



STUDIJŲ KOKYBĖS VERTINIMO CENTRAS

Vilniaus universiteto  
**STUDIJŲ PROGRAMOS BAUDŽIAMOJI JUSTICIJA** (*valstybinis  
kodas - 621M90028*)  
**VERTINIMO IŠVADOS**

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**EVALUATION REPORT**  
**OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE** (*state code - 621M90028*)  
**STUDY PROGRAMME**  
at Vilnius University

**Experts' team:**

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2. **Prof. dr. Rolf Dotevall,** *academic,*
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Išvados parengtos anglų kalba  
Report language – English

## DUOMENYS APIE ĮVERTINTĄ PROGRAMĄ

Studijų programos pavadinimas	<i>Baudžiamoji justicija</i>
Valstybinis kodas	621M90028
Studijų sritis	Socialiniai mokslai
Studijų kryptis	Teisė
Studijų programos rūšis	Universitetinės studijos
Studijų pakopa	antroji
Studijų forma (trukmė metais)	Nuolatinė (1,5)
Studijų programos apimtis kreditais	90
Suteikiamas laipsnis ir (ar) profesinė kvalifikacija	Teisės magistras
Studijų programos įregistravimo data	2012-05-18

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## INFORMATION ON EVALUATED STUDY PROGRAMME

Title of the study programme	<i>Criminal Justice</i>
State code	621M90028
Study area	Social Sciences
Study field	Law
Type of the study programme	University studies
Study cycle	second
Study mode (length in years)	Full-time (1,5)
Volume of the study programme in credits	90
Degree and (or) professional qualifications awarded	Master of Law
Date of registration of the study programme	18-05-2012

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## I. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the evaluation process

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### 1.2. General

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

No.	Name of the document

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

The Faculty of Law at Vilnius University is one of 14 faculties at the university. It is the first faculty of law in Lithuania and the oldest institution in Lithuania for legal education and research.

The Faculty of Law has three departments, Departments of Criminal Justice, Private Law and Public Law, which conduct relevant research and education. With the purpose to encourage high quality research seven institutes are established at the faculty. Among these are the Institute of International and European Law, the Institute of Administrative law, the Institute of Tax law and the Institute of Public Finance.

The Criminal Justice (hereafter abbreviated as: CJMP) as well as the other two graduate programmes in the Faculty – The European Union Business Law and Public Law are designed for individuals who have successfully completed undergraduate studies in the field of law. The Faculty also provides integrated study programme Law and Master Degree programme LL.M.

International and European Law targeted exclusively at those trained and possessing a law degree obtained abroad. What is more, the Faculty provides a possibility for college graduates with professional legal bachelor degree who seek competences, required to continue university studies in the field of law, and to gain Master's degree in law.

#### **1.4. The Review Team**

The review team was completed according *Description of experts' recruitment*, approved by order No. 1-01-151 of Acting Director of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education. The Review Visit to HEI was conducted by the team on 10 May 2016.

Dr. Kristi Joamets could not take part in the site visit while she was fully integrated in the review process in all its other elements, partly due to use of electronically supported consultation.

1. **Prof. dr. jur. Jürgen Kohler (team leader)**, professor of civil law and civil procedure, Greifswald University, Germany.
2. **Prof. dr. Rolf Dotevall**, professor of commercial law, University of Gothenburg, Sweden.
3. **Dr. Kristi Joamets**, lecturer in business law, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia.
4. **Mrs Dovilė Satkauskienė**, director of the Bailiff's Chamber of Lithuania, Lithuania.
5. **Ms Janine Wulz**, research student in social sciences, University of Vienna, Austria.

#### **General observations:**

Considering the quality features of the programme in line with the quality criteria of study programmes as defined in the current SKVC 'Methodology for Evaluation of Higher Education Study Programmes', the team evaluated the master-level study programme 'Criminal Justice' (state code - 621M90028) provided by Vilnius University in Vilnius with regard to the following items:

- Programme aims and learning outcomes;
- Curriculum design;
- Teaching staff;
- Facilities and learning resources;
- Study process and students' performance assessment;
- Programme management;
- Examples of excellence (where applicable).

Each of these items was considered in view of specific sub-items, as indicated in the SKVC methodology; these will be identified when reporting on each of the aforesaid items.

The review team made and verified the following observations, based on the self-evaluation report and documentation provided and on the information given during the site visit.

## **II. PROGRAMME ANALYSIS**

### **2.1. Programme aims and learning outcomes**

The evaluation of programme aims and learning outcomes considered and assessed the following criteria:

**a) Well-defined and clear programme aims and learning outcomes, publicly accessible:**

The programme is intended for students who have successfully completed undergraduate studies in the field of law and wish to prepare for independent research work or other work that requires scholarly knowledge and skills to analyse and apply it. The Programme is focused on practical activities and is of applied nature, but much attention is paid to research, and studies are arranged and executed so as to train students as responsible and proactive professionals with a wide knowledge and need for continuous professional development.

VU (SER p.7-8, Annex No 5 to the SER) states the following programme aims and attaches the following learning outcomes to them: (1) training specialists in the fields of administration of justice and legal services possessing comprehensive and profound knowledge about criminal policy in Lithuania and the European Union, and about the specificity of criminal law and criminal procedure as well as international legal assistance in criminal cases and its different institutes; (2) to train qualified legal specialist who are able to think critically and perform individual scientific research, solve intricate problems related to law-making and application of legal acts in the contexts of national, EU and international law.

VU has specified concrete intended learning outcomes in terms of generic and subject-specific competences in relation to CJMP programme aims in the Descriptor of Study Cycles (SER p. 8-9). Referencing these in detail to the overarching aspects is accomplished and provided in VU documentation (Annex No 5, to the SER).

