EPOKA UNIVERSITY | Department of Architecture

ANNUAL REPORT

1 September 2018 – 31 July 2019

Annual Report

1 September 2018 – 31 July 2019

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Organization & Management

Introduction

Dr. Edmond Manahasa

Head of Department

General

The Department of Architecture offers undergraduate and graduate programs in Architecture. The undergraduate program is based on a fifth-year study leading to the Bachelor's degree with emphasis on architectural design studios.

Mission

Our institutional vision is to be in an association that develops the architectural consciousness in society, to play a facilitating role in order to increase the quality of life, become a leading institution at the national and international architectural arena, and a reference and preferred institution in terms of academic activities.

Vision

To train professionals those are equal in national and international criteria of education; qualified in theory and practice areas; design environments which meet esthetic, technique, ecologic, economic, cultural, historical, social, environmental and other necessary requirements; and train intellectual and expert architects who are innovative, creative, ethical, have the ability to work in interdisciplinary projects.

Architecture Department at Epoka University has about a decade that prepares students to address complex design, cultural, social, environmental issues through conceptual, thoughtful and creative inquiry.

Our department continues to grow with the number of undergraduate intakes as well as graduate. We have more than 200 students in the department and about 20 staff members, composed of full time and part time staff from highly successful schools of Europe.

The Architecture Department cultivates design education through a variety of experiences which include learning through doing, act as a team and community collaborations. Department provides rigorous design education that train students as professionals in art, science and built environment. We have many graduates who work in important national and international institutions, as well as, graduates that continue their studies in well-known European and American Universities.

Study programs offered by the Department

The Department of Architecture offers three study programs:
- PICD ARCH – integrated second cycle study program in Architecture, which is a five-year Second Level Integrated Diploma (Master + Bachelor) in Architecture program
- MSc ARCH – two years Master of Science in Architecture program
- PhD ARCH – Doctoral program in Architecture

Epoka University Integrated second cycle study program in Architecture (PICD ARCH Program) is the second level study program offered by the Department of Architecture. PICD ARCH prepares
students for critical engagement with theory and practice and ensures readiness for professional responsibilities. The program duration is 5 academic years or 10 semesters. Students are required to complete 44 courses (270 ECTS in total or 30 ECTS per semester) during the first nine semesters
and work on the Master Thesis (30 ECTS) during the last semester, which makes in total 300 ECTS.

B. Resources

Department Staff

Full time Academic Staff

Dr. Edmond Manahasa

Edmond holds the PhD degree in Architectural Design from Istanbul Technical University, Turkey. He has been awarded as 3rd Best Foreign Student Prize in Graduation Year 2002 for Bachelor Level at Istanbul Technical University . From 1 August 2002-1 March 2007 he has been part of Zambak Architects where the main activities and responsibilities consisted in: Team Manager For Construction Projects, Preliminary Project Proposal Design, 3d Works Drawing Construction Project And Supervision Of Architectural Projects as:

Turgut Ozal Educational Complex-Tirana/Albania September 2002- March 2002

Petkim Siteler Mosque and Landscape Requalification in Körfez/Kocaeli/Turkey November 2002-January 2003

Gaziantep Cargo Transfer Center-Şehit Kamil/Gaziantep/Turkey March-June 2003

HA-Korça High School Project and Supervision in Kavaja/Albania January-February 2004 A+B Block, C Block January-February 2007

Akbulut Textile Factory in Malatya/Turkey September 2004-January 2005

Baku High School – Azerbaijan September December 2005

YK Educational Complex in Struga/Macedonia March 2006-June 2006

Karahan Quarter Dormitory in Bursa/Turkey July 2006

Private University Preparatory School Interior Design and Courtyard Landscape Design Istanbul/Turkey August – September 2006

Liria-High School Project Proposal in Elbasan/Albania October 2006

Küçük Yalı Mosque and Annexes Architectural Project Proposal in Küçükyalı/Istanbul Turkey, November 2006

Hotel Building in Spille Kavaja/Albania March 2007-May 2007

Apartment Block in Lushnja/Albania Summer 2009

Apartment Block in Durres/Albania Summer 2011

He has four years of teaching experience as Senior Instructor in the following Courses:

Basic Design Course, Architectural Application Project, History of Architecture I, History of Architecture II, History of Architecture III.

