



UNIVERSITETI I PRISHTINËS
"HASAN PRISHTINA"



UNIVERSITETI I PRIZRENIT
"UKSHIN HOTI"



UNIVERSITETI - UNIVERSITY - UNIVERZITET
"MAXHI ZEKA"



UNIVERSITETI I MITROVICËS
ISA BOLETINI



UNIVERSITETI - UNIVERSITY
"KADRI ZEKA"



UNIVERSITETI I GJAKOVËS
FEHMIAGANI



UNIVERSITETI
I SHKENCAVE TË APLIKUARA
FERIZAJ

Notification about the State Council of Quality (SCQ) decision' on withdrawing of study programs accreditation

1. The Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA) on date 18.01.2019 in an electronic form has notified the Public Universities of Kosovo for the decisions taken by the State Council of Quality. In its meeting held on 15 and 16 January 2019, the SCQ has withdrew accreditation for many study programs of public universities, especially of new public universities (40% of programs that including approximately 70% of students). All programs that have been withdrawn from the accreditation, respectively are closed, have valid accreditation.
2. The closure of programs accredited by KAA is arbitrary and illegal and in contravention of article 21 of Administrative Instruction of MEST no. 15, 2018.
 - a. Article 21, paragraph 2 defines that accreditation can be withdrawn from a program if it only has failed to fulfil the conditions of accreditation, and this has not been the case with the study programs.
 - b. Article 21, paragraph 4 defines the procedure for the withdrawal of accreditation by KAA, which can only happen after an evaluation report of the external expert team, and this has not occurred on the case of public universities.
3. KAA has applied additional standards which were not required at the time of accreditation.
 - a. The Administrative Instruction no. 15, 2018, article 26, paragraphs 5.3.4 requires that for every 60 ECTS credits of the study programs, the institutions must have at one fulltime staff with PhD title from the field of study program. This standard is automatically imposed for all study programs, even those that had accreditation before 2018. Consequently, public universities were obliged to be made up of four (4) professors in the four (4) year study programs although they were accredited by three (3) professors until October 1st, 2018. This illegal imposition has unbalanced the proper distribution of academic staff through study programs. New standards may be required for new programs in accreditation and re-accreditation, but not for accredited programs.
4. KAA has failed to define the study fields of academic programs and academic staff by applying an unprecedented dogmatic approach to modern higher education. Some fields of study are interdisciplinary, such as Pre-primary Program and Primary Program, in which the main fields of study are: Albanian Language and Literature; pedagogy; math, psychology etc. While KAA has closed the study programs of the Faculty of Education with the wrong argument that the professor with the philology study field (language and literature) is not a study field of education. (As seen from the reaction of the KAA to the Declaration of the Rectors Conference on January 24th, 2019). At the time of accreditation of our programs, the experts have estimated that the study fields of the programs and those of the academic staff are in harmony. KAA has no legal competence to change the assessment of the expert team without another expert assessment.

5. KAA did not cooperate with public universities in the period of the annual review of higher education institutions. In the prior communication, KAA has never warned about any raised suspicions for the study programs. This is unusual, both procedurally and legally, as well as in the aspect of the good tradition of cooperation so far.
6. With these approaches, KAA has made illegal and tendentious decisions against the Public Universities. This makes us oppose in all legal forms until full change of these anarchist and anti-educational policies led by KAA.

With respect,

1. Prof. dr. Fadil Millaku, rector of UHZ-Peja and vice chairman
2. Prof. dr. Marjan Dema, rector of University of Prishtina
3. Prof. dr. Alush Musaj, rector of UIMB-Mitrovica
4. Prof. asoc. dr. Bajram Kosumi, rector of UKZ-Gjilan
5. Prof. dr. Shaban Buza, rector of UGJFA-Gjakova
6. Prof. dr. Agron Bajraktari, rector of USHA-Ferizaj

The image shows five handwritten signatures in blue ink, each written over a horizontal line. The signatures are: 1. A cursive signature that appears to be 'F. Millaku'. 2. A cursive signature that appears to be 'M. Dema'. 3. A cursive signature that appears to be 'A. Musaj'. 4. A cursive signature that appears to be 'B. Kosumi'. 5. A cursive signature that appears to be 'S. Buza'. Below these, there is a sixth signature that appears to be 'A. Bajraktari' written over a line, with the number '10100' written below it.