The review team judges that the aforementioned aims and intended learning outcomes (competences) are sufficiently well-defined and clear in general terms.

The programme aims and learning outcomes are publicly accessible. The aims and objectives of the study programme and the aforementioned 'Description of Study Cycle' is to be found on the website of VU Faculty of Law and in the Catalogue of VU Study Programmes, as well as in the 'AIKOS'.

**b) Reference of programme aims and learning outcomes to academic and/or professional requirements, public needs and the needs of the labour market:**

VU Law Faculty operates a scheme and process to ensure alignment of programme aims and learning outcomes to academic and professional requirements and public as well as employment needs. This feature can be seen as strength of the programme.

The Law Faculty identifies the following main professional opportunities for CJMP graduates (SER p.8; p.10): possibility to get a job position in the systems of administration of justice and prosecutor's office, police, various ministries and their sub-institutions, some other pre-trial investigation institutions, business organizations, institutions of science and education, international organizations and EU institutions. These opportunities cover a broad spectrum of different positions from prospective prosecutor, judge, pre-trial investigator (public sector) to advocate (private sector) and academic research (formation of criminal policy); in the main, the CJMP programme is oriented to prepare civil servant working in the field of criminal justice. According to the SER (p. 10), CJMP is intended to promptly respond to the latest market requirements in the area of criminal justice.

The CJMP helps students to acquire not only general competencies, but subject specific, which a law programme at bachelor level cannot accomplish. The CJMP is of niche nature and appears to be the only programme of the University with no alternatives as regards social science integrated programmes in the field of law. This master programme seems to meet demand of the public sector in Lithuania, judiciary and the government.

The CJMP was launched in 2012. The positive modification of the programme was made with regard to students' request (see SER p. 13) for increasing the number of optional course units in Semester 1 with new "Comparative Criminal Proceedings", in Semester 2 with "Scientific Evidence in Criminal Proceedings" and by specifying several course unit descriptions. This change appeared to be reasonable due to the predominant intake of Lithuanian students and their competencies.

During the site visit the expert team heard that the description of the compulsory subject "Issues of Qualification of Crimes" was changed to adapt it so that it complies with the subject content and meets the needs of employers, for example of prosecutors. This is an inter-disciplinary subject, which combines criminal law, criminal law procedure and philosophy aspects. The course is based on examination of rules which are categorized as criminal offences. Students are taught how to establish a link between the offence and the qualification, to clarify the rules determining the correspondence between the offence and the rule of criminal law and other important issues of qualification of crimes.

**c) Consistency between the programme aims and learning outcomes and the type and level of studies and the level of qualifications offered:**

Programme aims and learning outcomes follow the Descriptor of the study field of law. Objectives of the programme and study outcomes are relevant and meet the professional requirements for the programme graduates, provide knowledge, skills and competencies necessary for professional activities, the type and level of studies is appropriate.

In addition, the site visit to VU showed that certain subjects (Prosecution and Defence, and Penitentiary Law) cover professional ethics aspects.

The expert team concludes that VU faculty of law has made sufficient provision to match the standard required for a master programme.

**d) Compatibility of the name of the programme, its learning outcomes, content and the qualifications offered:**

The name of the programme – Criminal Justice, Master Programme – is compatible with its declared learning outcomes, content and qualifications offered.

## ***2.2. Curriculum design***

The evaluation of curriculum design considered and assessed the following criteria:

**a) The curriculum design meets legal requirements:**

The Criminal Justice master's programme consist of 90 credits. In the first and second semester there are compulsory and optional courses; each semester consists of 30 credits. At the end of every course there is an examination. The third semester is dedicated to a master's thesis and final examination. The CJMP lasts for 1.5 years in total. The first part of the programme, located in the first and second semester and covering a total of 60 ECTS credits, is mainly devoted to the

studies of compulsory courses (40 ECTS credits, not counting the ECTS credits for the master thesis) and to optional courses (20 ECTS credits from a choice of optional courses of 40 ECTS credits in total), while the second part of the programme in the third semester (30 ECTS credits) is set aside for writing the compulsory master thesis and taking final examination. The CJMP does not cover more than 5 subjects per semester. According to the study programme design stated, students' individual workload amounts range from 62.7 to 80.5 per cent, except in the third semester, when the master's thesis is being written and preparation for the final exam is done (individual workload reaches up to 95 per cent).

The review team verified the aforesaid features of the CJMP, based on the curriculum information given. The data described above and verified indicate that the CJMP meets legal requirements as outlined in the relevant Order of the Lithuanian Education and Science Minister of 3 June 2010.

**b) Study subjects and/or modules are spread evenly, their themes are not repetitive:**

The CJMP consists not only of compulsory subjects, but also of optional (special) subjects that are required in order to acquire competences of a specialist in criminal law. There are three compulsory course units in the first semester and two optional from four available. In the second semester the proportions are the same. The optional courses are focused to give the students knowledge, which is necessary to match duties in professional practice.

Each obligatory subject/course carries 5 or 10 ECTS credits, each optional subject 5 ECTS credits; the maximum number of credits is 30 ECTS credits per semester, related to writing the master thesis and final examination in the third semester.

The compulsory courses cover more fundamental and principle issues in the area of criminal law, in criminal policy, international and EU criminal law, and international legal assistance. As regards compulsory course units from the first two semesters, one course unit each semester shall be of larger volume (10 ECTS credits). This is related to the main, complex and important subjects within the area of criminal justice – International and EU Criminal Law (Material) in the first semester, and Issues of Qualification of Crimes in the second semester. Other compulsory courses of the first semester cover 'Criminal Liability For Different Types of Crimes' and 'International Legal Assistance in Criminal Cases', compulsory courses of the second semester cover 'Evidence and Substantiation in Criminal Procedure' and 'Prosecution and Defence'.

