

Brief Introduction

POLIS University

Tirana, 29/02/2016

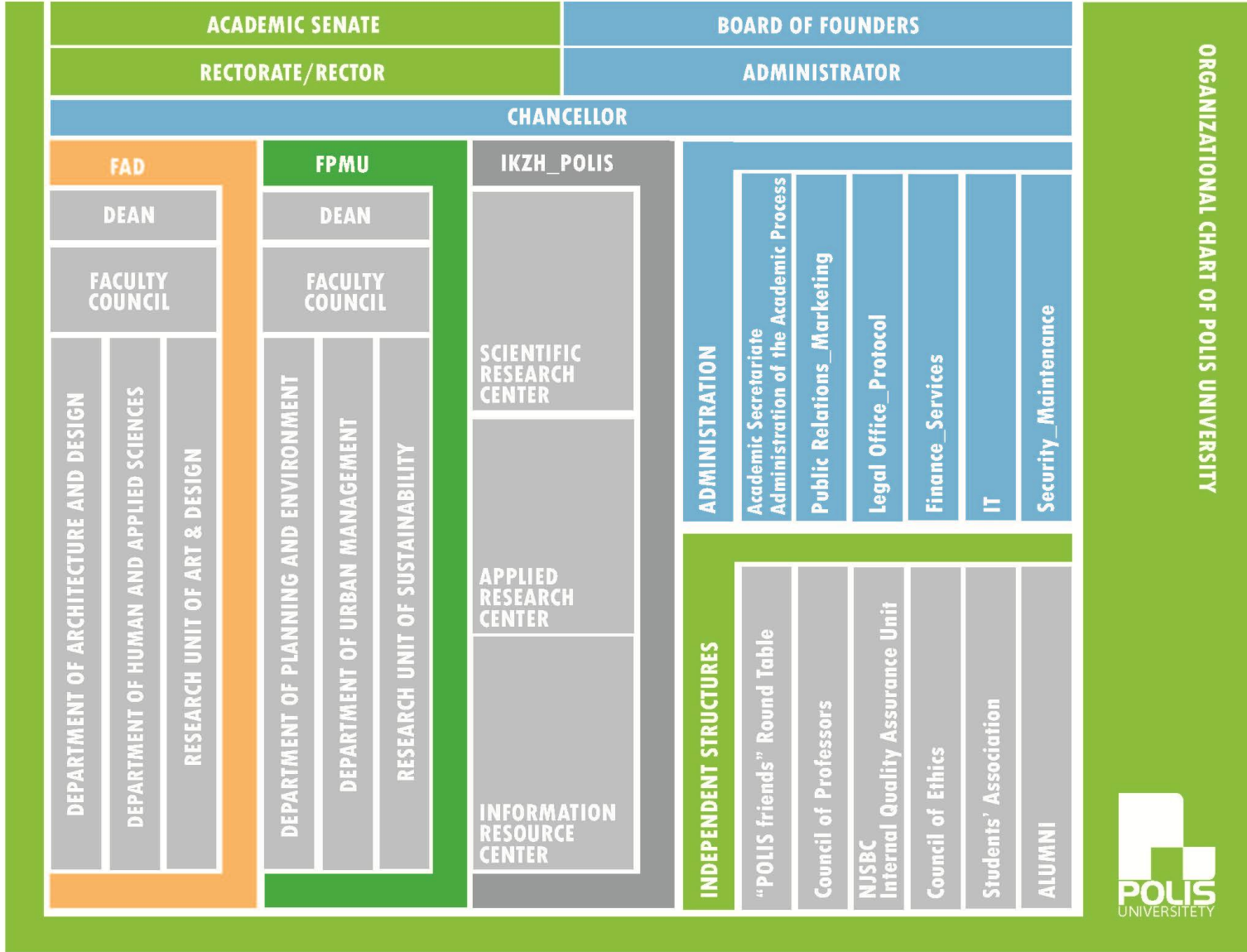
Mission and Values

At POLIS University we believe that independent, scientific research and stronger higher education institutes, can significantly contribute to the development of Western Balkan countries.

