



## **Assessment Report**

**of the application by the  
Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius;  
Faculty of Social Policy, on accreditation postulate of  
Master Study program (LL.M)  
“Law and Penitentiary Activity”**

<b>Table of contents</b>	<b>Page</b>
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	17
3.4 Labour market situation and employment opportunities	18
3.5 Access and admission requirements	20
3.6 Quality Assurance	21
4. Personnel and technical equipment	
4.1 Teaching personnel	25
4.2 Equipment for Teaching and Research	26
5. Institutional Environment and Structural Conditions	27
6. Expert’s report	29
7. Decision of the Accreditation Commission	44

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 pronoun in order to depict 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 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 15.02.2011. The contract between the Mykolas Romeris University and the AHPGS was signed on 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 and Penitentiary Activity" (Master), 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 Master study program follows the outline recommended by the AHPGS. Alongside the application request for verification for accreditation of the Master study program, 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 and Penitentiary Activity":

<b>Annex</b>	<b>Description</b>
01	Module Descriptions
02	Module Overview
03	Study Plan (Full-&Part-time)
04	Diploma Supplement
05	Teaching Matrix
06	Data bases
07	List of agreements
08	Employment places

The documents listed below apply for all above mentioned study programs:

<b>Annex</b>	<b>Description</b>
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 "Law and Penitentiary Activity" 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 Master program “Law and Penitentiary Activity” is to develop ethical features necessary to work as a lawyer not only in institutions of the penitentiary system, but also in other institutions of law order and law enforcement and state management. Having completed this master study program graduates can work as chief officers (specialists) in the correctional system: penitentiary establishments; correctional inspections (probation and mediation services); the interior system; establishments subordinate to the Ministry of Justice; agencies of private companies; establishments subordinate to the Ministry of Social Protection and Labour; establishments of the European Union penitentiary system. Graduates of the Master's Study Program of Law and Penitentiary Activity can continue in doctoral studies, seek for academic career in the national and foreign universities and establishments of science.(cf.A1.3)

The courses of the Master study-program “Law and Penitentiary Activity” are taught in Lithuanian and in English and will finalize with the awarding degree “Master of Law and Penitentiary Activity” (*cf. Application, A1*). The program accounts to 90 Credits (cr.) according to the ECTS (European Credits Transfer System). One ECTS-Credit amounts in the present program to 26,6 hours. The Master program is available in both 'full-time' and 'part-time' form – reaching a total study period of 1,5 years (3 semesters) and 2 years (4 semesters), respectively (*cf. Application, A1.3*). Annex 3 contains a detailed structure of the study program in both forms. Accordingly, in the 'full-time' form there is an average of 30 ECTS-Credits to be completed each semester. In the 'part-time' form there is an average of 22,5 ECTS-Credits to be gained each semester. The final workload of the study program amounts to 2400 hours. These are subdivided into 554 hours of attendance at the university, which accounts to



23,1 percent of the study time and 1846 hours of individual study (*cf. Annex 3*) which accounts to 76,9 percent of the total number of hours. The preparation, presentation and defence of the master Thesis (*cf. Application, A1.6*) is included in the individual study time and covers 30 ECTS-Credits respectively.

<b>CIVIL LAW SPECIALIZATION</b>			
13 Module 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
<b>(LL.M)</b>	<b>[Total] Estimated workload</b>	<b>[Out of which] contact hours</b>	<b>Prognosticated individual work</b>
Full-time	2400 hours	554 hours (23,1%)	1846 hours (76,9%)
Part-time	2400 hours	256 hours (10,7%)	2144 hours (89,3%)

Related to the execution of the Master program, the courses for the full-time students are organized weekly during the second half of the day (except for the periods when students have to attend an internship. The course of study of the part-time students is divided into sessions.

The earliest beginning of the Master-program “Law and Penitentiary Activity” took place in the year 1997. 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. The currently enrolled number of students (program 2010/2011) in full-time overall semester 15 and part-time studies 18 are presented in the table 2 below A1.9 (*cf. Application, A1.9*).

In 2009 the annual fees for the “Law and Penitentiary Activity” Master Study program 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 5592 Litas per year, for part-time studies 4419 Litas per year. Equal to approximately 1.620€ and 1.280€.

