

GAP Institute for Advanced Studies

A Review of Private Higher Education in Kosovo

Policy Report

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Besiana Musmurati is just graduating from a high school in Kosovo. She has to make a difficult choice that all the graduates have in their minds when they graduate. What next? How does she choose what she wants to study? Does she make her choice based on what she likes, or based on the best chance to get a job? Although she has decided to do it based on the chances of getting a job she does not have the full information. She does not want to go to the public University because she does not think that the UP got through the reforms, and she also believes that the professors are not too dedicated. She wants to go to a private university. How does she choose it? Where are the best professors? Do professors come to classes? How serious are they about classes? Are the classes interesting? Do the courses equip her with the skills that she needs to find a good job in Kosovo? Do they have computers? Do they have books? How much does she have to pay? Can she repay her education with the job she gets?

These are just some of the questions that Besiana has. Besiana is one of the 24,000 students graduating from high school this year. On average, approx 24,000 high schools students will be graduating every year for the next ten years. This report is motivated by these stories and tries to start a discussion which will lead to the answer to these questions.

Introduction

The latest official statistics from the Statistical Office in Kosova, in coordination with the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare, indicate that the unemployment level in Kosova is 44.9 percent.¹ That is the percentage of people that are looking for jobs but cannot get one. Although the statistical base in Kosova may be very weak, there is at least broad agreement that the unemployment level is high. The economic development statistics also tell us that economic growth in Kosova has been moderate. It has been positive but lower than the region overall. After taking into account a population growth of about 2 percent every year, the improvements in the growth per capita in Kosova have been almost inexistent.

Kosova has the youngest population in Europe. Around 70 percent of the population is younger than 30, and around 50 percent of the population is younger than 25. It is clear that even if Kosova grows at the regional rate, it will still be very difficult to absorb the number of young people who enter the labor market every year. It is clear that Kosova needs foreign direct investment. In order to achieve that, Kosova needs to start reforms in several areas, and identify its opportunities and competitive advantage.

Although the young population in the short term is considered to be a liability, in the medium to long term, the population of Kosova is a potential advantage that no one else in the region has. Kosova has a labor force which, demographically speaking, is unrivalled. However, in order to turn this liability into an

¹ Statistical Office of Kosovo, Labor Market Statistics 2006

asset, Kosovo needs to improve the productivity of its labor force. Education policies are the key instruments in doing this. Education policies can be used to equip the young population of Kosovo with the skills that today's market requires. Apart from the importance of primary and secondary education, higher education plays a key role. The University of Prishtina has struggled with the Bologna reforms, although it still has the capacity to absorb 6,300 students.

Recently, Kosovo has seen a sudden increase in the number of Private Providers of Higher Education (PPHE). Since 2001, 30 PPHE's received their licenses, and 24 of them are still active with their operations today. Despite this surge in numbers, there is not a lot of information available on the quality of these institutions. Recently the government of Kosovo, through the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, has started the process of reaccreditation. The purpose of this report is to provide more information to the debate. Currently PPHE's accommodate 19,000 students, and in a few years, they could have the same number of students with the University of Prishtina. However, many of the institutions in Kosovo, including public institutions favor degrees from abroad the country. The Kosovo Assembly is looking for lawyers with degrees from prestigious universities around the world, bypassing the Kosovo institutions of higher education.

The Institute for Advanced Studies GAP has surveyed all the PPHE's in Kosovo. We have also looked at the relevant legislation and its implementation. Following the recent initiatives by the Ministry we have also prepared recommendations to the authorities, which we believe will lead to a more informed decision-making.

The legislative basis for functioning of providers of higher education in Kosovo

The law on higher education in Kosovo, 2002/3, adopted by the Assembly of Kosovo on 25 July, 2002 and promulgated by the SRSG on 12 May, 2003 (UNMIK Regulation 2003/14) sets out the legislative basis for functioning of the higher education system in Kosovo. Some of the objectives of higher education in Kosovo prescribed in this law are to "to establish, develop, protect and transmit knowledge through teaching and scientific work and research; and to provide opportunities for all inhabitants of Kosovo with the ability to benefit from such education, throughout their lives." ²

According to this Law, the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology (MEST) is responsible for planning the development of higher education in Kosovo in consultation with accredited providers of higher education. The Ministry of Education is also responsible for the establishment of the Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA) in order to maintain the quality of providers of higher education through the process of licensing, inspection, and accreditation in professional ways, the details of which are to be provided by an administrative instruction. ³

² Law on Higher Education – Article 2.1

³ Law on Higher Education – Article 4.3

The law on higher education defines public providers of higher education as universities and other institutions of higher education. A university is an institution of education and research that can provide diplomas up to a doctoral level. The title 'university' may be given only to those accredited providers of higher education that offer courses or programs in at least 5 different departments with 600 students each, totaling to at least 3,000 students. The law also states that these details should be set out in an administrative instruction to be issued by MEST.⁴

Furthermore, the Law on Higher Education in Kosova, through administrative instructions, foresees to regulate these specific fields: licensing of private providers of higher education (section 11.1), establishment of Kosova Accreditation Agency (section 4.3), procedures on accreditation (section 11.2), conduct on quality assessments (section 11.10), diploma formats (section 12.7), methodology to be used for the allocation of funds to private providers (section 23.2) etc.

According to the Administrative Instruction no. 2003/14 issued by MEST on licensing of private providers of higher education, any private individual, organization or foundation that is registered in Kosova, holds the right to establish an institution of private higher education.⁵ A private provider of higher education can not start its activity without being licensed by MEST; however, it may advertise for and recruit students subject to a license being granted.⁶ The duration of a license may be between three to five years but the private provider of higher education is obliged to renew it on an annual basis.⁷ The main criteria an institution must satisfy are the following: a request form for licensing, possession of statute, work regulations and code of conduct, adequate space of premises, a healthy and safe environment, library facilities, computer labs, list of faculty, list of administrative staff, list of publications, list of literature to be used, etc.⁸

On 16 February, 2004, MEST issued the administrative instruction no. 11/2004 for the establishment of Kosova Accreditation Agency (KAA). According to this administrative instruction, MEST will establish an Agency that would be independent, professional and not for profit, charged with promoting the quality of higher education in Kosova.⁹ KAA is comprised of professional structures (National Quality Council) and permanent administrative structures. The National Quality Council consists of nine persons appointed by the Ministry, of which there should be at least three persons who are active in academic