Our institution provides knowledge, technology and leadership for people in these core disciplines: architecture, urban planning, civil engineering, art and design, environment and management.

Through applied and scientific research POLIS develops and promotes scientific excellence and innovation, instrumental to the development processes in the country. Whilst through academic teaching it enhances creative and comprehensive competence.

U_POLIS Organizational Structure



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART OF POLIS UNIVERSITY

U_POLIS Academic and Research Structure

POLIS University is composed of 3 main units :
2 Faculties and the Research and Development Institute

Faculty of Architecture and Design

- Department of Architecture and Design
- Department of Human and Applied Sciences
- Research Unit of Architecture and Design

Faculty of Planning, Environment and Management

- Department of Planning and Environment
- Department of Urban Management
- Research Unit of Sustainability

Research and Development Institute

- Scientific Research Unit
- Applied Research Unit
- Resources and Information Unit

Quality of Academic and Administrative Staff

POLIS has a careful human resources policy trying to ensure a good balance among the academic staff regarding age, gender as well as academic qualification.

The latter remains a challenge considering the difficulty to identify and recruit qualified professionals in the fields of POLIS, such as art-design or planning which constitute brand new disciplines for the Albanian context, never been provided before in Albania as study programs.

Hence an important objective is to identify and recruit staff with academic titles and also invest in the further qualification of the existing staff. This is currently being done by POLIS through the engagement of the staff in qualification activities such as the Masters and the PhD program.

Internal Quality Assurance System

The quality assurance has been an important aspect of the institution's activity since its establishment. (2006 – 2009: through ad hoc monitoring groups)

POLIS intends to create a strong quality culture among its own community, hence the designated unit (IAQU) is strongly supported and provided full autonomy. Since 2009 IAQU is a permanent unit.

The unit has continuously expanded its scope and currently covers

- the teaching process
- research
- management

Internal Quality Assurance System

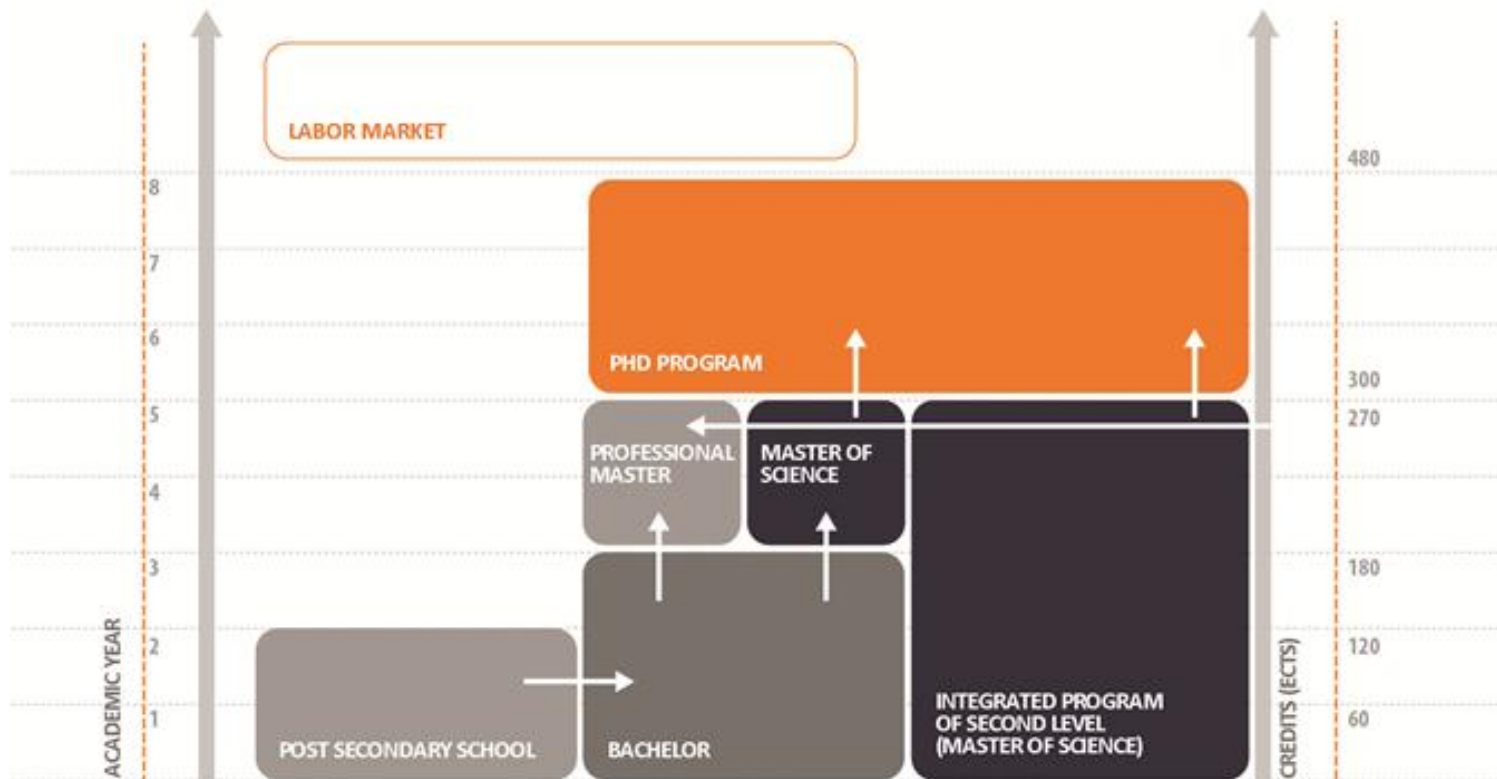
IQAU has a consolidated methodology for the evaluation of the teaching process that consists in the combination of 4 different information sources whose opinion is gathered through evaluation forms (questionnaires):

