



Assessment Report
of the application by the
Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius;
Faculty of Law, on accreditation postulate of
Bachelor Study program (LL.B.)
“Law”

Table of contents	Page
1. Introduction	3
2. General	5
3. Content issues	
3.1 Structure of the program and content requirements	8
3.2 Modularization	12
3.3 Educational objectives	15
3.4 Labour market situation and employment opportunities	16
3.5 Access and admission requirements	17
3.6 Quality Assurance	17
4. Personnel and technical equipment	
4.1 Teaching Personnel	21
4.2 Equipment for Teaching and Research	22
5. Institutional Environment and Structural Conditions	23
6. Expert's report	24
7. Recommendation of the Accreditation Commission	40

This report is confidential. Disclosure to third parties without the consent of the applicant institution or the office of the AHPGS is not allowed.

The AHPGS used in the interest of readability, the masculine noun in the following forms representing the feminine and the masculine forms alike.

1. Introduction

Degree programs in Lithuania are required by order No. ISAK-1652 from 24.07.2010 to be accredited.

The decision regarding the accreditation of a degree program is carried out by the "Center for Quality Assessment in Higher Education", authorized by the Lithuanian Ministry of Education and Science for this purpose. The accreditation decision of a particular study program is based on results and evaluations established in an External Assessment. In order for the External Assessment to be implemented, each university is allowed to commission agencies which are listed in the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR) (verification of the accreditation request). The AHPGS is listed since 12.06.2009 in the Quality Assurance Register.

The verification of the accreditation request focuses, on the one hand, on the Assessment Spheres laid out in the afore-mentioned order (No. ISAK-1652, paragraph 1); on the other hand, it takes into consideration the standards for international surveys of the AHPGS.

The External Assessment procedure is carried out in four steps:

I. The University's application:

The AHPGS verifies the sufficiency of the documents submitted by the university, namely the application and its corresponding annexes. These are to fulfill the AHPGS standards, as well as the Assessment Spheres. The agency ensures that the legal, outline requirements issued by the Ministry of Education regarding the accreditation of study programs are met. As a result, the AHPGS produces a summary (see 2.-5.), which is to be approved by the university

and subsequently made available for the expert group, together with all other documentation.

II. Written acknowledgement regarding the content of the Program

The main documents are reviewed by the expert group in order to verify their compliance with the applicable accreditation criteria valid in Lithuania. Consequently, the experts comprise a short summary regarding the study programs.

III. On-site-assessment (Peer-Review)

The AHPGS agency names an expert group which carries out an external evaluation. During the on-site review discussions with various members of the institution take place, from university and department administration and degree program management, to lecturers and students. This offers the expert group details about the degree program which the written documents might have omitted. The task of the experts during the on-site-assessment is the verification and evaluation of the Objectives of the program and its projected study results, its Structure, Staff, Material resources, course of studies and methods of assessment (selection of students, assessment of achievements, students' support), as well as of the program management (program administration, external assurance of study quality). After the on-site review, the expert group issues a report based both on the results of the on-site-assessment, and the analysis of the application and the documents submitted by the university. This is made available to the university, in order for it to issue a response opinion. The expert report, as well as the university's opinion serve – together with the submitted documents – as the basis for the recommendation of the accreditation commission of the AHPGS.

IV. The AHPGS recommendation regarding accreditation

For the accreditation recommendation, the AHPGS completes the expert report, with an annex consisting of the quoted index of the university's application, the experts' summaries, and the university's response opinion. These documents form the grounds for the accreditation recommendation of the AHPGS Accreditation Commission and the Lithuanian accreditation decision of the Center for Quality Assessment in Higher Education.

2. General

The Application for Accreditation (without the awarding of the official seal of the accreditation trust for study programs in Germany) of the study programs in "Law" (here Application) of the Mykolas Romeris University was submitted to the Accreditation Agency for Study Programs in Health and Social Science (AHPGS e.V.) in electronic format on the 15.02.2011. The contract between the Mykolas Romeris University and the AHPGS was signed on the 08.03.2011. This stipulates the review and verification for accreditation of the following Bachelor and Master study programs in "Law":

- Law (Bachelor);
- Law (Master) with the Specializations in International Law; Civil Law and Criminal Law and Criminology;
- Law and Management (Bachelor);
- Law and Management (Master);
- Law and Police Activity (Bachelor);
- Law and Police Activity (Master);
- Law and Penitentiary Activity (Bachelor);
- Law and Penitentiary Activity (Master).
- European Union Law (Master);
- International Maritime Law (Master);

The present summary of the Study program "Law" (Bachelor), prepared by the AHPGS, was approved by the University on 14.04.2011

The application for accreditation submitted by the Mykolas Romeris University for the Bachelor study program follows the outline recommended by the AHPGS. Alongside the application request for verification for accreditation of the Bachelor study program "Law", the following additional documents are to be found in the application package (the documents submitted by the applicant are numbered in the following order for easier referencing):

Specific documents for the study program "Law"

Annex	Description
1	Module descriptions Law Bachelor
2	Module overview Law Bachelor
3.1	Study Plan (Law Fulltime)
3.2	Study Plan (Law Part-time)
4	Diploma Supplement Law Bachelor
5	Teaching Matrix Law Bachelor
6	Timetable Law Fulltime
7	Timetable Law Part-time
8	Employment positions Law Bachelor

The documents listed below apply for all the above mentioned study programs.

Annex	Description
A	Constitutional Court-Legal Education-2008-02-20
B	Contact work
C	Description of the Law Study
D	First cycle study programs
E	Master's study programs requirements
F	Government-Legal Education-2002

G	Law on Higher Education and Research
H	Procedure of Studies-2008
I	Procedure of Studies_2011_01_20
J	Surveys of Students
K	The fund of auditoriums
L	MRU library
M	Computers
N	Council of the Lithuanian Bar Association Recommendation
O	Science
P	Organisational Structure of the Mykolas Romeris University
Q	Norcous - Students prefer to study in Lithuania
R	European Standards and Guidelines (ENQA)

The evaluation and verification procedure (without the awarding of the official seal of the accreditation trust for study programs in Germany) is carried out on the basis of the assessment spheres as defined by the Lithuanian Ministry of Education and Science and the AHPGS' standards for international reviews.

The on site-assessment took place on 02-03.05.2011. The present assessment report is based on the university's application, the additional comments and the result of the on-site assessment.

Following the recommendation of the experts and of the Accreditation Commission, the AHPGS has reached a positive decision regarding the application towards accreditation of the Bachelor study program "Law" of the Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius. Thus, the agency recommends the accreditation of the present study program without further requirements. This is valid six years, starting 16.06.2011.

3. Content issues

3.1 Structure of the program and content requirements

According to the university, the final goal of the Bachelor's program is to permit the administration of legal work and grant studying at a Master's level. Students who successfully complete the studies of LL.B are granted the Bachelor's qualification degree. They become entitled to work in law enforcement institutions, i.e. as an attorney, bailiff or other legal functions and in legal departments of state institutions and private companies. (*cf. Application, A1.3*).