⁴ Law on Higher Education – Article 8

⁵ Article 2 of Administrative Instruction no.14/2003 on Licensing of Private Providers of Higher Education (July 17, 2003)

⁶ Article 7.3 of Administrative Instruction no.14/2003 on Licensing of Private Providers of Higher Education

⁷ Article 7.7 of Administrative Instruction no.14/2003 on Licensing of Private Providers of Higher Education

⁸ Article 8.1.1 of Administrative Instruction no.14/2003 on Licensing of Private Providers of Higher Education

⁹ Article 2.1 & 2.2 of Administrative Instruction no. 11/2004 on establishment of Kosovo Accreditation Agency(KAA)

work in higher education, one person from MEST, and three international experts.¹⁰ The president of this Council is chosen on a five year mandate. The administrative structure is engaged in performing the administrative duties of KAA and is led by a chosen director through a public announcement. According to section 9 of the administrative instruction no. 2004/11, “a provider of higher education seeking accreditation for the first time should apply to KAA at least one year in advance of the date from which accreditation is sought.” The KAA, in a period of six months, should decide if an institution should be accredited or not. If a licensed provider of higher education fails to be accredited, the KAA asks MEST not to recognize the diplomas from that institution. Conversely, when a licensed provider of higher education is accredited, accreditation certificates will be issued by KAA. In case of failure to obtain accreditation, a licensed provider may reapply for accreditation within one year. Another failure to obtain accreditation will lead to the revocation of the license. KAA publishes materials on quality assessment and evaluation reports of accreditation which are to be made publicly available.¹¹

The establishment of the KAA has been prolonged for four years now, leading to licensing and re-licensing of private providers of higher education based only on general criteria as prescribed by the administrative instruction on licensing, without any acknowledgement on the fulfillment of quality standards according to an accreditation process. Although the KAA was established in the beginning of 2008, this institution will not be directly involved in the evaluation of private providers of higher education in Kosova for the accreditation process. The Government of Kosova, on 30 January, 2008, has taken the decision to establish the Accreditation Committee for Private Institutions of Higher Education, its members to be experts from international universities¹². Based on this government decision, the Ministry of Education has contracted the British Accreditation Council to conduct a quality assessment of private providers of higher education in Kosova, based on which these private providers may be licensed or re-licensed. According to the Minister of Education, Enver Hoxhaj, after the process of quality assessment, the report prepared by the British Accreditation Council will be delivered to MEST and KAA, at which point the Ministry will form a committee for the licensing of private providers of higher education.¹³

Even though the Law on higher education was signed five years ago (12 May, 2003), MEST has still not issued all the administrative instructions as prescribed by law. The same is true regarding the delay in issuing the administrative instruction on the conduct of quality assessment for providers of higher education.¹⁴ OSCE, in its three reports for implementation of laws adopted by the Assembly of Kosova, criticizes MEST for non implementation of the Law on Higher Education in Kosova.¹⁵

¹⁰ Article 5.1 of Administrative Instruction no. 11/2004 on establishment of Kosovo Accreditation Agency(KAA)

¹¹ Article 14 of Administrative Instruction no. 11/2004 on establishment of Kosovo Accreditation Agency(KAA)

¹² Article 1 &2, Government Decision 04/4 from January 30, 2008

¹³ Express, May 17, 2008, page 6

¹⁴ Article 11.10 of the Law on Higher Education

¹⁵ OSCE – Implementation of Laws by the Assembly of Kosova (Reports I, II, III)

Many of the administrative instructions were not issued by MEST as prescribed by law, while many other instructions MEST did issue took a long time and most of them are vague. Even though the purpose of these administrative instructions is to act as a supplement to the law and give more details, they mostly repeat the same points written in the law of higher education.

In The Law on Higher Education has not been fully complied with, especially when it relates to the criteria for licensing. For instance, for departments or universities it states that each department should have 600 students, and that a university should have at least 5 departments with 3,000 students in total. If this is the specific condition for obtaining a license as a university, than there is only one out of ten providers licensed as universities that meets this criteria with regard to the number of students.

On the administrative instruction issued by MEST on Licensing of Providers of Higher Education no. 14/2003 the specific criteria for a provider of higher education to be licensed are not well defined and are subjective as well. In order for a provider of higher education to be licensed, among other things, it should provide MEST the list of academic staff and their qualifications.¹⁶ However, it does not give details of what specific qualifications the staff or faculty should have, e.g. the proportion of those with certain degrees. Further, the specific space of premises for providers of higher education is neither described by law nor by the administrative instruction. Having a healthy and safe environment is a generalized statement and gives space for different interpretations. There is also no specific figure given for the number of classes for lectures and auditoriums in terms of proportion of students versus space. There are many other criteria that are not specific and are relative to different subjective interpretations and that do not specify quantity or proportion, such as:

- Sufficient premises equipped according to international standards;
- Library with a rich inventory of books from certain fields;
- Cabinets with computer equipment;
- Appropriate working environment;
- Labs and necessary working equipment;
- Ensuring quality of studies;

The same situation seems to exist in regional countries as well, i.e. Albania, Montenegro, Macedonia and Serbia. For instance, the law in Montenegro differentiates between a university and other private institutions as well. For an institution to be called a university, it should realize at least five different courses in at least three of the following fields: “social sciences, humanities, engineering, natural sciences, arts, medicine, and legal economic sciences”¹⁷. However, it does not specify the number of students that an institution of higher education should have in order to be called a university. The license in Montenegro can be awarded only when the institution of higher education obtains a certificate of initial accreditation by the Higher Education Council. The criteria for the award of a license

¹⁶ Article 8.1.1 of Administrative Instruction no.14/2003 on Licensing of Private Providers of Higher Education

¹⁷ Article 37 of Law on Higher Education in Montenegro

include “the adequacy of premises and equipment, including classrooms, laboratories, library and computer equipment; number and qualifications of academic staff; premises for students’ extracurricular activities; and financial means.”¹⁸

Private Providers of Higher Education: What do they offer?

The Kosovo market numbers 24 active licensed PPHE’s that are currently active and functioning. Of this 25, 10 institutions are licensed as universities and the rest of them are licensed as colleges, schools, faculties, institutes and academies. The total number of all departments in private schools and PPHE’s is 89 and there are 150 majors (programs) within these departments.

