



STUDIJŲ KOKYBĖS VERTINIMO CENTRAS

VILNIAUS UNIVERSITETO
STUDIJŲ PROGRAMOS *ARCHEOLOGIJA*
(*valstybinis kodas – 621V40002*)
VERTINIMO IŠVADOS

EVALUATION REPORT
OF *ARCHAEOLOGY* (*state code - 621V40002*)
STUDY PROGRAMME
at VILNIUS UNIVERSITY

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DUOMENYS APIE ĮVERTINTĄ PROGRAMĄ

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| Studijų programos pavadinimas | <i>Archeologija</i> |
| Valstybinis kodas | 621V40002 |
| Studijų sritis | Humanitarinių mokslų studijų sritis |
| Studijų kryptis | Archeologija |
| Studijų programos rūšis | Universitetinės studijos |
| Studijų pakopa | Antroji |
| Studijų forma (trukmė metais) | 2 metai (nuolatinės) |
| Studijų programos apimtis kreditais | 120 ECTS |
| Suteikiamas laipsnis ir (ar) profesinė kvalifikacija | Archeologijos magistras |
| Studijų programos įregistravimo data | 1997 05 19 Švietimo ir mokslo ministro įsakymas Nr. 565 |

INFORMATION ON EVALUATED STUDY PROGRAMME

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|---|--|
| Title of the study programme | <i>Archaeology</i> |
| State code | 621V40002 |
| Study area | Humanities |
| Study field | Archaeology |
| Type of the study programme | University studies |
| Study cycle | First cycle |
| Study mode (length in years) | 2 years (full-time) |
| Volume of the study programme in credits | 120 ECTS |
| Degree and (or) professional qualifications awarded | Master of Archaeology |
| Date of registration of the study programme | 1997 05 19, Minister of Education and Science, Nr. 565 |

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The Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education

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I. INTRODUCTION

1.1. *Background of the evaluation process*

The evaluation of on-going study programmes is based on the **Methodology for evaluation of Higher Education study programmes**, approved by Order No 1-01-162 of 20 December 2010 of the Director of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (hereafter – SKVC).

The evaluation is intended to help higher education institutions to constantly improve their study programmes and to inform the public about the quality of studies.

The evaluation process consists of the main following stages: 1) *self-evaluation and self-evaluation report prepared by Higher Education Institution (hereafter - HEI)*; 2) *visit of the review team at the higher education institution*; 3) *production of the evaluation report by the review team and its publication*; 4) *follow-up activities*.

On the basis of external evaluation report of the study programme SKVC takes a decision to accredit study programme either for 6 years or for 3 years. If the programme evaluation is negative such a programme is not accredited.

The programme is **accredited for 6 years** if all evaluation areas are evaluated as “very good”. (4 points) or “good” (3 points).

The programme is **accredited for 3 years** if none of the areas was evaluated as “unsatisfactory” (1 point) and at least one evaluation area was evaluated as “satisfactory” (2 points).

The programme is **not accredited** if at least one of evaluation areas was evaluated as "unsatisfactory" (1 point).

1.2. *General*

The Application documentation submitted by the HEI follows the outline recommended by the SKVC. Along with the self-evaluation report and annexes, the following additional documents have been provided by the HEI before, during and/or after the site-visit:

| No. | Name of the document |
|-----|----------------------|
| 1 | |
| 2 | |
| 3 | |

1.3. *Background of the HEI/Faculty/Study field/Additional information*

Vilnius University is the oldest University in Lithuania, founded in 1579. The University implements the largest higher education programme in Lithuania, managing three-cycle studies in the area of humanitarian and social sciences, physics, biomedicine and technologies: there are over 60 BA degree and over 100 MA study programmes offered; PhD degree students can study nearly 30 areas of sciences, and residents – more than 50 residency study programmes.

Vilnius University includes 23 parent academic divisions at VU (faculties, institutes, centres). The Faculty of History (hereafter FH), has been established in 1968, continuing old traditions of history studies, which date back to 1783 when the first Department of History was founded at Vilnius University. The Faculty is managed by the Council and the Dean and consists of four departments: Archaeology, Theory of History and History of Culture, Modern History, and Ancient and Medieval History; the research group for Lithuanian Statutes and Lithuanian Metrica and the Centre for Stateless Cultures.

The Faculty of History provides three study programmes of the first cycle (Archaeology; History; History of Culture and Anthropology) and three study programmes of the second study cycle (Archaeology, History, Heritage Conservation), as well as the Doctoral study programme in the field of history, which is carried out in co-operation with the Institute of Lithuanian History. At the present time 14 people of the administrative staff, 47 lecturers (including 43 people with a degree of Doctor, 8 professors, 22 associate professors, 22 lecturers and one assistant), 14 research fellows (including 7 people with a degree of Doctor) work at FH. The number of students at the Faculty totals 936 (of the first and second cycle), and 30 students of the Doctoral programme, including 12 archaeologists.

The Archaeology Master's Study Programme (621V40001) is implemented by the Faculty of History. In 2008 the External Assessment Expert Group carried out an assessment of the Programme; after this assessment the Programme was accredited without restrictions (13 June 2008). The main weakness indicated by the experts was the lack of clear scientific direction of the Programme. This weakness was eliminated with the execution of the new Programme study plan of 2008/2009.