Currently he holds the position of Head of the Architecture Department and at the same time is a full-time lecturer.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sokol Dervishi

Mr. Sokol has been graduated from Faculty of Architecture, Istanbul Technical University,

Istanbul, Turkey.

2004-2006 (MSc) Postgraduate studies at Faculty of Architecture and Spatial Planning,

Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria.

2006-2010 (Dr. technicae) Doctoral studies at Building Physics and Building Ecology

Department, Faculty of Architecture and Spatial Planning, Vienna

University of Technology, Vienna, Austria

2010-2014 Venia Docendi – Habilitation, Vienna University of Technology, Vienna,

Austria, (“Priv. dozent” / Associated Professor)

2014 – present Habilitation (venia docendi) – A.o Prof. Dr. at Vienna University of

Technology (Building Physics)

2011 – present Professor of Epoka University, Tirana Albania

2013 – 2014 Professor of Polytechnic University of Tirana, Tirana Allbania

2007 – 2014 Lecturer at Vienna University of Technology,

(Courses – Visual and Acoustic Performance, Advance Studies in Building

Science)

2007 – 2014 Senior Scientific Researcher at Vienna University of Technology,

Scientific Research / Faculty

- Epoka University, Tirana-Albania
- Vienna University of Technology, Vienna-Austria
- Polytechnic University of Tirana, Tirana-Albania
- Ozeyegin University, Istanbul-Turkey

Honours, Prizes and Awards

1 “University Award for Excellent Students”, Istanbul Technical University, May 2004, Istanbul, Turkey

2 Diploma with High Honour Award for Academic Achievement, June 2004, Istanbul, Turkey (published in Sabah Daily Turkish Magazine)

3 “University Award for Best Foreign Student”, Istanbul Technical University, May 2004, Istanbul, Turkey

4 “Istanbul Educational Institute Award for Best Foreign Student in all universities in Istanbul”, Istanbul Technical University, May 2004, Istanbul, Turkey

5 Best Master of Science Diploma Thesis Award, Building Science and Technology Postgraduate MSc program, June 2006, Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria

7 Doctor of Science Thesis with Excellence Award, November 2011, Vienna University of Technology, Vienna, Austria

Important Industrial Projects I EU projects

Multifunctional Plug & Play Facade "MPPF" at the COMET program (Competence Centers for Excellent Technologies).

Funding: Austrian Research Promotion Agency (FFG),

Project: "Naturally Cool" Project-Nr: 817575).

Period: 2008 – 2010

Funding: Österreichischer Klima- und Energie-Fonds

Self-updating models for sentient buildings

Funding: Austrian Science Foundation (FWF), project numbers P15998-N07 and L219-N07. Period: 2006-2008

People as Powerplant

Period:

2005 - 2008

Funding:

BMVIT (Initiative: "Energiesysteme der Zukunft")

Assist. Prof. Dr. Anna Yunitsyna

Mrs. Anna has completed State Technical University in Vologda, 6-year diploma of Architect with honors also she has completed the Master in Architecture program (in English) in Dessau Institute of Architecture, Germany. During the education was granted with 2-year DAAD scholarship for postgraduate studies. She has worked as architect at project institute Archangelsk Civil Project in Archangelsk. She is Awarded by a title PhD at Czech Technical University in Prague where the research topic is “Flexible housing - Universal space in dwelling”. Since 2010 – working as lecturer in Epoka University. During the work have participated in the following activities:

April 2012 – member of the Organizing Committee of the 1st International Conference on Architecture & Urban Design

May 2014 – member of the Organizing Committee and reviewer of the Scientific Committee of the 2nd International Conference on Architecture & Urban Design Addition Candidate member of Russian Union of Architects. Holder of professional architectural license in Albania.

Dr. Odeta Manahasa

Mrs. Odeta Manahasa has been graduated with bachelor and Master degree from Middle East Technical University in 2005 and 2008 respectively. She has been graduated with a PhD degree in Architecture from Istanbul Technical University in 2017. She is a senior lecturer at Epoka University, teaching Basic Design course since 2008.

In her dissertation, “Children Participation and Post Occupancy Evaluation in Developing a Communicative Language to (Re)Design Educational Environments”, she uses the children space experience as a tool for participation, to offer a new perspective to the participatory design discourse on the levels of participation.

In addition, she has a long-standing interest in understanding environmental psychology in its larger context, particularly in relation to child and child space perception. She is developing this interest as two lines of inquiry: (i) child space perception knowledge, with a focus on a systematic structure for thinking on environmental behavior phenomena from different methodological perspectives, and (ii) improve the quality of learning environments.