The optional courses, of which every student must choose two subjects in both the first and the second semester – hence, 10 ECTS credits per semester. The optional courses give the students a possibility to deepen their theoretical knowledge and practical knowledge, strengthen research abilities and develop other specialized skills in specific areas of criminal justice. The list of optional course units also includes more practical subjects (for example, Issues of Sentencing, Procedural Coercion in Criminal Proceedings, *etc.*) which not only broaden and deepen theoretical knowledge but also help to develop skills (for example, to analyse and evaluate court jurisprudence and prosecution practice, to draft prosecution and judicial decisions, *etc.*) for professional activity.

The master's thesis is an individual work, which is written in the third semester of the programme. It is an important purpose of the thesis not only to show the skill in analysing legal problems but also to present it in a paper.

The students are given the opportunity to obtain supervision from the teachers during each course. The students are trained to analyse legal problems and present the results in papers or



orally at seminars. A lot of attention is given to individual work of a student: research work, analysis of court jurisprudence and prosecution practise, thesis writing and other tasks. The review team concludes that the subject of the mandatory and optional subjects/modules is not repetitive, and they are aligned with the Description of the study of law.

**c) The content of the subjects and/or modules is consistent with the type and level of the studies:**

The content of the CJMP modules as well as the definitions of the intended learning outcomes are described in detail in the study course descriptions provided (Annex No 5, to the SER). The review team judges that overall alignment of module title and module content as well as related intended learning outcomes is ensured, with all these elements being consistent with the level of provision expected at master level.

**d) The content and methods of the subjects/modules are appropriate for the achievement of the intended learning outcomes:**

The CJMP study course descriptions outline the content of each module in terms of the legal issues considered and the objective of the module, aligning them to in-detail descriptions of expected competences and thus to intended learning outcomes (Annex 6, to the SER).

VU does not emphasize any specific learning method: lectures, seminars and individual work are all combined and ensure feedback. Students also have an opportunity to consult the teachers during their designated contact hours. Contact hours involve not only the classical teaching methods (classical lecture, explanation, analysis of scholarly material, *etc.*), but also active learning methods (problem-based teaching, learning in groups, brainstorming, discussion, *etc.*).

The teaching and learning methods as well as the assessment methods are described for each course. The learning methods vary from each course depending on the subject that is in focus.

The review team concludes that the content of the subjects/modules/methods are appropriate for the achievement of the intended learning outcomes of the programme.

**e) The scope of the programme is sufficient to ensure learning outcomes:**

The extent of the scope of the Master's Programme in Criminal Justice is judged mainly with regard to the compulsory courses. It is clear that those courses cover important core subjects for advanced studies in criminal law: The compulsory courses cover aspects of criminal liability for different types of crimes, international legal assistance in criminal cases and international and EU criminal law. Other areas are related to evidence and substantiation in criminal procedure, prosecution and defence and issues of qualification if crimes.

The optional courses, two out of four for the both semesters, offer each student a possibility to specialize in a specific area (formatting criminal policy, practise of issuing sentences, constitutional jurisprudence of criminal justice, *etc.*). The optional courses provide deeper theoretical and practical knowledge (for example, to analyse and evaluate court jurisprudence and prosecution practice, to draft prosecution and judicial decisions, *etc.*) for professional activity.

The review team concludes that this structure provides a scope wide enough to cover essentials of the subject matter.

**f) The content of the programme reflects the latest achievements in science, art and technologies:**

VU staff, lecturers are encouraged to engage in research personally, thus making transfer of research experience into teaching and learning likely. During the site visit the expert team heard that usually current academic discussions and results are reflected in the programme in the following way: a) broad discussions with students; b) discussions between lectures in Law faculty cathedrae and c) transferring these ideas to study committee; finally (d), the character and variety of topics of master theses display the current university activity to keep the CJPM up-to-date in terms of academic and professional relevance.

**2.3. Staff**

The evaluation of human resources as an input factor considered and assessed the following criteria concerning qualitative and quantitative features of teaching staff:

**a) The study programme is provided by the staff meeting legal requirements:**

The VU law faculty employs 4 professors, 6 associate professors, 3 lecturers and 1 assistant as teachers for the CLPM. The CVs for those involved in the programme are described in Annex No 1 of the SER. The absolute majority of the teachers are lawyers of high quality holding habilitation or (except one assistant) doctoral degrees in law. Some teachers have university degrees from foreign universities. Many have also gathered experience at foreign universities and research institutions and are active researchers. The study programme is delivered by theorists, practitioners-theorists and practitioners that are constantly engaged in research in the fields related to the subjects they teach. Some teachers have experience as legislators, lawyers and in public administration; the major number of teachers has comprehensive practical experience. Currently, the teacher-student ratio in the programme stands at 1.

Lecturer composition meets formal statutory requirements, i.e. at least 80 per cent of teachers in the second cycle of the studies in the programme must have a scholarly degree (93 per cent of all the teachers of the studies in the programme have a scholarly degree); at least 60 per cent of research activities of the teachers of branch subjects of the second cycle of studies in the programme must comply with the subject taught (90 per cent of research activities of the teachers comply with the subject taught); at least 20 per cent of the total volume of the subjects in the second cycle part of the programme should be taught by teachers holding professor's position (66 per cent of the teachers hold professor's position).