Name of Institution	Type	Place	Number of Departments	Number of Programs	Number of Students
1 AAB	University	Prishtina	6	11	4915
2 Akademia e Studimeve te Avancuara Universitare	Academy	Prishtina	1	2	30
3 American University of Kosova	University	Prishtina	1	2	451
4 Amerikos	College	Prishtina	1	1	28
5 Biznes	College	Prishtina	3	9	615
6 Dardania	University	Prishtina	7	22	1514
7 Design Factory	School	Prishtina	1	1	30
8 Ekologji	Faculty	Shterpce	1	1	48
9 Eurosport	College	Prishtina	1	4	79
10 Evolucion	Institute	Prishtina	5	9	56
11 Fama	College	Prishtina	5	10	4570
12 Gjilani	College	Gjilan	4	8	542
13 Iliria	University	Prishtina	3	6	1838
14 Kolegji Univerzitar Ferizaji	College	Ferizaj	3	3	255
15 Kosovo Institute for Journalism and Communication	Institute	Prishtina	2	2	74
16 Pjeter Budi	University	Prishtina	5	11	560
17 Rezonanca	University	Prishtina	5	5	279
18 Riinvest	University	Prishtina	3	7	126
19 Tempulli	College	Prishtina	2	5	300
20 Universiteti i Prizrenit	University	Prizren	7	7	457
21 Universiteti Internacional i Prishtines	University	Prishtina	5	5	220
22 Universiteti per Biznes dhe Teknologji	University	Prishtina	5	5	377
23 Universum	College	Prishtina	5	5	486
24 Victory	College	Prishtina	3	3	132
25 Vizioni Evropian	College	Peja	5	9	940
TOTAL			89	153	18,922

¹⁸ Article 25 of Law on Higher Education in Montenegro

PPHES's in Kosova offer a wide range of programs; however they are mostly focused on the following programs (with an approximate total number of students):

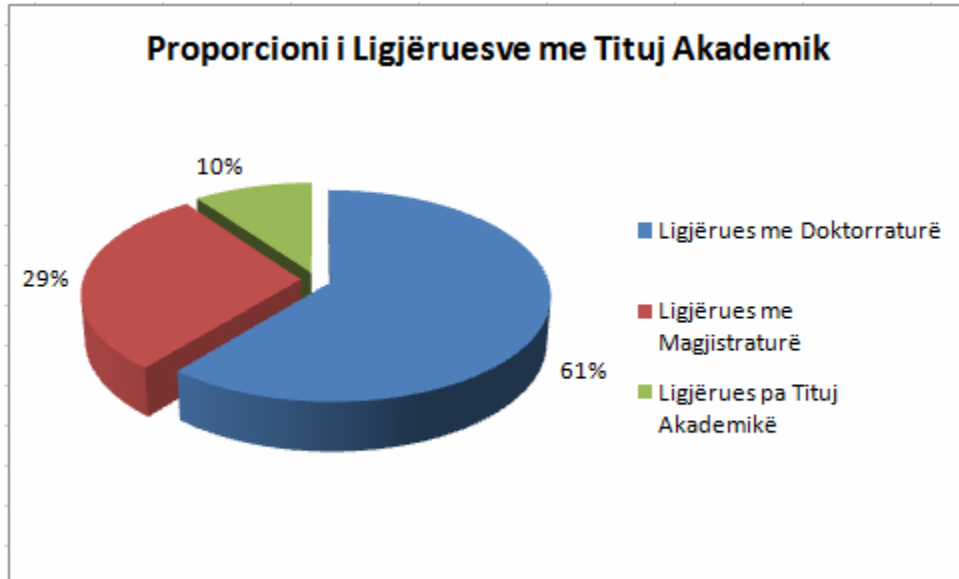
- Economy (8,200 students),
- Law and related (3,600 students),
- Business administration (1,100 students),
- Information technology and related (730 students),
- Criminology (690 students),
- Political science (570 students), and
- Psychology (410 students).

These numbers show that there was a high demand created by students who were seeking to get an education in these fields. However, this does not necessarily imply that the same demand exists from the labor market and the economy in general, which still remains an unknown variable in Kosovo, as there is no study conducted in this direction. One should also bear in mind that the number of students shown above reflects only private providers of higher education; if we add here the number of students from the same fields from the University of Prishtina, then the logical question would be “do we really need so many graduates from this or that field?”

More than half of these institutions have departments of economy and law, as well as many economy and law related programs within these departments. Other programs offered by PPHE's are international relations, diplomacy, education studies, foreign languages, journalism, communication, media production, medical sciences, sports sciences, applied arts, post and telecommunications, transport and roads, customs and insurances, human resources, etc.

Teaching Staff

There are many criteria and conditions that contribute to the value and quality of education in providers of higher education and the teaching staff is certainly one of the main criteria. Just as there are different student numbers throughout different private providers of higher education, the number of teaching staff per institution varies a great deal as well. It ranges from 3 teachers (in an institution with only 30 students) up to 144 teachers (in an institution with close to 5,000 students), with teacher to student ratios ranging from 1:3 up to 1:34. Again because of the different profile of private providers, there are different proportions of teachers with PhDs, master degrees and teachers without academic titles throughout different private providers; however the overall analysis of all institutions shows that the majority of staff have PhDs, around one third have master degrees and the rest are without academic titles.



Although the general picture looks good, the total number of teachers teaching in all 25 private providers is between 750 and 800. Although superficially this may seem a sufficient number of teachers for around 19,000 students in total, the problem is that there are a significant number of teachers teaching in more than one PPHE, which raises doubts about the quality of teaching they can deliver in each of their academic placements. Furthermore, the table below reflects only private providers of higher education and if we assume that many of these teachers also teach at the University of Prishtina, then the number of institutions they teach in increases by one more. From the legal aspect, the law does not regulate in any way whatsoever the limitation of the number of institutions one teacher can teach in.

Category	Number of teachers
Teachers teaching in 6 institutions	2
Teachers teaching in 5 institutions	4
Teachers teaching in 4 institutions	5
Teachers teaching in 3 institutions	22
Teachers teaching in 2 institutions	101

Curriculum

Another crucial criteria contributing to the quality of education is curriculums in general, and more specifically how they are designed and implemented. The curriculums of departments in Kosovo's PPHE's do not differ very much between institutions. Almost all private providers offer studies in economy and law, while there is an increasing interest in the fields of political science, mass communication and criminology. Out of 25 private providers of higher education and the public university, only 3 PPHE's have published the curriculums on their websites.

