

Expert group joint opinion

Evaluation Procedure: Assessment of Study Field

Higher Education Institution: University of Daugavpils

Study field: Law

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Summary Assessment of the Study Field

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Daugavpils University (hereinafter – DU) is a significant centre of science and education in Eastern part of Latvia - Latgale. Main objective of DU activity is to act as a regional university in the spheres of natural sciences, humanities, education and social sciences creating opportunities for diversified high quality studies and research. Assessment of the dynamics of the student number in the time period from 2013 to 2019 leads to a conclusion that the number of students has been reduced for approximately 25%. Main reasons are durable depopulation of Latgale and Latvia and emigration of the citizens. Study field “Law” implementation conforms to the guidelines of National Development Plan for 2021-2027: 1) unified, secure, and open society, consolidating unity, security, lawfulness, and governance; 2) high quality, accessible, inclusive education, role of science in the society development, growth of national economy, and security.

All three study programmes of the study field "Law" are interrelated:

1) academic bachelor study programme (hereinafter - ABSP) “Law science” does not envisage obtaining professional qualification, therefore after graduating from this programme, for obtaining the professional qualification of lawyer, one needs to continue studies in the sequential PMSP “Law science”;

2) professional master study programme (hereinafter - PMSP) “Law science” contains only a part of the study courses listed in the lawyer’s profession standard, and this programme may be implemented only after completing studies in ABSP “Law science”, that contains the major part of the study courses listed in lawyer’s profession standard;

3) doctoral study programme (hereinafter - DSP) “Legal science”, that completes the cycle of education in law at DU, forms the methodological and scientific research base of the study field „Law”, simultaneously providing the renewal of the academic staff.

The study field “Law” has its own promotion council and a council of professors in collaboration with Riga Stradiņš University and “Turība” University. DU has established a wide network of cooperation with various institutions in Latvia, however, the cooperation with foreign institutions is still quite limited. Rotation of the students after each examination period according to their examination grades and competition for the state budget financed study places enhances students’ motivation and academic performance level. A large percentage of academic staff members have a doctoral degree, most of the academic staff members are experienced professionals in their branch of law, also some academic staff members have a very high citation index. However, many of the academic staff members are practitioners and also work in other educational institutions. Insufficient knowledge of foreign languages by students and academic staff is one of the obstacles for the wider international cooperation and mobility activities. Moreover, many students combine their studies with work and it affects their study quality and involvement in outbound mobility programmes. On the other hand a small number of bilateral/Erasmus+ agreements and no English courses make it difficult to attract foreign incoming students and academic staff.

1. Management of the Study Field

Analysis

The aims of the study direction are clearly defined and attainable. The study direction and the relevant study programmes comply with the main directions of the strategic development of the Daugavpils University and meet the needs and the developing trends of the society, as well as regional interests of Eastern part of Latvia - Latgale.

Council of the study direction "Law" together with the head of the study direction and directors of the study programmes are the main structural units involved in the management of the study

direction (although in the Annex on the management structure the head of the study direction is not mentioned). However, the practical implementation of chosen management structure raises some doubts, because the same person is the head of the study direction and also director of two study programmes (moreover, the dean of the Faculty). The decision-making process in this situation should be very efficient, however, it raises some questions about the quality of such management. Firstly, it is not easy to combine duties of the head of study direction and directors of two study programmes (also of the dean), secondly, such situation eliminates the variety of opinions and could lead to the one-man management. On the other hand, the support provided by the administrative and technical staff of Daugavpils University contributes to meeting all needs with regard to the relevant study programmes of the study direction.

Daugavpils University has implemented procedures for the admission of students, the recognition of the study period, professional experience, and the previously acquired formal and non-formal education, as well as for the evaluation of the achievements and learning outcomes of the students, and these procedures are logical and efficient.

Daugavpils University has set certain academic principles and mechanisms, and it uses appropriate plagiarism detection tools via library which are quite effective and contribute to the development of the internal academic culture. However, the system for fighting the cheating during final exams and sanctions for such activities is not developed. Moreover, during the on-site visit experts did not get a clear response how University and its structural units are fighting the cheating issue. During meetings with the management of the study direction, as well as with the academic staff the experts were reassured that the issue of cheating during final exams is not relevant for this study direction.

The information published on the website of the Daugavpils University regarding the relevant study programmes of the study direction complies with the information available in the official registers. It provides important information not only for the students, but for the applicants as well, and is published in Latvian in which the study programmes are implemented.

Study direction SWOT analysis is too formal and unfortunately, there is no description of how analysis was created and who has been involved. SWOT analysis mainly focuses on the strengths, however, weaknesses are not identified accurately. Moreover, majority of the weaknesses is related only to one aspect regarding insufficient command of foreign languages and limited participation in international cooperation. Although the discussions with students, graduates, employers and academic staff during the on-site visit has proved this weakness, however, the more accurate analysis and identification of weaknesses is also required. At the same time, improvement of sufficient command in foreign languages and increased internationalization would help to overcome other related issues as well.

Conclusions. Strengths and weaknesses

Although the support provided by administrative and technical staff ensures all the needs of study programmes relevant to the courses of study, judging from the meetings with staff, concerns are raised regarding the fact that the same person is responsible for the study direction and two study programmes and their development. Accordingly, the assessment of the situation is required, as well as consideration of appointment of director for each study programme by allocating the scope of the duties appropriately and ensuring a more comprehensive and individual approach to the development of the study programme and ensuring its quality.

Strengths:

1. Well-functioning communication system with Study field "Law" director and directors of study programmes, also individual approach to the students helps to solve issues fast and efficiently.
2. Appropriate plagiarism detection tools which are quite effective and contribute to the development of the internal academic culture.

3. Informative and clear website.

Weaknesses:

1. No clear distinction of powers, since the same person is the dean, the director of study direction and the director of two study programs.
2. No clear tools for prevention of cheating during final examinations and sanctions for such activities.
3. Incomplete SWOT analysis, insufficient identification of weaknesses.

2. Efficiency of the Internal Quality Assurance System

Analysis

Internal quality assurance system of the study field “Law” is implemented in line with DU practice. The system can be considered more less effective, transparent and coherent with the goals of the study field “Law”.

Within the study field once during an academic year, students, graduates, and employers surveys are carried out. Survey results are used to review and improve the content of the study programmes. The head of study field and directors of the study programmes react to all justified opinions and proposals expressed in the survey questionnaires, and upon necessity they are discussed by the study direction council. After introducing the changes in the content of the study programme, the directors inform all the parties involved (students, academic staff members, employers), thus providing feedback. It means that students are involved in quality assurance since study course assessment questionnaires are carried out at least once an academic year. During the on-visit, on several occasions it has been pointed out that questionnaires are analysed and that the shortcomings identified in the questionnaires are accepted for knowledge and improved for further development of the particular course and the study programme.

Students have the right to submit complaints and proposals to the study programme directors, the head of the major department, dean, vice-rectors and rector. Complaints and proposals, depending on their degree of significance, are accepted orally, in writing and electronically. The variety of complaining forms makes the procedure easier for the students, on the other hand the variety of subjects, to whom the complaint could be submitted makes this procedure quite complicated and unclear.

As regards the review of the results of examinations, in accordance with “The Regulation on Studies at Daugavpils University”, students have the right to submit to the Faculty dean a motivated appeal regarding the results of examination within one working day after their announcement. Appeal is examined in three working days time by a commission formed on the dean’s decision by the participation of the examiner and the head of the respective department. One working day term to submit the appeal raises some questions about the practical implementation of the appeal procedure and proportionality of such a short term.

During the meeting with the students experts had the impression that students were not informed of the existence and function of the Academic Arbitration, as well as the presence of the student representatives in it. It looks like the Academic Arbitration exists in theory, but does not function in practice.

DU operates informative system DUIS, that holds statistical data and information on study programmes, students, and academic staff members. The system is accessible from DU inner network. Data are entered into DUIS by study programme directors, faculty records managers; they are summarized and verified by the Department of Studies.

DU has identified the standards set forth in Part 1 of the ESG. DU has determined aims and measures, which are integrated in a joint quality assurance system. Study direction programmes of

all levels are elaborated in accordance with the legal framework in force and are improved along with the changes of legislation and labour market demands, latest ideas of science and practice. For example, professional bachelor study programme “Law Science” was transformed to the academic bachelor study programme “Law Science”. This was prescription by the letter from the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) No. 01-13e/3115 dated by 17 August 2017 saying that "MES requests the institutions of higher education to take into account that the profession standard of Legal Adviser will not be included in the list of mandatory professional standards and professional qualification requirements, thus it will not be possible to award a professional qualification " Legal Adviser", and to ensure that the latest diplomas for the professional qualification of legal adviser are awarded by the end of the accreditation period for the relevant field of study."

Conclusions. Strengths and weaknesses

The DU has established a quality policy, which is publicly available, and which contributes to the achievement of the aims and learning outcomes of the study direction. The procedures for the development and review of the relevant study programmes and the feedback mechanisms (including feedback to the students, employers, and graduates) have been defined and are efficiently functioning. The collection and analysis of the information (statistics) on the study programmes is conducted on a regular basis. Moreover, the amendments to the content and implementation of the study programmes have already been done taking into consideration the proposals and feedback from various stakeholders.

Strengths:

1. Internal quality assurance system of the study direction “Law” is implemented in line with DU practice.
2. The head of the study field and study programme directors react to all justified opinions and proposals expressed in the survey questionnaires.
3. Study programmes of all levels are elaborated in accordance with the legal framework in force.

Weaknesses:

1. Students have a little information about Academic Arbitration.
2. Procedure for submitting complaints and proposals is very liberal, without any hierarchy and it makes the procedure of complaining quite complicated and unclear.
3. One working day term to submit the appeal regarding the results of examinations is not proportional.