Therefore, the review team concludes that the CJMP meets the requirement for academic staff qualification and average number – at least 20 per cent need to be professors and at least 80 per cent of teachers must have an academic degree – in quantitative terms.

**b) The qualifications of the teaching staff are adequate to ensure learning outcomes:**

All teachers except one involved in the programme have a doctoral degree. They are also engaged in research in criminal law as it is covered in the programme. More than 60 per cent of the teacher's hold professorial positions. The lectures of the programme are active researchers (cf. SER, table 8). This indicates that staff meets the legal requirements, stating that no less than 60 percent of compatibility between taught subjects and research activities is expected.

The programme also engage some highly qualified professionals, such as judges of the Lithuanian Supreme Court, the Constitutional Court, former Minister of Justice, former Vice-minister of Justice, former Government Agent to European Court on Human Rights, former Deputy Attorney General, *etc.*

The review team is convinced that the competence of the staff is very high in terms of academic experience and professional skill.

**c) The number of the teaching staff is adequate to ensure learning outcomes:**

14 teachers are involved in the programme. Most teachers are qualified academics. The number of students is around 13 each year.

The review team concludes that the teaching staff is adequate for the CJMP, both qualitatively and quantitatively.

**d) Teaching staff turnover is able to ensure an adequate provision of the programme:**

Teaching staff represents a fairly stable body of personnel, mainly in areas of professors and assistant professors, which should safeguard stable conditions over time to provide the necessary input to the programme.

The expert team concludes that there is no doubt that the body of highly qualified personnel is sufficient for the provision of the programme.

**e) The higher education institution creates conditions for the professional development of the teaching staff necessary for the provision of the programme:**

The evaluation of lecturers is based on the assessment of the numbers of their scientific publications, participation in conferences, research supervision, lecture delivery, preparation of methodical material, participation in the doctoral process, student research work supervision, expert, organizational and other scientific activities. Teaching proficiency is assessed by means of electronic enquiry of students' impressions of teacher performance. Recently developed survey system investigating students' satisfaction with their studies, course units allow to have a more objective opinion.

The review team did not find awareness of internationalisation in the programme. Even though the CJMP is intensive and takes one and half-year, the expert team raises the question whether the programme could be more explicitly focussed on international aspects of criminal law policy. The term internationalisation "*at home*" may be used to improve current situation and to lead more elements of internationalisation.

VU has several agreements with foreign universities for teachers exchange programme. Faculty teachers go abroad regularly (SER p. 17 note 49). For example, one of the professors of the Faculty has defended his habilitation dissertation abroad (Poland); there are other study programme teachers that have defended their doctoral dissertations abroad (all – in Germany). In the framework of Erasmus and other Faculty agreements on cooperation in 2012, one teacher has been to a university abroad, in 2013 and 2014 – 4 lecturers, in 2015 – 3 lecturers of the CJMP. For example, within the period of 2012-2014, one assoc. professor was abroad at the University of Salzburg (Austria), in 2014 one lecturer – at the University of Bonn (Germany), one professor – at the University of Lodz (Poland) and in 2015 one professor – at the University of Lausanne (Switzerland), in 2015 – one lecturer – Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International

Criminal Law in Freiburg (Germany), *etc.* Each year the Faculty can dispose more than 35 000 € for teachers who want to participate in conferences.

It is clear that teachers involved in the Criminal Justice programme have strong academic competence to guarantee up-to-date standards. Student and graduates emphasised the quality and the way how teachers treat them. Nonetheless, the expert team has an impression based on the interviews with lecturers and students that classic teaching methods as presentations and lectures are dominant. The review team has no strong evidence regarding institutional provision in terms of modern didactics throughout the learning process, providing a decisive shift from teacher-centred lecturing to more student-activating learning experience. The site visit interview showed that the teach-the-teacher facility and didactic support could be improved as regards fostering teaching quality in that direction, which should be seen as an institutional responsibility of the university. The expert team assumes that the faculty should pay even fuller attention to the “European Standards and Guidelines in Quality Assurance 2015” – an integral part of the Yerevan Communiqué promulgated in developing the “European Higher Education Area” – and attach even more importance to such orientation of student centered learning in higher education institutions, while the review team also believes that such elements are already in place in some, albeit not all parts of the teaching process in the CJMP.

The review team concludes that this criterion is met only partially.

**f) The teaching staff of the programme is involved in research directly related to the study programme being reviewed:**

A major number of VU Law Faculty staff is involved in research activities related to the CJMP, and runs conferences in relation to criminal law issues. In effect, it can therefore be concluded that teaching staff is involved in research directly related to the study programme under review. Examples of international research projects implemented by the lecturers are shown in SER p. 18, table 9.

The review team concludes that a vast majority of staff performs research in fields, which are directly related to the programme.

#### ***2.4. Facilities and learning resources***

The evaluation of the facilities and learning resources as an input factor considered and assessed the following criteria concerning qualitative and quantitative features of facilities and learning resources:

**a) Adequacy of the premises for studies, both their size and quality:**

Classrooms and auditorium of the Faculty situated in the campus of Saulėtekis in Vilnius is used. There are different sizes of the classrooms, from 24 places to over 200 places.

VU library is very well equipped and has a wide selection of books in law. Multimedia equipment with Internet connection is installed in almost all auditoriums and in the library. The premises are adapted to disabled people as well.

Conclusion: The review team concludes that the criterion is met. There are enough rooms and other facilities for teaching in VU. There is also a room for ELSA, the European Law Students’ Association, and a cafeteria as well as an area in the main hall of the faculty building where students can buy coffee, work in groups and easily communicate.

