



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

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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 24.07.2009 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 European 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 ((paragraph 1); on the other hand, it focuses on 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 agency 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 summary regarding the study programs, which consists a part of the expert report.

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 serves – 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 lay the groundwork 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 15.02.2011. The contract between the Mykolas Romeris University and the AHPGS was signed 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 "European Union Law" (Master), prepared by the AHPGS, was approved by the University on 14.04.2011.

The application for accreditation of the Mykolas Romeris University for the Master study program corresponds to the outline recommended by the AHPGS. Aside the University's request for evaluation and verification for accreditation of the Master 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 master study program "European Union Law" Master

(LL.B)

Annex	Description
01	Module Descriptions
02	Module Overview
03	Study Plan (Full-&Part-time)
04	Diploma Supplement
05	Teaching Matrix
06	Bilateral Partners and Erasmus Partners
07	CV academic staff

The documents listed below are generally valid for all 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 Ministry of Education and Science, Lithuania, as well as on 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 Master study program "European Union 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 Master program "European Union Law" aims to equip students with excellent European Union Law knowledge and personal skills necessary for a successful career as a European Union lawyer (*cf. specified Application 1.3*).

The courses of the Master study-program "European Union Law" are taught in Lithuanian and in English and will finalize with the awarding of the academic degree "Master of Law" (LL.M). The program is worth 90 ECTS Credit points

(according to the European Credits Transfer System). One ECTS-Credit amounts to 26,6 study hours. The program will be available in both 'full-time' and 'part-time' form – reaching a total study period of 1.5 years (3 semester) and 2 years (4 semester), respectively (*cf. Application, A1.3*). Annex 3 contain details , regarding the structures of the study concept for the specialization in European Union Law, available in full- and part-time study form. In the 'full-time' form there is an average of 30 ECTS-Credits to be completed each semester. In the 'part-time' form 22 ECTS Credit points on average have to be completed each semester. The final workload of the Master study program “European Union Law” (LL.M) amounts to 2.400 hours. The full-time program is divided into 536 contact hours. The organizational structure of the full-time and part-time study program can be summarized as seen below (*cf. annex 3.*):

European Union Law			
90 credits	Study length	Ø credits per sem	Contact hours per week
Full-time	3 sem (1,5y)	30	10
Part-time	4 sem (2y)	22,5	3,9
(LL.M)	Estimated workload	Thereof contact hours	Prognosticated individual work
Full-time	2400 hours	536 hours (20,2%)	1864 hours (79,8%)
Part-time	2400 hours	250 hours (10,4%)	2150,4 hours (89,6%)

The earliest beginning of the Master-program “European Union Law” took place in the year 2000. The number of students to be admitted each year depends on the number of applicants; therefore, the Admission Commission monitors the flow of applicants and announces the list of those admitted without any prior limitations of the number of student places available. The number of students enrolled in the years 2006/2007 till 2010/2011 can be seen in the application beneath A1.9.

The standard tuition fees are established by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania. The fee for the study year 2010/2011 was LTL 5,892 for full-time studies and LTL 4,419 for part-time studies; the

difference in the duration of studies equals the final amount to the same amount for both forms of studies to LTL 17.767,-, equal to 5.145,- Euro.

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

International aspects of the curriculum are described – divided into "internationality of curricular contents" and "courses / modules in a foreign language – in the application under A1.14.

Section A1.15 of the Application describes in detail the inter-cultural aspect of the study program. The university presents its expanding international orientation as an active participant in the European and global education market. This can be observed not only from the university's membership in various international organizations, but also from the mobility students and professors are granted, and the development of joint study programs and scientific projects. Furthermore, the afore-mentioned section also accounts for the manner by which teaching personnel is encouraged in the matter.

Both program teaching staff and students are actively involved in international exchange programs. By becoming familiar with various theories and scientific research methods, they are capable of comparing both legal and study situations from other countries with that in Lithuania. According to the university, a number of partnerships have been developed by help of the ERASMUS mobility program. The students may study at any of the foreign universities which the MR University has agreements with. Active participation in multinational Activity both accelerates and strengthens the internationalization of studies. Not only is the number of English subjects of the Law and Management programs increasing, but also the contents Lithuanian-taught courses have been broadened by including European and global dimensions. In addition, a number of study modules and joint study programs in English have been implemented.(*cf. A1.15*)

3.2 Modularization

The Master study program “European Union Law” is divided into several subjects, listed in the following table (*cf. Annex 3*). These are further described in Annex 1.

