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QAinAL

Strategic Support on Strengthening the Quality Assurance Structures
at the Private Higher Education Institutions in Albania

Overview of Quality Assurance & Legal Framework at **UNYT**

Kick – Off Meeting – **QAinAL** Erasmus+ Project

February – March 2016

Tirana – Albania



Presentation: Objectives

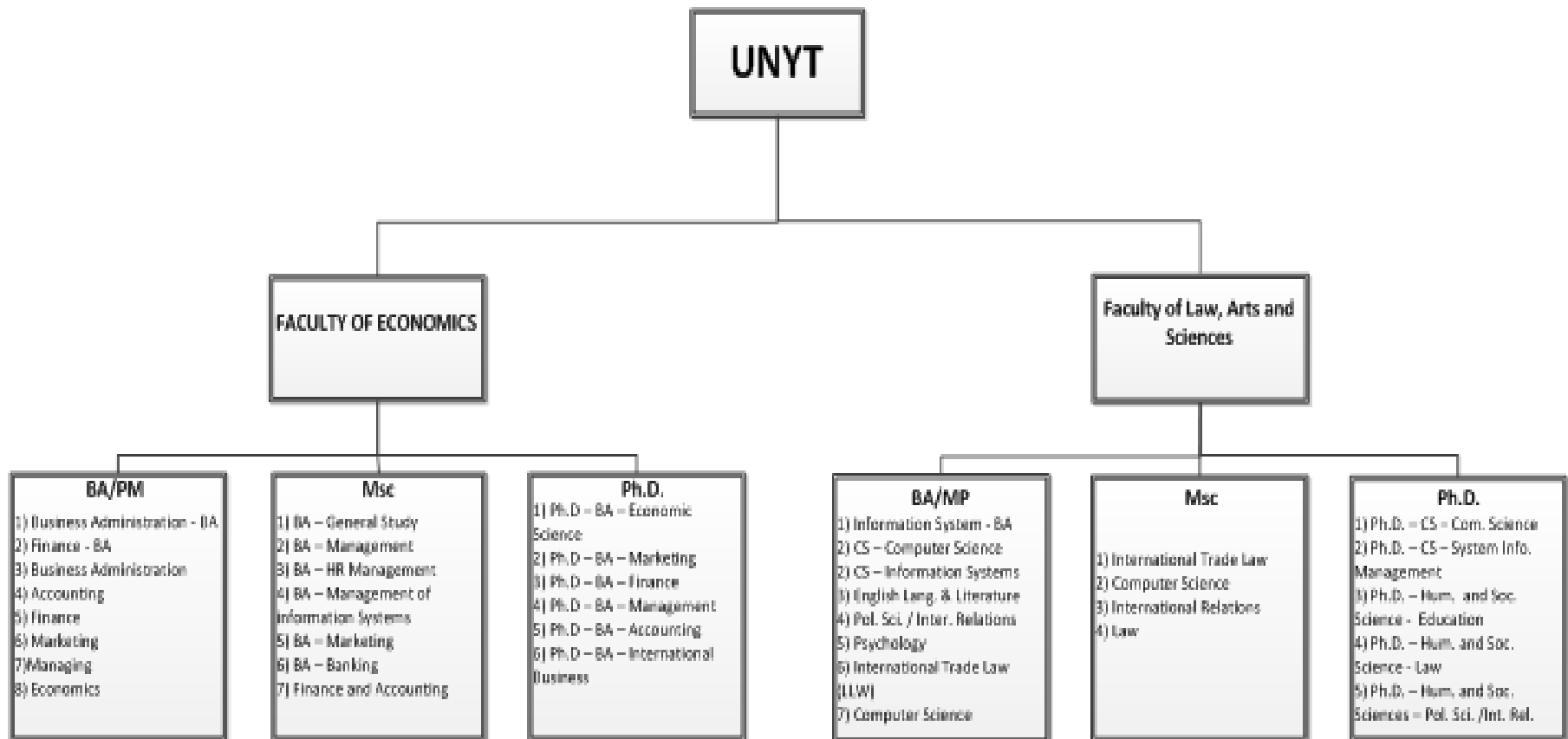
- ▶ to provide an update of quality assurance (QA) legal framework
- ▶ to exchange experiences on the development of QA practices in higher education & UNYT
- ▶ to foster dialogue on effective teaching & learning and QA instruments