**b) Adequacy of the teaching and learning equipment (library and computer equipment, consumables), both in size and quality:**

Stationary multimedia with Internet connection is found in nearly all auditoriums. Students can use wireless Internet, EDUROAM, in the faculty buildings. Centre of Information Technology Development of VU provides various electronic services for students and teachers. There is also a possibility to organise computer-based examinations. Students can access electronic information and learning systems from outside VU locations.

**c) Adequate arrangements of the higher education institutions for students' practice:**

The Faculty, on the basis of bilateral agreements, cooperates with the highest legal institutions of Lithuania: Office of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Court of Lithuania, the Court of Appeals of Lithuania, the Supreme Administrative Court of Lithuania, Vilnius and Kaunas District Courts, the Seimas Ombudsmen's Office, Police department, Prison department and etc. These cooperation agreements provide joint activities in the organisation of conferences, composition of joint working groups for the preparation of reviews and recommendations in the field of legal regulation and possibility to students to get closer to potential employers during voluntary practice (student's practise is not compulsory during CJMP).

**d) Adequacy and accessibility of teaching materials (textbooks, books, periodical publications, databases:**

Students have access to legal databases such as Infolex, Litlex, Beck-online, Westlaw international subscribed by the VU library and others. Students also have access to 28 000 publications available in open fund.

The expert team concludes that the students on the programme are provided with high-quality library resources and adequate databases.

***2.5. Study process and students' performance assessment***

The evaluation of study process and students' performance assessment considered the following criteria:

**a) Well-founded admission requirements:**

Admission to the programme follows the VU Admission Rules. Students admitted to the programme have received a bachelor's degree in law. Also a Bachelor's degree in law from foreign universities is accepted. The review team agrees that admission requirements are well-founded.

Within the academic period of 2013-2015, three students defended their Master theses and took the final examination behind schedule by 6 months. That is to say, they finished the programme at the end of spring semester 2014 and at the end of spring semester 2015. Two students (one was admitted in 2013, the other in 2014, both finished two semesters successfully) are planning to return to studies in 2016 to defend the Master thesis and take the final examination at the end of the autumn semester 2016 and graduate together with the successful applicants of year 2015

(consequently, the number of successful applicants and potential graduates of year 2015 exceeds 100 per cent).

Two students, after having finished two semesters successfully, suspended their studies: one due to difficult personal circumstances and the other due to health issues (the first student was admitted in 2012, the other one in 2014). However, they both are planning to return to studies in 2016 and graduate together with the successful applicants of 2015.

**b) The organisation of the study process ensures an adequate provision of the programme and the achievement of the learning outcomes:**

Several factors contribute to a proper implementation of the programme. All students can get access to information about the studies in different ways. A university website exists which enables students to get answers on the questions they submit. A staff member of the Faculty administration, who is a programme coordinator, provides all useful information about the study process, scholarships and study financing as well.

The Students' Representation body (Student Union) supports students in a broad sense. This body does not only represent student interests in different situations but also arranges a great variety of activities and promotes student traditions.

According to VU regulation, those students who have failed in their studies are given the opportunity to improve their results and continue the study programme. A student who disagrees with the process or result of a specific examination may appeal in written form.

According to table 10 of the SER, which provides additional information on the ratio between successful applicants and the number of graduated students, the success rate is very high, i.e. in 2015 it amounts to 128,6 percent.

If a student cannot continue his or her studies of personal reason he or she may take academic leave.

**c) Students are encourage to participate in research and applied activities:**

There are opportunities for the students in the programme to participate in research-related activities. A student can, for example, join conferences, participate in summer schools and attend guest lectures given at VU. The several centres of foreign law at VU regularly arrange lectures with foreign speakers.

Another opportunity to participate in research activities is membership in the Student Scientific Society (the SSS). Students can do research and present a report in a conference or publish an article.

Students can be engaged in applied activities in the "VU Clinic of Law". This gives the opportunity to gain early experience. In addition, all CJMP studding students are writing a research paper and present it orally against lector during the semester.. Students are fostered in a research-oriented atmosphere to achieve research related quality in their work.

Some practical difficulties to engage students more intensely in current research projects were mentioned during the site visit, for example in cases when a research projects lasts for two or more years (as may, for example and especially, be the case with research based on grants provided by the Research Council of Lithuania; in these cases, students from the master

programme cannot join in because of the duration of master study programme. This causes difficulties to involve students in research activities more comprehensively.

**d) Students have opportunities to participate in student mobility programmes:**

Students can participate in internationalization by means of mobility – ‘internationalization abroad’. Students have the opportunity to study abroad within the ERASMUS-framework. VU has 66 partner universities in the ERASMUS-network. Accepted students emphasized that their current paid work does not allow them to leave abroad to study. According to the information received during the site visit no students from CJMP were participating in mobility programmes.

The international perspective at VU is served. Guest lectures are given which the students can attend. ELSA is also active in VU regarding international perspective. Nonetheless, as mentioned before, there is scope for strengthening aspects of „internationalization at home“, e.g. by making more holistic arrangements for deeper involvement of all students in criminal law and related language competencies in an international dimension. Moreover, there is room for improvement related to short-term mobility.

**e) The higher education institution ensures an adequate level of academic and social support:**

The students at VU can get financial support. Scholarship is granted to students who perform very well. Normally those students do not have any debt when they graduate. There are special, merit-based scholarships awarded to the best students in a specific area of law.

There are also social scholarships available for those students who come from low-income families. There are also scholarships for achievements in culture, sports etc. Students can also take loans from the state and loans from credit institutes which are supported by the state. The purpose of the loan is to pay tuition fees, living costs also during a study period abroad.