The Self Evaluation group has been approved by the Council of FH on 4th December 2013 (Resolution No. 7). It was composed by Prof. Dr. Albinas Kuncevičius (Head of the Self-Evaluation working team), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Algimantas Merkevičius, Dr. Justina Poškienė, Prof. Dr. Gintautas Vėlius, Dalia Vitkauskaitė, Rėda Nemickienė, Renaldas Augustinavičius (Social Partner), Laura Išganaitytė (student). The SER was finished by 20th December 2013.

1.4. The Review Team

The review team was completed according Description of experts' recruitment, approved by order No. 1-01-151 of Acting Director of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education. The Review Visit to HEI was conducted by the team on 23.09.2014.

- 1. Dr. Isabella Colpo (team leader)**, *University of Padua, University Museums Center, Curator of the Cultural Heritage of the University, Italy.*
- 2. Ass. Prof. dr. Anatoly Kantorovich**, *Lomonosov University, Moscow, ass. professor, Russia.*
- 3. Prof. Dr. Andrzej Buko**, *University of Warsaw & Polish Academy of Sciences, professor, Poland.*
- 4. Dr. Povilas Blaževičius**, *National Museum Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania, Lithuania.*
- 5. Mr. Gintautas Rimeikis**, *student of Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences, study programme Educational Management and Leadership.*

II. PROGRAMME ANALYSIS

2.1. Programme aims and learning outcomes

The programme aims and learning outcomes are well defined, clear and publicly accessible.

The aims of the programmes are available on the website of the Vilnius University ([https://klevas.vu.lt/pls/pub/public_ni\\$www_progr_app.show](https://klevas.vu.lt/pls/pub/public_ni$www_progr_app.show)) and in the AIKOS system (<http://www.aikos.smm.lt/programos.htm?m=program&a=displayItem&id=62405H104>), also in the context of the Open days of Vilnius University, of the study fair "Learning, Studies, Career" in LITEXPO exhibition centre and during visits organised by the Vilnius University to Lithuanian gymnasiums. So public accessibility to information on MA is well explained.

The name of the programme, its learning outcomes, content and the qualifications offered are compatible with each other. The important peculiarity of the Programme i.e. limitation of admission to this programme by individuals who have completed the first cycle of the humanities or social sciences is absolutely defensible as it enables to ensure the professionalism of the graduates.

The main objective of this Master of Archaeology study programme is to prepare qualified specialists who have theoretical knowledge and practical skills to work independently in the area of archaeological research (both fundamental and applied, both destructive and non-destructive). The main content of the programme and the interviews conducted by the expert team prove that so the students as the stakeholders confirmed the Programme satisfying their expectations. The programme takes into consideration both the academic and professional requirements and is very tightly connected with the social and natural environment of the country. The programme learning outcomes are complied with international documents and the trends of world research process. So the programme aims and learning outcomes are consistent with the type and level of studies and the level of qualifications offered.

There are well-defined differences of the Programme in question with the Landscape Archaeology Master run at Klaipeda University: it is emphasized that the MA Programme thematically (first of all spatially) varies from the Landscape Archaeology Master, because the latter programme is focused on Historical Archaeology of the Baltic Sea Region and Underwater Archaeology. But unfortunately there is no references concerning the interaction of this Programme with the Cultural Heritage Programme run at Vilnius University which is very close to the MA Programme and is partly elaborated and fulfilled by the same teachers. It would be useful to ascertain this interplay assuming that one of the purposes of the MA Programme is to train archaeologists for contribution to the conservation of the Lithuanian archaeological heritage.

The programme learning outcomes are constantly being verified and revised by teachers and stakeholders regularly with concrete periodicity (semi-annual). The involvement of variety of stakeholders (Society of the Lithuanian Archaeology, Lithuanian Institute of History, heritage conservation public institutions, museums, Department of Cultural Heritage, Cultural Heritage Centre) in revision of learning outcomes, the stakeholders' great interest in young specialists – graduates of the MA Programme - demonstrate that the Programme aims take in account public needs of the labour market.

2.2. Curriculum design

The curriculum meets all legal requirements. On the base of the General Requirements for Master Degree Study Programmes 2010-06-03 (order No V-826 of the Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania) the length of the programme corresponds to 120 ECTS (3.200 hours; 1 credit - 26.6 work hours), divided into 4 semesters. 54 ECTS are allotted to compulsory subjects, 36 ECTS to elective subjects, 30 ECTS - to Master final thesis defended before the Committee for Awarding the Master's Degree. 90 ECTS are allotted to subjects of the study field, and 30 ECTS to the professional practice.

Considering the non-field sphere the experts regard good balance between lectures, seminars, self-study and between written and oral text.

The study subjects are not repetitive and cover all the main matters of archaeology. A wide choice of courses is ensured. The content of the subjects is consistent with the type and level of the studies. The content of the programme reflects the latest achievements in science and technologies so for most of the subjects the Reviewers fix the bibliography updated and including local and foreign publications. So the experts' team can conclude that the content and methods of the subjects are appropriate for the achievement of the intended learning outcomes.

According to SER, descriptions of all courses are constantly updated. The last update was done before the 2013-2014 academic year. The doubtless strength of the Programme is presence of courses specifically focused on cultural heritage management and legal aspects of cultural heritage.

The Reviewers can specially note extremely interesting elective courses – such as “Afterworld of the Balts: Concepts and Burial Traditions”. The programme of this course combines study of both archaeological and historical sources which increase the historical aspect of archaeology. Also the Reviewers specially mark multidisciplinary courses such as “Bioarchaeology” and “Ethnoarchaeology”.