3. Resources and Provision of the Study Field

Analysis

Financial resources of the study field "Law" are composed of the government subsidy and its own revenue. Funding for the development of research is acquired by the study field on the basis of the academic staff members' scientific performance and indicators for the preceding year assessed by DU Department of Science. Academic staff members of the study direction may apply for remuneration for publications indexed in Web of Science or SCOPUS data bases as well as for Hirsch index. Financial support also is given for the preparation of the study materials on the Moodle system.

DU has identified the infrastructure resources and the material and technical provision required for the implementation of the study programmes in the study field, and they are available for the students and the academic staff. For distance learning mainly Moodle platform is used, however, especially before the lock-down in 2020, Moodle has been used poorly and even after intensified

usage in 2020, still there is a room for improvement and wider application of Moodle for the teaching. There is approved common system and procedures for the improvement and purchase of the material, technical, methodological resources.

The premises used for the study process in the study field "Law" are mainly DU building in Parades street 1, which is the location of the Faculty of Social Sciences and the place of work of the academic staff implementing the study programmes. Auditoriums in Parades street 1 comply with the needs of the study process, they are provided with the necessary technical equipment (computers, video projectors, multi-functional devices, interactive boards) which is used during the lectures and seminars.

The director of study programme or head of study field submit the list of required sources (books, text-books, research journals, etc.) to the Vice Rector for Studies and the Vice Rector for Science for approval. The list is further submitted to DU Budgetary Commission. After approval of the list, the sources are purchased and included in the course descriptions. During the on-visit to DU, Vice Rector reassured that there are almost no limits for purchase of sources. The library compiles the collection in accordance with the directions of study and scientific work of the university, requirements of the study programmes, thus providing information to all DU study levels – Bachelor's, Master's, Doctoral, as well as directions of scientific research.

Election to the academic positions is organized in accordance with the requirements of the "Regulation on electing to academic positions at Daugavpils University". There are totally 46 academic staff members in study field "Law", from which 7 (15%) are professors, 6 (13%) are associated professors, 14 (30%) are docents, etc. DU has developed and implements the procedures for attracting skilled academic staff. However, some doubts may be raised due to the fact that some of the academic staff members teach several courses and some of them are not very related. For example, a docent in sub-branch "Criminal law" - gives lectures on municipal law, international commercial law, commercial law, etc. (taken from job advertisement at: https://du.lv/vakances-du/docenta_darba_uzd_szf_tiesk/). It may raise questions concerning the quality of lectures.

In accordance with the regulations of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Latvia No. 569 "Regulations on the education and professional qualification required for pedagogues and the procedure of professional competence improvement of pedagogues", DU provides to academic staff professional updating by participation in projects, conferences and seminars corresponding with the professional updating objectives, attested by issued documents.

The mobility of academic staff is quite limited, although the increase in numbers is evident: from 1 mobility in 2013 to 13 mobilities in couple last years. Moreover, majority of academic staff members going abroad are repeating, so almost no new members who would use the opportunity to raise their qualification are involved. It can be related to the insufficient command of foreign language of other academic staff members.

The staff of the Dean's Office and the respective departments (Dean, Vice-Dean, Heads of Departments, study programme directors, and recording secretaries) assist students and has established a well-functioning support system, based on the needs of the students. It must be admitted that relations between faculty staff and the students are very supportive like in a family.

Conclusions. Strengths and weaknesses

DU has identified the infrastructure resources and the material and technical provision required for the implementation of the study direction, and they are available for the students and the academic staff. Even though DU attracts skilled academic staff, however, allocation of teaching courses from the different fields of law may raise the doubts regarding the ability of the academic staff to ensure the high quality of the each teaching course. The library compiles the collection in accordance with the directions of study and scientific work of the university, and requirements of the study

programmes. Auditoriums of the study direction comply with the needs of the study process, they are provided with the necessary technical equipment.

Strengths:

1. In general study field "Law" has enough financial and material resources for study and scientific activities.
2. Auditoriums are sufficiently equipped to ensure efficient teaching process.
3. Academic staff members of the study direction may apply for remuneration for publications indexed in Web of Science or SCOPUS data bases as well as for Hirsch index.
4. Financial support is given for the preparation of the study materials on the Moodle system.

Weaknesses:

1. Some of academic staff members teach several courses in different fields of law, which could lead to a lower quality of the teaching courses
2. Moodle platform has been used poorly, especially before the lock-down in 2020. Currently the usage of Moodle has increased, however, still variety of its functions are not applied. There is sufficient untapped potential of usage of Moodle in teaching process.
3. Quite small number of outgoing academic staff.

4. Scientific Research and Artistic Creation

Analysis

The directions of scientific research in the study field comply with the development aims of the DU and they are relevant to the study field. Scientific research activity of the study direction "Law" is carried out in criminal law, criminology, execution of criminal punishments, police obligations, theory of operational activities and criminalistical tactics, commercial law, civil law. The main research areas include international, national, public and individual security; structure and dynamics of a crime; efficiency of criminal proceedings; out-of-court dispute resolution; expanding the possibilities of mediation in criminal proceedings; resocialisation of persons who have committed criminal offences; improvement of national criminal policy.

The majority of the academic staff engaged in the implementation of the study direction "Law" are experts of the Latvian Council of Science in social sciences with high citation index (the Hirsch index in SCOPUS database is from 2 to 5, but in Researchgate - over 5).

Despite the fact that a lot of academic staff members mainly work as practitioners and it might have an influence on the research activities, it should be noted that the number of publications, in comparison to the last self-assessment period, has highly increased. However, many of academic staff members also work as academic staff in other higher education institutions of Latvia (also Lithuania), therefore, not all publications, which have been indicated in the Annex (Publications) as written by the academic staff of Du, are linked to DU. For instance, Vladas Tumulavičius is indicated as one of the researchers of Daugavpils University, however, in his publications he represents General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania (Tumulavičius, V.; Ivančiks, J., Karpishchenko, O. 2016. Issues of society security: public safety under globalisation conditions in Lithuania. *Journal of Security and Sustainability Issues* 5(4): 545-570; Tumulavičius, V.; Šakočius, A. 2017. Ensuring Public Security in the Field of Traffic Safety, *Journal of Security and Sustainability Issues* 7(2): 233-246; Ivančiks, J.; Tumulavičius, V.; Teivāns-Treinovskis, J. 2015. Security of society: narcotics and drug addiction in Latvia and Lithuania, *Journal of Security and Sustainability Issues* 4(4): 353-368). Also Igors Trofimovs in the Report is indicated as a lecturer of Daugavpils University, but in his publications he is linked with State Police College (Ivančiks, J.; Trofimovs, I.; Teivāns-Treinovskis, J. 2019. Evaluations of security measures and impact of globalization on characteristics of particular property crimes, *Journal of Security and Sustainability Issues*, 8(4): 569-579; Trofimovs,

I.; Ivančiks, J. 2017. Psychological aspects of operational and investigative activities as a factor of strengthening of national security. *Journal of Security and Sustainability Issues* 7(1): 55-65).

The main focus is on publishing scientific articles in the journals indexed in SCOPUS and Web of Science databases, since these publications provide the opportunity for receiving more funding for further research and contribute to the effective functioning and development of the study direction.

The relation between scientific research in the study direction and the study process has been ensured in the following ways:

- 1) students are involved in research work when elaborating Bachelor's theses, Master's theses and Doctoral theses;
- 2) students have an opportunity to participate voluntarily in the research conducted by the academic staff of the study direction as participants of the research, thus getting closer acquainted to the research process;
- 3) the lecturers of the study field use their own and colleagues' research results and findings in the teaching courses, referring to them and linking them with other international researches and findings.

However, during the on-visit in DU, it was indicated that the involvement of bachelor and master level students in the development of research activities is not very active and could be improved. So would be recommended to pay more attention to the possible involvement of students at these levels to the research projects.

International cooperation in the field of scientific research within the study field is mainly provided with academics from Lithuania, Poland and Russia: Kazimieras Simonavičius University in Vilnius, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, Moscow State Law University, Novosibirsk State University, etc. These activities are organized in a form of the international scientific conferences with a joint scientific committee and editorial board and conducting joint or interdisciplinary research on public and energy security, identifying and preventing the causes of crime and contributing factors. The geography of the cooperation is confined and could be oriented more widely with other EU countries.

DU has developed mechanisms for the involvement of the academic staff in scientific research. At the end of each calendar year the academics of the study direction "Law" submit a report on their achievements in scientific and creative work, work projects, information on participation in scientific seminars and conferences, publications in accordance with DU procedure for evaluation of scientific activity of academic staff. In accordance with DU procedure for evaluation of scientific activity of academic staff, the scientific activity of the lecturers is promoted within the existing DU budget by receiving funding for the promotion and support of further scientific activity.

The latest tendencies in education demonstrate, that the necessity to use innovations facilitating the acquirement of the study process has become urgent. In DU within the study field has been initiated video recording of lectures and seminars, which promotes the use of innovative forms of independent work of students in the study process.

Conclusions. Strengths and weaknesses

It should be noted that the number of publications, in comparison to the last self-assessment period, has increased significantly. The DU and study field management have developed mechanisms for the involvement of the teaching staff in scientific research. Scientific research and the outcomes thereof are integrated in the study process in the study programmes of all levels.

Strengths:

1. Some of academic staff are with a very high citation index (the Hirsch index in SCOPUS database is from 2 to 5, but in Researchgate - over 5).
2. The majority of the academic staff engaged in the implementation of the study field "Law" are

experts of the Latvian Council of Science.

3. Within the study field video filming of lectures and seminars has been initiated, which promotes the use of innovative forms of independent work of students in the study process.

Weaknesses:

1. The involvement of bachelor and master level students in the development of research activities is not enough active.

2. International cooperation in the field of scientific research within the study direction is limited to few countries and should be improved by attracting new partners from EU countries.

3. Majority of academic staff members also work as academic staff in other higher education institutions of Latvia, therefore, not all publications are linked to DU and reduces the visibility of DU in the research in the field of Law.