The criteria for the design of curriculums differ from one institution to another and they are a mixture of European and American practices. Private providers of higher education in Kosova take into account the following criteria when designing their curriculums:

- **Curriculums of other PPHE's**
 - The American University in Kosova (AUK) relies on the curriculums of the Rochester Institute for Technology (RIT);
 - Victory College also relies on curriculums from institutions abroad, more specifically on the University of Political Sciences of Zagreb and Libertas University;
 - University College Gjilani relies on the curriculums of the University of Prishtina;
 - KIJAC (Kosovo Institute of Journalism and Communication) relies on the curriculums of Cardiff University, Nebraska University and Gimlekollen School of Journalism and Communication;
 - University Pjeter Budi is based on curriculums of the Public University Saint Clement of Ohrid;
 - The International University of Prishtina relies on curriculums of Harvard University and Sheffield University.

- **The market demand.**
 - AUK;
 - Universum University;
 - Biznes University;
 - University of European Vision;
 - KIJAC.

- **Criteria from the Bologna Declaration;**
 - Universum University;
 - AAB University;
 - University College for Sports Education Eurosport;
 - University of European Vision;
 - KIJAC;
 - University Pjeter Budi;
 - International University of Prishtina;
 - Riinvest University.

- **The proposal of the teacher of the respective course**
 - Dardania University

Infrastructure

Although not all private providers of higher education shared the information on their infrastructure, the partial picture about the infrastructure of majority of providers in Kosova shows interesting results.

Although the average number of students per classroom (49) may seem an acceptable figure, there are providers where the proportion is much more favorable, with around 19 students per classroom, but also cases where there might be a lack of sufficient space, with around 104 students per classroom. When taking into account auditoriums and labs as well, providers of higher education seem to be less crowded, although one should take into account that not all institutions have auditoriums and labs.

Number	Average	Minimum	Maximum
Students per classroom	49	19	104
Students per teaching space (classrooms, auditoriums, labs)	32	9	72
Offices for staff	9	1	25
Books in Albanian	853	0	6057
Books in English	470	0	2200
Books in other languages	129	0	1000
Students per computer	26	1	300
Computers for staff	19	1	80

PPHE's on average have a sufficient number of books in total, however the collected data show that there are institutions that have no books in one of the main languages used (Albanian or English). On the other hand there are also institutions that reportedly have up to 6,000 books only in Albanian.

On average, PPHE's provide one computer for around 26 students. However, there are a few institutions that can provide one computer for 1-2 students, as well as institutions that are only able to provide one computer for up to 300 students.

Number of PPHE's is High?

The increase of the number of private higher education institutions in Kosovo has led to an increase in the number of students. As the number of private institutions of higher learning in Kosovo grew, so too did the number of students enrolled at those institutions. Compared to the region, Kosovo is more or less at the same level of students with some of the other countries. However, the number of students alone is not a good indicator of the education level or the quality of the education in these institutions. Kosovo has approximately 27,000 students at the University of Prishtina, a public institution of higher education.¹⁹ There are approximately 18,000 students in the PPHE's which brings the total number to 45,000, or approx 2,250 students per 100,000 people (if we take the population of Kosovo to be 2 million). The table below shows the number of students per 100,000 for the region and selected developed countries.

Country	Number of students in higher education	Population Estimates (millions)	Number of students per 100,000 people
Albania	86,178	3.14	2,749
Macedonia	57,011	2.04	2,793
Serbia	238,710	7.40	3,226
Bosnia	93,686	4.31	2,173
Kosovo	46,196	2.00	2,310
France	2,254,000	63.57	3,546
Germany	1,979,043	82.32	2,404

Since 1999, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology licensed 30 PPHE's in Kosovo. 24 of them are currently active as institutions that offer classes to students and have students registered. For the rest, either their licenses have expired, or they have not started offering services yet. There is also one institution that has not yet applied for a license.

Although many of these institutions do not meet the criteria to be called universities and have not been licensed as universities, they still have "University" in their names. There are 89 departments, and 150 programs (majors) within these numbers. Compared to the region, this number is too high.

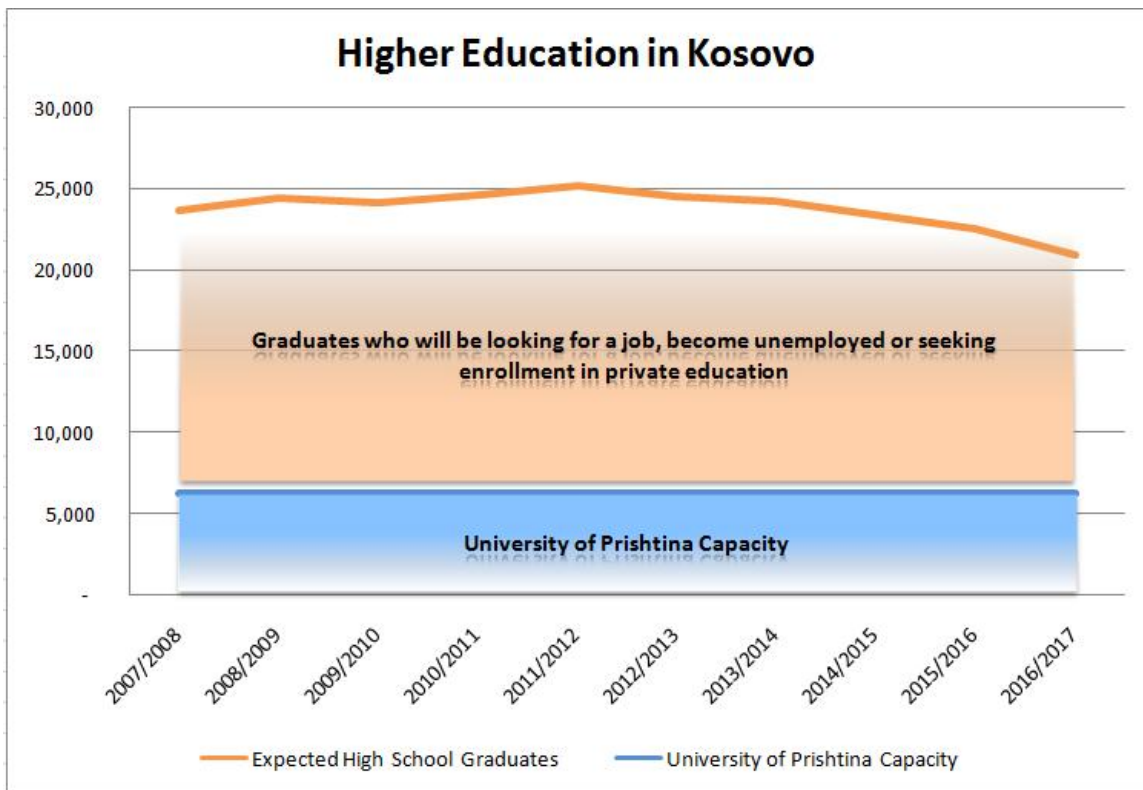
¹⁹ SOK, statistics on education 2006/2007; this does not include the number of students in the University of Mitrovica

Why the increase in numbers?