The courses of the Bachelor study-program "Law" are taught in Lithuanian and English and finalize with awarding the final degree of "Bachelor of Law" (LL.B). The program amounts to a total of 210 ECTS-Credit points (European Credits Transfer System). One ECTS-Credit point equals 26,6 study hours (*cf. Application, A1.6*). The program is available in both 'full-time' and 'part-time' forms – reaching a total study period of 3.5 years (7 semesters) and 5 years (10 semesters), respectively (*cf. Application, A1.3*). Annexes 3.1 and 3.2 contain a detailed structure of the study program in each form. In the 'full-time' form there is an average of 30 ECTS-Credits to be completed each semester; in the 'part-time' form, there are to be completed between 12 and 24 Credits per semester (*cf. Annex 3.2*). The final workload of the study program amounts to 6.300 hours. In the 'full-time' form, the workload is divided into 2.452 contact hours (43,8% of the total number of hours, representing approx. 17,51 hours/week) and 3.148 hours assigned for independent work (56,2% of the total number of hours). For the part-time form, the total number of contact hours of the degree is of 1.197 hours (20 % of the total number of hours) (*cf. Application, A1.6*). The preparation and presentation of the Bachelor Thesis (*cf. Application, A1.6*) is listed as part of the individual study time and covers 12 ECTS-Credit points. According to the University, the Bachelor's Degree Program in Law complies with all the Lithuanian legal requirements (*cf. Application, A1.6*).

The organizational structure (semesters) of the full-time and part-time study program can be summarized as following (described in the Application under A1.5):

36 Module 210 credits	Study length	Ø credits per sem	Contact hours per week
Full-time	7 sem (3,5y)	30	16,3
Part-time	10 sem (5y)	21	6,4

(LL.B)	Estimated workload	Out of which contact hours	Prognosticated individual work
Full-time	5600 hours	2282 hours (40,8%)	3318 hours (59,2%)
Part-time	5600 hours	1288 hours (21,5%)	4312 hours (78,5%)

The earliest beginning of the Bachelor study program “Law and Management” took place in the year 1998. The number of students to be admitted each year depends on the number of applicants of the year before, the Admission Commission monitors therefore the flow of applications and announces the list of those admitted without any prior limitations regarding the number of places. The number of students currently enrolled in both the full-time (overall 890 over four years) and part-time programs (overall 1.016 over four years) are presented in the table under Section A1.9.

In 2009 the annual fees for the undergraduate “Law” Study program, as decided by the Ministry of Education and Science, and reduced in accordance to the permission of the Senate of the University, were as follows: for full-time studies 3.582 Litas (1.040,- Euro); for part-time studies 2.388 Litas (695,- Euro).

According to the university, the structure of Bachelor Study Programs in the field of “Law” is regulated by legal requirements laid down in the acts mentioned in the Application under Section A1.11. Subjects such as the “Theory of Law” and “History of Law” are studied during the first year. This is due to the fact that the students need to be familiarized from an early stage with law as a phenomenon, as well as with its origins, development, functions, and position in the system of

other social regulators. Constitutional law is also part of the introductory studies, as it aims at accustoming students with the supreme legal force as a legislative document to which all other legal acts comply. During the first year of studies general university subjects are also part of the course of study (e.g. Philosophy, Logics or Ethics). Starting the second year, the main subdivisions of law are studied (e.g. Civil Law, Administration Law, Criminal Law). The university states that the final courses focus on the study of European Union Law and International Law. This is a reasonable course of action, as the students have already been familiarized with national regulations, and have carried out an internship with legal character. The studies are completed with the defense of the final thesis and the final [qualification] examination (*c.f. specific Annex 2*). The study program concept and description of the course structure is specified in the Application under A2.2. The program is divided into subjects (*cf. Application, A1.11 and 3.2 Modularization*).

According to the requirements of the legal acts, 15 ECTS Credit points are to be assigned for the completion of the internship. In the full-time study program, this is divided in two parts, each spreading over the 6th and 7th semester. The first part accounts for 6 ECTS credits (the equivalent of 4 working weeks), whereas for the second part 9 ECTS credits are assigned (the equivalent of 6 working weeks). In part-time study program, the internship is to be fully completed in the 10th semester. According to the university, the majority of the part-time students is already involved in work with legal character. Accordingly, the university has decided that such work can account for the internship.

The goal of the internship is to consolidate the theoretic knowledge acquired during the course of studies, to gain practical skills in handling legal work, and to familiarize oneself with the difficulties in matters of implementing justice. The more specific aim of internships taking place in various professional fields (e.g. notary, court, law firm) are described in detail in the Application under Section A1.20. Another important contribution in the formation of practical abilities

during the course of study consists the participation of legal practitioners in the implementation of the law study program.

Since 2005 the University has been employing the electronic learning environment ("Moodle" e-learning platform), as well as electronic/ media teaching devices in the lectures (*cf. Application, A1.17 and 1.18*).

The international aspects of the curriculum are described in the application under Section A1.14. It should be kept in mind that legal studies, due to their nature, involve primarily the study of national law. Nonetheless, as Lithuania is a Member State of the European Union, the law studies orient future specialists beyond the demands of the Lithuanian system, raising awareness towards similar European and global processes (as the university states). Particularly the third year of studies, focuses on such subjects as International Public Law and European Union Institutional Law (*c.f. specific Application A1.14*).

The intercultural aspect of the study program is described in detail in the Application under A1.15. The university presents, thus, its expanding international orientation, as it remains an active participant in the European and global education market. This can be observed from the institution's activity, as it is a member of several international organizations, from the mobility it offers to students and teachers alike, and from the development of joint study programs and scientific projects. In 2010, 75 exchange students were studying at the Faculty, present there through bilateral agreements or the Erasmus program (34 students in the spring semester, 41 in the fall semester). In 2010, 50 students of the Faculty of Law studied in exchange programs coordinated in partnership with other universities by means of the agreements mentioned above (26 students in the spring semester, 24 in the autumn semester). During the same year, 17 students carried out an internship and 28 university professors and assistants from the Faculty taught in partner institutions, both as part of the Erasmus program. More than that, 24 foreign university members visited the Faculty and delivered lectures as part of exchange programs.

The Faculty of Law is a member of the following international networks: Rotterdam Law Network, Nordplus Network, Elpis Network.

3.2 Modularization

The program is divided into several subjects. The subjects offered in the full-time study program are listed below (*c.f. Annex 3.1*), and are further described in Annex 1.