Graduates of the Master study program "Law and Penitentiary Activity" are not trained in other universities of Lithuania. Masters of this specialization are neither trained in other European universities. Separate subjects and issues of penitentiary law and activity, restorative justice and mediation are studied at some universities of Europe, no specialized programs of similar character have been detected anywhere.

According to the application - the Program presented for the evaluation is exceptional and has no analogues in Lithuania and in Europe. Since the Programme is based on international documents and on the experience of teachers cooperating in the Programme with higher education institutions abroad, students have possibilities to study successfully in some universities of Europe. As of 2009, the Department of Mediation offers programs for the students of foreign countries and lectures are read in English language. (cf.A1.19)

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

International aspects of the curriculum are described in the application under A1.14. Lithuania is a member state of the European Union, therefore it is important that studies orientate future specialists to satisfy not only the needs of Lithuanian society and labour market, but also encourage interest and participation in European and global processes. To this aim, cooperation with universities and social establishments is implemented, according the university, while improving the programs and organization of the process of student internships. This helps a better understanding in ongoing social and legal

processes, to acquire experience and orientation in the European space of law, higher education and labour market.

University teachers of the Programme are active participants of international conferences and seminars. The Faculty is also visited by foreign teachers, who introduce their latest theoretical insights and results of their research for the students of the Program. This enables knowledge over the latest models and innovations of the European penitentiary systems, programs of behaviour with violators, rehabilitation programs, mediation theories and respective research, to carry out a comparative analysis of these areas and also to exchange experience while organizing and improving the study process and developing this occupation in Lithuania.

The international context reflects itself in many taught subjects and dominates in some of them (for example, International Standards of Convict Treatment). (*c.f. specific Application A1.14*).

The inter-cultural aspect of the study program is described in detail in the Application under A1.15. To sum it up, the university presents its expanding international orientation as an active participant in the European and global education market through the intense participation within international organizations.

Teachers and students of the Program actively participate in international exchange programs. Students have opportunities to study in every foreign university with which cooperation agreements have been concluded. The website of the University provides extensive information on the opportunities to study abroad.

The following projects have been successfully completed: Socrates Grundtvig I "Another Way", Socrates Erasmus IP "Satisfying Educational Needs in European Social Exclusion Communities", Socrates Erasmus MOD project LAESSO "A New Module in Law Legal and Social Services". For example, over the years of 2003-2008, Department of Mediation (former name - Department of Penitentiary Law and Activity) together with partners from Spain, Czech Republic, Poland,

Slovenia and Slovakia implemented a project "Another way". The aim of this Project was suggestion of an European model of further education of probation and mediation officers, targeted to work with juveniles and supporting creation of cooperating institutions networks in fight against criminality and crime recidivism of juveniles. The main objectives of this project were successfully achieved.

Active participation in international Activity not only accelerates but also deepens the internationalization process of the Program. The number of subjects of the study program taught in English increases, subjects taught in Lithuanian are enriched with European and global dimensions and study modules and joint programs in English are developed. (cf.A1.15)

### 3.2 Modularization

The program is divided into subjects. The subjects offered are listed below. They are further described in Appendix 1.

Semester			ECTS-Credits
1	1	Methodology of Social Research	6
	2	Master's Thesis	6
	3	Restorative Justice	6
	4 5	<u>I Alternative</u> International Standards of Convict Treatment Progressive Alternatives for Imprisonment	6
			6
	4 5	<u>II Alternative</u> Mediation Models of Foreign Mediation	6
6			
2	6	Mediation in Criminal Justice	6
	7	Internship for Preparation for Master Thesis	6
	8	Master's Thesis	6

	9	<u>I Alternative</u> Penitentiary Psychology	6
	10	Systemic Evaluation of Social Programmes	6
	9	<u>II Alternative</u> Mediation in Administrative Disputes	6
	10	Alternative Civil Disputes Resolution	6
3	11	Master's Thesis	18
	12	Mediation in the Process of Conflict Resolution	6
	13	<u>I Alternative</u> Personnel Management in Correctional Institutions	3
	14	Juvenile Justice in the Correctional Institution System	3
	13	<u>II Alternative</u> Business Mediation	3
	14	Negotiation and Mediation Moot	3
Summed up = <b>90 ECTS creditpoints for 13 moduls</b>			90

The course of study for the part-time version can be found under Annex 3. This offers the same subjects as the full-time one, only over the extended period of four semesters.

