

**Prepared by Bardhyl Musai, University of Tirana**

### **Case law**

Non-university, professional post-secondary study program accreditation on “Energetic Efficiency” Offered by Polis University

### **Field and level of Education**

Engineering sciences – short cycle of university education (within the first cycle) is a professional study program of two years, covering the first 120 ECTS of first cycle. At the end of it a Professional Diploma on Energetic Efficiency is delivered.

### **General Information**

Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Albania have the right to offer professional post-secondary programs with at least 120 credits. This study cycle has been offered by the higher education sector. The University Aleksandër Moisiu Durres has undertaken the leader in promoting these programs in Albania. Other universities involved in professional post-secondary education are the the Agricultural University with its branch in Lushnja, Elbasan University, POLIS University, and the HEU New Generation.

### **Case description**

The Post-secondary study program on Energetic Efficiency has been opened with Ministry Order No. 315, date 21.07.2014 “On opening the first cycle Bachelor Program at the Architecture and Design Faculty, and the post-secondary study at the Planning, environment and urban management Faculty at the POLIS University. This post-secondary professional program is offered in a part-time mode with two years duration, with 120 ECTS by the end of which a Professional Diploma on Energetic Efficiency is issued. This program is designed and offered in the framework of Tempus Project DAPEEWB (“Developing and Adapting Professional Programs for Energy Efficiency in the Western Balkans”, Project Nr. 543782-TEMPUS-1-2013-1-AL-TEMPUS-JPCR), with a time line December 2013-November 2016.

The first admissions of this study program have been in the academic year 2013-2014 with 14 students, and in the academic year 2014-2015, 25 students were admitted. Based on the legal framework in vigor, the program should be accredited before issuing the first batch of diplomas. POLIS University, with the order of the rector, organized the internal evaluation committee in order to develop the internal quality report. This report would follow the state quality standards for accrediting the study programs, approved with the order of the Minister of Education and Sciences no. 75 date 19.02.2013 “On approving the state quality standards for evaluation and accreditation of programs”. The Agency of Ensuring the Quality instructed the Internal Evaluation Committee to write the report based on the state quality standards for the first cycle of Bachelor studies. As the Internal Evaluations Committee highlighted, the standards of quality for the two-years Professional Diploma have not yet been detailed (pg. 2 of report). The report used the success indicators of the first cycle of studies Bachelor. The External Evaluations Committee used the same indicators of quality.

([http://www.aaal.edu.al/dokumente/IAL\\_private/Polis/Raporti%20i%20Vleresimit%20te%20Jashtem%20Diplome%20Prof.%20Eficence%20Energjitike.pdf](http://www.aaal.edu.al/dokumente/IAL_private/Polis/Raporti%20i%20Vleresimit%20te%20Jashtem%20Diplome%20Prof.%20Eficence%20Energjitike.pdf)). The study program was accredited with the Order of Minister of Education and Sciences no. 315 date 17.06.2015.

### **Legal framework**

Article 26 law No. 9741, date 21.05.2017 “For the Higher Education in the Republic of Albania, revised)

“The Higher Education Institutions have the right to offer non-university, professional post-secondary study programs with at least 120 credits. The normal duration of these programs is at least two academic years and and the end of which a “Professional Diploma” in the field of the completed education is issued. The accumulated credits of the post-secondary studies can be transferred in the university studies of first cycle in compliance with the criteria established by the higher education institutions.”

Article 63, point 3 Higher education Law No. 9741, date 21.05.2007

“Every Higher education institution or study program in the public or private higher education, undergoes the first accreditation process prior to issuing the first diplomas. The first accreditation allows the public or private higher education institution to issue diplomas recognized in the Republic of Albania.”

Article 61 point 2 above mentioned law:

“The evaluation and accreditation are based on the state quality standards. These standards are specified in bylaws of the Ministry of Education and Science.”

Order no 75 date 19.02.2013 “For approving the state quality standards for evaluating and accrediting the study programs.”