bashkia Kamëz	Exchange of capacities and technical knowledge
Bashkia Vorë	Exchange of capacities and technical knowledge
Bashkia Dropull	Consultancy
Bashkia Shkodër	Consultancy
3. Proffessional organisations	
Co-PLAN	Applied research
Metro_POLIS	Applied research
Austrian Board for Road Safety	Horizon 2020 Project- TraSaCu

| ASIG – Autoriteti Shtetëror i Informacionit | Applied research |

☑ Relevant documents, taken during visits to the institution
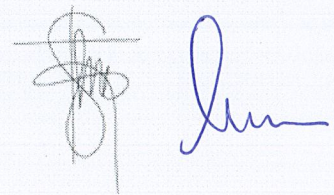
Evaluation according to the Standards

Standards/criterion	Evaluation according to standards/ criterions
Standard III.4 - Internationalization of doctorate study program	
Criterion 5 Doctorate study program encourages doctorate mobility by paying a considerable amount of expenditures for academic training outside doctorate study program; **Criterion 6** Doctorate study program encourages mobility of doctorate students by paying a considerable amount of expenditures for presentation of research results in national and international scientific activities (symposium, conference, congress); **Criterion 7** The institution has an agreement, at least with one Western university, guaranteeing programs of exchange of academic staff and doctorate students and realization of joint research projects. For Albanological Sciences cooperation could also be with a Higher Education Institution or research centre in Kosovo and lands where Albanians live; **Criterion 8** Doctorate study program creates the necessary space to develop joint doctorate study programs with homologous universities in the region, Europe and beyond; **Criterion 9** Doctorate study program provides for 3-4 modules (not less than 15 ECTS) to be conducted, organized in theoretical studies and doctorate students have the exam by professors of partner universities, known in the world, for quality and research, publishing activities in the relevant field of study. Exception cited in criterion 7 applies for Albanological Sciences; **Criterion 10** Doctorate study program promotes involvement of professors from foreign universities as scientific supervisors or as scientific collaborators of doctorate students.	IDAUP has been supported by Erasmus + mobility programs which have enabled the mobility of 20 candidates in partner universities. The mobilities have helped in experience gaining and in research advancement through the partner's resources (Site visit). The candidates have also participated in numerous activities organised in the university or in other institutions in Albania. They also have followed international projects in which the university has participated in the recent years. As part of Polis University they have also participated in scientific activities organised in the institution and have published in Forum A+P, a journal published at the university (Site visit). The University, beyond the partnership of joint studies with the University of Ferrara, offers a considerable number of western partner universities. The Slovak University of Bratislava, University of Pecs, University of Minho, Portsmuth University and Lawrenc Tech are five of the associate partners of IDAUP (Table 15). The conditions in criterion 9, although are fulfilled are not relevant anymore with the recent changes in legislation. The whole academic activity of the program is supported with international academic staff coming mainly from the University of Ferrara and is monitored by the Joint Academic Board and the Supervisory Board for Scientific Research (Site visit).
Standard II.1 - Capacities for scientific research	
Criterion 5 The institution has agreements with other academic or research institutions at home and abroad, supporting the exchange of academic staff and doctorate students and academic and research activities of doctorate school;	The partners presented in Table 15 give a clear picture of the consortium that Polis University has created to support IDAUP and the academic environment at the institutional scale. The Erasmus+ programs and the partnership with University of Ferrara and the associated universities (see Standard III.4) have created the possibilities for mobilities both of the academic staff and PhD candidates. The mobilities and international staff involved have been confirmed during the site visit meetings with

	students and academic staff.

Conclusions of EEG:

In conclusion, the EEG recognises the achievements of this doctoral program in terms of internationalization and the suitable environment created for developing research supported by multiple partners.

SWOT ANALYSIS OF THE PHD STUDY PROGRAM "ARCHITECTURE AND URBAN PLANNING", OFFERED BY POLIS UNIVERSITY
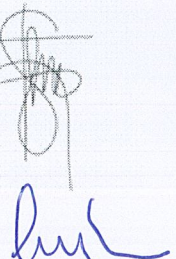
Strengths

1. The program is offered as a joint-double degree international PhD in cooperation with the University of Ferrara. This organization enables the involvement of the human resources, partners and infrastructure of both universities in creating a qualitative and international research environment.
2. The academic staff involved in the doctoral program is highly qualified and with international experience in research.
3. Polis University has created a rich offer of extracurricular and research activities, supported also by international projects and local partners;
4. The quality of physical infrastructure library and laboratories offers a qualitative environment for the research development.
5. The inclusion of the PhD candidates as research and teaching assistants contributes in the creation of a research oriented environment
6. The program goes through an annual accreditation process in Italy fulfilling the criteria of Italian legislation.
7. The research work is supervised and monitored for plagiarism through a well-established system.
8. The program is supported by mobility agreements which enable the PhD candidates to conduct research and gain experience also in other partner universities.

Points for improvement

1. The research projects and supervisors do not have dedicated budgets, which makes them dependent on the institutional funds.
2. The records of the PhD candidates kept in the Polis secretary include only the activities organized in Albania, with no evidence regarding the activities held in Italy.
3. The syllabus and planned activities have mismatches with the approved program for the first year of studies.

Opportunities

1. IDAUP should aim to obtain research funding from the industry which would provide an opportunity to create long term research programs and to increase the impact of the research work.
2. Polis University can use the freedom given by the local legislation for double degree programs, to redesign the curriculum in the most effective way to fulfil the objectives and ambitions of the program.
3. Increased chances of developing and enhancing the capacity to accommodate more international students (Internationalization)
4. U_POLIS should continue investments in their laboratories, developing further the quality of research within joint-degree doctoral program. These laboratories could in the future get accredited and be able to provide services for the third parties, as well.

Threats

1. The institutional capacities should increase to assure the autonomous continuation of the program in case of an unexpected termination of the partnership between Polis University and University of Ferrara.
2. The lack of research funded by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports
3. Symbolic number of research projects funded by the National Agency for Research and Innovation, AKKSHI.

Recommendations

1. Polis University should provide / attract dedicated research budgets which can be planned and managed autonomously in order to develop research projects or to support research groups.
2. Polis University must keep records related to the evaluation of all activities of the program which are converted in ECTS. The grades/evaluation must be recorded at the conclusion of the activity or the academic term in the official register for the program.
3. It is recommended to review the curriculum in order to offer a minimum of 30% of "class" hours (450 / 1500 hours) during the first year of studies.
4. In order to fulfil the objectives of the program, the syllabus and activity of courses in the first year should be designed in accordance with the approved academic curriculum plan, with reference to class hours and also allowing the time for individual study hours for students during the courses.
5. To fulfil the objectives of the program, both workshops (at U_POLIS and at UNIFE) should be organized and attended by students in accordance with the approved academic curriculum plan and timeframe, within the first year of studies, allowing them to concentrate on their specific research work during the following two years of studies.
6. Having in mind that the Program includes/requires student motilities, U_POLIS should have the list of partner/Associate members expanded, not only internationally but in the region as well, which will contribute towards more mobility possibilities covered by the Associate members, for both students and teaching staff.

External Evaluation Group:

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