- students' evaluation (50%)
- peer evaluation (35%)
- self evaluation (15%)
- supervisor's evaluation (ad hoc)

Recently specific attention is being paid to develop a set of indicators that assess the quality of the research in institutional and individual level, as well as come up with an effective way to evaluate the professional practices.

Studying Programs

POLIS offers 13 studying programs in all cycles, out of which, 4 are organized in cooperation with a foreign partner



BSc Bachelor (3 years - 180 ECTS)

- Civil Engineering
- Environmental Studies
- Art and Design

MSc Master of Science (2 years - 120 ECTS)

- Urban Environmental Management
- Civil Engineering (Structures and Geotechnics)
- Applied Design

Integrated Master of Science Programs (5 years -300 ECTS)

- Architecture and Urban Design
- Urban Planning and Management

Professional Master's Programs with 6 specializations in cooperation with IHS/Erasmus, Rotterdam.

Design Specializations

- Aesthetic Structural Design
- Parametric Architectural Design
- Landscape and Urban Design

Urban Specializations:

- Housing and Land Development
- Spatial Planning and GIS Application
- Social Urban Development and Human Resources

MBA Program in cooperation with IPAG Business School, Paris

- Innovation and Entrepreneurship
- Real Estate
- Marketing and Strategy

Post Secondary Professional Program in Energy Efficiency

(120 ECTS; 2 years)

- Supported by the TEMPUS DAPEEWB project in a consortium of 11 partners

Joint international PhD program in “Architecture and Urban Planning”

organized by a consortium composed by:

Polis University and the University of Ferrara as establishing partners and

The Slovak Technical University and the University of Malta as associates.

The objective of the study programs offered at POLIS is twofold: to prepare professionals with a thorough understanding and deep theoretical knowledge about their fields of specialization as well as equip them with the practical skills to be able to implement the acquired knowledge, aiming to serve the needs of the labor market.

Students and alumni

The students are constantly guided and supported starting from their admission up to graduation and beyond.

There are 2 specific units: the Students' Support and Career Consulting Office and the Alumni Association, whose primary objective is to facilitate the communication of the institution with its current and former students.

POLIS pays a major attention to encourage and assist the students throughout their studies but especially while graduating providing guidance to engage in the labor market.

The outstanding employability rate of POLIS graduates (84%) is a significant indicator of the success of these policies and the quality of the education offered.