Semester	Title	ECTS-Credit
1	Theory of Law	6
	History of Law	6
	Logics and Scientific Methodology	6
	Philosophy	3
	Professional Foreign Language (English, German, French)	3
	Speciality Language	3
	Optional subjects: Ethics; Psychology; Rhetoric; Politology (one subject is to study)	3
2	Theory of Law	6
	Constitutional Law	6
	Administrative Law (General Part) A	6
	Latin Language K	3
	Economic Theory E	3
	Professional Foreign Language (English, German, French)	3
	Optional subjects: System of Law Enforcement Institutions; Lithuanian Statute Law; Lithuanian Legal Sources (1918 – 1940); Canon Law (one subject is to study)	3
3	Constitutional Law	6
	Administrative Law (Special Part)	6
	Criminal Law (General Part)	5
	Civil Law (General Part)	6
	Legal Philosophy	4
	Roman Law	3
4	Criminal Procedure Law	5
	Criminal Law (General Part)	5
	Civil Law (General Part)	6
	Civil Procedure Law	5
	Administrative Procedure Law	6
	Optional subjects: Family Law; Forensic Psychiatry; Assurance Law; Law of Constitutional Disputes; Criminology; Copyright Law; Penitential Law (one subject is to study)	5
	5	Criminal Procedure Law
Criminal Law (Special Part)		5
Civil Law (Special Part)		6
Civil Procedure Law		5
Labour Law		6

	Optional subjects: Tax law; Parliamentary Law; Social Security Law; International Human Rights Protection; Criminalistics Land Law; Introduction to Comparative Law (one subject is to study)	3
6	Criminal Law (Special Part)	5
	Civil Law (Special Part)	6
	Institutional European Union Law	3
	International Public Law T	6
	Financial Law F	4
	Internship	6
7	Substantive European Union Law	3
	International Private Law	3
	Internship	9
	Optional subjects: Legal Medicine; Corruption Control and Prevention; Environmental Law; Notarian Law; Pretrial Investigation; Health Law (one subject is to study)	3
	Bachelor theses	6
	State examination: Theory of Law OR Administrative Law and Administrative Procedure Law OR Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure Law OR Civil Law and Civil Procedure Law OR European Union Law OR International Law OR Constitutional Law OR Labour Law and Social Security Law	6
Summed up		210

The part-time course of study is listed under Annex 3.2. This offers the same subjects as its full-time equivalent.

Each subject is designed so as to cover the following aspects: "Course extend", "Objectives and expected abilities", "Brief annotation", "Main topics", "Teaching and learning methods", "Assessment of knowledge and abilities", "Recommended literature" and information about the "Coordinating teacher" (*c.f. Annex 1*).

The examinations taking place within the program are governed by the "Procedure of Studies at Mykolas Romeris University" (*cf. Annex H and I, §§ 92 - 98*). The above-mentioned document also indicates the basic study regulations at the Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius (form of study, duration, number of credits, course regulations and university change, etc.). The evaluation procedures are described in detail under Section A1.12 of the Application. These are an integrating part of in the study process, as Section A.1.13. states: "The aim of the evaluation of learning achievements is based on the active interaction

between the evaluator and the evaluated student and is defined not only as the provision of feedback information on achievements and progress to the Bachelor student assistance in the personal development, and an instrument for the stimulation of learning motivation, but also as one of the instruments for the determination of the appropriateness of training/learning methods and efficiency of the training process" (*Application, A1.13*). The evaluation system is presented under the program description of each study subject. According to the university, the students are introduced to it during the first lectures on the specific subject. In addition, the assessment criteria are announced on the Internet page of each department and on the personal ones of the university professors.

According to Annex 1 and Annex 4, no. 110, the Department announces the topics of the term papers two weeks after the beginning of the fall semester (*cf. Annex 4, No. 110*).

Students are permitted to take examinations in advance, i.e. prior to the fixed examination session, provided that they obtain authorization from the Dean. Examinations or pass/fail evaluations can be taken only once. Examinations or pass/fail evaluations taken in advance and failed are considered an academic debt¹. Timetables of examinations and pass/fail evaluations are prepared and announced no later than two weeks before the examination session" (*Application, A1.13*).

1 If a student registered for a course at the beginning of the semester, does not pass (either by failing or not attending the examination test), it is considered that the student holds an academic debt. Students who hold a place financed from the state budget and have no more than three academic debts, may redo the examinations within the next semester. However, they need to repeat the failed course subject within the same semester, after paying the course credits and while continuing with the regular study program. If they do not express their choice of repeating the failed course within 15 days from the end of the term, they are expelled from the University as non-achievers. A student, holding a state-financed place, may repeat the same course only once. When repeating a course, it is possible to take exams twice. Students paying tuition fees and holding such debts, may choose individually when to eliminate these , in the sense that they can indicate in their plans the terms of accounting. After failing an exam, a student may take it again free of charge only once. For any other retakes, the student needs has to pay the fee established by the University.

University Bachelor degrees in law are implemented solely by the Mykolas Romeris University. According to the University, the Faculty of Law is the only one which, by awarding such degrees, consequently provides the opportunity of a career as a judge, attorney, prosecutor or notary. This is possible after graduating the Bachelor's or Master's degree. The programs developed by the Mykolas Romeris University, Faculty of Law are similar to other study programs carried out by other universities. This is due to strict legal regulations, which demand that degrees cover the same subjects during the first year of study. The main differences consists in duration, volume, and the number and nature of optional subjects (*c.f. Application, A1.19*). Upon comparing Bachelor studies in law in Lithuania with foreign ones, it can be observed that the basic study subjects are the same in most countries, following the tradition of continental law: almost all include Constitutional, Administrative, Criminal, Civil, and Labour Law, European Union Law, and International Law.

3.3 Educational objectives

The overall aim of the Bachelor program "Law" at the Mykolas Romeris University – is to prepare qualified legal specialists able to work in various law enforcement institutions. More specific, undergraduates should be able to fulfill positions such as bailiff, to work in legal services of state institutions, as well as in private companies. This aim is specified in the Application under A2.3, and covers the following associated areas of competence:

- Knowledge,
- Cognitive competencies,
- Practical competencies,
- Adaptable competencies.

Ibid, these competencies are further detailed. For example, under the spectrum of cognitive abilities fall "the ability to analyze the behavior and Activity of an individual or social institutions from the viewpoint of legal norms, the ability to

relate various legal ideas and to rationalize solutions for the regulation of legal conflicts, the ability to think logically and critically, and to identify the goals and correct problems of legal regulations, as well as the ability to interpret data significant for law" (*Application, A2.3*).

3.4 Labour market situation and employment opportunities

Graduates of the Bachelor study program have – according to the university – the possibility to be employed as attorney, or bailiff, or fulfill other legal functions, and are consequently entitled to work in the legal sector of state institutions and private companies. The Application also indicates that graduates often decide for Masters' degree programs, while being already employed. The institutions which employ them include courts, prosecutor offices, law firms, bailiff offices, notary offices, state and municipal institutions or banks. Specific information on this aspect is offered in Annex 7.