5. Cooperation and Internationalisation

Analysis

DU study field "Law" has close cooperation with Rīga Stradiņš University and University "Turība": a joint council of professors in the branch of "Law" has been made. There is an active cooperation at doctoral studies level in the work of Promotion Councils and scientific expertise: the teaching staff of the study field "Law" are members of the Professors' council of the University of Latvia, the Promotion councils of Rīga Stradiņš University, University "Turība" and the Baltic International Academy.

Employers are directly involved in the management and development of the study programmes through the work in the Council, participation in the defense procedure of the qualification papers, also by providing places for internships, topics for the theses.

During the on-site visit to DU it was observed that employers are looking for graduates, and, with recommendation of dean of the faculty and the interests of students, provide employment opportunities after the graduation of one of the study programmes. Regional employers also support study field by providing internships for students and internship organizing system has been well developed within the study field.

Academic staff of the study field "Law" cooperate with potential employers and providers of practical placement: Latgale Region State Police; Prison Administration of the Ministry of Justice; State Probation Service; Daugavpils Court; Legal Aid Administration; "BINDERS" Ltd.; "LAGRON" Ltd.; "REMPRO" Ltd.

Since 2009 the topics of students' researches within the framework of the study field "Law" have been coordinated in cooperation with the Prison Administration of the Ministry of Justice: Bachelor's and Master's theses on topical issues of the development of the branch, such as resocialisation of prisoners, crime prevention, out-of-court conflict resolution, etc.

DU and study field management have established a close cooperation with Daugavpils City Council, where graduates of the study field "Law" are employed in numerous structural units. Daugavpils local government actively supports the study field programmes implementation process through participation in seminars organized by the journal "Jurista Vārds" ("A Lawyer's Word"), the Latvian Ombudsman's Office, the Constitutional Court and the Bank of Latvia.

Professors and researchers involved in the implementation of the study field "Law" are invited to the editorial boards of high-level international journals: V.Zahars and V.Tumalavičius - the editorial boards of foreign SCOPUS and Web of Science journals, J.Teivāns-Treinovskis - the editorial board of journals included in ERIHPLUS database and of other international journals.

One of priority goals of DU is the enlargement of the number of foreign students. For the purpose of internationalization of studies, 20 study programs are offered in English. However, in the field of Law there are no programmes in English at DU, moreover, there are no courses taught in English. As it

was explained during on-site visit, students from abroad are offered individual study plans and they communicate with professors individually. However, such model of studies lack some elements of internationalization, because students do not have possibility to attend common classes, to interact with local and other foreign students. The numbers of incoming students under Erasmus+ program are very low (only 3 students since 2011), which might be caused by the small number of Erasmus+ agreements and no English courses offered to the incoming students. Courses in English not only could attract more incoming students, but could promote signing of bilateral or Erasmus+ agreements with other HEIs abroad. Even though DU has almost 70 Erasmus+ agreements with other HEIs, however, only 9 in the field of Law, which results in a very low numbers of incoming, as well as outgoing students and academic staff.

The mobility of academic staff is quite limited, although the increase in numbers is evident: from 1 mobility in 2013 to 13 mobilities in couple last years. Moreover, majority of academic staff members going abroad are repeating, so almost no new members who would use the opportunity to raise their qualification are involved. It can be related to the insufficient command of foreign language of other academic staff members.

Self-assessment report introduces the planned activity to launch a joint bachelor study programme with Vilnius Kazimieras Simonavičius University (Lithuania). It is presented with the highlight that "DU can ensure the necessary capacity for the implementation of this study programme in terms of the qualification of the academic staff". However, in the SWOT analysis the main indicated weaknesses are related to the insufficient command of foreign languages of both students and teaching staff. During on-site visit meeting with academic staff, only some showed a relevant level of English command skills. Therefore, some doubts might be raised about the implementation of the joint programme in practice.

The numbers of visiting foreign professors are very low and it was indicated not only in the SWOT analysis, but by the students during the on-site visit meeting as well.

Conclusions. Strengths and weaknesses

Study field "Law" has developed a wide and efficient cooperation with the institutions of different type from Latvia (higher education institutions, employers, employers' organizations, municipalities, non-governmental organisations, scientific institutes, etc.). On the other hand the international cooperation is quite limited, the numbers of incoming and outgoing students, as well as academic staff are very low. The study direction has not developed a system and procedures for the attraction of the academic staff and students from abroad.

Strengths:

1. Sufficient cooperation with the institutions of different type from Latvia.
2. Cooperation partners are selected in view of the specific features of the study field and the relevant study programmes.
3. Regional employers provide places for the internships for students and internship organizing system has been well developed within the study field.
4. Involvement of employers in the management and development of the study program through the work in the Council, participation in the defense procedure of the qualification papers, also by providing topics for the theses.

Weaknesses:

1. Very low number of incoming and outgoing students and academic staff.
2. Field of Law is as much as stand-alone study field run in the Latvian language only, as consequences: not able to attract foreign students, not encouraging students mobility, not having enough bilateral and/or Erasmus+ agreements with foreign HEIs.

6. Implementation of the Recommendations Received During the Previous Assessment Procedures

Analysis

According to the information submitted, the following recommendations were advised during the previous assessment of the study field:

1. to teach a study course "Professional ethics" in the Bachelor's study programme "Law science" the main lecturer with the education in law rather than philosophy should be appointed. To update the course description according to the requirements of the branch of law;
2. there must be a course on the protection of personal data included in the professional Master's study programme "Law science";
3. in the Doctoral study programme "Legal science", two courses (Logic of law and Public administration service) according to their level are more relevant to the Master's than to the Doctoral programme.

In connection with the first recommendation - another lecturer of the study course was appointed and the description of the study course was updated according to the requirements of the field of law.

In connection with the second recommendation - the study course "Information technology law and legal issues of data protection" has been introduced in the professional Master's study programme "Law science".

In connection with the third recommendation - new study courses "Globalization of law" and "The logic of creating legal constructions" have been introduced in the Doctoral study programme.

Conclusions. Strengths and weaknesses

The recommendations provided during the previous procedures for the assessment of the study field during accreditation have been fully implemented.

The management of the study field and the persons responsible for the study process have contributed to the analysis of the recommendations and their implementation, taking into account the specifics of the study field and the respective study programmes.

7. Assessment of the Requirements for the Study Field

- 1 Pursuant to Section 5, Paragraph 21 of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education, the higher education institution/ college shall ensure continuous improvement, development, and efficient performance of the study direction whilst implementing their internal quality assurance systems:

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: DU study quality management system observes the compliance with ISO 9001:2017 quality standard. Compliance with this standard testifies to the fact that DU tends for the quality of its education services by maintaining the quality management system (QMS), periodically passing accreditation and verifying the efficiency of the system. To ensure the improvement of the existing normative documents and procedures at DU and compliance with the student centered and sustainable higher education, especially assessing and updating quality policy implementation mechanisms, the study quality system is being updated within ESF project "Daugavpils University governance and management competence improvement" (No. 8.2.3.0/18/A/010).

- 2 1.1. The higher education institution/ college has established a policy and procedures for assuring the quality of higher education.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: DU Council of Studies and DU Centre of Study Quality Assessment (henceforth – CSQA) introduces quality provision systems on the basis of “DU study internal quality ensuring policy” and “Daugavpils University manual for ensuring quality”.

- 3 1.2. A mechanism for the development and internal approval of the study programmes of the higher education institution/ college, as well as the supervision of their performance and periodic inspection thereof has been developed.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: Higher education internal and external quality provision proceeds in cooperation between DU and the Ministry of Education and Science (in distribution of State budget funded places, execution of conceptual decisions), Higher Education Council (dealing with strategic issues, drawing statements), and Academic Information Centre (study programme licensing, study direction assessment, recognition of students’ prior education). Internal assessment is constantly performed by DU study direction councils elaborating self-assessment reports. Internal assessment is implemented and coordinated by DU CSQA approved by the Senate.

- 4 1.3. The criteria, conditions, and procedures for the evaluation of students’ results, which enable reassurance of the achievement of the intended learning outcomes, have been developed and made public.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: As seen from self-assessment report, and discussions with Faculty members, evaluation of students results have been developed.

- 5 1.4. Internal procedures and mechanisms for assuring the qualifications of the academic staff and the work quality have been developed.

Assessment of compliance: Partially compliant

Justification: A compulsory training for academic staff, including developing teaching skills, should be organized more regularly.

- 6 1.5. The higher education institution/ college ensures the collection and analysis of the information on the study achievements of the students, employment of the graduates, satisfaction of the students with the study programme, efficiency of the work of the academic staff, the study funds available and the disbursements thereof, as well as the key performance indicators of the higher education institution/ college.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: DU and study field "Law" management ensure the collection and analysis of the information on the study achievements of the students; even after graduation faculty members assist to graduates for the future career.

- 7 1.6. The higher education institution/ college shall ensure continuous improvement, development, and efficient performance of the study direction whilst implementing their quality assurance systems.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: As could be seen in point 1.2. DU shall ensure continuous development of study field "Law".

- 8 R2 - The cooperation with different organisations from Latvia and abroad implemented within the study direction ensures the achievement of the aims of the study direction.

Assessment of compliance: Partially compliant

Justification: Sufficient cooperation with different organizations from Latvia have been established, however it is mainly based on personal relations (without formal cooperation agreements). Cooperation with organizations abroad is very limited and should be broadened.

- 9 R3 - Compliance of scientific research and artistic creation with the development level thereof (if applicable).

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: Academic staff within study field "Law" have achieved a reasonable results in research.

10 R4 - Elimination of the shortcomings and deficiencies identified during the previous assessment of the study direction, if it has been conducted, or the implementation of the provided recommendations.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: Elimination of the shortcomings and deficiencies identified during the previous assessment of the study field "Law" has been done.

8. Recommendations for the Study Field

Short-term recommendations

To attract more foreign academics with guest lectures for all three levels of studies. The developed online teaching system has increased the chances to attract foreign academics without additional expenses (or with relatively smaller ones) and at the same to ensure the growing internationalization of University and study field

To develop a more detailed and accurate SWOT analysis (especially to identify the weaknesses) for strategic planning involving all stakeholders in the process. SWOT analysis is a powerful tool to help develop strategy and improve the study field.