Relevance: Kick-Off Agenda's framework & Needs and Analysis Questionnaire, its Purpose and Objectives





UNYT General Overview - Academic



State University of New York / Empire State College (SUNY/ESC) in the United States of America

▶ University of Greenwich, United Kingdom



Momentum of developments of QA – Albania reflected in **UNYT** regulations

- ▶ Blending American model of HE with national academic requirements (Bologna Declaration 2003)
- ▶ Establishment of the Public Agency of Accreditations of HE (1999) – All manuals and regulations publications by APAAL
- ▶ State Standards of QA (2012)
- ▶ Commission for the Reform of Higher Education & Research (January 2014)
- ▶ “*Green Paper*” (May, 2014) & Final report “*White Paper*” (July, 2014)
- ▶ Process of verification of HE legal compliance at UNYT (CM Decree (revocation and suspense of activities - July 2014)
- ▶ New Council of Accreditation (January 2015)
- ▶ Law nr. 80/2015: approved (September 2015)
(Official Gazette Nr. 164, 2015, page 11499-11490)



Momentum of developments of QA- UNYT

- ▶ First private university - Government's Decree no. 397, dated 15.08.2002
 - ▶ Order of Minister Nr. 385, date 10.10.2006 - Accreditation of Programs/Diploma".
 - ▶ University status (PhD studies) "*University New York, Tirana*" – Government's Decree no. 448, dated 11.07.2012
 - ▶ Order of Minister Nr. 384, date 06.09.2013 "For the re-accreditation of the **study programs**»
 - ▶ UNYT is currently re-accredited institutionally by the Order of Minister of Education and Sport, *Nr. 405, date 28.10.2015*
 - ▶ Council of Accreditation Nr. 64, date 30.06.2015, "For the **institutional accreditation** of the University of New York, Tirana"
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QA strategic vision at UNYT

- ▶ ...adhering to the highest standards of quality in our learning and teaching (Reference: Strategic Plan (2012-2017), Values.
- ▶ Strive for academic excellence in teaching, scholarship and service....Reference: Strategic Plan (2012-2017), strategic Goal 5
- ▶ ...the promotion of European co-operation in the field of quality assurance; (Reference: Strategic Plan (2012-2017), Objectives





QA Institutional Objectives

- ▶ Operationalize a Quality Assurance Unit totally detached from personalized structures. (reference UNYT Annual Objectives 2015-2016,
 1. Staff a Quality Assurance Unit – to be further modernized
 2. Empower it by assigning a Quality Assurance Committee to direct it, monitored by an external faculty.
 3. Invest in training it on QA matters across UNYT
 4. Revise the existing UNYT QA Manual (Code of Quality –national and international requirements)
 5. Decentralize QA activities in the spirit of disseminating quality culture.

[Relevance: UNYT Mission Statement, Paragraph 1; Mission Statement's Value No. 2; Strategic Goal 5].





QA Institutional Objectives

QAinAL

Strategic Support on Strengthening the Quality Assurance Structures at the Private Higher Education Institutions in Albania

“... higher education institutions have to provide state-of-the-art education enabling the graduates to be competitive at the national and international labour market...” (QAinAL Erasmus+ Project’s Objectives, 2014)

- ▶ Quality of teaching and learning
 - ▶ Quality of research and development
 - ▶ Quality of student services
 - ▶ Quality of management
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QA bodies at UNYT