The university provides social and academic counselling for all students in separate premises. Moreover, career counselling is provided.

The review team concludes that there is sufficient student support.

**f) The assessment system of students’ performance is clear, adequate and publicly available:**

The assessment system is transparent due to publicly available information. Specific information can be given individually. After implementing the so-called “one-stop shop”, all information about the study process (the study calendar, schedules of lectures and examinations and etc.), tuition fees, scholarships and study financing are provided by a staff member of the Faculty administration, who is a specially appointed programme coordinator.

In addition to this, information about the study process can be provided through VUSIS. Students have access to their own personal data in this system, and they can get information about announcements and rules. The assessment system is clear in principle. An appeals system operates well.

The review team finds the information about the assessment system satisfactory.

**g) Use of methods and strategies for tackling plagiarism and cheating:**

The Master's thesis must be submitted to the department on completion. Then students and teachers have full access to the thesis. At least ten days before the defence the thesis is entered in to the student's database. When the thesis is downloaded to the system, an Electronic Plagiarism Detection System (EPDS) verifies that there is nothing which is not authentic.

To prevent plagiarism and cheating, VU applies different means. At the beginning of the programme students are introduced to the Academic Code of Ethics and other rules which regulate studies at VU. A student who has not behaved according to the mentioned Code of Ethics and the other rules at VU can be expelled from the university.

The review team finds that this criterion is fulfilled.

**h) Professional activities of the majority of graduates meet the programme providers' expectations:**

A survey published in 2010 shows that those who are graduated from VU are in adequate employment. A vast majority of the graduates, 91 per cent, found a job within three months from graduation. A majority, 87 per cent, were of the opinion that their first employment was adequate to their study field. 80 per cent of them answered that they often use the knowledge from their studies professionally.

The VU has a strong ambition to have close connections to employers. VU has also bilateral agreements with the highest official bodies in the country. It is the purpose of the agreements to provide joint activities, such as the establishing of working groups for preparations of reviews and recommendations concerning legal regulation. Potential employers in this network regularly arrange events to facilitate for the students to get familiar with them.

The review team finds that professional activities meet the programme providers' expectation.

## **2.6. Programme management**

The evaluation of programme management considered the following criteria:

**a) Responsibilities for decisions and monitoring of the implementation of the programme are clearly allocated:**

Responsibilities for decision and monitoring of the programme are allocated as follows:

The Committee of the Master's programme for Criminal Justice has been approved by a resolution in 2012 of the VU Senate Commission. The Committee consists of faculty lecturers, student representative, social partner which are named in the SER, p. 27. The main task for the Study Programme Committee is to improve the programme in general. As the basic information for this task, the committee uses the feedback from the faculty departments, students, graduates, lecturer and the partners of the programme. The committee can also initiate surveys among the students and graduates with the purpose to improve the programme.

The faculty administration and the lecturers can use Vilnius University information system (VUSIS) to get information about study plans. This information system gives also the possibility to draw, edit and also to observe changes and improvements in the programme.

The expert team finds that this criterion is met.



**b) Information and data on the implementation of the programme are regularly collected and analysed:**

Information about the student's activity in the programme is collected by means of a survey, which is implemented by the Department for Studies of VU by means of an electronic questionnaire provided by VUSIS. The expert team was informed that the questionnaire is mainly about student experience and satisfaction at module level, i.e. teacher performance; support system, both library and data provision, and counselling are also covered, though to a lesser extent. This survey is done twice a year in the end of each semester. The result is published on the website of the Department for Studies of VU. More detailed information is available for the academic staff on intranet.

The Committee of the Master's programme for Criminal Justice is established which analyses feedback received from Faculty departments, students, graduates, lecturers, social partners on the programme and its implementation, and, in addition to surveys of the Department for Studies, when necessary, it initiates surveys of students and graduates and discusses with them programme improvement possibilities. According to Regulations of the study programme committee, approved by Resolution No. SK-2014-4-1 of the Senate Commission of 6 March 2014, committee meets no less than once per semester (Article 16). Moreover, experts could not find qualitative measures for quality assurance, as regular meetings with students or peer evaluations. Therefore, quality assurance measures should be extended and include diverse methodology.

The experts could not find hard evidence on VU or law faculty quality assurance practices concerning the regular, close inspection of the programme aims with special focus on the intended learning outcomes, the compilation and progression of or in the programme, the support and in particular the assessment processes on a holistic and systematic base. In these respects, systematic enquiries with graduates and social partners should be strengthened.

The review team finds that this criterion is met only partially.

**c) The outcomes of internal and external evaluations of the programme are used for the improvement of the programme:**

Each lecturer of the programme can be informed of the data of the survey mentioned above. Also the chairman of the study programme committee can be informed about the feedback from the students in the same way as a teacher via VUSIS.

**d) The evaluation and improvement process involve stakeholders**

There is no formalized, broadly-based procedure at VU involving stakeholders in regular programme review processes, notwithstanding the availability of certain personalized feedback loops. Moreover, since the study programme committee also consists of VU lectures, student representatives and social partners, there is an element of feedback by means of this track. Therefore, though the site visit showed that some exchange on programme aims, intended learning outcomes, and programme delivery with relevant social partners, professional law institutions, ministries, courts, prosecutor office is in place in order to keep the programme relevant for society and the labour market, there was no evidence that such meetings take place in a broadly-based, regular mode, and no evidence was found as regards formalization of the

results of such discussions or of any suggestions developed, which led to specific improvement measures.