To increase the usability of functions of the Moodle platform, by designing the communication between students and lecturers not only in the discussion area, but also for the students to add their homework, analyses of practicums, essays, study work as well as an option to view assessment and commentaries given by a lecturer.

To inform students about Academic Arbitration

Long-term recommendations

To increase internationalization and cooperation with foreign institutions (higher education institutions, scientific institutes, etc.) in the fields of student and academic staff mobility, research activities (such as, joint publications, joint conferences, projects).

To consider the possibility to appoint a director for each study programme separately, appropriately allocating the scope of responsibilities and ensuring a more comprehensive and individual approach to the development and quality of the study programmes.

To involve bachelor and master level students in the scientific research activities, especially in projects.

To support academic staff to improve foreign language skills, especially English, in order to promote participation in international cooperation and mobility activities.

To improve the procedure of submitting complaints and proposals, clarifying to whom students should apply concerning particular topic, also extending the term for submission of complaint regarding the results of examination.

To evaluate the potential to prepare study courses in English to offer for foreign students, especially concerning transnational law subjects like "International law" or "European Union law". The same courses in English could be offered for local students in order to improve their professional English skills.

To review regularly and renew resources of the library for law students, including books in foreign languages.
To attract more full time academic staff members for the study direction "Law".
To participate more in Latvian and EU research projects.
To organize a compulsory training for academic staff, including developing teaching skills, regularly.
To adopt rules and tools for prevention of cheating during final examinations and sanctions for such activities.

II. "Law Science" ASSESSMENT

II. "Law Science" ASSESSMENT

1. Indicators Describing the Study Programme

Analysis

The name of the academic bachelor study programme "Law science", the degree, the degree to be acquired, the aims, objectives, learning outcomes, and admission requirements are generally interrelated and relevant. The aim of ABSP "Law science" is to provide high quality, law-based academic studies, which will result in students being able to carry out activities necessary for the branch in accordance with Latvian, EU and international regulation. The ABSP "Law science" is implemented as full time studies during 3 years in Latvian language.

Upon completion of the programme, the students will have been awarded a Bachelor's degree in law. The study content acquired at the Bachelor's level prompts the continuation of studies in the professional Master's study programme "Law science", which implies being awarded a lawyer's qualification or improvement of research skills in the branch of law.

The programme is intended mainly for local students.

Analyzing the tendencies of student drop-outs, it appears that students mostly discontinue their studies during the first year, whereas after the second and third years the drop-out rate is lower.

The number of graduates of the programme since academic year 2013/2014 has been ranging from 12 to 27 graduates per year. There is no clear downward trend in the number of graduates.

Conclusions by specifying the strengths and weaknesses

The academic bachelor study programme "Law Science" is intended mainly for local students. Discussions with students during the on-site visit revealed that majority of them has chosen this programme due to a suitable location, since they live nearby. After graduation of bachelor studies students are orientated to continue their studies in the Masters programme, as these both programmes are interrelated.

Strengths:

1. The academic bachelor programme is stable as long as there is regional demand for new lawyers.
2. The study content acquired at the Bachelor's level prompts the continuation of studies in the professional Master's study programme "Law science".

Weaknesses:

1. A high number of drop-outs during the first study year.
2. As programme is intended mainly for local students and regional needs, it is hardly to attract

foreign students.

2. The Content of Studies and Implementation Thereof

Analysis

The content of the study courses of ABSP "Law Science" corresponds to the trends of the branch, labour market and science. The specificity of the branch of law implies its development in accordance with amendments of laws and other regulatory enactments. The range of study courses corresponds to the standard of lawyer's profession, while the content of each study course is updated according to the changes in the regulatory framework of a particular sub-branch of law.

Analyzing the information, outcomes to achieve, aims set and other indicators included in the study courses relatedness to the aims and outcomes of the study programme, mapping of the study programme courses has been done.

The academic staff involved in the programme use the following forms of studies: lectures, seminars, practical assignments, trainings, and group work. The aim of the study methods is providing an opportunity to acquire theoretical knowledge and practical skills, both improving students' critical thinking skills, developing skills of cooperation, ability of working individually and team building, improving the ability to appreciate diversity. Student-orientated learning is implemented by involving students in the process of bachelor thesis presentation (pre-defence) participating in discussions and sharing opinions on other students' research. According to the curriculum, the analysis of the papers elaborated in the previous academic years and their use in further research is organized.

The results of questionnaires of students, graduates and employers provide the necessary feedback for the improvement of study process and the latest developments in the branch.

Analysis of the dynamics of the ABSP "Law Science" student inbound and outbound mobility shows that, since the previous accreditation period, outbound mobility within the study programme has slightly increased: in the time period from 2013 to 2019 15 Bachelor's students participated in ERASMUS+ exchange programme. Only 2 students from Poland visited ABSP "Law Science" in the previous period.

Conclusions by specifying the strengths and weaknesses

In general the content of the study courses of ABSP "Law Science" corresponds to the trends of the branch, labour market and science. The study implementation methods, including the evaluation methods, contribute to the achievement of the aims and learning outcomes of the study courses and the study programme. The outcomes of the surveys conducted among the students, employers, and graduates are used to improve the quality of studies.

Strengths:

- 1.The content of the study courses of ABSP "Law Science" corresponds to the trends of the branch, labour market and science.
- 2.The aim of the study methods is providing an opportunity to acquire theoretical knowledge and practical skills.
- 3.The results of questionnaires of students, graduates and employers provide the necessary feedback for the improvement of study process and the latest developments in the branch.

Weaknesses:

1. A very low number of incoming and outgoing students.

3. Resources and Provision of the Study Programme

Analysis

Study programme resources fully comply with the study programme implementation conditions and with reaching the outcomes of studies. Students have at their disposal premises for studies, material and technical base, equipment for preparing and visualizing study and research materials, information networks, databases (library network, DU research centre databases), etc.

This means that the study provision, informative provision (including libraries), material and technical provision, and financial provision comply with the specific features and the conditions for the implementation of the study programme, create the prerequisites for the achievement of the learning outcomes, and indicate the possibility to ensure a high-quality study process also in the future. It was confirmed during on-site visit to DU. In order to improve resources for the studies, it is recommended that more books in EU official languages, especially in English, should be purchased for the library, as we live in common legal area of European Union.

Conclusions by specifying the strengths and weaknesses

The study provision, informative provision (including libraries), material and technical provision, and financial provision comply with the specific features and the conditions for the implementation of the study programme.

Strengths:

1. Informative provisions, including libraries, comply with requirements of the study programme.
2. Students have at their disposal sufficiently equipped premises for studies and other activities.

Weaknesses:

1. The number of books of Legal science in foreign languages for the study process could be higher.

4. Teaching Staff

Analysis

As it appears from Annexes of study programme, the qualification of the academic staff involved in the study programme implementation complies with reaching the outcomes of study programme. During the reporting period, the scientific and academic composition of teaching staff has been constantly renewed.

The qualification of the academic staff involved in the implementation of ABSP "Law Science" complies with the requirements of the Law on Higher Education Institutions concerning the study programme implementation in a university type higher education institution. The number of professors and associate professors is 8, which exceeds the number of 5 professors and associate professors required for the implementation of the academic programme.

As it seen from the Annex on publications, the academic staff involved in the study programme actively participates in scientific research both on national and international level. The scientific capacity of the academic staff members is attested by the publications indexed in Web of Science and SCOPUS databases (112 publications). Several academic staff members are involved in the elaboration and implementation of each study course in the study programme who agree on the aims, objectives, outcomes, and content of the study course. Their cooperation enhances the quality of the study courses both at the stage of elaboration and implementation.

From point 4.6. of the description of the study programme there is no a clear mechanism for mutual collaboration between the teaching staff members. Also information about visiting academic staff from foreign countries is not provided, only in the general part of the report regarding international cooperation few examples of lecturers taught by foreign professors are given (page 52).

Conclusions by specifying the strengths and weaknesses

The qualification of the teaching staff members involved in the implementation of the study programme complies with the requirements for the implementation of the study programme and the requirements set forth in the regulatory enactments.

Strengths:

1. The qualification of the academic staff involved in the study programme implementation complies with reaching the outcomes of study programme.
2. The academic staff involved in the study programme actively participates in scientific research both on national and international level.

Weaknesses:

1. A few foreign academics are involved in the study programme.
2. No a clear mechanism for mutual collaboration between the teaching staff members.

5. Assessment of the Compliance of the Study Programme "Law Science"

Requirements

1. The sample of the diploma to be issued for the acquisition of the study programme complies with the procedure by which state-recognised documents of higher education are issued.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: Diploma sample provided in appendix complies with the procedure by which state-recognised documents of higher education are issued.

2. Documents confirming that the higher education institution/ college will provide the students with the options to continue the acquisition of education in another study programme or at another higher education institution/ college (a contract with another accredited higher education institution/ college), in case the implementation of the study programme is discontinued.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: Agreement with Biznesa augstskola Turība from January 4th, 2005.

3. Document confirming that the higher education institution/ college guarantees to the students a compensation for losses if the study programme is not accredited or the licence of the study programme is revoked due to the actions of the higher education institution/ college (actions or failure to act) and the student does not wish to continue the studies in another study programme.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: Attestation signed 20.02.2020 is added to application.

4. The teaching staff members involved in the implementation of the study programme are proficient in the official language in accordance with the regulations on the level of the official language knowledge and the procedures for testing official language proficiency for performing professional duties and office duties.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: CV-s of the academic staff show the proficiency of the official language. The same was confirmed by the pro-rector of DU, and also head of the study field.

5. The teaching staff members to be involved in the implementation of the study programme have at least B2-level knowledge of a related foreign language, if the study programme or any part thereof is to be implemented in a foreign language.