From 24 active licensed institutions of higher education in Kosovo, there is only one institution that is not-for-profit. All the other institutions have private owners and are as much business enterprises as they are institutions of higher education. However, we should note that this is not unheard of in the developed and developing world. Although many world renowned universities are non-public, not-for-profit institutions, there are still a great number of universities around the world, including developed countries, where universities and higher education institutions are for profit business enterprises.

In Kosovo, The Private Higher Education Sector in Kosovo is worth approximately €26.5 million. This is the total amount that students paid in 2007 for their education in these institutions. The fee for a year of study at a PPHE in Kosovo ranges from 900 – 5,150 €. The amount of revenues that is available in the education system provided the incentive for establishment of new institutions.

Looking at the number of students that are in primary and high schools, the average number of students that will be graduating from high school over the next ten years is approximately 24,000 students per year. This is based on the population structure and the trends in recent years. Of course not all of them will be seeking university education; however the private education system was able to attract many of them. The University of Prishtina absorbs approximately 6,300 of these graduates per year. The rest choose to go into the private system, or look for a job.



Reasons for an increasing number of students in the private education system

There are several reasons why the high school graduates are looking for education, and more specifically, private institution education.

Unemployment – Currently the official unemployment rate in Kosovo is approximately 44 percent and with an increasing trend. The young population of Kosovo enters the labor market in high numbers every year. The current economic growth level of Kosovo does not allow for the absorption of these new entrants. When a high school graduate is examining his/her options they have two choices a) look for a job and hopefully get one or b) continue the university education with the hope that the degree/diploma will increase their chances of employment. Currently option A happens only for a limited number of people. The others are listed as unemployed or university students. Currently more people are looking for the second option.

University of Prishtina – Only 6,300 students make it into the University of Prishtina, and enjoy the benefits of an inexpensive public education system. There are also a lot of cases when students who can afford it are looking for a better education, better conditions and better motivated professors, who are paid more at private PPHE's than they are paid in the public University of Prishtina. The rest have to look for a job. Some of them do find a job. Majority of them do not get a job and as a result will either count as unemployed or they want to continue their studies. While this report has not analyzed the quality of the classes and the courses offered at the University of Prishtina, the goal of better education certainly seems to be a motivation for many of the students to choose some of these universities.

Flexible Classes – In order to attract working students who can afford a more expensive education, many of the private institutions of higher education are offering more flexible ways to study, from evening classes, to more flexible exam options for students.

Focus on the Degree – When unemployment in a country is high, there are many applicants for job openings. As a result, the criteria for candidates for every job position increases. A university degree becomes a precondition for most of the job openings. This is the case for many job openings in the government. A good candidate will be thrown out of the competition if s/he does not have a university degree even though s/he might be a better candidate for a job. There are many cases when people who have worked for international organizations cannot get a job at the government because of the degree even though they are better than the other candidates. In these situations, these people are just looking for a degree to put on the CV. If the main prerequisite is the degree, the focus is on the degree and not on the quality of education that they are getting.

Way forward

Since economic growth in Kosovo is not going to improve overnight, unemployment will still be a problem for years to come, and the economy will not be able to absorb the new entrants into the labor

market, we expect that the demand for private university education will stay at least the same if not increase.

One of Kosovo's main potential resources is its young population. However, because of the high current unemployment levels, as well as the low current economic growth level, the young population is currently a liability much more than an asset. Education sector policy is one of the key tools in transforming this liability into an asset. In terms of higher education the focus should be on the quality of education that best equips the young labor force with the skills that are needed for today's market.

Two Options

There are basically two general ways in which the way forward can be constructed.

1. *The market determines the quality of PPHE's*

This means that almost everyone who applies for a license and meets the basic criteria to become an institution of higher private education in Kosovo gets the license. Following that, the accreditation. The market should then sort itself out. This implies that the demand for an institution would change in relation to the quality of services it provides. If the quality and the conditions are not good at an institution, the students would go less and less every year to that PPHE until that PPHE is forced to leave the market. If the quality is good and the perception is that the PPHE offers value for money, then more and more students would seek to attend that institution.

However, in this option, there is a market failure that has to be addressed. With a classic case of imperfect information, high school graduates do not have the full information about the quality of institutions required to make an informed decision on where to attend. Currently, they rely on hearsay stories from students attending various institutions as well as the overall public perception of these institutions. The role of the government in this case would be to provide that information to the public so that the market can function better.

This can be done through a grading system that can either be done through the accreditation body (by implementing the law on higher education, section on quality assessment) or through a self regulation system which would be administered by some sort of an association of institutions of private higher education in Kosovo. They would be in charge of Education in Kosovo. A quality assessment should include a set of grading each university on a set of criteria. This grading would be done every year, and would be a transparent method of providing information to the students on the quality of the PPHE's. This would also provide an incentive to the PPHE's to improve the services that they offer. The current law in force makes provisions for this kind of procedure, but implementation was never followed through. According to the law on the Kosovo Accreditation Agency, the accreditation body would need to evaluate the quality of the private institutions of higher education and make that evaluation public.

We would qualify that requirement with some sort of unitary, standardized evaluation that could be done yearly, by the accreditation body or by an independent institution chosen by the association of institutions of higher education in Kosovo.

2. *The government closes down the institutions that do not meet the tough criteria*

In this case, the government would play the role of quality filter and would shut down the PPHE's that do not meet the elevated criteria. In this scenario, the responsible institutions would make the licensing criteria much more concrete than they are currently. The government would specify the infrastructure that is required, the number of professors with certain degrees, and other criteria that are required.

In this option, the government should also bear in mind the students who are currently attending these institutions that do not meet the tough criteria to become a PPHE. There should be a solution that would ensure that their previous investment is not lost.

If the accreditation agency goes with this option it would also be recommended that it provide an improvement period to the educational institutions. For example, if a PPHE does not meet certain criteria, the problems are clearly communicated to the institution, and the institution is given period of time to improve on the set of condition. It is also clearly communicated to the university that if they do not meet the criteria in the given time, they will be shut down.