At the same time The Reviewers suggest many improvement related to some courses. First of all, taking into account the deep study of specific Baltic and Lithuanian archaeology topics (from the Stone age to modern times), provided by the programme, it would be reasonable to inform students also of the Eastern proto-Balts' and Balts' archaeological cultures of the Early Iron age (i.e., the Bondarikha culture, the western zone of the Dyakovo culture, the Dnieper-Daugava culture) and the Early-Medieval period (the Tushemlya culture, the Kolochin culture, the Galind - Golyad' in Russian sources - problem). As far as the course “Problems of the Baltic Archaeology: Research Seminar” is compulsory it would be good to discuss in its frame also the problem of Germans-Balts-Slavs language unity before segmentation of these languages in the middle of the 1st millennium B.C. as far as the Seminar agenda includes such theme as “Issues of formation of Baltic, Finno-Ugric and Germanic ethnic groups (various theoretical approaches and their validity)”.

The lack of the separated course of Field archaeology methods may be accounted for the presence of this discipline on the level of the Bachelor of Archaeology Programme. But for those students who may enrol the MA study not possessing the BA degree it seems insufficient to restrain the training of Field archaeology methods only by practical activity or by some themes integrated in the course “Lithuanian Archaeological Heritage. Issues of Investigation and Conservation”. In total, assuming the restriction of admission to the MA programme by individuals who have completed the first cycle of the humanities or social sciences it would be rational to elaborate some special plan or particular trajectory for those who have not Bachelor of Archaeology degree but have legal right to enrol the Master of Archaeology programme.

The Experts team suggests that it would be rational to move the course “Theoretical Archaeology” from elective to compulsory part as far as it is very important for every student.

Also the Reviewers propose to improve the list of recommended literature. Namely, for the course “GIS and IT in Heritage Conservation” it would be reasonable to take into consideration the “Introduction to geoinformatics in archaeology (manual)” by D.S. Korobov (Moscow: Moscow University Press, 2011) (in Russian). Concerning the course “Problem of Indoeuropeans in Archaeology” it would be rational to complete the list of Optional reading by some fundamental works i.e. first of all: Chevnykh E. Metallurgical Provinces of the 5th-2nd Millennia in Eastern Europe in Relation to the Process of Indo-Europeanization // Journal of Indo-European Studies. 1980, vol.8, №3-4; Merpert N.Ya. The earliest pastoralists of the Volga-Ural interfluvial area. Moscow: Nauka, 1974 (in Russian).

Also considering the requests of both students and alumni, it is necessary to review the position of foreign languages of the programme: namely to enlarge this module with German and technical/professional English (primarily in order to facilitate process of writing papers in English).

Finally, concerning the great importance of field activities in archaeology, the proportion between ECTS allotted to subject of the study field and ECTS to the professional practice (90/30 ECTS) could be changed in favour of practical activities (excavations, prospecting and outside laboratory work) and be close to repartition 80/40 ECTS. In fact, considering SER and after onsite visit, it is clear that there is a certain misbalance between theory and practice, especially in field activity and in direct contact with the archaeological material (laboratory activity).

2.3. Teaching staff

From the provided material and according to the experience of direct contact it appears that the qualification and the number of the teaching staff are adequate to ensure learning outcomes.

In total 22 students taught by 16 lecturers were studying in MA program in 2012-2013. The correspondent ratio of 1.4 students per lecturer on average is very good: it provides direct student - lecturer interaction discussing various archaeological issues, as well as during seminars and while writing research papers and final theses. But here an obvious disproportion is noticeable, because due to the small number of students it is hard to gather groups for individual courses.

The study programme of Master of Archaeology is implemented by a very qualified academic staff consisting of experienced teachers. Most of them are well-known scientists. The number and qualifications of the staff meet all applicable legal requirements. The staff of the Programme is employed according to the legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania and the requirements valid in Vilnius University (The Regulations for Certifying Pedagogical and Scientific Personnel of Vilnius University and Organising Competitions for Filling Positions - approved by Decision of the Vilnius University Senate of 17 December 2013). The programme is realized by 16 lecturers, at that 14 have Doctoral degree (among them 2 Habilitated Doctors, 3 Professors by title) namely 11 persons in the Humanities, 1 person in Social Sciences, 1 person in Medical Science and 1 person in Natural Sciences. One of the lecturers holds the post of Director of the Department of Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Culture, another lecturer is employed as Chief State Inspector of the Control Division of this institution. For at least 60% of lecturers' scientific activity corresponds to the course unit that they teach. At least 20% of course units' lecturers are professors. So the qualifications of the teaching staff are adequate to ensure the expected learning outcomes of the programme.

Teaching staff turnover is able to ensure an adequate provision of the programme. Currently, compulsory and elective subjects are taught by 16 lecturers.

The academic staff of the programme is involved in researches directly related to the MA study programme. The teachers have sufficient academic experience. Professional and research development of the staff is witnessed by the regular publications of research results in Lithuanian and foreign peer-reviewed scientific journals and monographs. The teachers are participating in different national and international projects. During the reviewed period according to SER the staff has participated in 32 research projects and more than 10 applied projects, also in 70 conferences. Two of lecturers were honoured the National Progress Award for the research of Dubingiai burial site and discovery of the Radzivilos' remains. It is very important that the Department of Archaeology is publishing a periodical "Archeologia Lituana".

The professors working in successfully supervise doctoral students.