Assessment of compliance: Not relevant

Justification:

- 6 6. At least five teaching staff members with a doctoral degree are among the academic staff of an academic doctoral study programme, at least three of which are experts approved by the Latvian Science Council in the respective field of science. At least five teaching staff members with a doctoral degree are among the academic staff of a professional doctoral study programme in arts.

Assessment of compliance: Not relevant

Justification:

- 7 7. The academic staff of the academic study programme complies with the requirements set forth in Section 55, Paragraph one, Clause 3 of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: List of academic staff involved in implementation of the study programme is included. Number of professors and associate professors, who are elected to academic positions in the university taking part in the implementation of the compulsory part and the limited elective part of academic study programme is over five.

- 8 8. The sample of the study agreement complies with the mandatory provisions to be included in the study agreement.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: The sample of the Study Agreement provided in appendix includes all mandatory provisions.

- 9 9. The descriptions of the study courses and the study materials have been prepared in all languages in which the study programme is implemented, and they comply with the requirements set forth in Section 56.1, Paragraph two and Section 56.2, Paragraph two of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: The descriptions of the study courses include the requirements for commencement of the acquisition of the study course; the aims for the implementation of the study course and the planned learning outcomes; the content of the study; the study course calendar, mandatory and supplementary literature, other sources of information; the organisation and tasks for the independent work of students; the evaluation criteria of learning outcomes.

- 10 10. The study programme complies with the valid professional standard or the requirements for the professional qualification (if there is no professional standard required for the relevant occupation) provided that the completion of the study programme leads to a professional qualification.

Assessment of compliance: Not relevant

Justification:

- 11 11. Academic study programmes provided for less than 250 full-time students may be implemented and less than five professors and associated professors of the higher education institution may be involved in the implementation of the mandatory and limited elective part of these study programmes provided that the relevant opinion of the Council for Higher Education has been received in accordance with Section 55, Paragraph two of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: The opinion of the Council for Higher Education No1.10/10 from 19 February 2020 to support Daugavpils University in commencing the implementation of the Bachelor's study programme "Law science", which is intended for less than 250 full-time students, was provided in Annex Bachelor_AIC_ENG.docx in accordance with Section 55, Paragraph two of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education.

- 12 12. The study programme complies with the State Academic Education Standard or the Professional Higher Education Standard.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: The study programme complies with the State Academic Education Standard

13 13. The joint study programmes comply with the requirements prescribed in Section 551, Paragraphs one, two, and seven of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education (if applicable).

Assessment of compliance: Not relevant

Justification:

14 14. Each member of the academic staff has either publications published in reviewed editions within the last six years, including international editions (if they have worked for a shorter period of time, the number of publications shall be in proportion to the work period), or artistic creation achievements (for instance, exhibitions, films, theatre performances, and concert activity), or a five-year practical work experience (except for the experience in the implementation of the study programme) in accordance with the Law on Institutions of Higher Education.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: According to submitted list of publications the academic staff have publications in reviewed editions.

15 P5 - Overall rating

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: The programme in general is well developed and meets all appropriate regulations and the requirements stated in the Law on Institutions of Higher Education.

Requirements (R6-R8)

1 R6 - The compliance of the study provision, scientific support (if applicable), informative provision (including libraries), material and technical provision, and financial provision with the conditions for the implementation of the study programme and ensuring the achievement of the learning outcomes.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: The programme have good resource base: formative provision (including libraries), material and technical provision, and financial provision with the conditions for the implementation of the study programme and ensuring the achievement of the learning outcomes. The students and the teaching staff have access to the necessary resources to ensure the quality of teaching and learning process.

2 R7 - The compliance of the qualification of the academic staff members, visiting professors, visiting associate professors, visiting docents, visiting lecturers, and visiting assistants with the conditions for the implementation of the study programme and the provisions set out in the respective regulatory enactments.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: The qualification of the academic staff members, visiting professors, visiting associate professors, visiting docents, visiting lecturers, and visiting assistants with the conditions for the implementation of the study programme and the provisions set out in the respective regulatory enactments

3 R8 - The study programme leading to the master or doctoral degree is based on the advances and findings in the relevant field of science or artistic creation.

Assessment of compliance: Not relevant

Justification:

Conclusions by specifying the strengths and weaknesses

Academic Bachelor study programme is fully compliant with the requirements prescribed in the Law on Institutions of Higher Education and other regulatory enactments.

Strengths:

1. It is interrelated with master study programme.

Weaknesses:

1. Low level of internationalization.

Evaluation of the study programme "Law Science"

Evaluation of the study programme:

Good

6. Recommendations for the Study Programme "Law Science"

Short-term recommendations

To analyse the reasons for the high number of drop-outs during the first year of studies and based on the results of analysis to implement changes, which would decrease the numbers of drop-outs

To attract more foreign academics with guest lectures. The developed online teaching system has increased the chances to attract foreign academics without additional expenses (or with relatively smaller ones) and at the same to ensure the growing internationalization of University and study field

Long-term recommendations

To promote participation in international cooperation and mobility activities for outgoing students.

To evaluate the potential to prepare study courses in English to offer for foreign students, especially concerning transnational law subjects like "International law" or "European Union law". The same courses in English could be offered for local students in order to improve their professional English skills.

To purchase more books in foreign languages, especially English, to guarantee higher level of the study process and accessibility for variety of literature.

To establish mechanism for mutual collaboration between the teaching staff members.

II. "Law Science" ASSESSMENT

II. "Law Science" ASSESSMENT

1. Indicators Describing the Study Programme

Analysis

The name of the professional master study programme "Law Science", the degree, the degree to be acquired, the aims, objectives, learning outcomes, and admission requirements are generally interrelated and relevant.

The mandatory part of the PMSP "Law Science" includes the state unified professional qualification examination for lawyers in the amount of 4 CP. Within the framework of the Master's study programme, taking into account its volume, it is not possible to acquire all the knowledge provided for in the Standard of the lawyer profession. Consequently, most of the study courses provided for in the professional standard are intended to be acquired within the Bachelor's study programme.

According to the Latvian legislation the minimum length of the studies (bachelor and master) is 5 years. Students with academic bachelor degree (3 years) should study 2 academic years; students with professional bachelor degree the length of master studies is 1,5 academic years.

Since the last accreditation the form of part-time studies has been cancelled, therefore, only full-time studies are offered. However, the time table of master study programme indicates that the classes are organized in the evenings, which gives an opportunity for the students to combine work and studies.

Conclusions by specifying the strengths and weaknesses

The name of the professional master study programme "Law science" is adequate and complies with the content of the study programme. The admission rules of study programme are appropriate. Enrollment in the study programme is based on the DU Admission requirements which are published on the website. The study programme is focused on the persons from the Easter Latvia region. After the graduation of bachelor studies students are encouraged to continue their studies in the Masters programme, as these both programmes are interrelated.

Strengths:

1. The programme includes the state unified professional qualification examination for lawyers in the amount of 4 CP.
2. The time table of master study programme indicates that the classes are organized in the evenings, which gives an opportunity for the students to combine work and studies.

Weaknesses:

1. Interdependence with the bachelor study programme, as some study courses provided for in the professional standard are intended to be acquired within the Bachelor's study programme.

2. The Content of Studies and Implementation Thereof

Analysis

The content of the study courses of PMSP "Law science" corresponds to the trends of the branch, labour market and science. The specificity of the branch of law implies its development in accordance with amendments to laws and other regulatory enactments.

According to self-assessment report, mapping of the study programme courses was done. The aims set and other indicators included in the study courses relates to the aims and outcomes of the study programme.

The study programme provides different forms of contact classes: lectures, practical classes, seminars, role-plays, discussions, case studies and analysis, experienced professionals' open lectures, etc.

In the Master's thesis student demonstrates his/her knowledge and skills. It gives an idea of a student's readiness to perform professional and study tasks, enables him/her to assess his/her ability to apply research methods to the analysis of complex social processes, as well as demonstrates his/her ability to make theoretical generalisations and draw practical conclusions, practical proposals and recommendations for the legal framework of social processes in the field of study. The study implementation methods, including the evaluation methods, contribute to the achievement of the aims and learning outcomes of the study courses and the study programme.

Within the scope of the PMSP "Law Science", students have practical placement in the amount of 10 credit points (programme without awarding of the Lawyer qualification) and the qualifying practical placement in the amount of 26 credit points (programme with awarding of the Lawyer qualification). It is envisaged that practice is to be carried out in the institutions with which the practice contracts are concluded.

The compulsory content of the Master study programme also includes study course Management theory and project elaboration for improving of professional competence in management methods

and basics of project development and management, Lawyer Qualification Examination for study programme with awarding of the Lawyer qualification (4 credit points) is included.

In accordance with the information provided by DU, University ensures the possibility for students to acquire knowledge required in the Environmental Protection Law and the Civil Protection Law if the student not mastered it in the lower level study programme.

The results of the students survey are used to ensure the effectiveness of the study process. Students assess the quality of the implementation of studies, the level of teaching of particular study courses, and express their views on the necessary changes in the study process. For example, the students expressed a desire to supplement the content of the study programme with a study course related to operational activities and criminal investigation. As a result, a new study course "Non-procedural means of detecting and solving criminal offences" was included in the content of the programme.

The scope of professional master study programme "Law science" consists of 60 credit points (with lawyer's qualification - 80 credit points), however, only 16 credit points are allocated to the specialized courses, whereas, for the general courses students collect 20 credit points. But of course we have to take into account the professional standard of lawyer. The content of the study course is in compliance with professional standard.

Daugavpils University has set certain academic principles and mechanisms, and it uses appropriate plagiarism detection tools via library which are quite effective and contribute to the development of the internal academic culture. However, the system for fighting the cheating during final exams and sanctions for such activities is not developed. Moreover, during the on-site visit experts did not get a clear response how University and its structural units are fighting the cheating issue. During meetings with the management of the study direction, as well as with the academic staff the experts were reassured that the issue of cheating during final exams is not relevant for this study direction.