Recommendations

The Institute for Advanced Studies GAP recommends to the government of Kosovo the more liberal policy of the market forces determining which PPHE's should stay in the market. GAP also recommends that the government tries to remedy the market failure of imperfect information, where high school graduates seeking higher education enrollment, would have the information on the quality of each institution. In this direction there are several options:

- The government should implement as soon as possible section 11.10 of the Law on Higher Education, where the Ministry should set the rules for a quality assessment of the Providers of Higher Education and make them publicly available. The quality assessment when made public will provide the students with the information on the quality of the institutions. The quality assessment should include the university of Prishtina as prescribed by the law.
- The quality assessment should be done on regular basis and in a standardized format (i.e. on annual basis and on specific criteria). PPHE's would then have the incentive to improve on their weaknesses; and
- The assessment should be carried out in an independent way. The quality assessment criteria and process should be done in consultation with the PPHE's.

If the Government of Kosovo chooses option 2, then GAP recommends the following steps:


- The administrative directive determining the licensing criteria should become much more concrete, because currently it is too vague and the government will be accused of biased selection
- The results of the licensing process should be clearly communicated to each university
- The institution should be given enough time to meet the criteria where they have weaknesses;
- If the institution does not meet the criteria in the given time, then it should be shut down;
- The government and the university that is being shut down, should draft a clear exit strategy to accommodate the students who are already studying in these institutions;

Whichever option it chooses, there are other things that the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology, the Kosovo Accreditation Agency and PPHE's can do. GAP also recommends the other steps:

- The law on higher education should be implemented better. Although only one institution of higher private education meets the standard of being called a university (3,000 students) many of these are licensed as universities, and even more advertise as universities. The Ministry of Education, Science and Technology should complete the legal framework as prescribed by law. In many cases the Administrative Instructions should improve to make the legislation more concrete.
- There are many cases of professors teaching at multiple PPHE's (two cases of professors teaching at 6 institutions at the same time). This raises issues of the commitment of these professors to each of these institutions and the quality of classes. The government should come up with a clear policy decision whether this is an acceptable norm. GAP does not think this is acceptable and there should be a limit on the number of institutions that a professor can teach at.
- The University of Prishtina is part of the higher education system in Kosovo. The quality assessment and other legislation should include the University of Prishtina, in order to improve transparency and competition in the higher education system.
- GAP calls for more transparency throughout the sector. During the research, we found enormous resistance on the part of some of the institutions of higher education to provide information which according to the law should be considered public information. With that in mind, we are publishing the factsheet in Annex 1 of this report, with the main results for each university. We call upon the accreditation agency to conduct their accreditation in an open, transparent and very public manner. This would greatly improve the flow of information in this sector.
- The Ministry of Education and the government of Kosovo should also think about other types of education, namely vocational education. If the goal is to equip the young labor with skills required by today's market, the four-year education system is not the only way. There could be programs that could achieve the same goal for some of the people in shorter time and with less

resources. This is no way means that people should not seek university degrees. On the contrary, Kosovo needs a combination of the two.

ANNEX 1 – University Profiles

	
Departments (11)	
Economy	Law
Foreign Languages	Massive Communication
Musical Arts	Figurative Arts
Aplicative Arts	Criminology
Physical Education	Education
Philology	
General Information	
Number of Students	4915
Cost (From-To)	900 - 1800 €
Cost for Master Studies	N/A
Number of Teachers	144
Teachers with PhD.	65
Teachers with Masters	64
Teachers with no academic titles	15
Number of Staff	56
Number of Classrooms	60
Number of Amphitheatres	8
Number of Labs	9
Number of Offices	25
Number of Books in Albanian	N/A
Number of Books in English	N/A
Number of Books in Other languages	N/A
Staff Computers with Internet Access	80
Student Computers with Internet Access	220




Akademia e Studimeve te Avancuara


Departments (1)


Economy


General Information


Number of Students	30
Cost (From-To)	N/A
Cost for Master Studies	1,820 €
Number of Teachers	3
Teachers with PhD.	3
Teachers with Masters	N/A
Teachers with no academic titles	N/A
Number of Staff	1
Number of Classrooms	1
Number of Amphitheatres	N/A
Number of Labs	1
Number of Offices	1
Number of Books in Albanian	40
Number of Books in English	890
Number of Books in Other languages	N/A
Staff Computers with Internet Access	2
Student Computers with Internet Access	30


 Akademia Evolucion	
Departments (5)	
Fashion Design	Communication Design - Multimedia
Arts	Interior Design
Drama	
General Information	
Number of Students	56
Cost (From-To)	1,100 €
Cost for Master Studies	N/A
Number of Teachers	17
Teachers with PhD.	3
Teachers with Masters	9
Teachers with no academic titles	5
Number of Staff	3
Number of Classrooms	2
Number of Amphitheatres	N/A
Number of Labs	4
Number of Offices	2
Number of Books in Albanian	N/A
Number of Books in English	N/A
Number of Books in Other languages	N/A
Staff Computers with Internet Access	1
Student Computers with Internet	7


 Ameri-Kos	
Departments (1)	
Nursery	
General Information	
Number of Students	28
Cost (From-To)	N/A
Cost for Master Studies	N/A
Number of Teachers	N/A
Teachers with PhD.	N/A
Teachers with Masters	N/A
Teachers with no academic titles	N/A
Number of Staff	N/A
Number of Classrooms	N/A
Number of Amphitheatres	N/A
Number of Labs	N/A
Number of Offices	N/A
Number of Books in Albanian	N/A
Number of Books in English	N/A
Number of Books in Other languages	N/A
Staff Computers with Internet Access	N/A
Student Computers with Internet	N/A


 American University of Kosova (AUK)	
Departments (1)	
Economy	
General Information	
Number of Students	451
Cost (From-To)	5,150 €
Cost for Master Studies	15,000 €
Number of Teachers	39
Teachers with PhD.	10
Teachers with Masters	29
Teachers with no academic titles	N/A
Number of Staff	40
Number of Classrooms	12
Number of Amphitheatres	1
Number of Labs	4
Number of Offices	11
Number of Books in Albanian	N/A
Number of Books in English	2000
Number of Books in Other languages	N/A
Staff Computers with Internet Access	47
Student Computers with Internet	245