Scientific research

POLIS considers research as a key and integral part of its activity.

Considering the stage of the development of the country, the Albanian context does not offer a rich heritage of a body of previous research, especially in the domains inherent to POLIS activity.

Nevertheless being an institution established building upon the experience of a structure with a solid research background (Co-PLAN), the research at POLIS comes organically and is embedded in the institutional culture.

POLIS has defined a clear set of priority fields and has developed a research agenda shared and supported by the compounding units.

International Cooperation

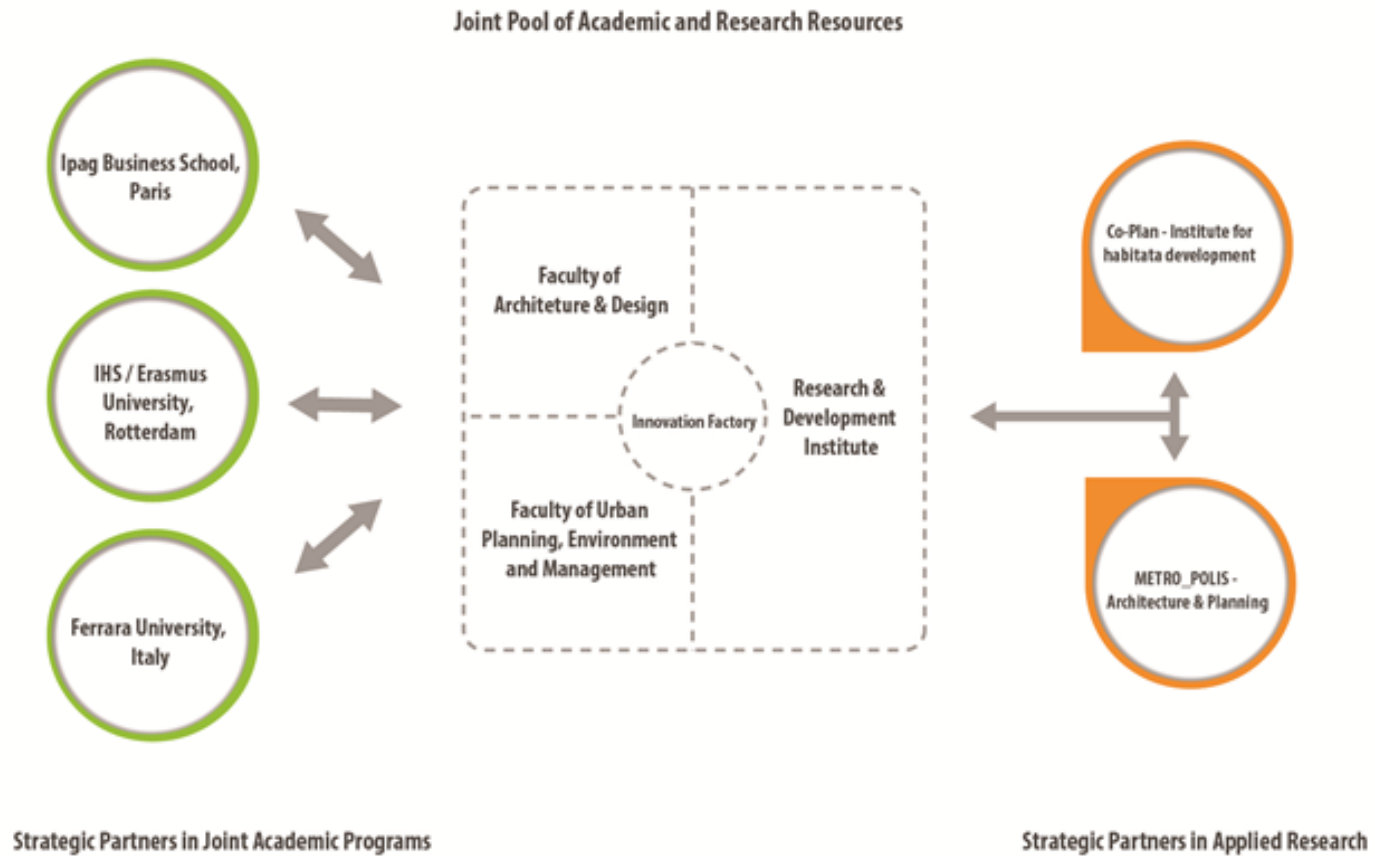
POLIS has an extensive network of partners, national and international, selected in accordance with the institution's development strategy. The partners and types of cooperation vary from strategic long-term partnerships such as Ferrara University and IHS/Erasmus, with whom POLIS offers joint academic programs as well as joint research projects, to ad hoc partners selected for specific activities such as joint workshops, common research activities and staff and student mobility schemes.