Since the previous accreditation period, outbound mobility within the study programme has slightly increased: in the time period from 2013 to 2019 5 students enrolled in the professional master study programme participated in ERASMUS+ exchange programme. Inbound mobility opportunities in the master study programme in the time period from 2013 to 2019 have been used by two students from Slovakia and 1 from India. Of course the statistics on exchange of students should be enlarged. For distance learning mainly Moodle platform is used, however, especially before the lock-down in 2020, Moodle has been used poorly and even after intensified usage in 2020, still there is a room for improvement and wider application of Moodle for the teaching

Conclusions by specifying the strengths and weaknesses

The descriptions of the study courses, the traineeship, and the final thesis are of high quality and comply with the provisions set forth in the regulatory enactments. The programme is oriented for local students.

Strengths:

1. Employers and professional organizations are involved in the preparation and defence of Master`s theses: some professional organizations provide topics for the Master`s theses, also half of the State Examination Commission, which evaluates the final theses of students, consists of the representatives of professional organizations and employers (during on-site visit it was confirmed by some of the employers).
2. Close cooperation with local professional organizations and employers guarantees places for the internships and in many cases job offers for the graduates.

Weaknesses:

1. Too many credit points for the general and not specialized courses.

2. No clear system fighting the cheating. During on-site visit question regarding cheating was raised, however, different groups did not indicate any measures for the fighting cheating during exams and other evaluation activities.
3. Only Covid-19 situation has led to a wider use of Moodle for the teaching, but teaching staff still prefers emails for the communication with students.
4. A very low number of outgoing and incoming students.

3. Resources and Provision of the Study Programme

Analysis

Study programme resources fully comply with the study programme implementation conditions and with reaching the outcomes of studies. Students have at their disposal premises for studies, material and technical base, equipment for preparing and visualizing study and research materials, information networks, databases (library network, DU research centre databases), etc.

This means that the study provision, informative provision (including libraries), material and technical provision, and financial provision comply with the specific features and the conditions for the implementation of the study programme, create the prerequisites for the achievement of the learning outcomes, and indicate the possibility to ensure a high-quality study process also in the future. It was confirmed during our visit to DU. In order to improve resources for the studies, it is recommended that more books in EU official languages, especially in English, must be purchased by the library, as we live in common legal area of European Union.

Conclusions by specifying the strengths and weaknesses

The study provision, informative provision (including libraries), material and technical provision, and financial provision comply with the specific features and the conditions for the implementation of the study programme.

Library resources could always be better acquiring more local books and books in foreign languages.

Strengths:

1. Informative provisions, including libraries, comply with requirements of the study programme.
2. Students have at their disposal sufficiently equipped premises for the studies and other activities.

Weaknesses:

1. Books of legal issues in foreign languages could be wider represented for the study process.

4. Teaching Staff

Analysis

The qualification of the academic staff involved in the study programme implementation complies with reaching the outcomes of study programme. During the reporting period, the scientific and academic composition of teaching staff has been constantly renewed. The percentage of lecturers with PhD in law has increased. One of the lecturers graduated from the DSP “Legal Science” at DU and obtained a doctorate in law. Academic staff members are professionals (judges, sworn advocates, lawyers) in their branch of science who have ascertained their competence in the research of the sphere as well as participate in international projects and have elaborated learning materials. The qualification of the teaching staff members involved in the implementation of the study programme complies with the requirements for the implementation of the study programme and the requirements set forth in the regulatory enactments. However, some doubts may be raised due to the fact that some of the academic staff members teach several courses and some of them

are not very related.

As it seen from Appendix, the lecturers involved in the study programme actively participate in scientific research both nationally and internationally. The academic staff involved in the programme publish their papers both in Latvia and in internationally recognized scientific journals and collections of research papers (the number of publications exceeds approximately 200 sources during the reference period). The academic staff members upload their publications to the research portals "Researchgate" or "Academia" and include them in the bibliography of the descriptions of the study courses so that the students could use them in the study process and in their independent work.

According to the procedures of DU, at the end of each study year the work loads of the academic staff members for the next study year are planned at the departments taking into consideration the results of the assessment of respective study courses by students and self-analysis of the academic activity produced by the academic staff members estimating the compliance of the academic staff members with the improvement and teaching of the particular study course.

In 2019/2020 academic year 14 academic staff members were involved in the PMSP "Law science" and 29 students studied in the programme.

Information about visiting academic staff from foreign countries is not provided, only in the general part of the report regarding international cooperation few examples of lecturers taught by foreign professors are given (page 52).

Conclusions by specifying the strengths and weaknesses

The qualification of the teaching staff members involved in the implementation of the study programme complies with the requirements for the implementation of the study programme and the requirements set forth in the regulatory enactments.

Strengths:

1. The ratio of students and academic staff involved in the implementation of PMSP "Law science" is very low (14 academic staff members for 29 students), which leads to students-orientated teaching. As it was several times highlighted during the on-site visit, DU provides familiar atmosphere.

Weaknesses:

1. Some academic staff members teach several courses from different fields of law, which could lead to a lower quality of the teaching;
2. A Few foreign academics are involved in the study programme.

5. Assessment of the Compliance of the Study Programme "Law Science"

Requirements

1. The sample of the diploma to be issued for the acquisition of the study programme complies with the procedure by which state-recognised documents of higher education are issued.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: Diploma sample provided in appendix complies with the procedure by which state-recognised documents of higher education are issued.

2. Documents confirming that the higher education institution/ college will provide the students with the options to continue the acquisition of education in another study programme or at another higher education institution/ college (a contract with another accredited higher education institution/ college), in case the implementation of the study programme is discontinued.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: Agreement with Rēzeknes augstskola from February 8th, 2008.

- 3 3. Document confirming that the higher education institution/ college guarantees to the students a compensation for losses if the study programme is not accredited or the licence of the study programme is revoked due to the actions of the higher education institution/ college (actions or failure to act) and the student does not wish to continue the studies in another study programme.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: Attestation signed 20.02.2020 is added to application.

- 4 4. The teaching staff members involved in the implementation of the study programme are proficient in the official language in accordance with the regulations on the level of the official language knowledge and the procedures for testing official language proficiency for performing professional duties and office duties.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: CV-s of the academic staff show the proficiency of the official language. The same was confirmed by the pro-rector of DU, and also director of study direction .

- 5 5. The teaching staff members to be involved in the implementation of the study programme have at least B2-level knowledge of a related foreign language, if the study programme or any part thereof is to be implemented in a foreign language.

Assessment of compliance: Not relevant

Justification:

- 6 6. At least five teaching staff members with a doctoral degree are among the academic staff of an academic doctoral study programme, at least three of which are experts approved by the Latvian Science Council in the respective field of science. At least five teaching staff members with a doctoral degree are among the academic staff of a professional doctoral study programme in arts.

Assessment of compliance: Not relevant

Justification:

- 7 7. The academic staff of the academic study programme complies with the requirements set forth in Section 55, Paragraph one, Clause 3 of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education.

Assessment of compliance: Not relevant

Justification:

- 8 8. The sample of the study agreement complies with the mandatory provisions to be included in the study agreement.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: The sample of the Study Agreement provided in appendix includes all mandatory provisions.

- 9 9. The descriptions of the study courses and the study materials have been prepared in all languages in which the study programme is implemented, and they comply with the requirements set forth in Section 56.1, Paragraph two and Section 56.2, Paragraph two of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: The descriptions of the study courses include the requirements for commencement of the acquisition of the study course; the aims for the implementation of the study course and the planned learning outcomes; the content of the study; the study course calendar, mandatory and supplementary literature, other sources of information; the organisation and tasks for the independent work of students; the evaluation criteria of learning outcomes.

- 10 10. The study programme complies with the valid professional standard or the requirements for the professional qualification (if there is no professional standard required for the relevant occupation) provided that the completion of the study programme leads to a professional qualification.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: The professional Master's study programme "Law science" ensures the training of specialists in accordance with the standard of the lawyer's profession (approved at the meeting of the Tripartite Cooperation Sub-Council of Vocational Education and Employment on April 8, 2020, protocol No. 3). After the visit to DU the study field management provided experts with a updated information in connection with the actual standard of the lawyer's profession. Noteworthy, that the compliance with the Lawyer profession standard in significantly related with DU Bachelor's study programme.

- 11 11. Academic study programmes provided for less than 250 full-time students may be implemented and less than five professors and associated professors of the higher education institution may be involved in the implementation of the mandatory and limited elective part of these study programmes provided that the relevant opinion of the Council for Higher Education has been received in accordance with Section 55, Paragraph two of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education.

Assessment of compliance: Not relevant

Justification:

- 12 12. The study programme complies with the State Academic Education Standard or the Professional Higher Education Standard.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: The study programme complies with the Professional Higher Education Standard.

- 13 13. The joint study programmes comply with the requirements prescribed in Section 551, Paragraphs one, two, and seven of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education (if applicable).

Assessment of compliance: Not relevant

Justification:

- 14 14. Each member of the academic staff has either publications published in reviewed editions within the last six years, including international editions (if they have worked for a shorter period of time, the number of publications shall be in proportion to the work period), or artistic creation achievements (for instance, exhibitions, films, theatre performances, and concert activity), or a five-year practical work experience (except for the experience in the implementation of the study programme) in accordance with the Law on Institutions of Higher Education.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: According to submitted list of publications the academic staff have publications in reviewed editions.

- 15 P5 - Overall rating

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: The professional Master study programme is well developed and meets all appropriate regulations and the requirements stated in the Law on Institutions of Higher Education.

Requirements (R6-R8)

- 1 R6 - The compliance of the study provision, scientific support (if applicable), informative provision (including libraries), material and technical provision, and financial provision with the conditions for the implementation of the study programme and ensuring the achievement of the learning outcomes.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: The programme has good resource base: formative provision (including libraries), material and technical provision, and financial provision with the conditions for the implementation of the study programme and ensuring the achievement of the learning outcomes. The students and the teaching staff have access to the necessary resources to ensure the quality of teaching and learning process.