 Universiteti Biznesi	
Departments (3)	
Economy	Law
Emergencies	
General Information	
Number of Students	615
Cost (From-To)	1,200 €
Cost for Master Studies	N/A
Number of Teachers	45
Teachers with PhD.	35
Teachers with Masters	10
Teachers with no academic titles	N/A
Number of Staff	9
Number of Classrooms	10
Number of Amphitheatres	2
Number of Labs	1
Number of Offices	7
Number of Books in Albanian	500
Number of Books in English	200
Number of Books in Other languages	N/A
Staff Computers with Internet Access	15
Student Computers with Internet	30


 Universiteti Dardania	
Departments (7)	
Economy	Law
Political Sciences	Psychology
Foreign Languages	Communication Science and Technology
International Economical and Diplomatic Relations	
General Information	
Number of Students	1514
Cost (From-To)	1,300 - 1,500 €
Cost for Master Studies	1,900 €
Number of Teachers	59
Teachers with PhD.	39
Teachers with Masters	19
Teachers with no academic titles	1
Number of Staff	23
Number of Classrooms	16
Number of Amphitheatres	2
Number of Labs	3
Number of Offices	5
Number of Books in Albanian	1356
Number of Books in English	103
Number of Books in Other languages	1
Staff Computers with Internet Access	22
Student Computers with Internet	63

	
Departments (1)	
Fashion Design	
General Information	
Number of Students	30
Cost (From-To)	N/A
Cost for Master Studies	N/A
Number of Teachers	N/A
Teachers with PhD.	N/A
Teachers with Masters	N/A
Teachers with no academic titles	N/A
Number of Staff	N/A
Number of Classrooms	N/A
Number of Amphitheatres	N/A
Number of Labs	N/A
Number of Offices	N/A
Number of Books in Albanian	N/A
Number of Books in English	N/A
Number of Books in Other languages	N/A
Staff Computers with Internet Access	N/A
Student Computers with Internet	N/A


 Universiteti Ekologji	
Departments (1)	
Ecology	
General Information	
Number of Students	48
Cost (From-To)	N/A
Cost for Master Studies	N/A
Number of Teachers	N/A
Teachers with PhD.	N/A
Teachers with Masters	N/A
Teachers with no academic titles	N/A
Number of Staff	N/A
Number of Classrooms	N/A
Number of Amphitheatres	N/A
Number of Labs	N/A
Number of Offices	N/A
Number of Books in Albanian	N/A
Number of Books in English	N/A
Number of Books in Other languages	N/A
Staff Computers with Internet Access	N/A
Student Computers with Internet	N/A


 Kolegji Universitar "Eurosport"	
Departments (1)	
Sports	
General Information	
Number of Students	79
Cost (From-To)	1,500 €
Cost for Master Studies	N/A
Number of Teachers	16
Teachers with PhD.	13
Teachers with Masters	3
Teachers with no academic titles	N/A
Number of Staff	8
Number of Classrooms	4
Number of Amphitheatres	N/A
Number of Labs	N/A
Number of Offices	5
Number of Books in Albanian	200
Number of Books in English	80
Number of Books in Other languages	425
Staff Computers with Internet Access	4
Student Computers with Internet	18


 Kolegji Universitar "FAMA"	
Departments (5)	
Economy	Law
Political Science	Computer Science
Psychology	
General Information	
Number of Students	4570
Cost (From-To)	N/A
Cost for Master Studies	N/A
Number of Teachers	47
Teachers with PhD.	N/A
Teachers with Masters	N/A
Teachers with no academic titles	N/A
Number of Staff	N/A
Number of Classrooms	N/A
Number of Amphitheatres	N/A
Number of Labs	N/A
Number of Offices	N/A
Number of Books in Albanian	N/A
Number of Books in English	N/A
Number of Books in Other languages	N/A
Staff Computers with Internet Access	N/A
Student Computers with Internet	N/A


 Kolegji Universitar "Gjilani"	
Departments (8)	
Economy	Law
Foreign Languages	Social Sciences
Arts	Technical
Education	Psychology
General Information	
Number of Students	542
Cost (From-To)	1,000 - 1,300 €
Cost for Master Studies	N/A
Number of Teachers	34
Teachers with PhD.	27
Teachers with Masters	7
Teachers with no academic titles	N/A
Number of Staff	7
Number of Classrooms	10
Number of Amphitheatres	1
Number of Labs	1
Number of Offices	8
Number of Books in Albanian	500
Number of Books in English	300
Number of Books in Other languages	N/A
Staff Computers with Internet Access	10
Student Computers with Internet	40


 Universiteti ILIRIA	
Departments (6)	
Economy	Law
Menaxhment and Information	International Business
International Relations and Diplomacy	Political Science
General Information	
Number of Students	1838
Cost (From-To)	N/A
Cost for Master Studies	N/A
Number of Teachers	N/A
Teachers with PhD.	N/A
Teachers with Masters	N/A
Teachers with no academic titles	N/A
Number of Staff	N/A
Number of Classrooms	N/A
Number of Amphitheatres	N/A
Number of Labs	N/A
Number of Offices	N/A
Number of Books in Albanian	N/A
Number of Books in English	N/A
Number of Books in Other languages	N/A
Staff Computers with Internet Access	N/A
Student Computers with Internet	N/A


 KIJAC	
Departments (2)	
Graphical Design (print and web)	Broadcasting (Radio dhe TV)
General Information	
Number of Students	74
Cost (From-To)	N/A
Cost for Master Studies	600 €
Number of Teachers	28
Teachers with PhD.	15
Teachers with Masters	12
Teachers with no academic titles	1
Number of Staff	17
Number of Classrooms	2
Number of Amphitheatres	1
Number of Labs	1
Number of Offices	7
Number of Books in Albanian	N/A
Number of Books in English	736
Number of Books in Other languages	N/A
Staff Computers with Internet Access	28
Student Computers with Internet	60


 Kolegji Universitar "Ferizaji"	
Departments (3)	
Economy	Law
Education	
General Information	
Number of Students	255
Cost (From-To)	N/A
Cost for Master Studies	N/A
Number of Teachers	N/A
Teachers with PhD.	N/A
Teachers with Masters	N/A
Teachers with no academic titles	N/A
Number of Staff	N/A
Number of Classrooms	N/A
Number of Amphitheatres	N/A
Number of Labs	N/A
Number of Offices	N/A
Number of Books in Albanian	N/A
Number of Books in English	N/A
Number of Books in Other languages	N/A
Staff Computers with Internet Access	N/A
Student Computers with Internet	N/A