Semester		Title	ECTS-Credits
1	1	Topical issues of the EU legal system	6
	2	Area of freedom, security and justice in the EU	6
	3	Consumer rights protection in the EU	6
	4	Scientific research work and master thesis	12
2	5	Comparative tax law of the EU member states	6
	6	EU and human rights	6
	7	Supranational courts in Europe	6
	8	EU environmental law	6
	9	Master thesis	6
3	10	EU company law	6
	11	EU competition law	6
	12	EU trade law	6
	13	Master thesis	12
Summed up			90

(*cf. Annex 3*)

The course of study for the part-time versions can be found under Annex 3. The part-time version of the study program offers the same subjects as the full-time equivalent.

The descriptions of the subjects comprise the following areas: “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).

Evaluations within the program are governed by the "Study rules and Regulations of Mykolas Romeris University" (cf. Annex 4). More than that, the aforementioned document indicates the basic study rules at the Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius (forms of study, duration, number of credits, course regulations and university change, etc.). Section A1.13 of the Application describes the testing procedure in detail. Thus the achievements' evaluation is an integrated and constantly planned part of the study process, as it involves taking into account "student's aims, teacher's foreseen study aims, results of study program as well as standards regulated by Lithuanian education system" (*Application, A1.13*).

The examination system is divided into subject-trials and interim evaluations. According to the information in Annex 1 and in Annex 4, no. 110, the Departments announce the topics of the term papers two weeks after the beginning of the fall semester" (*cf. Annex 4, No. 110*). The individual votes are explained in more detail in the description of each subject.

3.3 Educational objectives

The overall aim of the Masters program "European Union Law" at the Mykolas Romeris University is – according to the university – to equip students with excellent European Union Law knowledge and personal skills necessary for a successful career as an European Union Lawyer. (*cf. Application, A2.3*). The professional knowledge and personal skills necessary for a successful career as an European Union Lawyer are laid down in the application *ibid*. Summarized, it is The ability to demonstrate the understanding of the EU legal system and to apply it in practice, to use legal techniques of research and enquiry, to understand the core values associated with law, Possession of transferable skills. Furthermore, the international relations network of the University allows developing intercultural communication skills through socializing with international students (who are on Erasmus exchange) and through the

opportunity to study in other countries as an Erasmus student, so the university (*cf. specified application, A2.3*).

3.4 Labour market situation and employment opportunities

According to the university, graduates of the Program are awarded the Master's Degree. A Master degree, represents one of the prerequisites for individuals willing to work in the position of judges¹, prosecutors² and attorneys at law. Master's Degree is also a prerequisite seeking for employment in the civil service considering that the descriptions of legal positions of a number of national authorities provide for special requirements to hold "Bachelor's Degree in Law *and* Master's Degree in Law *or* one-cycle law university education". Master's Degree in Law is also prerequisite for teaching legal disciplines at higher education institutions and/or for the position of research fellows in higher education institutions and research institutions. In addition, the Master's Degree in Law is established as a qualification requirement for the placement in the positions of international organisations, European Union institutions, private enterprises, institutions and organisations which require the comprehension, analysis and solving of complex civil and criminal cases matters of criminology and international law. The Master's Degree in Law is also a prerequisite for the supplier's qualification in the public procurement of legal or related services. The study programme is designed to train European Union Law specialists with wide specialisation, including public employees, personnel of international organisations and EU institutions, employees of diplomatic missions and consulates who are able to comprehend, analyse and handle European Union Law problems and bring forward proposals in respect of their possible solutions.

¹ According to Article 51 Paragraph 1 of the Law on Courts : "A judicial vacancy at a district court may be filled by a national of the Republic of Lithuania of high moral character, having a university degree of law – Bachelor's Degree in Law and Master's Degree in Law, or a professional law degree (one-cycle university education of law), possessing the qualifications laid down by the law required for the issue of a personal security certificate or a permit to work or to access confidential information, who has submitted a health certificate, is a person of at least of five years' standing in the legal profession and has passed the judicial examination."