- 2 R7 - The compliance of the qualification of the academic staff members, visiting professors, visiting associate professors, visiting docents, visiting lecturers, and visiting assistants with the conditions for the implementation of the study programme and the provisions set out in the respective regulatory enactments.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: The qualification of the academic staff members, visiting professors, visiting associate professors, visiting docents, visiting lecturers, and visiting assistants with the conditions for the implementation of the study programme and the provisions set out in the respective regulatory enactments.

- 3 R8 - The study programme leading to the master or doctoral degree is based on the advances and findings in the relevant field of science or artistic creation.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: All members of academic staff involved in this programme participates in research in their academic fields.

Conclusions by specifying the strengths and weaknesses

Master study programme is fully compliant with the requirements prescribed in the Law on Institutions of Higher Education and other regulatory enactments.

Strengths:

1. It is interrelated with bachelor study programme.

Weaknesses:

1. Low level of internationalization.

Evaluation of the study programme "Law Science"

Evaluation of the study programme:

Good

6. Recommendations for the Study Programme "Law Science"

Short-term recommendations

To attract more foreign academics with guest lectures. The developed online teaching system has increased the chances to attract foreign academics without additional expenses (or with relatively smaller ones) and at the same to ensure the growing internationalization of University and study field

To increase the usability of functions of the Moodle platform, by designing the communication between students and lecturers not only in the discussion area, but also for the students to add their homework, analyses of practicums, essays, study work as well as an option to view assessment and commentaries given by a lecturer.

Long-term recommendations

Increase the capacity to motivate and offer possibility for students more participate in outgoing mobilities.

To purchase more books in foreign languages, especially English, to guarantee higher level of the study process and accessibility for variety of literature.

To adopt rules and tools for prevention of cheating during final examinations and sanctions for such activities.

II. "Legal Science" ASSESSMENT

II. "Legal Science" ASSESSMENT

1. Indicators Describing the Study Programme

Analysis

The name of the doctoral study programme "Legal Science", the degree, the professional qualification or the degree and the professional qualification to be acquired, the aims, objectives, learning outcomes, and admission requirements are generally interrelated and relevant. The name of the degree granted was changed recently from "Doctor in Legal Sciences" to "Doctor of Science (Ph.D.) in Law Science" to meet new requirements set by a Cabinet of Ministers.

There is one general goal of the study programme: to prepare highly qualified specialists for scientific research and academic work in the branch of criminal law, police law, criminalistics and theory of operational activities. Such an objective is appropriate and specialization in individual areas is rather positive, as it results for better results. The study programme has four tasks (objectives) which are expressed clearly and are adequate.

Programme admission requirement is a master's degree in law science, police law, forensic or operational activity what is in line with Article 47 of the Law on Higher Education Institutions.

Duration of studies is three years. After defending a doctoral thesis DU Council of Law awards a student with a doctoral degree "Doctor of Science (Ph.D.) in Law Science" (until 2018/2019 academic year with a Doctor of Juridical Science (Dr.iur.)). Degree is awarded in one of the Law Science branches: Criminal Law, Police Law, Forensic Science or Operational activities.

Learning outcomes are formulated as knowledge (5 results), skills (6 results) and competences (5 results). It means that programme has 16 learning outcomes what seems to be somewhat too many. Some generalisation of outcomes could make them clearer and more understandable.

The aim and objectives, of the doctoral study programme "Legal science" as well as the outcomes of studies comply with EQF level 8 that is doctoral study level.

Received opinion from Latvian Council of Sciences No. 1-3.N-416 from 5 October 2020 that confirms that the Council of Experts of Social Sciences of the Council supports the accreditation of the doctoral study programme "Legal science" (51380) of Daugavpils University study field "Law". The Council expert commission acknowledges that the materials have been prepared in accordance with the requirements, the scientific content of the DU doctoral programme "Legal science" is appropriate, and there is also the provision of resources.

Conclusions by specifying the strengths and weaknesses

It has to be mentioned that it is difficult to make conclusions, as the programme has been open for a not very long time and traditionally it takes longer to achieve the full capacity of doctoral programmes. Based on what has happened so far, it can be concluded that the programme has been successful and there is no doubt about its sustainability. It must also be taken into account that since the number of students is quite small in this study programme (from 2013/2014 academic year till the 2018/2019 academic year the average number of students were 8-14), then activities and success of each student have a very significant impact to the state.

Doctoral study programme does not cover all fields of law but concentrates in criminal law, police law, forencics science and operational activities. Such a choice is understandable due to historic reasons. On the other hand, such a limitation could be at some point too narrow and may exclude some of the necessary topics from being explored. Therefore, these issues should probably be reviewed and updated if necessary.

Learning outcomes are listed in great detail and some generalisation would make them more clear and understandable.

Strenghts:

1. Concentration of special fields of law and related matters.
- 2.The programme has been successful and there is no doubt about its sustainability.

Weaknesses:

1. Narrow specialisation may exclude some of the necessary topics for doctoral studies from being explored.

2. The Content of Studies and Implementation Thereof

Analysis

The contents of study courses descriptions demonstrate compliance with study programme aims. All study courses are relevant to the study programme and regulatory enactments. The general balance between the subjects is good as the programme includes law theory subjects, professional subjects, subjects that develop general competencies as well as subjects that contribute to the writing of a doctoral thesis. Considering the fact that doctoral graduates are also the offspring of the academic staff, it is very good that the curriculum also includes a subject on higher education pedagogy. The content of study courses is relevant and contemporary, which emerges from the description, structure and study materials of the content of the subjects. During the on-site meetings, participants expressed the view that the current curriculum provides them with good opportunities in the labor market. University have confirmed that surveys among employers show that the graduates have a high level of knowledge and research skills; there is no ground to doubt in this confirmation.

Course descriptions demonstrate student-centered leaning outcomes. Forms of study process and contact hours are diverse, so are the evaluation methods used. There are traditional and innovative evaluation methods in use. Descriptions of study courses show a fairly large number of contact hours. Taking into account a fact that this is a doctoral programme, a quantity of students' independent work could be higher and an amount of contact hours could be reduced (especially the number of lectures).

The number of defended doctoral theses is small what can be explained with a fact that the study programme is quite new. Additionally the number of students is low what means that success of one student has a great impact to the whole picture. Despite of that the defences should became more regular.

From DU homepage : <https://du.lv/zinatne-un-petnieciba/promocija/aizstavetie-promocijas-darbi/> : not so much defended dissertation papers in Legal Science (For example, only one in 2019).

There are possibilities for student mobility but use of these possibilities has not been very active. There can be no doubt that students are well informed about possibilities of mobility and there are resources for that. As regards of this study programme the reasons of low mobility are not specific but general as described in part 5 in summary assessment. University has stressed in self-evaluation report that main reason of low outgoing mobility is that students work together with their studies and therefore a mobility may create a risk of losing their job. It is totally understandable but there can be some improvement.

It is quite possible that in post-COVID 19 era the proportion of virtual communication will remain increased and all these new possibilities have to be used for creating contacts, for consulting with foreign professors, for taking part of seminars, etc.

Conclusions by specifying the strengths and weaknesses

Programme progresses with the implementation of the student-centered learning and teaching conception. It has aligned study programme aims and learning outcomes with the courses' learning outcomes. Study courses and the study programme as a whole enable graduates to achieve the skills that society expectations and needs.

Strengths:

1. A good balance of professional and general subjects.
2. Use of diverse study and evaluation forms and methods.

Weaknesses:

1. Student mobility is too low.
2. Irregular defence of doctoral theses.

3. Resources and Provision of the Study Programme

Analysis

Study programme provisions are well developed and comply with the programme implementation conditions. Premises for studies, material and technical instruments and equipment are on a good level. Auditoriums are properly equipped. Students and teaching staff have a possibility to use necessary databases. Physical library has not very much books on law issues in foreign languages but essential literature in Latvian is represented. During the on-site meeting it was confirmed that the library is provided with financial resources for obtaining necessary literature. Students can use workplaces with computers. University has confirmed that they have all necessary equipment and software for study process; all participants confirmed it during on-site meetings with expert group. University has appropriate resources for organization of distance or blended learning process. Main platform used is Moodle, however, especially before the lock-down in 2020, Moodle has been used poorly and even after intensified usage in 2020, still there is a room for improvement and wider application of Moodle for the teaching. Distance lectures are going on by using Zoom system. There is adjusted a special room for composing video study materials supported by DU technical staff if necessary.

The study provision and the scientific support comply with the requirements for the implementation of the doctoral study programme. DU department of Law has close cooperation with several Latvian and foreign universities concerning reviewing doctoral theses, participation in the Promotion Board and consulting doctoral students. As it has been described in self-evaluation report, such cooperation is limited to universities from Lithuania.

Conclusions by specifying the strengths and weaknesses

Premises for studies, material and technical instruments and equipment are in a good level; auditoriums are properly equipped. The study provision and the scientific support, including the resources provided within the cooperation with other scientific institutions and institutions of higher education, comply with the requirements for the implementation of the doctoral study programme.

Strengths:

1. A good conditions for study process implementation.

2. Appropriate solutions for distance or blended learning process.

Weaknesses:

1. Not many books on law issues in foreign languages, could be obtained more for the study process. More books in foreign languages, especially in English, would help students to make deeper comparative legal analysis.

4. Teaching Staff

Analysis

The staff is motivated and committed to delivering high-quality learning outcomes. The qualification of academic staff complies with reaching the outcomes of study programme. All members of academy teaching in doctoral programme have doctoral degrees. Eight members of the teaching staff are experts of the Latvian Council of Science.

Academic staff involved in teaching in doctoral programme has published considerable number of scientific works during last six years. It includes 238 scientific articles of which 33 are published in journals indexed by Scopus or Web of Science or are monographs. Scientific works have been published in Latvia and other countries. Therefore, one can conclude that academic staff has been active in their scientific activities. Research has been done largely in the areas that members of the staff teach in this programme.

During assessed period, members of the staff involved in teaching in doctoral programme have participated in three research projects as project managers and participants.