POLIS partners include organizations from the public and private sector, varying from

- Governmental bodies (ministries, academy of sciences),
- Higher Education Institutions,
- Private companies and business community
- Membership in international associations and networks

This myriad of collaborators enables multiple opportunities for the staff and students to participate in international events such as conferences, symposia, competitions, workshops, beside the ones organized by POLIS.

International Cooperation



International Projects

POLIS has been actively engaged in several capacity building projects; worth mentioning is the DAPEEWB Tempus project where POLIS is the leading partner and the holder of an EU grant of 850,000 Euros. This is the first time an Albanian institution is granted the leading role in a Tempus program which shows the reliability in its managing capacity

- DAPEEWB Tempus project
 - CONSUS “Connecting Science-Society Collaborations for Sustainability Innovations” project under Tempus Program
 - TRA-SA-Cu “Traffic Safety Cultures and the Safe Systems Approach – Towards a Cultural Change Research and Innovation Agenda for Road Safety” under Horizon 2020
 - PLGP “Planning and Local Governance Program” financed by USAID
 - STAR “Support to the Territorial and Administrative Reform” in Albania financed by UNDP
- POLIS is also engaged in bilateral international research activities such as:
- OIKONET under Erasmus+
 - “Down to Earth”: A bilateral project with Austrian partners

Currently working on a number of applications for both Erasmus+ and Horizon2020 calls.

International Projects

Nr	Programme or Initiative	Reference number	Beneficiary organisation	Title of the Project
1	TEMPUS Programme	543782-TEMPUS-1-2013-1-AL-JPCR	POLIS University	Developing and Adapting Professional Programs for Energy Efficiency in the Western Balkans
2	TEMPUS Programme	543742-TEMPUS-1-2013-1-AT-TEMPUS-	Karl-Franzens-University of Graz,	Connecting Science-Society Collaborations for Sustainability Innovations
3	H2020-MSCA-RISE	645690	KURATORIUM FUER VERKEHRSSICHERH	Traffic Safety Cultures and the Safe Systems Approach – Towards a Cultural Change Research
4	Erasmus+ Programme, KA2	561510-EPP-1-2015-1-AT-EPPKA2-CBHE-JP	PARIS LODRON UNIVERSITY OF	“Strategic support on strengthening the quality assurance structures at the private higher
5	Lifelong Learning Programme	2013-3679 / 001 – 001	La Salle School of Architecture, Barcelona, Spain	OIKOnet: A Global Multidisciplinary Network on Housing Research and Learning
6	Creative Europe/Culture	562287-CREA-1-2015-1-SI-CULT-PLAT	Museum of Architecture and	Futura-Future Architecture Platform
7	AKTI Bilateral Agreement Between		Technical University of	Down to Earth: Earthen Architecture in Eastern Europe
8	Erasmus+, KA107	2015-1-NL01-KA107-008799	Erasmus University,	Credit Mobility
9	Erasmus+, KA107	2015-2-FR01-KA107-021991	Ipag Business School, Paris,	Credit Mobility
10	Erasmus+, KA107	2015-1-LV01-KA107-013375	Building College Riga, Latvia	Credit Mobility
11	Erasmus+, KA107		Building College Riga, Latvia	Credit Mobility
12	Erasmus+, KA107		Glasgow Caledonian	Credit Mobility
13	Erasmus+, KA107		Universidade do Minho, Portugal	Credit Mobility