For each academic year plans of individual activity are drawn and implemented. Problems arising in the study programme are discussed in the Department meetings and decisions are made; their implementation is controlled by the Head of the Department of History.

Vilnius University obviously creates satisfactory conditions for the professional development of the teaching staff necessary for the provision of the programme. Most of the lecturers in the Programme developed their pedagogical qualifications by taking part in training and seminars organised by Vilnius University and the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education. In accordance with the project "Upgrading of the First Cycle Programmes at VU Faculty of History" organised in the Faculty of History teachers participated in the trainings of quality assessment, the application of ECTS credits methodology, study results, evaluation methods, E-teaching and others. Participation in international and national conferences and seminars makes an important influence on the qualification of the teachers and improvement of their teaching methods.

Nevertheless the low mobility of teaching staff is noticeable. Despite a good participation of the lecturers at international research projects, there are a few incoming visiting professors. Also teaching staff is lack of foreign teachers. Faculty should invite some teachers from foreign universities. This is an important measure for improving and strengthening the international learning experience on the programme. So the Reviewers suggest to increase the international relationships of the teachers: increase participation to international meetings, publications in international reviews, apply to mobility programmes for researchers, invite international colleagues. In this context it is encouraging fact that the contacts with the Museum of History of Culture at Oslo University have been recently established.

2.4. Facilities and learning resources

The premises for studies and buildings of the Faculty of History of the Vilnius University are adequate both in their size and quality and acceptable for the lectures and classes provided by the MA study programme, regarding the occupational safety and hygiene standards. Classrooms enable lecturers and teachers to use demonstration equipment (multimedia projectors, notebooks, sets of video equipment etc.) and computer technologies. In addition the course of bioarchaeology is delivered at the Faculty of Medicine of the Vilnius University where there are all the necessary technical equipment for the lectures and the prosectorium.

The Faculty of History Library is quite convenient for students' work, it includes the modern system of bookshelves, wireless Internet, computerized workplaces, and access to international

databases including JSTOR and some others. Students have also access to the full database of the archaeological sites of Lithuania elaborated by students themselves with one of the Department of Archaeology teachers in the context of the crucial programme “Archeolitas: Creation and Digitization of a Compendium of Archaeological Resources of Lituaniaistika”. The students can obviously get all the necessary methodological aid for final theses.

Although facilities and learning resources are developed and updated, there are some problems in this sphere. Library is comfortable but rather small, so there are not enough working places, but it totally depends on material base and finances.

As potential improvement of the programme, the Reviewers suggest to bring together all the different sections of the library and all the teachers' studies and students' office, so as to allow a better exchange of informations, ideas and experiences. It is indicative that - as the Reviewers get to know from the SER - additional working places for students and lecturers are planned to be created in the new library of the Faculty of History.

The higher education institution has adequate arrangements for students' practice – i.e. the State Cultural Reserve of Kernavė which provides the materials from the late Palaeolithic Period to the Middle Ages and both settlements and the burials. Another centre is Dubingiai Castle where a new field research centre is planned as we realize according to the SER. However, except for these two centres, the choices of archaeological sites for the practical activity are totally committed to the students. Considering the great relevance of the field practice in the archaeological curriculum and the suggestion provided by the Expert team to improve practical activities, the Reviewers propose to organize the full-scale students' choose of site excavations: i.e. to provide a list of accredited excavation sites, so to guarantee the high scientific level of the excavations which the students can participate in.

2.5. Study process and students' performance assessment

The organization of the study process ensures an adequate provision of the programme and the achievement of the learning outcomes. Assessment criteria are very thoroughly elaborated for most of the courses. According to SER the assessment system of students' performance is clear, adequate and publicly available.

The final theses which were totally available to expert team during their visit to the Vilnius University demonstrate close connection with the aims and contents of the programme. All master theses are related with the study program. The results of master final theses show that students are very interested in their study field – so average grades of last two years are 9,47.

Vilnius University ensures an adequate level of academic support of students. The students have all the opportunities to contact with lecturers and other teachers all the time needed and even to meet them for consulting not only during lectures.

Students' admission meets all rules and procedures approved by Vilnius University Senate and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. All admission regulations can also be found in Internet, together with main information about study process, programme aims and learning outcomes. All students who have a Bachelor degree in History and in Social Sciences are admitted in the Master of Archaeology program. The merit of the admission process is confining the list of bachelors who can enrol in the Programme by those who have graduated the first cycle of studies in the field of the Humanities or Social Sciences, as this restriction enables to ensure the high professional level of the graduates of the MA programme.

During 5 years of admission, average competition score got higher, but state financed (hereafter - StF) places was the same in period 2009-2012, 10 state financed places, just in 2013 one more Stf place was given. On 2009 4 students were accepted for Non Stf places. On 2011 just one student was accepted. On 2010 two students were accepted, the same situation was kept on 2012 and 2013. During the period 2009-2012 the drop-out rate was 24% in total. During this period 7 students whom were Stf left studies, and just one student who was Non Stf. Drop-out rate of this study field is quite low, just 13%, it shows that most of the students are motivated to finish studies and work related their study field.

Students are encouraged to participate in research and applied research activities. There are opportunities for students' mobility to participate in practices, conferences, projects and various research activities and to work with high qualified researchers, some students write some articles in scholarly publications, during the period. Also students are participating in national cultural events with reconstruction of lifestyles from history group (such as Days of Live Archaeology in Kernavė, Medieval Feast in Trakai and others) and in archaeological excavations on abroad.