There is tight collaboration between teaching staff members related to writing joint articles as well as designing, developing and teaching joint study courses. The collaboration is not based on any formal document what is appropriate taking into account the number of teaching staff. Lack of formalities has clearly not been an obstacle to the collaboration.

Workload of teaching staff is planned at the end of each academic year taking into account results of student's evaluation and the self-analysis of teaching staff. There are formal rules established by the university as regards planning of the workload.

Conclusions by specifying the strengths and weaknesses

There is no doubt that academic staff involved in teaching in doctoral study programme are scientifically active and are top experts in their field. There are competent academics covering teaching all subjects on necessary high level. Development is possible with research projects, as they have covered only some limited periods (the latter ended more than two years ago). Research funding is also an opportunity to fund the activities of doctoral students and to link them more with the university. The aim should therefore enhance activities in applying for research funding.

Strengths:

1. Highly motivated and professional teaching staff.

Weaknesses:

1. Low activity level in attracting financial support for research projects, funding for the research from projects has been random.

5. Assessment of the Compliance of the Study Programme "Legal Science"

Requirements

- 1 1. The sample of the diploma to be issued for the acquisition of the study programme complies with the procedure by which state-recognised documents of higher education are issued.
Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant
Justification: Diploma sample provided in appendix complies with the procedure by which state-recognised documents of higher education are issued.
- 2 2. Documents confirming that the higher education institution/ college will provide the students with the options to continue the acquisition of education in another study programme or at another higher education institution/ college (a contract with another accredited higher education institution/ college), in case the implementation of the study programme is discontinued.
Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant
Justification: Agreement with Biznesa augstskola Turība from May 30th, 2011.
- 3 3. Document confirming that the higher education institution/ college guarantees to the students a compensation for losses if the study programme is not accredited or the licence of the study programme is revoked due to the actions of the higher education institution/ college (actions or failure to act) and the student does not wish to continue the studies in another study programme.
Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant
Justification: Attestation signed 20.02.2020 is added to application.
- 4 4. The teaching staff members involved in the implementation of the study programme are proficient in the official language in accordance with the regulations on the level of the official language knowledge and the procedures for testing official language proficiency for performing professional duties and office duties.
Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant
Justification: CV-s of the teaching staff indicate the proficiency of the official language. The same is confirmed by the rector of the university.
- 5 5. The teaching staff members to be involved in the implementation of the study programme have at least B2-level knowledge of a related foreign language, if the study programme or any part thereof is to be implemented in a foreign language.
Assessment of compliance: Not relevant
Justification:
- 6 6. At least five teaching staff members with a doctoral degree are among the academic staff of an academic doctoral study programme, at least three of which are experts approved by the Latvian Science Council in the respective field of science. At least five teaching staff members with a doctoral degree are among the academic staff of a professional doctoral study programme in arts.
Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant
Justification: Number of teaching staff involved in implementation of the doctoral study programme "Legal science" is 13, all of them have a doctoral degree, four of them are experts approved by the Latvian Science Council in the field of Law (DU Annex doctoral_statement_Law science.docx).
- 7 7. The academic staff of the academic study programme complies with the requirements set forth in Section 55, Paragraph one, Clause 3 of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education.
Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant
Justification: List of academic staff involved in implementation of programme is included. Number of professors and associate professors, who are elected to academic positions in the university taking part in the implementation of the compulsory part and the limited elective part of academic study programme is over five. The academic staff complies with the requirements set forth in Section 55, Paragraph one, Clause 3 of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education.
- 8 8. The sample of the study agreement complies with the mandatory provisions to be included in the study agreement.
Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: The sample of the Study Agreement provided in appendix includes all mandatory provisions.

- 9 9. The descriptions of the study courses and the study materials have been prepared in all languages in which the study programme is implemented, and they comply with the requirements set forth in Section 56.1, Paragraph two and Section 56.2, Paragraph two of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: The descriptions of the study courses include the requirements for commencement of the acquisition of the study course; the aims for the implementation of the study course and the planned learning outcomes; the content of the study; the study course calendar, mandatory and supplementary literature, other sources of information; the organisation and tasks for the independent work of students; the evaluation criteria of learning outcomes.

- 10 10. The study programme complies with the valid professional standard or the requirements for the professional qualification (if there is no professional standard required for the relevant occupation) provided that the completion of the study programme leads to a professional qualification.

Assessment of compliance: Not relevant

Justification:

- 11 11. Academic study programmes provided for less than 250 full-time students may be implemented and less than five professors and associated professors of the higher education institution may be involved in the implementation of the mandatory and limited elective part of these study programmes provided that the relevant opinion of the Council for Higher Education has been received in accordance with Section 55, Paragraph two of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: The opinion of the Council for Higher Education NO 1.10/30 from 24 April 2020 to support Daugavpils University in commencing the implementation of the Doctoral study programme "Legal science", which is intended for less than 250 full-time students.

- 12 12. The study programme complies with the State Academic Education Standard or the Professional Higher Education Standard.

Assessment of compliance: Not relevant

Justification:

- 13 13. The joint study programmes comply with the requirements prescribed in Section 551, Paragraphs one, two, and seven of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education (if applicable).

Assessment of compliance: Not relevant

Justification:

- 14 14. Each member of the academic staff has either publications published in reviewed editions within the last six years, including international editions (if they have worked for a shorter period of time, the number of publications shall be in proportion to the work period), or artistic creation achievements (for instance, exhibitions, films, theatre performances, and concert activity), or a five-year practical work experience (except for the experience in the implementation of the study programme) in accordance with the Law on Institutions of Higher Education.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: All members of academic staff involved in program has publications published in reviewed editions within the last six years.

- 15 P5 - Overall rating

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: The doctoral study programme "Legal science" is well developed and meets all appropriate regulations and the requirements.

Requirements (R6-R8)

- 1 R6 - The compliance of the study provision, scientific support (if applicable), informative provision (including libraries), material and technical provision, and financial provision with the conditions for the implementation of the study programme and ensuring the achievement of the learning outcomes.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: The programme has good resource base. The students and the teaching staff have access to the necessary resources to ensure the quality of teaching and learning process.

- 2 R7 - The compliance of the qualification of the academic staff members, visiting professors, visiting associate professors, visiting docents, visiting lecturers, and visiting assistants with the conditions for the implementation of the study programme and the provisions set out in the respective regulatory enactments.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: All members of academic staff involved in this programme have doctoral degrees and set out in the respective regulatory enactments.

- 3 R8 - The study programme leading to the master or doctoral degree is based on the advances and findings in the relevant field of science or artistic creation.

Assessment of compliance: Fully compliant

Justification: All members of academic staff involved in doctoral study programme "Legal science" active participate in researches and projects in their academic field, apply research results, achievements and knowledge for improving of the study field.

Conclusions by specifying the strengths and weaknesses

Doctoral study programme "Legal science" is fully compliant with the requirements prescribed in the Law on Institutions of Higher Education and other regulatory enactments, provided with material and technical provision, possibilities for scientific research in study field and supported by professionally competent teaching staff.

Strengths:

1. High number of teaching staff with doctoral degree, four experts approved by the Latvian Science Council in the field of Law.
2. Teaching staff are highly motivated and active in research, have publications published in reviewed editions.

Weaknesses:

1. Narrow specialisation may exclude some of the necessary topics for doctoral studies from being explored.

Evaluation of the study programme "Legal Science"

Evaluation of the study programme:

Good

6. Recommendations for the Study Programme "Legal Science"

Short-term recommendations

Long-term recommendations

To promote participation in international cooperation and mobility activities for outgoing students.

To review regularly the current tendencies in research directions and topics to avoid the possibility to exclude some of the necessary topics for doctoral studies from being explored.

To organize training how to attract financial support for research projects and to encourage doctoral students to be more active in project activities

III. Assessment of the Requirements for the Study Field and the Relevant Study Programmes

III. Assessment of the Requirements for the Study Field and the Relevant Study Programmes

Assessment of the Requirements for the Study Field

Requirements	Requirement Evaluation			Comment
Pursuant to Section 5, Paragraph 21 of the Law on Institutions of Higher Education, the higher education institution/ college shall ensure continuous improvement, development, and efficient performance of the study direction whilst implementing their internal quality assurance systems:	Fully compliant			DU study quality management system observes the compliance with ISO 9001:2017 quality standard. Compliance with this standard testifies to the fact that DU tends for the quality of its education services by maintaining the quality management system (QMS), periodically passing accreditation and verifying the efficiency of the system. To ensure the improvement of the existing normative documents and procedures at DU and compliance with the student centered and sustainable higher education, especially assessing and updating quality policy implementation mechanisms, the study quality system is being updated within ESF project "Daugavpils University governance and management competence improvement" (No. 8.2.3.0/18/A/010).

Requirements	Requirement Evaluation			Comment
R2 - The cooperation with different organisations from Latvia and abroad implemented within the study direction ensures the achievement of the aims of the study direction.		Partially compliant		Sufficient cooperation with different organizations from Latvia have been established, however it is mainly based on personal relations (without formal cooperation agreements). Cooperation with organizations abroad is very limited and should be broadened.
R3 - Compliance of scientific research and artistic creation with the development level thereof (if applicable).	Fully compliant			Academic staff within study field "Law" have achieved a reasonable results in research.
R4 - Elimination of the shortcomings and deficiencies identified during the previous assessment of the study direction, if it has been conducted, or the implementation of the provided recommendations.	Fully compliant			Elimination of the shortcomings and deficiencies identified during the previous assessment of the study field "Law" has been done.

Assessment of the Requirements for the Relevant Study Programmes of the Study Field

No.	Study programme	R5	R6	R7	R8	Evaluation of the study programme (excellent, good, average, poor)
1	Law Science (43380)	Fully compliant	Fully compliant	Fully compliant	Not relevant	Good
2	Law Science (47380)	Fully compliant	Fully compliant	Fully compliant	Fully compliant	Good
3	Legal Science (51380)	Fully compliant	Fully compliant	Fully compliant	Fully compliant	Good

The Dissenting Opinions of the Experts

There is no the dissenting opinions of experts