The descriptions of the subjects comprise the following areas: Each subject is designed so as to cover several 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*).

Master students must carry out independent tasks and to account for each of the 14 subjects of studies. In the course of all studies, common cultural, professional, special and general competencies are consistently formed as foreseen in the tasks of studies. Logical design of the Program connect compulsory (60 ECTS) and optional (30 ECTS) study subjects. Master students are offered to select one of the specializations (fields) orienting towards work

and scientific research activity in the following areas: I – penitentiary law and activity; II – restorative justice and mediation. The module of penitentiary law and activity embraces the following study subjects: international standards of convicts treatment, progressive alternatives to imprisonment, penitentiary psychology, systemic assessment of social programs, and personnel management in the penitentiary system and juveniles' justice in the penitentiary system. The following subjects are offered in the module Restorative Justice and Mediation: theory of mediation, mediation models in foreign countries, mediation in criminal justice, mediation in administrative disputes, alternative resolution of civil disputes, mediation in the process of conflict resolution, business mediation, simulation of negotiations and mediation. The content of theoretical subjects of specialty studied in the Program is intended to make knowledge and abilities more profound, whereas the content of theoretical optional subjects is related to the area of the alternative which has been selected accordingly.

Study subjects of Penitentiary Law and Activity are intended to form master students' approach to contemporary criminal justice systems and models, to encourage them, while working in the criminal justice system, to know and abide by international standards set in this area and to apply most progressive and approved methods and forms of work with respect to the offenders. Subjects of restorative justice and mediation are intended to form competency of the master's student needed to analyse and resolve different conflicts and disputes arising in public and private sectors (civil, criminal and administrative justice), also to develop abilities allowing future specialists to implement mediator's practice.

In the first semester, together with subjects of theoretical specialty, master students study subjects under the selected study alternative and they select the theme of the master's final work. In the second semester subjects of theoretical specialty are taken and an internship is carried out to prepare the final work under the selected alternative. In the third semester theoretical studies are continued and final master's work is prepared. Taking into account intensity of studies, part-time students are given the entire last semester to prepare for the

internship and do the master's final work without foreseeing in it any other subjects.(cf.A1.11)

The aims of internship in different professional fields (e.g. notary, court, attorneys office firm) are detailed described in the Application under A1.20. Internship is an integral part of the study Program allotted 6ECTS, i.e. 6 hours of theoretical course and 154 hours of independent work. This scientific internship of research character is oriented towards research-based investigation of occupational activity, deeper mastering of theoretical knowledge and fostering of practical occupational competences. One of the main aims of the internship is to perform scientific research work under the selected theme of the final work.

The internship is organized, based on Cooperation Agreement No 23 SP-1/ST-71, concluded between the Prisons Department under the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania and Mykolas Romeris University Faculty of Social Policy on 23.10.2006, Regulation on Study Practices/Internships approved by the Board of the Faculty of Social Policy in 2008 and the Internship Program designed by the teachers of the Department of Mediation.

The internship is based on the learning through practice concept, when experience and achievements, knowledge and skills of all participants of the study practice (students, mentor, responsible university teachers) and practical cases and problems are reflected on. Teachers of the Program maintain regular contacts and form traditions of cooperation with social partners, when, together with the administration of the Prisons Department and correctional establishments and supervisors of practice, results of students internships are discussed, proposals and recommendations for the improvement of social rehabilitation of the sentenced persons are heard.

Valuable is support of correctional establishments while organizing student internships, efforts of internship supervisors/mentors, their methodological assistance in executing practical tasks, empirical investigations and formulating conclusions. During group or individual discussions students reflect on the gained experience, analyse problems of work with the sentenced persons that

arise during internships. Those, who have selected the specialization of restorative justice and mediation, observe and analyse during internships dispute resolving processes that take place in courts and law firms.

