EXTRACT OF SECOND CYCLE STUDY PROGRAMME BUSINESS INFORMATICS
(STATE CODE – 621120001) AT VILNIUS UNIVERSITY KAUNAS FACULTY OF
HUMANITIES 2016-05-24 EVALUATION REPORT NO. SV4-113-2

STUDIJŲ KOKYBĖS VERTINIMO CENTRAS

VILNIAUS UNIVERSITETO KAUNO HUMANITARINIO FAKULTETO
STUDIJŲ PROGRAMOS VERSLO INFORMATIKA
(valstybinis kodas – 621120001)
VERTINIMO IŠVADOS

EVALUATION REPORT
OF BUSINESS INFORMATICS (state code – 621120001)
STUDY PROGRAMME
at VILNIUS UNIVERSITY KAUNAS FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

Experts’ team:
1. Prof. dr. Andrew McGettrick (team leader) academic,
2. Prof. dr. Peeter Normak, academic,
3. Prof. dr. Jukka Paakki, academic,
4. Mr Tomas Urbonas, representative of social partners’
5. Mr Žygimantas Benetis, students’ representative.

Evaluation coordinator -
Ms Rasa Paurytė

Išvados parengtos anglų kalba
Report language – English
### INFORMATION ON EVALUATED STUDY PROGRAMME

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Title of the study programme</strong></td>
<td><em>Business Informatics</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>State code</strong></td>
<td>621120001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Study area</strong></td>
<td>Physical Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Study field</strong></td>
<td>Information Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Type of the study programme</strong></td>
<td>University Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Study cycle</strong></td>
<td>Second</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Study mode (length in years)</strong></td>
<td>2 years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Volume of the study programme in credits</strong></td>
<td>120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Degree and (or) professional qualifications awarded</strong></td>
<td>Master of Information Systems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Date of registration of the study programme</strong></td>
<td>29-05-2003, No. 763</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
V. GENERAL ASSESSMENT

The study programme Business Informatics (state code – 621120001) at Vilnius University Kaunas Faculty of Humanities is given **positive** evaluation.

**Study programme assessment in points by evaluation areas.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Evaluation Area</th>
<th>Evaluation of an area in points*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Programme aims and learning outcomes</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Curriculum design</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Teaching staff</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Facilities and learning resources</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Study process and students’ performance assessment</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Programme management</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Total:</strong></td>
<td><strong>16</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*1 (unsatisfactory) - there are essential shortcomings that must be eliminated;  
2 (satisfactory) - meets the established minimum requirements, needs improvement;  
3 (good) - the field develops systematically, has distinctive features;  
4 (very good) - the field is exceptionally good.

<...>

IV. SUMMARY

This second cycle study programme in Business Informatics is offered by the Kaunas Faculty of Humanities, established in 1964 and the only subdivision of Vilnius University located outside of Vilnius itself. The study programme began in 2001, and had evolved from the earlier programme called Information Business. It was accredited in 2009 and given accreditation for a 6 year period.

Graduates are expected to be equipped to work in the public sector organisations or the business sector as business IT analysts, designers or creators of IT systems, IT system administrators, IT project managers or initiators and leaders of IT projects. There is also the possibility of pursuing research in particular areas.

The profile of admissions and progression on the study programme had been entirely satisfactory until recently when the number of applicants had fallen away and the progress of students had been problematic. In part this was attributed to the fact that around 80% of entrants came from the institution’s own undergraduate programme in Informatics and there was a decline of interest in that programme. These events could be construed as on-off but there seemed to be warning signs that the admissions criteria had to be reviewed and the programme strengthened.
In each of the 4 semesters, the basic study programme involves 800 hrs of student time; successful completion attracts 30 credits. Students are expected to spend some 40 hrs per week on their studies, this including formal classes but also independent study. The review panel found that students were generally employed and they were spending around 21 hrs per week on their studies.

Students did not feel challenged by the work of the course. They felt there was scope for greater novelty and greater challenge. They were tending to choose the topic of their final thesis on the basis of links with the work of their undergraduate thesis. The feedback mechanisms fed through to the Study Programme Committee which had a student representative and a representative of the social partners. However the representative was unknown to the social partners who attended the meeting with the review panel.

In conclusion the review panel was of the view that the study programme design and content ought to be reviewed so that it would reflect to a far greater extent current thinking about the coming together of business and informatics and the important relationships between them. In the process of doing that, steps should be taken to address the issue of the time being spent by students on their studies and the issue of challenge and novelty.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Encourage current and prospective university teachers to acquire degrees in leading foreign universities.
2. Introduce sabbatical leave for full-time teachers.
3. Put more emphasis on publishing in high-level international journals and proceedings.
4. Suggest a review of the curriculum that seeks appropriate input from a Business School perspective and pays some attention to ongoing organisational transformation based on developments in Informatics. The ACM recommendations for Masters programmes in Information Systems should be examined, although these are currently under review and are seeking to strengthen attention to entrepreneurship, organisational change, information assurance (security) based on advances in Informatics.
5. The review of the curriculum should ensure that students spend approximately the requisite 40 hrs per week on their studies and ensure that the independent study time is being properly managed and utilised. There should also be more optional and free-elective subjects in the curriculum.
6. Access for the disabled students should be provided to ensure better inclusion in the study process. Electrical sockets should be installed in the auditoriums to provide electricity to personal students' laptops. Wi-fi coverage should be increased within the premises.

7. Even though VU KHF has access to various databases, students and lecturers have outlined that a wider range of different databases should be considered and access to those databases should be provided to them. The ACM and IEEE digital libraries would provide access to the top international publications.

8. Overall equipment (computers, furniture etc.) and premises should be renewed.

9. Steps should be taken to quality control assessment processes. These steps should minimise the possibility of students playing down the importance of the final exam by performing extremely well in tests and practical work. Moreover, the use of multiple choice questions at Masters level should be discouraged.

10. The quality control processes for assessment should give confidence that the learning outcomes are being met, that the level of challenge is appropriate and generally that the assessment methods will stand scrutiny from an outside agency. The topic of the final thesis should reflect the study programme; it should build on the work of the taught classes and reflect the coming together of business and informatics.

11. In marketing this study programme, strengthen the case for the impact that a graduate can have in employment, e.g. by articulating the role of innovation, the impact on organisational change.

12. Give attention to the admissions processes so that there continues to be a healthy number of applicants and well-qualified students entering the programme; steps should be taken to a far richer diversity of students coming to study on the programme.

13. Steps should be taken to ensure that the representative of social partners on the Study Programme Committee is known to all social partners and that person’s role and the role of all social partners should be explained. Alumni ought to be asked for their (anonymous) views on the study programme following their graduation and this should feed through to the Study Programme Committee.

14. Where students provide feedback on their study programme, they should be informed about the effectiveness of that and any consequent change. Feedback from students and social partners should be carefully documented for consideration by the Study Programme Committee.