- ❑ The Quality Assurance Committee (QAC)
- ❑ Quality Assurance Office/er

- ▶ The Quality Assurance Committee appointed by the Senate
- ▶ Coordinate the overall procedures for the **internal** and **external** evaluation (cooperation with academic and administrative units/university)
- ▶ Review the QA reports on academic and administrative affairs (regulations, policies, programs, processes, guaranteeing compliance with the legal framework)
- ▶ Ensure the quality in UNYT in cooperation with all the shareholders.
- ▶ Quality Assurance Manual – overall regulations of all units

Reference: UNYT Statute (July 2015)





QA instruments at UNYT

- ▶ ...The university commits itself to high standards of theoretical, empirical and hands-on teaching.
- ▶ Instructors apply **different methods** for checking the degree to which students assimilate course materials.
- ▶ Teaching standards are carefully **monitored each semester.**
- ▶ Students are given **course evaluation questionnaires** conducted with complete confidentiality
- ▶ Once every two years all instructors are **peer-evaluated** by their department heads.

Reference: UNYT Strategic Plan (2012-2017), Objectives B.





QA structure at UNYT

- ▶ Individual responsibility

- ▶ Deans

QA Committee/Office

- ▶ Rector

- ▶ Senate

- ▶ Shareholders





QA at UNYT 2015-2016

- ▶ Submitted the application for the accreditation of the PhD Programs (July 2015)
 - ▶ New study programs/Revision of existing ones (process)
 - ▶ Decision of AC, point 3, (**monitoring of recommendations...** during the 2015-2016)
 - ▶ Reorganization/statute/awarding titles – (legal article 129 & 131 ...)- first year
 - ▶ **Code of AQ** in HE – ...*during the academic year after the law approval*
 - ▶ **Institutional Restructuring** (- in terms of academic bodies and units within one academic year & in terms of the new status- in two years time)
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List of the international projects

(during the 5 years)

- ▶ IPA Adriatic Cross-Border Cooperation “ADRIATinn”

Project code: Io str./0007/0 - **2014-2016**

Project Title: “*An Adriatic Network for Advancing Research Development and Innovation towards the Creation of new Policies for Sustainable Competiveness and Technological Capacity of SMEs*”.

Official Link: (<http://www.adriatinn.eu/>)

- ▶ Regional Research, Promotion Programmes – Western Balkans

Project Title: “*Industrial Citizenship and Migration from the Western Balkans: Migration from Albania and Kosovo towards Greece, Germany and Switzerland*”

Official Link: (<http://rrpp-westernbalkans.net/en/research/Current-Projects/Migration/Industrial-Citizenship-and-Migration.html>)

▶ The RRPP is coordinated and operated by the Interfaculty Institute for Central and Eastern Europe (IICEE) at the University of Fribourg (Switzerland). The programme is fully funded by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Federal Departm



(Con) List of the international projects

- ▶ *Regional Research, Promotion Programmes – Western Balkans²*

Project Title: “*Beyond Ethnic Divisions: The Underestimated Dimension of Social Divisions in the Balkans and Their Impact on Social Cohesion and Democracy*”. (2011)

Official Link: <http://www.rpp-westernbalkans.net/en/library/Research-Results/Regional/Beyond-Ethnic-Divisions--The-Underestimated-Dimension-of-Social-Divisions-in-the-Balkans-and-Their-Impact-on-Social-Cohesion-and-Democracy.html>

- ▶ **National Donors:** *The Albanian Ministry of Culture and Alfa Bank – National Branch (2014 - on)*

Project Title: “*Raising Cultural Awareness and Museum Culture in Berat (Albania)*”





QA at UNYT – future challenges

- ▶ Balance between internal QA procedures with the national/international requirements;
- ▶ Balance between quality assurance processes at different levels (teaching vs research; entry/drop outs/graduation rates; employability; internationalization
- ▶ How to foster the “quality culture”?
 - ▶ Increase participation of **students**
 - ▶ **Enhance the use** of all operational types of questionnaires' (content, feedback, use of key performance indicators,)
 - ▶ Use **staff development** as a means for enhancing quality
 - ▶ Promote **trust** among all internal groups of interest





...Future...

UNYT + **QAinAL** = **QA HEI Albania**

Thank you!

