



European Social Fund's Project
"Evaluation of Higher Education Programmes and Suggestions for Quality Improvement"
Agreement No 2011/0012/IDP/1.1.2.2.1/11/IPIA/VIAA/001

December 16, 2011

General data:

Higher education institution: Lateran Pontifical University Branch – Riga Higher Institute of Religious Science.

Direction of the study programme being evaluated: *Religion and theology*

Name of the study programmes being evaluated:

Religion (43221)

Theology (4222102) *Religijs (46221)*

Religion – Ethics and Christian Education teacher (46141)

Religion – Philosophy, Ethics and Christian Education teacher (46141)

Experts of the International Evaluation Commission:

- Prof. Tõnu Lehtsaar (Chairperson of the Evaluation Commission)
- Assoc. Prof. Benas Ulevicius
- Dr. Solveiga Krūmina-Konkova
- Ms. Dace Treigute

Information sources

Self-assessment report, visit of experts of an Evaluation commission at the Lateran Pontifical University Branch – Riga Higher Institute of Religious Science.

Analysis of the situation

1. Quality

Strengths

- It is remarkable that for such a small institution there are so many highly qualified teachers.
- The students are highly motivated and satisfied with their studies.
- Small number of student makes possible seminary type of teaching.
- The study process is under permanent supervision of student committee and representatives of employers.
- Different programs are directed to different audiences.

Weaknesses

- The availability of e-learning should be developed.
- Student's research activities should be encouraged.

2. Resources

Strengths

- The computerized study info system is well designed and functional.
- Technical supplies for students are on a very good level.
- The institution has a very solid library for study and research.

- The material basis for the study is sufficient.

Weaknesses

- The library is located apart from the study environment.
- Auditorium equipment should be improved.

3. Sustainability

Strengths

- The institution follows the best tradition of catholic education.
- Strong level of teaching staff received their education in different countries.
- Reacting to the needs in society for chaplains, teachers and counsellors.

Weaknesses

- The institution is dependent from the financial situation in the church.
- Small number of students.

4. Cooperation and overlapping

Strengths

- The programs are oriented to different audiences with different preliminary education.
- There are church related connections with other academic settings.
- The faculty members belong to different professional settings.
- The programs are opening to applicants (except priest training program) to the society in large.

Weaknesses

- There is some overlap in-between two master level programs both dealing with ethics and education.
- The cooperation with other academic theological institutions in Latvia should be increased.

Recommendations.

Considering the qualification of teaching staff, experience in teaching in different levels, the excellent library, it could be found a possibility for doctoral studies at the institution. To do this there are several possibilities, for example joint programs.

It would be reasonable to have one program on each level of academic career. In current situation it means also considering the integration the existing master level programs into module based one.

The professional master program preparing pastoral counsellors (46221) deserves positive accreditation.

The second level professional study program (46141) should be transformed to the master level program or integrated as module in some existing master programs.

Conclusion. The programs are on necessary level of quality for achieving the study goals.

Religion (43221)

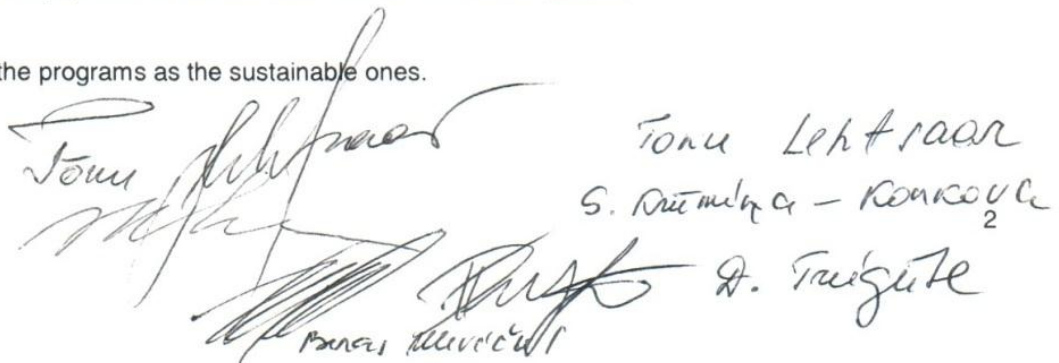
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We estimate the programs as the sustainable ones.

Signatures:



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