² According to Article 25 Paragraph 1 of the Law on Prosecutor's Office: "A person may be hired by the prosecutor's office and fill the position of a prosecutor, if he is a national of the Republic of Lithuania of high moral character, who is fluent in the state Lithuanian language, has a university degree of law, has been awarded a Bachelor's Degree in Law and a Master's Degree in Law, passed the applicant's exam for the position of a prosecutor and has been approved by the Selection Commission".

3.5 Access and admission requirements

The admission to the Master study program is organised in compliance with the Order of the Minister of Education and Science On the Approval of the Description of General Requirements for Master's Degree Programs. Clause 11 of the order maintains that only the following individuals may apply for Master's Degree programs: "The graduates of first-cycle university studies who comply with the requirements established by a university; the graduates of first-cycle studies and bridging courses in the cases specified in this description who comply with the requirements established by a university".

The procedure of admission to the Master study program full-time, number of admitted students and rules are laid down by the University. Clause 104 of the University Statute approved Resolution No. XI-411 the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania of 23.07.2009 (hereinafter referred to as the Statute) states: "The University shall announce admission to studies, list of competitive subjects by study field, principles of determining the competitive score, the lowest entrance score and other criteria at least two years before the beginning of a respective year". This requirement derives from the requirements of Article 52 of the Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, which took effect on 12.05.2009 (hereinafter referred to as the LSS"). Clause 103 of the Statute maintains that *"the procedure of admission to study programs shall be established by the Senate"*. Admission to the Program is organised in accordance with the selection criteria and priorities announced in advance.

Hence only university graduates holding a Bachelor's Degree of Law or one-cycle university education in law may apply for the Master Program "European Union Law".

3.6 Quality assurance

The university indicates that quality assurance in study programs is strictly regulated by various legal acts. These are specified in the Application, Section

A5.1. The university and the Faculty of Law implement 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 assessment³. 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

3 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.

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 carry 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.

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. (*cf. 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 [the Law on] Equal Opportunities for Men and Women of RL (June 17, 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 resources

4.1 Teaching Personnel

Annex 5 provides an overview of the course lecturers. 14 teachers work mainly within the program: 4 Prof. Dr. (28,6 %), 4 Assoc. Prof. Dr. (28,6 %), 1 Dr. (7,1%) and 5 lecturers (35,7%). For 9 lecturers (40%) the University is their main workplace.

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. One third of the Admission Commission members consists 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 of the university. 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 system. 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 had available 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 “European Union Law” is a Master programme, in which a total of 90 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 three semesters and a part-time programme with an intended duration of four semesters. The total workload amounts to 2,394 hours. The full-time option is divided into 712 hours of study on site and 1682 hours of independent study. The study programme is divided into modules. The programme is completed with the higher education degree “Master of Laws” (LL.M.). The admission requirement for the study programme and all specialisations is an undergraduate degree in law or an undergraduate degree in law and the completion of so-called “bridge courses”. Students were first admitted to the programme in 1998. The study programme provides students special knowledge of European Union Law and advances their skills and

competencies for solving complex problems when interpreting and applying European legal regulations.

III. Expert report

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 resources for practical training				X	
<i>4.2. Learning resources</i>					
4.2.1. Suitability and accessibility of books, textbooks and periodic publications				X	
4.2.2. Suitability and accessibility of learning				X	

materials					
5. Study process and student assessment					
<i>5.1. Student admission</i>					
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	
<i>5.2. Study process</i>					
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
<i>5.3. Student support</i>					
5.3.1. Usefulness of academic support				X	
5.3.2. Efficiency of social support				X	
<i>5.4. Achievement assessment</i>					
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	
<i>5.5 Graduate placement</i>					
5.5.1 Expediency of graduate placement				X	
6. Programme management					
<i>6.1. Programme administration</i>					
6.1.1. Efficiency of the programme management Activity				X	
<i>6.2. Internal quality assurance</i>					
6.2.1. Suitability of the programme quality assessment				X	
6.2.2. Efficiency of the programme quality improvement				X	
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 Master program "European Union Law" is to be completed with the awarding of the academic degree "Master of Laws" (LL.M.). The earliest beginning of the Master program took place in 1998. The program covers 90 ECTS-Credits and has a full-time study period of 3 semesters and a part-time study period of 4 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“. 05.11.2009, 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.

Freiburg, 16.06.2011