The exams within the program are governed by the "Study rules and Regulations of Mykolas Romeris University" (cf. Annex 4). The afore-mentioned letter also indicates the basic study rules at the Mykolas Romeris University, Vilnius (forms of study, duration, number of credits, course regulations and university change, etc.). In the Application under A1.13, the tests are described in more detail. Thus the achievements' evaluation is an integrated and constantly planned part of the study process, combining teaching and study systems, "i.e. it involves 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 Appendix 1 and in Appendix 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.

Part-time students are able to take examinations in advance, i.e. before the examination session. Full-time students are allowed to take examinations prior to the fixed period only with special permission from the Dean. Examinations in advance can be taken only once. Examination taken in advance and passed/failed is considered an academic debt<sup>1</sup>. Timetables of examinations if passed/failed are announced not later than two weeks before the examination session"

---

<sup>1</sup> If a student registered for a course at the beginning of the semester, but did not pass and meet the necessary deadlines (did not take the examination or test), then it is held that the student has an academic debt. Students in a state-financed place, having no more than three academic debts, may account for the failed subjects within the coming semester. Such students, failing to pass exams and do away with the academic debts, must repeat the course of the failed subject within the coming semester, after paying for course credits and continuing the study programme. If they fail to declare their desire to repeat the failed course within 15 days from the end of the term to pass the academic debt, they are then expelled from the University as non-achievers. A student, in 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 fee and with debts, may choose when to eliminate the academic debts. They indicate in their individual plans the terms of accounting for academic debts. After failing an exam, a student may take it again free of charge only once. For other retakes, the student has to pay the University's established fee.



(*Application, A1.13*). Ibid, tables that specify the number of examination per semester - each of full-and part-time-variant can be found (max. number of tests/semester for full-time students: 8; max. number of tests/semester for part-time students: 7).

University Master studies in law are carried out only in Mykolas Romeris University. According to the University, the Faculty of Social Policy is the only place where the university Master's degree in law can be awarded, which provides an opportunity to do career of a judge, attorney, prosecutor or notary right after graduation of Master studies. Related to other study programs carried out in other universities and programs carried out at the Mykolas Romeris University, Faculty of Social Policy, it should be noted that because of strict regulation by legal acts, subjects studied during the first years of study are quite similar in all Lithuanian universities. The only difference is their duration and volume as well as the number and character of elective subjects (*c.f. Application, A1.19*). When comparing the Master studies in law with studies abroad, it can be noted that the basic legal study subjects are the same in most countries having the tradition of the continental law: they include Constitutional, Administrative, Criminal, Civil, and Labour Law, European Union Law, International Law.

### **3.3 Educational objectives**

The overall aim of the Master "Law and Penitentiary Activity" program at the Mykolas Romeris University is - to develop workers of law enforcement institutions holding a qualification degree of master in law of the high personal and professional competence, able to perform research through the analysis of the problems related to the violation of law and to their causes, able to organize effectively human, financial and other potential resources in carrying out a legal reform in the Republic of Lithuania and in looking for the most effective ways of addressing the problems of legal character.

The study process aims that graduates of the studies of the Program of Law and Penitentiary Activity would gain the following competences: Prevention of social problems evolving in the correctional process of the sentenced persons and dispute resolution. Management of social institutions. Formation and development of social policy. Organization and performance of research and analytical thinking. Planning of learning and occupational career.

A Master graduate in Law and Penitentiary Activity is – according to the application – a qualified specialist of law, able to work in all penitentiary areas and other institutions of Lithuanian and European Union law enforcement, i.e. in a position of a senior officer in correctional establishments, or to be able to work in legal services of state institutions and private sector whose functions are essentially associated with social, psychological rehabilitation and integration of the imprisoned and sentenced. They also acquired knowledge concerning probation and released persons in the society, with social support in addressing personal and social problems of the sentenced persons.

The University states that the goals, objectives and competences which are to be developed within the program are following: meet the principles provided for in international and national legal documents and ensure that a graduate of the program will have to become a social work specialist of high professional and research competence; establish the conditions for the assimilation of social work values and principles of ethics, as well as for the acquisition of knowledge and abilities necessary for managing social service provision, carrying out research, cultivation of social policy and its implementation (*Cf. Application, A2.6*).