The University actively monitors the integration of its graduates into the labour market, as well as their career: individual interviews are performed (either by phone or email) and a constant cooperation with the Lithuanian Labour Exchange, the Civil Service Department, and Sodra (Social Security Fund) is maintained. Following the official information provided by these institutions, the University concluded upon favourable employment indicators of the graduates. Results showed in 2009 that the average employment rate of Bachelor graduates was of 98.5. Section A3.2 of the Application lists the percentage of employed graduates of the Bachelor studies in law (Law Study Program and Law and Management Study Program) of Mykolas Romeris University between in 2004 – 2009.

3.5 Access and admission requirements

According to the university, “admission to the first-cycle studies requires at least secondary or equivalent education” (*Annex I, § 7*), and it takes into account learning results, entrance examinations and any further criteria laid down by the higher education institution. In order to be considered an eligible candidate, an applicant should have graduated secondary school, and should have successfully passed the state examinations. Furthermore, s/he needs to submit an application for admission to the University. No additional requirements – either practical or theoretical - are stipulated for the applicants. Since course subjects are taught in Lithuanian, an applicant should know the language. Individuals who already graduated from colleges and were granted professional Bachelor’s qualification degree in law are admitted directly to the third year of studies. Individuals who already hold partial higher university education, are admitted to the 2nd year of part-time studies. Further details are given in the Application under A4.

3.6 Quality assurance

The university indicates that quality assurance in study programs is regulated by various legal acts. These documents are listed in the Application under Section A5.1. The university and the Faculty of Law implements these specifications at all levels.

It should be also noted that the University sets great emphasis on the quality assurance of study programs. This is done in order to respond positively to the provisions and guidelines for internal quality assurance of European higher education (*cf. Application, A5.1*). The policy grounds itself on principles of consensus in the academic community, taking action at two levels: at the level of quality culture (the entire academic community participates in monitoring the assessment and assurance processes); and at a subsidiary level (responsibility for the quality of studies is evenly distributed among the members of the academic community; subsequently each member is responsible for fulfilling

these duties in accordance to his/her position, competence, and authority). Following these principles, the division of responsibility for the quality of studies is decided upon by means of agreement and is implemented at all levels, from students to Senate and Rectorate.

The quality assurance guidelines of the University are comprised according to the European standards in the matter (*Annex R*). These are divided into seven main areas, and include, among other things, a separate section on the study of quality assessment². The Bachelor study program's quality assurance is designed on the basis of the general Guidelines for Quality Assurance of University studies. The University has been implementing an evaluation procedure for academic teaching personnel for 3 years. This has enabled an objective assessment in the following areas of activity: academic – methodological work, scientific publications, other scientific research (excluding publications), organizational work, participation in project management and public activity. The content of the program is annually evaluated and updated, while study plans and structures are continually revised. The study process itself experiences constant improvement by employing innovative teaching techniques, and the latest technologies. A distinctive focus is set on the development and update of program resources (*cf. Application, A5.1*).

The quality of studies is assessed by students, and the Faculty members alike in the following manner:

- The teaching personnel carries out semestrial surveys amongst students regarding the quality of the study subject ;
- Aspects pertaining to the quality of teaching, or complaints from the part of students, etc. are discussed in Council meetings ;
- Anonymous electronic surveys are carried out amongst students in order to evaluate the quality of the teaching subjects.

2 The seven main divisions of quality assurance are: Policy and procedures for quality assurance; Approval, monitoring and periodic review of programs and awards; Assessment of students; Quality assurance of teaching staff; Learning resources and student support; Information systems; Public information.

As result of the assessment, the Faculty continuously revises proposals regarding the improvement of teaching methods. More than that, students are actively involved in the process of quality assurance by assessing the instruction quality (*cf. Application, A5.4*).

In evaluating the study program, and its direct application in the professional field, a significant contribution is brought by the teaching personnel who has already acquired field experience, and is thus directly involved in the development of the legal system (*Application, A5.5*). The University maintains close contact with its graduates by regularly carrying out surveys. This offers an insight into the graduates' experiences in the search for employment, and later, in their professional career. The University currently has three alumni organizations: the Alumni Association of the Faculty of Law, Club of Masters of Laws ILEX, and the Alumni Association of Mykolas Romeris University, the last including all graduates of the University.

The continual training of the academic personnel is ensured by means of courses, teaching internships at foreign universities or conference participation. Internal trainings take place several times a year, either under the supervision of the Faculty or that of the departments. The courses offer the chance to exchange study case experiences, and improve/analyze teaching methods, such as supervision, reflection, and project work. Part of the process of assessing the impact of an internship underwent by a professor consists in the presentation of its results to fellow colleagues and the analysis of a different teaching system. (*c.f. Application, A5.8*).

Section A5.3 of the Application offers details about student assistance. Concerning the general study development, students are consulted by program supervisors. The latter also organize the procedures for the recognition of non-formal and informal learning. Student assistance concerning various aspects is provided by:

- The academic assistants of the Faculty of Law.
- The Career Center personnel responsible for introducing professional career opportunities.
- Full-time students are provided with individual consultations after the schedule established by the Department.
- Students can contact professors using different information technologies in order to receive advice on key issues regarding the studies.
- Individual study plans are available for working students, allowing them to manage both work and studies.
- Students' social needs are the concern of the Dean of the Faculty, the divisions of Welfare and Facilities under the Directorate for Economics, and Commission for Social Affairs of the University. According to the University, increased attention is paid to disabled students, and orphans, and the social problems they encounter (*cf. Application, A5.3*).

Information regarding the program, subjects, exams, etc. is available on the Internet pages of the University and the Faculty of Law (*cf. Application, A5.2*).

In the implementation of the study program in "Law", the University follows Article 6 of the Law amending Equal Opportunities for Men and Women of RL (17.06.2008; No. X-1602), and the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania. The principle of gender equality is guaranteed by equal opportunities in all of the following situations: admission to the program; granting of scholarships or loans; design and approval of educational programs; evaluation of students' academic achievements (*cf. Application, A5.6*).

Section A5.10 of the Application offers details about the assistance offered to disabled students. This also includes support in specific matters which may arise during their study due to their disability.

4. Personnel and spatial equipment

4.1 Teaching Personnel

Annex 5 provides an overview of the lecturers. 83 individuals are employed within the program: 17 professors, 35 associate professors, 5 doctors, all of them hold a doctor's degree. More than half of the teachers presently hold research degrees. Furthermore, 63 tutors, for whom teaching is not their main occupation, teach within the Program.

The Regulations (2008) state that teaching personnel with a doctor's degree (professors and associate professors) should make up not less than 40% of the academic staff. As the above numbers show, this requirement is met: 69% of professors and associate professors teach in the full-time studies and 69% in the part-time studies. The University is the main workplace for 39 (78%) teachers, 22 of them holders of a doctor's degree. Moreover, the degree also meets the General Requirements for Study programs, according to which full-time teaching personnel with doctor's degrees should be assigned no less than 50% of the teaching volume for a specific part of the study program (*Application, B1.1*).