Thus, her areas of expertise and research interest include: Architectural Education, Children and Architecture (e.g. Children's participation in architectural design), Participatory Design, and School Design., environmental psychology, post occupancy evaluation, environmental behavior and design.

Dr. Fabio Naselli

Fabio Naselli, gained his Master Degree on Architecture at Palermo University (Italy) on March 1989 and received his PhD in Urban and Regional Planning from Palermo University (Italy) on February 2002, and he currently is a full-time Lecturer in the Department of Architecture at Epoka University. He got six yearlong post-doc grants from Palermo University (Italy) from 2003 to 2009 and he was Assistant Professor at Kore University of Enna (Italy) Faculty of Engineering and Architecture, during the years 2010-2016. He was the Scientific Director of IEREK (Egypt) international research institute (from 2014 to 2018) and currently he is the Director of Spa.Re.Life International Winter School (since2012) and the Scientific Responsible of DAC (Design at the Center) International Network for Integrated and Multiscale Design (since 2015).

M. Sc. Desantila Hysa

Desantila Hysa, an architect by training, holds a Bachelor (2007) and a Master of Architecture (2010) degree in Architectural Design program from the Middle East Technical University, Turkey. She has been instructing at the undergraduate level design studios since 2010, at Epoka University, Albania. Currently a PhD candidate in Architectural Design program, her research focuses on human-centered pedagogies in foundation design studios. Her area of interest extends to computational approaches to design, design cognition, haptic and visual perception studies.

M. Sc. Ina Dervishi

Mrs. Ina Osmani has been graduated with bachelor degree from Middle East Technical University in 2012 and and master degree from Epoka University in 2014. From that time she is teaching at Epoka University Basic Design course. Her areas of interest are:

sustainable urban development, environmental design of cities, urban heat islands. Currently she is working on her PHD research performing it at Vienna Technical University.

M. Sc. Egin Zeka

Egin Zeka is a lecturer in the Department of Architecture at Epoka University. He teaches courses of "Urban Design" and is one of the instructors of final design studios at the Department of Architecture. He received his Bachelor degree in Urban and Regional Planning (2009) and Master degree in Urban Design (2012) at Istanbul Technical University, Turkey. Now he is continuing his PhD studies in Urban and Regional Planning at the same university. His fields of interests are: urban design, generative design, urban morphology, traditional settlements and urban revitalization. Research: M.Sc. Thesis, 'A Methodology for Analyzing Urban Form, Case of Korça' (2012); PhD thesis (in process) topic; `Learning from Non-Planned Settlements`. Projects: `DURANA, International Urban Design Competition, 2 nd prize (teamwork), 2014; Consultant for Tirana General Local Plan (TR030), 2016; National Design Competition: "Tourism into Tradition, B&B project, 1 st Prize (teamwork). Currently he is the supervisor of the project "100+ Villages", Lot 10.

M. Sc. Artan Hysa

Artan Hysa, is an architect by education, earning the Bachelor of Architecture degree in 2007 and Master in Architectural Design in 2010. Currently, he is a PhD candidate in Landscape Architecture and Planning. In the scope of the doctoral research he is aiming to explore the transdisciplinary research methods and techniques leading to holistic findings in the field of spatial management and planning. More precisely, he is working on the utilization of CORINE Land Cover data in various decision making processes of spatial planning and management. The research fields he is mostly interested in can be listed as follows; transdisciplinary research methods, research by design, and landscape research.

M. Sc. Artemis Hasa

Artemis Hasa has a Bachelor in Architecture and Master of Science degree from Epoka

University, Tirana, Albania and currently is conducting his PhD studies at Istanbul Technical University under the Faculty of Architecture, Field of Construction Sciences, in Istanbul, Turkey. The main focus of his research is on Building technologies and performance. His teaching experiences had been on building technology courses and main design studio courses.

Part-time Academic Staff

Dr. Frida Pashako

Degree in Architecture and Phd in Architectural Design for the Mediterranean Countries

Polytechnic University of Bari (Italy).

Currently she Director in Department of Territorial Development Control, Municipality of Tirana and part time lecturer in the Department of Architecture at Epoka University of Tirana, teaching Historical Environment and Conservation and Studio of Conservation and Restoration. Pashako is Member of the Scientific Committee for the Restoration at the Institute of Monuments of Culture of Albania, President of Albanian Chapter INTBAU - The International Network for Traditional Buildings, Architecture & Urbanism. Consultant for the

restoration of the building of the Council of Ministers and ICOM member as a contributor for the Albanian context.