**g) The internal quality measures are effective and efficient:**

The quality of the programme is ensured and, when needed, improved through an internal and external procedure with a constant focus on the feedback from the students and from employers (social partners) occasionally. However, this procedure, mainly as regards feedback from employers and graduates and as regards a full view on all quality parameters apart from teacher performance at course level, is not complete and formalized fully. However, in as much as relevant data is available, there is a Study Programme Committee and the Council in place to consider changes in the programme. The Study Programme Committee is responsible for the assurance and improvement of the quality of the programme, with its processes and criteria being based on the VU Study Regulations. This committee works under the auspices of the Faculty Council and is expected to inform the Faculty Council about all matters relevant to the quality of the programme.

The coordinator of the study programme is expected to meet the programme students regularly to discuss the study process, the chosen course unit, the methodology of research work and also career matters. The coordinator is also available for the aforementioned consultations, either by direct contact during opening hours or via e-mail.

**2.7. Examples of excellence \***

The Master's Degree Study Programme 'Criminal Justice' shows the following features of excellence:

1. Participation of practitioners as lecturers, and also in the development process of the programme has considerable value.
2. The mandatory courses provide good basics for student, while there is scope to develop individual interests by means of the choice of optional courses. The optional courses cover a great variety of subjects.

### **III. RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. It is suggested to reconsider the labelling of the model "Criminal Liability For Different Types of Crimes". It should be clearer, more direct and signal the presence of a broader concept (for example, it may more aptly be called Business and Economic Crime).
2. Mid-term meetings should be made available on a regular base since these could be valuable for both students and university management to explore areas of content and expectations.
3. All teaching staff should develop their teaching skills at regular intervals.
4. Specific tools to promote and encourage students to participate in exchange programmes must be developed. Students should be encouraged to participate in current research of their teachers as well.
5. Programme management needs to ensure more holistic and, therefore, more effective study process organisation in terms of quality enhancement. Social partners and graduates must be evolved more actively in the programme, feedback from graduates and employers must be evaluated more broadly and routinely.

### **IV. SUMMARY**

#### **Criminal Justice Master Programme (CJMP) of Vilnius University shows a number of positive aspects, such as:**

1. The aims and intended learning outcomes of the Master's Degree Study Programme Criminal Justice are sufficiently well defined and clear in general.
2. Objectives of the programme and study outcomes are relevant and meet the professional requirements for the programme graduates provide knowledge, skills and competencies necessary for professional activities; the type and level of studies is appropriate.
3. The CJMP is of niche nature and appears to be a programme with no alternatives as regards integrated programmes in the field of law. The CLMP programme meets the demand from the public sector in Lithuania, judiciary and the government.
4. The supply of courses, both mandatory and optional, covers a broad area of criminal justice, international and EU criminal law, issues of qualification of crimes and comparative criminal proceedings law as well. The programme offers students an opportunity to specialize, in accordance with their individual interests.
5. Students graduated from the programme seem to be well prepared for qualified jobs in the public and private sectors. They will also have knowledge about law making, will have an advanced notion of the complex field of criminal justice and are able to critically reflect upon and think about how legislation, prevention, detection, maintenance, judgment and penalties can be kept in mutual congruence. CLMP students will be able to take into consideration the findings of the forensic sciences, social developments, the expectations of the citizens and the requirements of effectiveness.
6. The programme is research oriented and research related; students will be prepared for independent research work and practical work, which require scholarly knowledge.
7. There are enough rooms and other facilities for teaching in VU. VU provides various electronic services for students and teachers. The students on the CJMP are provided with high-

quality library resources and adequate databases. Students can access electronic information and learning systems from outside VU locations.

**Criminal Justice Master Programme and the way it is operated could nevertheless be improved with regards to the following aspects:**

1. Teaching staff, though qualified as regards subject-related competence, should have an opportunity to develop their teaching abilities holistically to fully address the needs of student-centred, problem-based learning with a view to ensuring the development of student competencies.
2. International experience and fuller involvement of students in current research of their teachers could be fostered more strongly.
3. Quality enhancement processes could be developed more holistically and routinely, both in terms of inclusion of graduates and social partners on a regular base and by broadening the scope of quality issues more decisively beyond coverage of teacher performance, e.g. by also considering aspects of admission, progression and compilation, assessment practices, and support schemes.

## V. GENERAL ASSESSMENT

The study programme *Criminal Justice* (state code – 621M90028) at Vilnius University is given **positive** evaluation.

*Study programme assessment in points by evaluation areas.*

No.	Evaluation Area	Evaluation of an area in points*
1.	Programme aims and learning outcomes	4
2.	Curriculum design	4
3.	Teaching staff	3
4.	Facilities and learning resources	4
5.	Study process and students' performance assessment	4
6.	Programme management	3
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>22</b>

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

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

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

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

Grupės vadovas: Team leader:	Prof. dr. jur. Jürgen Kohler
Grupės nariai: Team members:	Prof. dr. Rolf Dotevall
	Dr. Kristi Joamets
	Mrs Dovilė Satkauskienė
	Ms Janine Wulz

**VILNIAUS UNIVERSITETO ANTROSIOS PAKOPOS STUDIJŲ PROGRAMOS  
BAUDŽIAMOJI JUSTICIJA (VALSTYBINIS KODAS – 621M90028) 2016-06-29  
EKSPERTINIO VERTINIMO IŠVADŲ NR. SV4-158 IŠRAŠAS**

&lt;...&gt;

**V. APIBENDRINAMASIS ĮVERTINIMAS**

Vilniaus universiteto studijų programa *Baudžiamoji justicija* (valstybinis kodas – 621M90028) vertinama **teigiamai**.