A full-time instructor is assigned a 5-year position to a primary post by means of public competition. The competition is announced by the Rector of the University. The teaching personnel is certified by orders outlined in laws and legal acts, as well as by procedures laid down by the Senate. Starting 2010, candidates for a teaching position are evaluated by the Lecturers and Academic Employees Admission for Primary Posts Commission, a commission appointed by the order of the Senate. Not less than one third of the Admission Commission members consist of non-university employees. Upon opening a competition for the position of head academic or professor, there has to be at least one international, independent, member within the afore-mentioned commission. This

demand meets the objectivity criteria, as well as the prerequisites for choosing the most qualified applicant (*cf. Application, A5.7*).

4.2 Equipment for Teaching and Research

Section B3.1. of the Application offers detailed information about the premises and the technical equipment the university possesses. Under Annex K, Table 1 the corresponding list can be found (*cf. Application, B3.1*).

According to the University, its library is amongst most modern of the Lithuanian higher education institutions (*cf. Application, B3.2*). The Application offers information on the resources present in the library (224.300 publications. To this 7800 publications were added over the first months of 2010). Data bases and other information about library are presented in Annex L). Section B3.2 of the application offers organizational details, such as opening hours.

Section B3.3 of the Application offers information about the University's computer and electronic resources. Currently, the University holds about 1200 stationary and mobile computer stations, and over 200 printers and scanners available for use for students and employees. All working stations are connected to the Internet network, and laptop computers can connect to the wireless network in nearly every of the premises of the University (*cf. specific Annex M*).

5. Institutional Environment and Structural Conditions

Mykolas Romeris University is a public institution of the Republic of Lithuania. The University was registered on 22.12.1997; its founder is the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania. Its autonomy and activity are based on the Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania, the Law on Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania, and the University Statute. Since its registration, the University has

improved both qualitatively and quantitatively. It currently has enrolled approximately 21.000 students, 200 out of whom in doctoral programs in law, psychology, management and administration. Annex 16 offers specific information regarding the university structure: to put it briefly, the university holds 6 faculties, 39 departments and a renowned Institute of Humanitarian Sciences (*cf. Application, C1.1*).

Among its establishments, the University includes: a Centre for Academic Affairs, responsible for supervising, drafting and implementing study programs, study quality assurance, distance and international studies and student admission; a Centre for Science, Communication and Marketing (responsible with supervising the marketing and international relations Activity), and an Office and Division of Economy.

The University has under its supervision faculties of Economical and Financial Management, Policy and Management, Social Policy, Social Informatics, Law and Public Safety. These train graduates in the Bachelor's, Master's and doctoral studies in conformity to the provisions of the Bologna process. Modern, interactive study forms are constantly introduced, according to Mykolas Romeris University.

The University holds 32 members responsible for its good management, gathered under the following bodies: the Council of the University (4 members), the Senate of the University (27 Senate members have been elected for the term of 5 years in 2009) and the University Rector.

The University developed programs in the fields of economics, law, management and business administration, psychology, informatics, political sciences, public administration, social work, sociology and educology. These add up to a total of 70 courses of study from which students can decide.

Bachelor's Study Programs offered at the University are in the following specializations: law, law and management, economics of finance, development and management of business systems, business informatics, law and customs

activity, law and penitential activity, law and police activity, social work, psychology, public administration, law and state border protection.

Master's Study Programs offered at the University are in the following specializations: law, bio-law, law on labour and social procurement, European Union law, European Union policy and administration, finance management, science management, law on new technologies, administration of self-government institutions, social work, public administration, economics of business ownership, business law, public policy, economics of public sector, international protection of human rights, psychology of law.

In the academic year 2010–2011, the University held 14 undergraduate programs, 50 independent postgraduate programs, and 2 joint postgraduate programs.

Specific information concerning the faculty of Law can be found in the Application beneath C2.1.

6. Expert Report

I. Preliminary remarks:

The evaluation of the study programmes of the Mykolas Romeris University subject to accreditation

- Law (Bachelor and Master)
- Law and Management (Bachelor and Master)
- Law and Police Activity (Bachelor and Master)
- Law and Penitentiary Activity (Bachelor and Master)
- European Union Law (Master) and
- International Maritime Law (Master)

was carried out according to a structured procedure:

During the first step, the documents submitted by the higher education institution underwent a written evaluation by the expert group with regard to the specified criteria as well as disciplinary and substantive aspects.

During the second step an on-site evaluation of the Mykolas Romeris University was carried out. The results of the written evaluation served as a basis for the on-site evaluation by the expert group at the Mykolas Romeris University.

The following experts were appointed by the accreditation commission of AHPGS for the evaluation of the study programmes:

As representatives of the higher education institutions:

- Prof. Dr. Uwe Blaurock, Chair for Civil Law, Commercial and Business Law and Taxation Law at the University of Freiburg, Director of the Institute for Business Law and Taxation Law at the University of Freiburg
- Prof. Dr. Ursula Fasselt, Dean of the Faculty for Social Work and Health at the University of Applied Sciences of Frankfurt am Main, Professor of Social and Administrative Law / Public Law

- Prof. Dr. Wolfram Hahn, Managing Director of the Association of Private Universities, lawyer at MELCHERS, previously rector of the SRH University Heidelberg
- Prof. Dr. Gerd Morgenthaler, Chair for Public Law under special consideration of European and International Relations at the University of Siegen
- Prof. Dr. Helga Oberloskamp, former professor of civil law, in particular family law and juvenile law (youth assistance, juvenile justice, youth protection law) at the Cologne University of Applied Sciences,
- Prof. Dr. Gerhard Vigener, former Minister, Professor for Social and Administrative Law at the SRH University Heidelberg,
- Prof. Dr. Dr. Martin Will, Chair for Constitutional Law, Administrative Law, European Law, New Technologies Law and Legal History at the EBS University of Wiesbaden

As representatives of professional practitioners:

- Dr. Rasa Ragulskyte, Judge at the Vilnius Regional Administrative Court,

As student representatives:

- Mr. Lukas Greilich, Student at the Humboldt University of Berlin
- Mr. Claudius Krause, Student at the Cologne University of Applied Sciences

According to the applicable guidelines for international accreditations – in particular the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Areas (ESG) published by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and the “Rules of the Accreditation Council for the Accreditation of Study Programmes and for System Accreditation” (Decision of the Accreditation Council of 08.12.2009 in the version of 10.12.2010; Drs. AR 85/2010) – the responsibility of the experts during the accreditation process consists in the evaluation of the study

programme concept and the plausibility of its intended realisation at the higher education institution.

