



QUALITY RECOGNITION AESOP

Master's Programme in Urban Planning and Management
Faculty of Planning, Environment and Urban Management
Polis University

EVALUATION REPORT

After an in-depth examination of its academic curriculum and teaching pedagogy, the MSc in urban planning and management, delivered at the Polis University (Albania), has been conferred the AESOP Certificate of Quality.

The Master of Science in Urban Planning and Management delivered at Polis University has been evaluated by two members of the AESOP Excellence in Education Board (EEB) appointed by the Chair. The EEB certifies that the above programme fulfils the Quality Recognition criteria.

Quality in Planning Education

The MSc in urban planning and management delivered at Polis University is the only 5-year study programme (300 credits) in Albania in the field. It brings together the following aspects of quality in planning education:

Programme Curriculum and Identity

- A strong structure of compulsory and elective **courses focused on people's quality of life with an orientation in Sustainable Development Goals**. An excellent balance of theoretical, methodological and policy-based courses in relation to the interdisciplinary character of the programme.
- **An effective exposure to contemporary political, economic and socio-spatial challenges, but strongly preserving the core of planning issues**





QUALITY RECOGNITION AESOP

on spatial, territorial, and strategic level, across the modules of the curriculum.

- Awareness about local and global changes is reflected through the teaching and learning process, which is accompanied, through different courses, **by integrative and practical formative activities.**

Principles of Pedagogy

- **Gradual increase of autonomy and independency** of students within the study programme (transition from theoretical to practical courses and studios in which the students can work more independently)
- **Arranging interdisciplinary courses** in which the audience consists of students in planning, architecture, environment and/or engineering, and business/administration. The students work on concrete planning tasks through interdisciplinary approaches.
- **Group learning:** students **work in small and large groups** in seminars, studios and practical works, from the regional to micro-level projects.
- **Individual learning:** which seeks to emphasize **the role of an individual within a group**. Interactions between students and all those involved in the learning process (teachers/stakeholders/professional experts) to mastering presentation skills and communicating visions and scenarios to a large audience.

Showcase Practices

- Providing students with **research and practical knowledge while enabling opportunities and interactions with real practice and stakeholders.**
- **Case-based learning, role-playing simulations, assessments based on projects, workshops, roundtable discussions and debates** with guest speakers and industry experts, gaming simulations (real simulations through games), **mock cases** (setting up a specific case representing or against the topic), and **shared studios** across different disciplines are an important issue to **cultivate independent and collaborative skills** in a



QUALITY RECOGNITION **AESOP**

studio setting for students, with pin-ups and public presentations as moments of reflection.

- Excellent exchange and interaction between student/teaching staff/stakeholders in supporting practice-research-oriented curriculum with its development through **inter-institutional boards, forums, and studio juries.**

The AESOP Certificate of Quality and this Evaluation Report are valid for a period of six years (2024-2030).

30 September 2024

Tijana Dabovic
Chair
AESOP
Excellence in Education Board

Giancarlo Cotella
AESOP Secretary General
AESOP
Excellence in Education Board

Mina Di Marino
Assessor
AESOP
Excellence in Education Board

Alenka Fikfak
Assessor
AESOP
Excellence in Education Board





QUALITY
RECOGNITION
AESOP

After a thorough examination of its academic curriculum and teaching pedagogies, the

**Master's Programme in Urban Planning and
Management**

offered by

**Faculty of Planning, Environment, and Urban Management,
Polis University**

has been highly distinguished with the

AESOP CERTIFICATE OF QUALITY

We certify that:

This programme fulfils the European quality standards of planning programmes according to the AESOP Charter, complemented by an effective internationalization of teaching and learning processes. The AESOP Certificate of Quality is valid for a period of six years (2024-2030).

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