Eil. Nr.	Vertinimo sritis	Srities įvertinimas, balais*
1.	Programos tikslai ir numatomi studijų rezultatai	4
2.	Programos sandara	4
3.	Personalas	3
4.	Materialieji ištekliai	4
5.	Studijų eiga ir jos vertinimas	4
6.	Programos vadyba	3
	<b>Iš viso:</b>	<b>22</b>

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

2 – Patenkinamai (tenkina minimalius reikalavimus, reikia tobulinti)

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

4 – Labai gerai (sritis yra išskirtinė)

&lt;...&gt;

**IV. SANTRAUKA****Vilniaus universiteto studijų programos *Baudžiamoji justicija* teigiami aspektai:**

1. Vilniaus universiteto magistrantūros studijų programos *Baudžiamoji justicija* tikslai ir numatomi studijų rezultatai yra pakankamai apibrėžti ir iš esmės aiškūs.
2. Programos tikslai ir numatomi studijų rezultatai yra tinkami ir atitinka šios programos profesinius reikalavimus (suteikti absolventams jų profesinei veiklai būtinas žinias, gebėjimus ir kompetenciją), studijų pakopą ir kvalifikacijų lygį.
3. Ši magistrantūros studijų programa yra nišinio pobūdžio, ir Universitetas, atrodo, neturi kitos integruotos (socialinių mokslų srities) teisės krypties studijų programos. Programa atitinka Lietuvos viešojo sektoriaus apskritai, teismų sistemos ir vyriausybės poreikius.
4. Siūlomi dalykai, privalomieji ir pasirenkamieji, apima plačią baudžiamosios justicijos sritį, tarptautinę ir ES baudžiamąją teisę, nusikaltimų kvalifikavimo klausimus, taip pat ir lyginamąją baudžiamojo proceso teisę. Studentams sudaroma galimybė specializuotis pagal jų poreikį.
5. Šios programos absolventai, atrodo, yra gerai pasirengę kvalifikuotam darbui viešajame ir privačiame sektoriuose. Be to, jie turės žinių apie įstatymų kūrimą, šiuolaikišką supratimą apie sudėtingą baudžiamosios justicijos sritį ir galės kritiškai mąstyti bei vertinti, kaip galima suderinti teisės aktus, prevenciją, (nusikaltimo) atskleidimą, priežiūrą, nuosprendį ir bausmes.

Šios programos studentai sugebės atsižvelgti į teismo medicinos išvadas, socialinius pokyčius, piliečių lūkesčius ir veiksmingumo reikalavimus.

6. Ši programa orientuota į tyrimus ir susijusi su tyrimais; studentai bus rengiami savarankiškam mokslo tiriamajam darbui ir praktiniam darbui, kuriam atlikti reikalingos mokslinės žinios.

7. Vilniaus universitete yra pakankamai patalpų ir kitos mokymui reikalingos infrastruktūros. Universitete studentams ir dėstytojams teikiamos įvairios elektroninės paslaugos. Šios programos studentai turi galimybę naudotis kokybiškais bibliotekos ištekliais ir duomenų bazėmis. Studentams yra prieinama elektroninė informacija ir mokymo sistemos iš išorės.

### **Magistrantūros studijų programa *Baudžiamoji justicija ir jos įgyvendinimas tobulintinas šiose srityse:***

1. Dėstytojams, nors jie ir kompetentingi dėstomų dalykų srityje, turėtų būti suteikta galimybė mokymo gebėjimus didinti holistiškai, visiškai tenkinant į studentus orientuoto, problemų sprendimu pagrįsto mokymo poreikį siekiant užtikrinti studentų gebėjimų ugdymą.

2. Būtų galima labiau skatinti studentų tarptautinę patirtį ir labiau įtraukti studentus į šiuo metu jų dėstytojų atliekamus tyrimus.

3. Kokybės gerinimo procesai galėtų būti tobulinami labiau holistiškai ir reguliariau, turint omeny nuolatinį absolventų ir socialinių partnerių įtraukimą į juos ir ryžtingesnį kokybės klausimų apimties didinimą įtraukiant ne tik dėstytojų veiklos rezultatus, bet ir, pavyzdžiui, studentų priėmimą, programos sudarymą ir įgyvendinimo pažangą, vertinimo metodus ir paramos priemones.

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### **III. REKOMENDACIJOS**

1. Rekomenduojama persvarstyti studijų dalyko *Baudžiamoji atsakomybė už atskiras nusikaltimų rūšis* pavadinimą. Jis turėtų būti aiškesnis, labiau tiesioginis ir išreiškiantis platesnę koncepciją (pavyzdžiui, jį labiau tiktų pavadinti *Verslo ir ekonominiai nusikaltimai*).

2. Turėtų būti reguliariai organizuojami susitikimai semestro viduryje, kadangi jie padėtų studentams ir universiteto vadovybei išsiaiškinti turinio sritis bei lūkesčius.

3. Visi dėstytojai turėtų nuolat gerinti savo mokymo įgūdžius.

4. Būtinos konkrečios studentų rėmimo ir skatinimo dalyvauti mainų programose priemonės. Be to, reikėtų skatinti studentus dalyvauti tyrimuose, kuriuos šiuo metu vykdo jų dėstytojai.

5. Programos vadovybė turi užtikrinti labiau holistinį ir todėl veiksmingesnį studijų proceso organizavimą, turint omenyje kokybės gerinimą. Socialiniai partneriai ir absolventai turi būti aktyviau įtraukiami į šios programos tobulinimo procesą, reikėtų plačiau ir reguliariau vertinti absolventų bei darbdavių grįžtamąjį ryšį.

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

Vertėjos rekvizitai (vardas, pavardė, parašas)