Taking into consideration the “Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania on the Approval of Description of External Assessment and Accreditation of Study Programmes” (24.07.2009, No. ISAK-1652), this pertains, in particular, to “programme aims and learning outcomes”, “curriculum design”, “staff”, “facilities and learning resources”, “study process and student assessment”, and “programme management”.

II. The study programme to be accredited:

The study programme in “Law” is a Bachelor programme, in which a total of 210 ECTS credits are granted based on the European Credit Transfer System. An ECTS credit point corresponds to an average workload of 26.6 hours. The study programme is designed as a full-time programme with an intended duration of seven semesters and a part-time programme with an intended duration of ten semesters. The total workload amounts to 5,586 hours. It is divided into 2,452 hours of study on site and 3,134 hours of independent study. The study programme is divided into modules. Studies are completed with the higher education degree “Bachelor of Laws” (LL.B.). The minimum admission requirement for the study programme is the completion of secondary education. Higher education degrees are also taken into consideration and recognised during the admissions procedure. Students were first admitted to the programme in 1998. A goal of the study programme is to prepare qualified specialists of law, who are prepared to work in all law enforcement institutions, at lawyers’ or notarial offices, and at legal departments of private companies.

III. Expert report

The expert report is based on the results of the written evaluation with regard to the specified criteria and disciplinary and substantive aspects (1) as well as the results of the on-site evaluation of the Mykolas Romeris University (2).

Criterion	Assessment				
	Unsatisfactory	Poor	Satisfactory	Good	Excellent
	1	2	3	4	5
1. Programme aims and learning outcomes					
<i>1.1. Programme demand, purpose and aims</i>					
1.1.1. Uniqueness and rationale of the need for the programme					X
1.1.2. Conformity of the programme purpose with the institutional, state and international directives					X
1.1.3. Relevance of the programme aims				X	
<i>1.2. Learning outcomes of the programme</i>					
1.2.1. The comprehensibility and attainability of the learning outcomes				X	
1.2.2. Consistency of the intended learning outcomes				X	
1.2.3. Transformation of the learning outcomes				X	
2. Curriculum design					
<i>2.1. Programme structure</i>					
2.1.1. Sufficiency of the study volume				X	
2.1.2. Consistency of the study subjects				X	
<i>2.2. Programme content</i>					
2.2.1. Compliance of the contents of the studies with legal acts					X
2.2.2. Comprehensiveness and rationality of the programme content				X	
3. Staff					
<i>3.1. Staff composition and turnover</i>					
3.1.1. Rationality of the staff composition				X	
3.1.2. Turnover of teachers				X	
<i>3.2. Staff competence</i>					
3.2.1. Compliance of staff experience with the study programme				X	
3.2.2. Consistency of teachers' professional development				X	
4. Facilities and learning resources					
<i>4.1. Facilities</i>					
4.1.1. Sufficiency and suitability of premises for studies				X	
4.1.2. Suitability and sufficiency of equipment for studies				X	
4.1.3. Suitability and accessibility of the				X	

resources for practical training					
4.2. Learning resources					
4.2.1. Suitability and accessibility of books, textbooks and periodic publications				X	
4.2.2. Suitability and accessibility of learning materials				X	
5. Study process and student assessment					
5.1. Student admission					
5.1.1. Rationality of requirements for admission to the studies				X	
5.1.2. Efficiency of enhancing the motivation of applicants and new students					X
5.2. Study process					
5.2.1. Rationality of the programme schedule				X	
5.2.2. Student academic performance				X	
5.2.3. Mobility of teachers and students				X	
5.3. Student support					
5.3.1. Usefulness of academic support				X	
5.3.2. Efficiency of social support				X	
5.4. Achievement assessment					
5.4.1. Suitability of assessment criteria and their publicity				X	
5.4.2. Feedback efficiency				X	
5.4.3. Efficiency of graduation papers assessment				X	
5.4.4. Functionality of the system for assessment and recognition of achievements acquired in a non-formal and self-study way.				X	
5.5 Graduate placement					
5.5.1 Expediency of graduate placement				X	
6. Programme management					
6.1. Programme administration					
6.1.1. Efficiency of the programme management Activity				X	
6.2. Internal quality assurance					
6.2.1. Suitability of the programme quality assessment					X
6.2.2. Efficiency of the programme				X	

quality improvement					
6.2.3. Efficiency of stakeholders' participation				X	

IV. Report of the expert group

On 04.03.2011 the relevant documents were made available to the group of experts for written evaluation with regard to the specified criteria as well as the disciplinary and substantive aspects. The results of the written evaluation were sent back to the AHPGS by 30.03.2011. The results of the written evaluation served as a basis for the on-site evaluation.

The expert group met for preliminary talks in advance to the on-site evaluation. They discussed the submitted application documents and the results of the written evaluation as well as the resulting questions and problems. Furthermore, they planned the on-site evaluation at the higher education institution.

The on-site evaluation was carried out between 02-03.05.2011 according to the specified schedule. The expert group was accompanied by representatives from the head office of the AHPGS.

The experts conducted talks with university management, representatives of the faculties, programme directors and teachers as well as with a group of students. The facilities including the library were evaluated on 02.05.2011.

The expert report is structured according to the assessment spheres provided in the document "Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania on the Approval of Description of External Assessment and Accreditation of Study Programmes" (Order No ISAK-1652). The criteria will be discussed in a comprehensive manner in the following. References to individual study programmes will be indicated accordingly.

(1) Programme aims and learning outcomes

After viewing all documents and after the talks with the study programme directors, the expert group is convinced that all study programmes subject to evaluation here are designed and structured in a sensible manner with regard to the study programme objectives and the learning outcomes.

Altogether it is apparent that the study programmes comply with the applicable legal specifications for law study programmes in Lithuania. The study programmes are also regarded as convincing in terms of content.

The Bachelor study programmes aim to first convey the aspiring law practitioners the foundations of law in the respective field of study. The Master study programmes then convey the students in-depth knowledge and skills in the respective fields of study and provide them access to all fields of the legal profession with a Master degree.

Altogether, the modularisation of the study programmes is regarded as convincing. Another positively viewed aspect in this context is the strong practice orientation, which is particularly applicable to the Bachelor study programmes and obligatory for the students. According to the expert group, this results in very good employment opportunities after the Bachelor degree. The expert group expects the previously conducted graduate surveys to be continued on a regular basis. They also positively view the possibility for graduates of all Master programmes subject to accreditation to acquire the right to carry out all legal professions (e.g. judge, public prosecutor) after graduation.

The programme-specific suggestions of the expert group can be summarised as follows:

With regard to the study programme model "**Law**", structural issues, rather than substantive issues, have arisen, which will be dealt with under criterion 2. As indicated, the Bachelor and Master study programmes can be regarded as successful and goal-oriented in terms of content. The specialisations "Criminal Law and Criminology", "Civil Law" and "International Law" in the Master study

programme can be regarded positively and convey students in-depth knowledge in a useful manner.