Vilnius University ensures an adequate level of social support. University has given opportunities to get various scholarships both from State and University funds. All information, about scholarships can be found in the Internet. There are 5 different kinds of scholarships, which could be given for bachelor students. According SER, students who have great achievements in study field, could get scholarships. During the meetings with administration it was revealed that 10% of the best students could get a scholarship, but the number of exhibitioners depends on faculty funds. Also it is possible to get a social scholarship if the student matches all requirements which are regulated by state.

Students have possibility to participate in the Sport and Health Centre activities (individual and group activities), to represent University at national and international sports competitions. Also students have possibility to be participants of cultural activity in Vilnius University Cultural Centre. Students also can receive psychological consultation. They can get help to integrate to society, if they have problems with family or personal life.

Professional activities of the majority of graduates meet the programme providers' expectations. Most of graduates really have interests in their study field. Most of graduated students (about 80%) of this study field have found the job directly related to archaeology. According information got during the meeting with alumni, teachers also help to find a job. 7 students in the period in question (2009-2013) joined Doctoral studies related with archaeology field. The Reviewers can state the strong relation between faculty and stakeholders and their really tight cooperation.

2.6. Programme management

Responsibilities for decisions and monitoring of the implementation of the programme are clearly allocated. The programme is managed by the Department of Archaeology. Strategic issues of the Programme are discussed at the Council of the Faculty of History. The Archaeology Department is responsible for the implementation of the Programme. Scheduled meetings of the Study Committee take place after the end of each semester. The evaluation and improvement processes involve stakeholders. The decisions on the programme management and quality assurance are made collegially. Curriculum development and implementation of the provisions are defined by Vilnius University Study Regulations and Vilnius University Study Programmes Regulation; also, separate stages of study process are regulated by other regulatory documents of studies at VU.

Information and data on the implementation of the programme are regularly collected and analysed. Lecturers and students can directly access the information concerning the course units they teach or study. According to SER the information related to the process of study, students, academic staff and the administration has been recorded in the Information System of the Vilnius University since 1992. So the internal quality assurance measures seem effective and efficient.

Programme monitoring and quality supervision is conducted by the Archaeology Study Programme Committee. Every semester faculty is giving questionnaires to the students, that they could evaluate whole study field and teaching staff quality. During the studies, students have all possibilities to inform administration about problems which they confront related with teaching and study process. The outcomes of internal and external evaluations of the programme are used for the improvement of the programme. SER demonstrates that some courses were modified and optimized into accordance to suggestions of the Study Committee and students.

University has given opportunities participating in student mobility programs to study abroad. Faculty of History has agreements with 20 foreign universities, which can be chosen by the students. All possibilities are made to go to study on abroad. But there is a rather low interest in student exchange programs in this study field, as far as during all the period 2009-2013 only 3 students were participated in ERASMUS mobility programme. The main reason of such a small number of students participating in exchange programs is that most of students have jobs. Also during the meeting with students it was mentioned that not all of foreign universities are accepting students from archaeology field. During the meetings it became clear, that it needs more international collaboration, not only from students' perspective, but also assuming the leaders of Faculty of History who should be more interested to send students abroad, because they could get improve their knowledge and skills. That's why the Reviewers advise to encourage students to apply for various programs of international exchanges (Erasmus +, Leonardo Da Vinci etc.), also suggesting and facilitating participation of the students at foreign field activities.

As far as Archaeology Study Programme Committee it is the same for BA and MA studies (7 members, only one student among them), it would be reasonable for better study managing that at least two students could be involved in this Committee, i.e. one from BA level and another from MA level.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Overcome certain misbalance between theory and practice, especially in field activity and in direct contact with the archaeological material (laboratory activity) and increase practical component both in the non-field sphere and in the sphere of excavations, prospecting and outside laboratory work of students. Organize the full-scale students' choose of site excavations: i.e. to provide a list of excavation sites accredited by the Department of Archaeology.
2. Increase international students' exchange in such system as "Erasmus+" and in other programs.
3. Review the position of foreign languages of the programme: namely enlarge this module with German and technical/professional English.
4. Bring together all the different sections of the library and all the teachers' studies and students' office, so as to allow a better exchange of informations, ideas and experiences.
5. Improve the presence of international teachers (visiting professors).
6. Increase the number of students in the Study Program Committee (as members or observers).
7. Further improvements indicated in the report are related to the description of the study modules, namely better explaining the content of some courses and update or improve bibliographical references.

IV. EXAMPLES OF EXCELLENCE (GOOD PRACTICE)*

V. SUMMARY

The programme aims and learning outcomes are well defined and clear. Public accessibility to information on MA is well explained. The name of the programme, its learning outcomes, content and the qualifications offered are compatible with each other. The limitation of admission to this programme by individuals who have completed the first cycle of the humanities or social sciences fully ensure the professionalism of the graduates. The programme takes into consideration both the academic and professional requirements and also the public needs of Lithuania. The programme learning outcomes are complied with international documents and the trends of world research process. So the programme aims and learning outcomes are consistent with the type and level of studies and the level of qualifications offered. The programme learning outcomes are being verified and revised by teachers and stakeholders regularly with concrete periodicity (semi-annual).

The curriculum meets all legal requirements. There is a good balance between lectures, seminars, self-study and between written and oral text. The study subjects are not repetitive and cover all the main matters of archaeology. The content of the subjects is consistent with the type and level of the studies and is appropriate for the achievement of the intended learning outcomes. The Reviewers suggest many improvements related to the content of some courses and to the recommended literature. Finally, the Expert team recommends to review the foreign language courses and to improve practical activities, namely fieldwork and laboratory activity.