### **3.4 Labour market situation and employment opportunities**

According to the university, graduates of the Program work in correctional homes, correctional inspections (probation) and other institutions and organizations which need social services, organize execution of custodial

punishments and non-custodial punishments, social rehabilitation of the offenders criminals, integration in the society and measures of crime prevention. Potential areas of the activity of the workers of the correctional system are indicated in the Statute of Service of the Prisons Department under the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Lithuania (Official Gazette, 2000, No 39-1088), in the provisions of the Department, regulations of correctional establishments and job descriptions of the workers of correctional establishments. Students, who have completed the specialization of restorative justice and mediation, work in different legal public institutions, organizations, advocacy, private and business structures.

Investigations disclose that majority of the graduates of the Program work and is competitive in the contemporary labour market. Most of the graduates work in the punishment execution system of the Republic of Lithuania (officers of different levels), units of the interior service (police, pre-trial investigation), prosecutor's office and other institutions (Annex 9).

The Program creates conditions for students to develop themselves and different special abilities necessary for the workers of custodial establishments. Graduates of the studies of the Master program of Law and Penitentiary Activity will have the abilities; to apply methods of direct and indirect intervention of work with the sentenced persons on micro and macro levels in line with human rights and the latest theoretical approaches and by emphasizing the involvement of the client in the process of changes;

to initiate and carry out quantity and quality investigations, while analysing the practice of work with the sentenced persons, social phenomena and their changes while creating practical work knowledge relevant in different cultural contexts;

to initiate and manage innovations and other changes in the organization, create culture of the learning organization, create and administrate social establishments whose activity is related to the resocialization and reintegration of the sentenced persons in the society;

to analyse judgements of social policy in the penitentiary area in the national, European Union and global contexts and to initiate their changes and development of social services;

to initiate programs and projects for the development of the profession of work with the sentenced persons in line with principles of human rights and social justice;

to analyse interactions between the worker of the correctional establishment and the client (sentenced person, family, group, community) and to carry out interventions in atypical situations.(cf.A2.4)

As shown in annex 8 the majority of the alumnus of 2007 found work within the probation service (23 % of the alumni), the second biggest sector remains in prison departments (18 %) and Police (17%) and correctional houses and Prisons each with 12% . Students working in other institutions of the public sector made also 12% of the numbers the of Law and Penitentiary Activity Master graduates 2007, presented in Annex 8.

### **3.5 Access and admission requirements**

Procedure of admittance to the full-time studies of the Program, the number of students and the rules are set by the University. Following paragraph 104 of the University Statute approved by Resolution No XI-411 of the Seimas of the Republic of Lithuania on 23.07.2009 (hereinafter referred as the Statute) „admission to studies, the list of competitive teaching subjects under the fields of studies, principles of drawing a competitive score, the smallest entrance score and other criteria are announced by the University not later than two years before the beginning of the respective school year“. This requirement evolves from the requirements laid down in Article 52 of the Law on Science and Studies of the Republic of Lithuania, which entered into force on 12.05.2009 (hereinafter referred to as LSS). Paragraph 103 of the Statute instilled that „the procedure for the admission of persons to the study program is set by the

Senate". Admission to the Program is effected following the selection criteria and priorities announced in advance.

Following Article 20 and paragraph 2 of Article 52 of LSS and paragraph 18 of the Statute, the total number of the study seats at the University is set by the University Council with respect to the possibilities of ensuring the quality of studies and scientific activity. Following paragraph 8 of Mykolas Romeris University Study Procedure approved by the Senate Resolution No 1SN- 17 on 27.02.2010 (hereinafter referred to as Study Procedure), rules of admission are approved by the University Senate. Following paragraph 12 of the Study Procedure, admission to study in consecutive studies is organized by the Student Admission Commission drawn under the Rector order (hereinafter referred to as the Admission Commission). Following Senate-approved admission rules of 2010 (hereinafter referred to as – Admission Rules of 201024), only the persons, who have completed university bachelor's studies in the field of law and have been awarded a qualification degree of the bachelor in law or who have acquired a first-cycle university education, can apply to study in the Program. (cf.A4.1)