With regard to the study programme model "**Law and Management**" it is apparent that the goals and content are designed in a convincing manner, which was confirmed in the talks with students.

The study programmes "**Law and Penitentiary Activity**" can be regarded as innovative and indeed as unique, as they appear to be the only study programmes of this type in Europe. In particular the interdisciplinarity in combination with the legal and pedagogical content is viewed positively. With regard to the Bachelor study programme, the expert groups suggests verifying to what extent the selection possibilities are adequate with regard to the practical professional demands. For example, one module "Professional Foreign Language" is obligatory and one module "psychology" is offered as an elective course.

With regard to the study programme model "Law and Police Activity" the question arises whether the separate internships provided for in the Bachelor study programme allow students to acquire the foreseen skills or whether a continuous ten-week internship could better contribute to their acquisition of the required skills. This aspect is not applicable to the Master study programme "**Law and Police Activity**", since all students are employed and complete the study programme on an extra-occupational basis. Other than these suggestions the study programmes were consistently regarded as effective and goal-oriented.

The Master study programme "**European Union Law**" offers graduates employment opportunities in large internationally operating firms, in public administration, in European institutions and in diplomatic services, in particular. Thus the career prospects can consistently be viewed positively, especially for an emerging country such as Lithuania. Therefore it is once again apparent here

that the study programme and its goals have been designed in a convincing manner.

The Master study programme "**International Maritime Law**" is regarded positively by the expert group. The study programme trains a small, specialised target group, whose career prospects can be viewed favourably precisely due to this specialisation. The selection of courses in the study programme is therefore viewed as balanced and flexibly adapted to the needs of the target group.

(2) Curriculum design

As already described, the structure of the study programmes meets all disciplinary and substantive requirements. The legal provisions for law study programmes are also consistently complied with. Therefore, criterion 2 can be regarded as having been fulfilled for all study programmes.

All Bachelor study programmes in law are offered as a full-time option for seven semesters and a part-time option for 10 semesters. They are divided into different modules, which comprise three to nine credits and are completed with the academic degree "Bachelor of Laws" regardless of their respective focus. The expert group regards the design of the Bachelor study programmes as well structured and comprehensible. The comparability of the degrees is also viewed positively. This provides the possibility to select a different respective specialisation in the Master study programme.

As a rule, the Master study programmes in law are offered as three-semester full-time programmes or four-semester part-time programmes. In the Master study programme "Law" students have the possibility to choose between one of the specialisations "Criminal Law and Criminology", "Civil Law" and "International Law", which enables them to set an individual focus. With the academic degree "Master of Laws" (LL.M.) upon completion of all Master study

programmes, the students have excellent prospects for pursuing legal careers (e.g. judge, lawyer). This is regarded positively by the expert group.

With regard to the further development of the Bachelor study programmes it has been discussed whether it is worthwhile to align the structure of the study programmes more closely with one another. All Bachelor study programmes fulfil the requirements for admission to the Master study programmes accredited here. Thus, the question arises whether the development of one Bachelor study programme with corresponding specialisations (e.g. Law and Management, Law and Police Activity, Law and Penitentiary Activity, International Law etc.) could be worthwhile. This would reduce the organisational burden on the university, while simultaneously increasing transparency for students. However, the expert group was not able to conclusively determine whether state guidelines must be taken into account for the potential merger of the study programmes. Nevertheless, there are also several reasons for maintaining the division of the study programmes.

The division of the Master study programmes into different specialisations is also viewed positively by the expert group. This enables the students to acquire in-depth disciplinary and academic skills at the Master level and to increasingly identify with their respective study programme.

With regard to the module structure, the expert group suggests combining the previously offered subjects into larger modules. In addition to a decrease in the examination burden on the students (and teaching staff), this would also result in greater comparability of the modules in an international context. In Germany, for example, modules must have a minimum workload of five ECTS credits.

(3) Staff

During the evaluation of the personnel situation, the expert group also positively highlighted the very high level of motivation of the teaching staff with regard to

all issues concerning teaching and student support. From the university and faculty management to the teachers, it is apparent that the committed staff of the university, which has only existed since 1997, is willing and able to carry out the study programmes with high level of quality. According to the students, the strong motivation and the excellent support for the students is an important reason for their selection of the Mykolas Romeris University. In summary, the expert group is convinced that the qualitative and quantitative personnel resources are assured for carrying out the study programmes. The quality assurance system, which focuses on teaching, can also be highlighted as a reason for the high quality of the teachers. For example, the teachers are first employed on the basis of a limited contract for five years, during which the teaching performance is evaluated. After an additional five-year period they may be appointed as professors. By doing so, the higher education institution aims to assure a high level of motivation of the teaching staff over a longer period of time.

In this regard, the funding of the higher education institution can be viewed critically. The institution relies on the highest possible number of students. This results in difficulties with regard to the teaching load of the “associate professors”, in particular. They are confronted with an enormously high examination, correction and teaching burden, which they must often handle while holding an additional job due to economic necessity. As the Mykolas Romeris University is not responsible for basic university funding, the expert group suggests examining the workload of the teaching staff during quality assurance measures and thus avoiding excessive demands and unequal burden sharing.

With regard to staff development, the high financial burden on students while completing a PhD programme is viewed critically. Once again here, the university itself has few means of influence. Nevertheless, it is recommended to pursue

new funding approaches in order to increase the number of teachers with a PhD as well as the attractiveness of an academic career.

(4) Facilities and learning resources

After the inspection of the facilities of the university on the first day of the evaluation it is apparent that the existing teaching and learning infrastructure is of a high quality. The higher education institution has on its facilities a well endowed library with several learning and seminar rooms, which are equipped with computers with standard software programmes. The courses are taught in lecture halls as well as in seminar rooms for small group courses. All parts of the buildings are handicapped accessible. The computer equipment is up-to-date and WLAN is available in the entire building. The accessible electronic book and magazine library with teaching material is also worthy of mention. The university offers catering and sporting activities. Furthermore, there are numerous flat screens in the building that provide slide shows of current events at the university. This enables students and teachers to strongly identify with the higher education institution. The expert group is convinced that the qualitative and quantitative material and spatial resources are guaranteed in order to carry out the study programmes.

However, due to the difficulties associated with higher education funding based on the number of students addressed in criterion 3 the problem arises that the library becomes overcrowded during the examination periods. In this regard, the university should keep an eye on room capacity issues with the growing number of students and react flexibly, if required. However, the question arises how this problem can currently be dealt with in light of potentially declining student numbers in the future.

With regard to the facilities which are available to the teachers for preparing classes, the experts also believe they should be expanded. For example, only a common room is available to the associate professors for preparing their classes. The expert group recommends taking measures to make additional facilities

available, wherever possible. However, the facilities used for student counseling are viewed positively.