The study programme of Master of Archaeology is implemented by a very qualified academic staff consisting of experienced teachers. The number and qualifications of the staff meet all applicable legal requirements and the staff of the Programme is employed according to the legal acts of the Republic of Lithuania and the requirements valid in Vilnius University, so the qualifications of the teaching staff are adequate to ensure the expected learning outcomes of the programme. The ratio of students per lecturer on average is very good: it provides direct student-lecturer interaction discussing various archaeological issues, as well as during seminars and while writing research papers and final theses. Teaching staff turnover is able to ensure an adequate provision of the programme. The academic staff of the programme is involved in researches directly related to the MA study programme. Professional and research development of the staff is witnessed by the regularly publications of research results in Lithuanian and foreign peer-reviewed scientific journals and monographs. Teachers are participating in different national and international projects. Vilnius University creates satisfactory conditions for the professional development of the teaching staff necessary for the provision of the programme. Nevertheless the low mobility of teaching staff is noticeable, so the Reviewers suggest increasing the international relationships of the teachers, i.e. participation to international meetings, publications in international reviews, participation in mobility programmes for researchers, invite international colleagues.

Facilities and learning resources are developed and updated. The premises for studies and buildings of the Faculty of History of the Vilnius University are adequate both in their size and quality and acceptable for the lectures and classes provided by the MA study programme, regarding the occupational safety and hygiene standards. Classrooms enable lecturers and teachers to use demonstration equipment (multimedia projectors, notebooks, sets of video equipment etc.) and computer technologies. The Faculty of History Library is quite convenient for students' work, it includes the modern system of bookshelves, wireless Internet, computerized workplaces, and access to international databases including JSTOR and some others. Students have also access to the full database of the archaeological sites of Lithuania elaborated by students themselves with one of the Department of Archaeology teachers in the context of the crucial programme "Archeolitas: Creation and Digitization of a Compendium of

Archaeological Resources of Lituania". The students can obviously get all the necessary methodological aid for final theses. However, the Reviewers suggest to bring together all the different sections of the library and all the teachers' studies and students' office, so as to allow a better exchange of informations, ideas and experiences. Finally, the Reviewers propose to organize the full-scale students' choice of site excavations: i.e. to provide a list of accredited excavation sites, so to guarantee the high scientific level of the excavations which the students can participate in.

The organization of the study process ensures an adequate provision of the programme and the achievement of the learning outcomes. Assessment criteria are very thoroughly elaborated for most of the courses. According to SER the assessment system of students' performance is clear, adequate and publicly available. The final theses demonstrate close connection with the aims and contents of the programme and the results show that students are very interested in their study field. Vilnius University ensures an adequate level of academic support of students. There are all opportunities to contact lecturers all the time needed and even to meet them for consulting not only during lectures. Students' admission meets all rules and procedures approved by Vilnius University Senate and the Government of the Republic of Lithuania. Drop-out rate of this study field is quite low and it shows that most of the students are motivated to finish studies and work related their study field. Students are encouraged to participate in research and applied research activities. Vilnius University ensures an adequate level of social support. Professional activities of the majority of graduates meets the programme providers' expectations, as most of graduated students of this study field have found the job directly related to archaeology. During the meetings it became clear, that it needs more international collaboration: that's why the Reviewers advise to encourage students to apply for various programs of international exchanges.

Responsibilities for decisions and monitoring of the implementation of the programme are clearly allocated. The decisions on the programme management and quality assurance are made collegially and involve stakeholders. Information and data on the implementation of the programme are regularly collected and analysed. Lecturers and students can directly access the information concerning the course units they teach or study. The outcomes of internal and external evaluations of the programme are used for the improvement of the programme. An improvement of the number of students involved in the Programme Committee is strongly recommended.

VI. GENERAL ASSESSMENT

The study programme Archaeology (state code – 621V40002) at Vilnius University is given **positive** evaluation

Study programme assessment in points by evaluation areas.

| No. | Evaluation Area | Evaluation of an area in points* |
|-----|--|----------------------------------|
| 1. | Programme aims and learning outcomes | 4 |
| 2. | Curriculum design | 3 |
| 3. | Teaching staff | 3 |
| 4. | Facilities and learning resources | 3 |
| 5. | Study process and students' performance assessment | 4 |
| 6. | Programme management | 3 |
| | Total: | 20 |

*1 (unsatisfactory) - there are essential shortcomings that must be eliminated;

2 (satisfactory) - meets the established minimum requirements, needs improvement;

3 (good) - the field develops systematically, has distinctive features;

4 (very good) - the field is exceptionally good.

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Grupės vadovas: Team leader: | Dr. Isabella Colpo |
| Grupės nariai: Team members: | Ass. prof. dr. Anatoly Kantorovich |
| | Prof. dr. Andrzej Buko |
| | Dr. Povilas Blaževičius |
| | Gintautas Rimeikis |

**VILNIAUS UNIVERSITETO ANTROSIOS PAKOPOS STUDIJŲ PROGRAMOS
ARCHEOLOGIJA (VALSTYBINIS KODAS – 621V40001) 2014-11-18 EKSPERTINIO
VERTINIMO IŠVADŲ NR. SV4-557 IŠRAŠAS**

<...>

VI. APIBENDRINAMASIS ĮVERTINIMAS

Vilniaus universiteto studijų programa Archeologija (valstybinis kodas – 621V40002) vertinama **teigiamai**.