Since subjects of the second cycle study program are qualitatively more complex and more centred to the occupational practice novelties based on science and scientific knowledge than subjects of the first cycle studies, students, who study in the Master's Study Program of Law and Penitentiary Activity, must hold a bachelor's degree in law. (cf.A1.11)

### **3.6 Quality assurance**

The university indicates that quality assurance in Master study programs is strictly regulated by various legal acts. These are specified in the Application, Section A5.1. The university and the Faculty of Social Policy 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 assessment<sup>2</sup>. The 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*).

---

<sup>2</sup> 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.

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.

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 Social Policy.
- 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 and Penitentiary Activity", the University follows Article 6 of the Law amending [the Law on] 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 technical equipment**

##### **4.1 Teaching Personnel**

Annex 5 provides an overview of the lecturers. 13 teachers teach in the Program, of them 2 – professors, 9 - docents, 1 – lecturer holding a doctoral degree and 1 lecturer (Annex 5). For 8 (67 per cent) teachers of the Program the work at the University is their major job. It should be also noted that the major job of all the professors teaching under this Program is Mykolas Romeris University.

Analysis of pedagogical workload of the teachers in the Program shows that subjects of the Program are delivered by teachers of a high professional and scientific qualification (Annex 14).

The workload of the teachers in the Program meets Order V-826 adopted by the Minister of Science and Education "On the Description of the General Requirements for the Master's Study Program" (2010), meaning that not less than 20 per cent of the volume of the subjects in the field must be delivered by teachers holding positions of professors. Hence, the qualification of teachers is sufficient and conforms to the requirements of university studies. Teachers of the applied subjects have at least 10 years experience of professional activity in teaching applied subjects (Annex 5).(cf.B1.1)

Following the description of the procedure for financing studies from the National Budget of the Republic of Lithuania of individuals enrolled into higher education institutions prior to 2009, the normative number of students for one member of academic staff totals 20. The Programme enrolls 15 students in full-time studies and 18 in part-time studies. (cf.B1.2)

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. 1/3 [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**

Whilst cooperating with the deaneries, the University Information Technologies Centre ensures application of information technologies during the classes in the auditoriums: all auditoriums have access to Internet, departments are provided with multimedia equipment, projectors, audio and video recording and restoration measures (Annex 10). The new block of the University has been equipped with: Conference hall of the area of 265 m<sup>2</sup>, it has 88 seats, of them 15 reserved seats and 20 computerized seats, a discussion system, interpretation system, video-conference system, intelligent platform for the speaker including an interactive monitor, computer, document camera, possibility to connect additional laptops and a computerised seat management system in the hall.

Amphitheatre of the total area of 456 m<sup>2</sup>, it has 369 seats, interpretation system, video conference system, projector, intelligent platform for the speaker including an interactive monitor, computer, document camera and a possibility to connect additional laptops.

Information about the University's computer resources can be found in the Application under B3.3. Presently University students and workers use about 1200 stationary and mobile working stations computers, over 200 printers and scanners. Computers at all working stations are connected to the computer network, and laptop computers can be connected to the wireless computer network in nearly every 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 offered 14 undergraduate programs, 50 postgraduate programs and specializations, and 2 joint postgraduate programs.

Specific information concerning the faculty of Social Policy 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 "Law and Penitentiary Activity" 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 is designed to deepen theoretical knowledge of the modern penitentiary system necessary to implement the probation and mediation system in Lithuania by means of various

projects and penitentiary programs and to develop practical skills for penitentiary activity and scientific research.

### 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				
	Unsatis- factory	Poor	Satis- factory	Good	Excel- lent
	1	2	3	4	5
<b>1. Programme aims and learning outcomes</b>					
<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
<b>2. Curriculum design</b>					
<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
<b>3. Staff</b>					
<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
<b>4. Facilities and learning resources</b>					
<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 materials					X
<b>5. Study process and student assessment</b>					
<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	
<b>6. Programme management</b>					
<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 suggest 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 "Law and Penitentiary Activity" 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. 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