(5) Study process and student assessment

From the viewpoint of expert group, the workload of the study programmes subject to accreditation is manageable for students. The positive reports of the surveyed students also contribute to this conclusion. All study programmes have a clear structure and the requirements for the students are described in a transparent manner. Based on the views of the students, the schedules for completing the study programmes laid down by the university can be regarded as realistic. With regard to examinations conducted in the study programmes, the expert group suggests carrying out more skills-oriented examinations, which go hand in hand with the mentioned recommendation to consolidate individual subjects into larger teaching and learning units. As alternatives to the subjects primarily tested in the form of a written examination, the university may also consider presentations, project work or written term papers.

However, one must keep in mind that the strong motivation of the teaching staff is also carried over to the students, which requires a continual strong commitment on behalf of the students. The examinations function as “learning process controls” and span across the entire semester. The students regard the workload associated with this more as a challenge to continually learn than as an excessive demand.

The experts view the homepage of the Mykolas Romeris University and the provided information with regard to the study programmes as very revealing and informative. All information on the study programmes, the course of studies, and the examinations carried out are published. Details are also provided on the student support system, which is very good and transparent according to statements by students.

Another particularly positively highlighted aspect is the consistent orientation of the higher education institution towards international exchange both for teaching staff as well as students (Erasmus).

Talks with students have revealed that there are sufficient possibilities for foreign exchange programmes as credits obtained abroad can be recognised without complications and they are particularly supported in becoming acquainted with the international aspects of the foreign partner higher education institutions. This is also highlighted by students as a unique feature of the university in comparison to other Lithuanian higher education institutions. This is thus also a criterion for students when choosing the Mykolas Romeris University.

In this regard the experts recommend continuing with the previous efforts and further pursuing and implementing the strategic aims of the higher education institution, such as the active participation of the Mykolas Romeris University in the European Higher Education and Research Area as well as the active mobility of teaching staff and students. The membership and active participation of the higher education institution in the European University Association (EUA) as part of its internationalisation activities is also viewed very positively.

Based on the statements provided by the directors of the study programme concerning gender equality, equal opportunity and regulations for disability compensation for students with handicaps and chronic illnesses, the expert group deems this criterion to be fulfilled in entirety.

(6) Programme management

The concept for quality assurance for the higher education institution and study programmes, which was presented in the documents and is viewed by the expert group as clearly structured, was discussed in detail with the university management. Particular attention was paid to the description of the feedback possibilities for students and teaching staff. In view of the statements by the students, in particular, the higher education institution credibly demonstrated

that a functional quality assurance system is in place. The efforts by the higher education institution in this area are worthy of particular recognition. In terms of its design, the quality assurance system is aligned with the “Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area”.

However, the feedback to the students with regard the modifications made due to the evaluations is viewed critically. According to the students, they were not informed about the measures carried out. Therefore the expert group recommends incorporating the students into the feedback process, which can also result in a higher degree of identification with and thus participation in the quality assurance procedures (questionnaires, etc.).

The national and international rankings, in which the higher education institution participates, are also viewed positively. At the national level, the higher education institution is ranked third according to its own information, while it comes in first place with regard to the satisfaction of students. This impression is also confirmed by the surveyed students.

Summary:

In summary, it is evident that the study programmes subject to accreditation fulfil the necessary requirements in terms of their objectives as well as structure. In particular the combination of time-tested and innovative study programmes and the employment opportunities after graduating the study programmes are convincing. The high level of motivation of the people involved in the development of and carrying out the study programmes as well as the high degree of satisfaction of the students with “their” university are viewed positively. Aspects such as the support services for the study programmes and quality assurance fulfil the requirements in an exceptional manner. The university entirely lives up to its claim to be an internationally recognised higher education institution.

The experts recommend the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania to have the Bachelor and Master study programmes accredited by the Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS:

The experts suggest the following measures to further develop the study programmes:

With regard to the future development of the university, strong focus should be placed on the room and personnel situation, in order to react flexibly to potentially increasing student numbers while continuing to offer high-quality student support services, materials and facilities.

With regard to the Bachelor study programmes, the university should reflect on whether a merger of study programmes into one Bachelor programme with different specialisations would be worthwhile in the medium-term. The expert group believes that this could simplify organisational issues and increase transparency.

Within the study programmes, the “subjects” should be merged into larger, skill-oriented modules. This should also be accompanied by the further development of the skills orientation of the examination system.

The workload of the teaching staff should also be evaluated during quality assurance activities in order to prevent excessive and unequally distributed workloads and to increase the attractiveness of the university for the teachers.

Also with regard to quality assurance, the students should be provided feedback on the measures triggered by the evaluations, in order to increase transparency within the university.

7. Decision of the Accreditation Commission from 16.06.2011

The resolution of the Accreditation Commission is based on the university's application, as well as the expert review and the on-site visit covered in the assessment report. The on-site visit took place on 02.05.2011 and 03.05.2011.

The Accreditation Commission of the AHPGS has discussed the procedural documents and the vote of the expert group. The Bachelor program "Law" is to be completed with the awarding of the academic degree "Bachelor of Laws" (LL.B.). The earliest beginning of the Bachelor program took place in 1998. The program covers 210 ECTS-Credits and has a full-time study period of 7 semesters and a part-time study period of 10 semesters.

The Accreditation recommendation grounds itself on the following documents:

- Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania on the Approval of Description of External Assessment and Accreditation of Study Programmes. 24.07.2009, No. ISAK-1652. Valstybės žinios, 2009-08-11, No. 96-4083
- Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania on Amendments to The Order of the Minister of Education and Science Dated 24.07.2009 NO. 1652 „On the Approval of Description of External Assessment and Accreditation of Study Programmes“. November 5, 2009, No. ISAK-2247. Valstybės žinios, 2009-11-10, No 134-5862
- Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania on Amendments to the Order of the Minister of Education and Science Dated 24.07.2009 NO. 1652 „On the Approval of Description of External Assessment and Accreditation of Study Programmes“. 17.12.2009, No. ISAK-2741. Valstybės žinios, 2009-12-24, No. 152-6860
- Order of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania on Amendments to the Order of the Minister of Education and Science Dated 24.07.2009 NO. 1652 „On the Approval of Description of External Assessment and Accreditation of Study Programmes“. 30.09.2010. Valstybės žinios, 2010-10-07, No. 119-6084

The AHPGS Accreditation Commission considers that the Lithuanian accreditation criteria elaborated in the documents listed above are fulfilled. The

AHPGS Accreditation Commission recommends the accreditation of the study program to the Lithuanian Ministry of Education and Science for the duration of six years.

The recommendations formulated in the expert's report are to be taken into consideration. In addition to that, the AHPGS Accreditation Commission recommends the University to consider, when evaluating the study programs, whether synergies exist between the study programs themselves and the manner by which these synergies can be used for further development.

Freiburg, 16.06.2011