Studijų programos vertinimas balais pagal vertinamąsias sritis.

| Eil. Nr. | Vertinimo sritis | Srities įvertinimas, balais* |
|----------|--|------------------------------|
| 1. | Programos tikslai ir numatomi studijų rezultatai | 4 |
| 2. | Programos sandara | 3 |
| 3. | Personalas | 3 |
| 4. | Materialieji ištekliai | 3 |
| 5. | Studijų eiga ir jos vertinimas | 4 |
| 6. | Programos vadyba | 3 |
| | Iš viso: | 20 |

* 1 - Nepatenkinamai (yra esminių trūkumų, kuriuos būtina pašalinti)

2 - Patenkinamai (tenkina minimalius reikalavimus, reikia tobulinti)

3 - Gerai (sistemiškai plėtojama sritis, turi savitų bruožų)

4 - Labai gerai (sritis yra išskirtinė)

<...>

V. SANTRAUKA

Magistrantūros studijų programos *Archeologija* tikslai ir numatomi studijų rezultatai yra apibrėžti ir aiškūs. Gerai išaiškinta galimybė viešai naudotis informacija apie šią programą. Programos pavadinimas, numatomi studijų rezultatai, programos turinys ir suteikiama kvalifikacija dera tarpusavyje. Tai, kad į šią programą priimami tik baigusieji humanitarinių arba socialinių mokslų pirmosios pakopos (bakalauro) studijas, puikiai užtikrina šios programos absolventų profesionalumą. Šioje programoje atsižvelgiama į akademinis ir (arba) profesinius reikalavimus ir Lietuvos visuomenės poreikius. Numatomi studijų rezultatai nustatyti laikantis tarptautinių dokumentų ir pasaulinio mokslinių tyrimų proceso tendencijų. Taigi programos tikslai ir numatomi studijų rezultatai atitinka studijų rūšį, pakopą ir kvalifikacijų lygį. Dėstytojai ir socialiniai dalininkai nuolat tam tikru periodiškumu (kas pusę metų) tikrina ir taiso numatomus studijų rezultatus.

Programos sandara atitinka teisės aktų reikalavimus. Paskaitų, seminarų, savarankiškų studijų, taip pat žodinių ir rašytinių tekstų santykis yra subalansuotas. Studijų dalykai nesikartoja; jie apima visus pagrindinius archeologijos klausimus. Dalykų turinys atitinka studijų

rūšį ir pakopą ir yra tinkamas numatomiems studijų rezultatams pasiekti. Ekspertai siūlo nemažai patobulinimų, susijusių su kai kurių dalykų turiniu ir rekomenduojama literatūra. Galiausiai ekspertai rekomenduoja persvarstyti užsienio kalbų dalykus ir gerinti praktinę veiklą, būtent, lauko tyrimus ir darbą laboratorijoje.

Magistrantūros studijų programą *Archeologija* vykdo aukštos kvalifikacijos akademinis personalas, kurį sudaro patyrę dėstytojai. Darbuotojų skaičius ir kvalifikacija atitinka visus taikomus teisės aktų reikalavimus, personalas įdarbinamas laikantis Lietuvos Respublikos teisės aktų ir Vilniaus universitete taikomų reikalavimų, taigi darbuotojų kvalifikacija yra tinkama numatomiems šios programos studijų rezultatams pasiekti. Dėstytojų ir studentų, tenkančių vienam dėstytojui, santykis yra labai geras: tai užtikrina tiesioginį studentų ir dėstytojų bendravimą aptariant įvairius archeologijos klausimus, seminaruose ir rašant mokslinius ar baigiamuosius darbus. Dėstytojų kaita užtikrina tinkamą programos vykdymą. Programos akademinis personalas dalyvauja tiesiogiai su šia magistrantūros studijų programa susijusiuose moksliniuose tyrimuose. Darbuotojų profesinį tobulėjimą mokslinių tyrimų srityje patvirtina nuolat Lietuvos ir užsienio recenzuojamuose moksliniuose žurnaluose ir monografijose publikuojami tyrimų rezultatai. Dėstytojai dalyvauja įvairiuose nacionaliniuose ir tarptautiniuose projektuose. Vilniaus universitete sukurtos patenkinamos sąlygos dėstytojų profesiniam tobulėjimui, kuris būtinas šiai programai įgyvendinti. Tačiau pastebimas žemas dėstytojų judumo lygis, todėl ekspertai pataria stiprinti dėstytojų tarptautinius ryšius, t. y. dalyvauti tarptautiniuose susitikimuose, mokslininkų judumo programose, skelbti publikacijas tarptautiniuose leidiniuose, kviestis kolegas iš užsienio.