 Universiteti "Pjetër Budi"	
Departments (4)	
Customs	Insurances
Human Resources	Tourism and Hotels
General Information	
Number of Students	560
Cost (From-To)	1,395 - 1,890 €
Cost for Master Studies	N/A
Number of Teachers	60
Teachers with PhD.	45
Teachers with Masters	5
Teachers with no academic titles	10
Number of Staff	N/A
Number of Classrooms	10
Number of Amphitheatres	1
Number of Labs	3
Number of Offices	10
Number of Books in Albanian	2000
Number of Books in English	N/A
Number of Books in Other languages	1000
Staff Computers with Internet Access	20
Student Computers with Internet	100


 Universiteti "Rezonanca"	
Departments (5)	
Medical School	Pharmacy
Physiotherapy	Radiology
Stomatology	
General Information	
Number of Students	279
Cost (From-To)	3,000 - 4,700 €
Cost for Master Studies	N/A
Number of Teachers	100
Teachers with PhD.	50
Teachers with Masters	24
Teachers with no academic titles	26
Number of Staff	21
Number of Classrooms	4
Number of Amphitheatres	4
Number of Labs	11
Number of Offices	9
Number of Books in Albanian	1455
Number of Books in English	150
Number of Books in Other languages	9
Staff Computers with Internet Access	12
Student Computers with Internet	40


 Universiteti Riinvest	
Departments (7)	
Business Economy	Banking and Finance Management
Computer Science	Business Information
International Business	Business Administration
Telecommunication	
General Information	
Number of Students	126
Cost (From-To)	1,800 €
Cost for Master Studies	2,400 €
Number of Teachers	37
Teachers with PhD.	23
Teachers with Masters	9
Teachers with no academic titles	5
Number of Staff	13
Number of Classrooms	6
Number of Amphitheatres	1
Number of Labs	2
Number of Offices	15
Number of Books in Albanian	149
Number of Books in English	587
Number of Books in Other languages	56
Staff Computers with Internet Access	38
Student Computers with Internet	71


 Universiteti Tempulli	
Departments (2)	
Land Transportation and Freight	
Post and Telecommunication	
General Information	
Number of Students	300
Cost (From-To)	1,950 €
Cost for Master Studies	N/A
Number of Teachers	40
Teachers with PhD.	36
Teachers with Masters	4
Teachers with no academic titles	N/A
Number of Staff	4
Number of Classrooms	4
Number of Amphitheatres	1
Number of Labs	2
Number of Offices	6
Number of Books in Albanian	200
Number of Books in English	100
Number of Books in Other languages	350
Staff Computers with Internet Access	2
Student Computers with Internet	1


 Universiteti i Biznesit dhe Teknologjise - (UBT)	
Departments (5)	
Menagement, Business and Economy	IT and Engineering
Law, Political Science and Diplomacy	Architechure and Spatial Planning
Public Health and Social Sciences	
General Information	
Number of Students	377
Cost (From-To)	N/A
Cost for Master Studies	N/A
Number of Teachers	106
Teachers with PhD.	N/A
Teachers with Masters	N/A
Teachers with no academic titles	N/A
Number of Staff	N/A
Number of Classrooms	N/A
Number of Amphitheatres	N/A
Number of Labs	N/A
Number of Offices	N/A
Number of Books in Albanian	N/A
Number of Books in English	N/A
Number of Books in Other languages	N/A
Staff Computers with Internet Access	N/A
Student Computers with Internet	N/A

 Universiteti i Prizrenit	
Departments (7)	
Economy	Law
Political Science	Computer Science
Psychology	Foreign Languages
Architecture	
General Information	
Number of Students	457
Cost (From-To)	1300 - 1700 €
Cost for Master Studies	N/A
Number of Teachers	56
Teachers with PhD.	31
Teachers with Masters	22
Teachers with no academic titles	3
Number of Staff	20
Number of Classrooms	13
Number of Amphitheatres	2
Number of Labs	2
Number of Offices	10
Number of Books in Albanian	6057
Number of Books in English	104
Number of Books in Other languages	55
Staff Computers with Internet Access	20
Student Computers with Internet	35

 Kolegji Universitar "Vizioni European"	
Departments (5)	
Economy	Law
Food Technology	Computer Science
Education	
General Information	
Number of Students	940
Cost (From-To)	1,200 €
Cost for Master Studies	1,200 €
Number of Teachers	70
Teachers with PhD.	45
Teachers with Masters	24
Teachers with no academic titles	N/A
Number of Staff	23
Number of Classrooms	9
Number of Amphitheatres	2
Number of Labs	2
Number of Offices	7
Number of Books in Albanian	50
Number of Books in English	15
Number of Books in Other languages	N/A
Staff Computers with Internet Access	1
Student Computers with Internet	50

 Universiteti Internacional i Prishtinës	
Departments (5)	
Economy	Menagement
Business	Financial Accounting
Trade	
General Information	
Number of Students	220
Cost (From-To)	1,200 €
Cost for Master Studies	1,200 €
Number of Teachers	29
Teachers with PhD.	16
Teachers with Masters	5
Teachers with no academic titles	8
Number of Staff	8
Number of Classrooms	9
Number of Amphitheatres	N/A
Number of Labs	7
Number of Offices	6
Number of Books in Albanian	211
Number of Books in English	42
Number of Books in Other languages	37
Staff Computers with Internet Access	5
Student Computers with Internet	32

 Kolegji Universitar "UNIVERSUM"	
Departments (4)	
Business Management	Public Admin. And Intern. Relations
Customs	Education
General Information	
Number of Students	486
Cost (From-To)	1,127 €
Cost for Master Studies	N/A
Number of Teachers	62
Teachers with PhD.	44
Teachers with Masters	14
Teachers with no academic titles	4
Number of Staff	23
Number of Classrooms	26
Number of Amphitheatres	4
Number of Labs	2
Number of Offices	13
Number of Books in Albanian	830
Number of Books in English	2200
Number of Books in Other languages	100
Staff Computers with Internet Access	24
Student Computers with Internet	52

 Kolegji Universitar "Victory"	
Departments (3)	
International Politics and Diplomacy	
Banking, Finances and Insurances Management	
Economy - Foreign Trade	
General Information	
Number of Students	132
Cost (From-To)	2,200 €
Cost for Master Studies	2,500 €
Number of Teachers	29
Teachers with PhD.	10
Teachers with Masters	9
Teachers with no academic titles	10
Number of Staff	12
Number of Classrooms	5
Number of Amphitheatres	1
Number of Labs	2
Number of Offices	9
Number of Books in Albanian	97
Number of Books in English	17
Number of Books in Other languages	32
Staff Computers with Internet Access	17
Student Computers with Internet	30