Materialiniai ištekliai tobulinami ir atnaujinami. Vilniaus universiteto istorijos fakulteto pastatai ir patalpos, skirtos studijoms, yra tinkamos ir jų pakanka; be to, jos yra priimtinos profesinės saugos ir higienos atžvilgiu. Auditorijose lektorai ir dėstytojai turi galimybę naudoti demonstravimo įrangą (multimedijų projektorius, užrašų knygeles, vaizdo įrangą ir t. t.) ir kompiuterines technologijas. Istorijos fakulteto biblioteka yra gana patogi studentams dirbti; joje įrengta šiuolaikinė knygų lentynų sistema, belaidis internetas, kompiuterizuotos darbo vietos, yra galimybė naudotis tarptautinėmis duomenų bazėmis, įskaitant JSTOR ir kitas. Be to, studentams yra prieinama Lietuvos archeologinių vietų duomenų bazė, kurią sudarė patys studentai su vienu Archeologijos katedros dėstytoju įgyvendindami labai svarbią programą „Archeologinių lituanistikos išteklių sąvado sudarymas ir skaitmeninimas („Archeolitas“)“. Studentai akivaizdžiai gauna visą būtiną metodinę pagalbą, reikalingą baigiamiesiems darbams. Tačiau ekspertai siūlo sujungti įvairius bibliotekos padalinius, visus dėstytojų (darbo ir metodinius) kabinetus ir studentų darbo vietas, kad būtų patogiau keistis informacija, idėjomis ir patirtimi. Galiausiai ekspertų grupė siūlo suteikti studentams galimybę patiems pasirinkti kasinėjimų vietą, t. y. pateikti akredituotų kasinėjimo vietų sąrašą, kad būtų užtikrintas aukštas kasinėjimų, kuriuose studentai dalyvautų, lygis.

Studijų proceso organizavimas užtikrina tinkamą programos įgyvendinimą ir studijų rezultatų pasiekimą. Daugelio dalykų vertinimo kriterijai yra labai išsamūs. Kaip nurodyta savianalizės suvestinėje, studentų rezultatų vertinimo sistema yra aiški, tinkama ir vieša. Baigiamieji darbai rodo, kad programos tikslai ir turinys yra glaudžiai susiję, o rezultatai rodo, kad studentai labai domisi pasirinkta studijų kryptimi. Vilniaus universitetas užtikrina pakankamą paramą studentams. Yra visos galimybės palaikyti su lektorais reikiamą ryšį ir netgi susitikti su jais ir konsultuotis ne tik per paskaitas. Studentų priėmimas atitinka visas Vilniaus universiteto senato ir Lietuvos Respublikos Vyriausybės patvirtintas taisykles bei procedūras. Šios studijų krypties studentų nubyrežimo lygis gana žemas; tai rodo, kad daugelis studentų yra apsisprendę baigti studijas ir dirbti su jų kryptimi susijusį darbą. Studentai yra skatinami dalyvauti moksliniuose tyrimuose ir Mokslo taikomųjų tyrimų veikloje. Vilniaus universitetas užtikrina pakankamo lygio socialinę paramą. Daugelio absolventų profesinė veikla tenkina programos teikėjų

lūkesčius, kadangi daugelis šios studijų krypties absolventų susirado su archeologija tiesiogiai susijusį darbą. Per susitikimus paaiškėjo, kad būtina stiprinti tarptautinį bendradarbiavimą, todėl ekspertai pataria skatinti studentus teikti paraiškas dėl dalyvavimo įvairiose tarptautinių mainų programose.

Atsakomybė už sprendimus ir programos įgyvendinimo stebėseną aiškiai paskirstyta. Su programos vadyba ir kokybės užtikrinimu susiję sprendimai priimami kolegialiai, dalyvaujant ir socialiniams dalininkams. Nuolat renkama ir nagrinėjama su programos įgyvendinimu susijusi informacija ir duomenys. Dėstytojams ir studentams yra tiesiogiai prieinama su jų dėstomais arba studijuojamais dalykais susijusi informacija. Vidinio ir išorinio šios programos vertinimo rezultatai naudojami programai tobulinti. Primygtinai rekomenduojama didinti Programos komitete dalyvaujančių studentų skaičių.

<...>

III. REKOMENDACIJOS

1. Panaikinti teorijos ir praktikos apimties neatitikimą, ypač archeologinių lauko tyrimų (*praktikos lauko sąlygomis*) ir tiesioginio sąlyčio su archeologine medžiaga (darbas laboratorijoje) atžvilgiu, ir stiprinti praktinę dalį su tyrimais vietoje nesusijusioje srityje, ir kasinėjimų srityje, žvalgymo ir studentų darbo ne laboratorijoje srityje. Užtikrinti studentams laisvą kasinėjimo vietų pasirinkimą, t. y. pateikti Archeologijos katedros pripažintų kasinėjimo vietų sąrašą.
2. Skatinti studentų dalyvavimą tarptautinėje mainų programoje „Erasmus+“ ir kitose programose.
3. Persvarstyti užsienio kalbų padėtį šioje programoje, būtent, papildyti šį modulį vokiečių kalba ir technine / profesine anglų kalba.
4. Sujungti įvairius bibliotekos padalinius, visus dėstytojų (darbo ir metodinius) kabinetus ir studentų darbo vietas, kad būtų patogiau keistis informacija, idėjomis ir patirtimi.
5. Kviestis daugiau užsienio dėstytojų (atvykstančių dėstytojų).
6. Daugiau studentų įtraukti į Studijų programos komitetą (kaip narius arba stebėtojus).
7. Kiti išvadose nurodyti patobulinimai yra susiję su studijų modulių aprašu, būtent geriau paaiškinti kai kurių dalykų turinį ir atnaujinti arba patobulinti bibliografines nuorodas.

Paslaugos teikėjas patvirtina, jog yra susipažinęs su Lietuvos Respublikos baudžiamojo kodekso¹ 235 straipsnio, numatančio atsakomybę už melagingą ar žinomai neteisingai atliktą vertimą, reikalavimais.

¹ Žin., 2002, Nr.37-1341.