Her research activity has been mainly focused on: Architectural Heritage in Albania: from the Traditional Domestic Buildings and Historical Landscape to the Modern Architecture in Albania during the years 1920-40 and the Communist Architecture as the Industrial Complex and Mass Housing. She is supervisor and advisor for the several Master Thesis of the Department of Architecture of

Epoka University and at Polytechnic University of Bari, where she had academic experience as assistant and researcher.

M. Sc. Dorian Tytymçe

Dorian is an architect has been awarded with the Master Engineer Architect and Master of Science from Cracow University of Technology, Poland. Also, he is a licensed architect in Albania and is part of the “Albanian Architects Association”. Mr. Tytymçe

was professionally engaged as an architect and urban designer different well-known architectural studios in Albania. He has been part of different competitions (Invited Competition: A national - local competition for designing a mix use building in "Ali Demi" St., Tirana /Albania; Phase: Competition, 1st place (Winning proposal)) ,(Invited Competition: 'Topos' Urban Study for a Riverside Neighborhood- Site: Gjanica, Fier, Albania; Phase: Competition, 2nd place).

M. Sc. Jurtin Hajro

Jurtin Hajro is architect and founder of commonsense.studio, an architectural practice based in Tirana. Jurtin received his architecture degree in 2006 at Middle East Technical University, Ankara.

Since 2009 he has been a lecturer in the Department of Architecture at Epoka University. In 2013 at the the establishment of CoRDA – Center of Research and Design in Architecture in Epoka, he became the first director of the design office, having a substantial contribution. Jurtin is the architect of Epoka Social Center, a building that has received international attention in awards, nominations and academic publications. He has been awarded first prize international awards in Osumi Island and Faith Park International Urban and Landscape Design Competitions organized in Albania. In 2017 he has been the creator and curator of Modeling the Idea, Pavilion Days, an event calling for interdisciplinary collaboration between artists and architects in Korca. Recently, part of a larger team he has won the competition to curate the Albanian Pavilion of Architecture in Venice Biennale 2018. This year he is selected as an Award Nominator for Aga Khan Architectural Awards requested to propose successful architectural interventions in Albania during the period 2017-2019.

M. Sc. Teuta Kodra

Teuta holds a degree of Master of Science from Polytechnic University of Tirana and has been part of different trainings regarding her field of study. She has been part of different projects as : Project Design for the Reconstruction of Librazhd Hospital - Funding/Client: Librazhd Municipality. Project Design for the Reconstruction of Burrel Maternity Hospital - Funding/Client: Burrel Municipality, Reconstruction of Bulqiza Health Center - Funding/Client: Bulqiza Municipality.

Bulqiza Hospital Rehabilitation Project- Funding/Client: Bulqiza Municipality.

Laç Kindergarten. Rehabilitation Project- Funding/Client: Ministry of Education and Sports.

Project Design for the Reconstruction of Strikcan Primary School - Funding/Client: Strikcan Commune.

Project Design for the Reconstruction of Radomire Primary School - Funding/Client: Radomire Commune.Currently she teaches Digital Visualization & Presentation Coursein Epoka University and at the same time is part of the "Accademia"- Autodesk Training Center Albania and Kosovo.

M. Sc. Pirro Vaso

Piro Vaso is graduated in Architecture at Tirana State University (1966-1971)

He has a long career in Albania and USA as Architect, Head of Department of Architecture(University of Tirana).In addition, Mr. Pirro has worked as an Adjunct Professor at 5 th Architecture Studio Design (State University of Tirana) , at Ministry of Public Works, Territory Planning, and Tourism. Furthermore, he has held the position of Minister's Advisor. After moving to America (1996). Mr. Pirro has been part of Design Group of Cobb County Government, Georgia, U.S where the main task was the Design of interiors and exteriors from schematic design through final construction documents. Moreover, Armentrout Roebuck Matheny Consulting Group, P.C. Engineers-Architects-Construction Managers Athens, Georgia, U.S.

(May 1997-August 2003) where he coordinated design of commercial, retail, cultural, educational, religious, and multi-family projects, and production of construction documents. At Gainesville, Georgia, U.S. (August 2004-June 2006) his main task was related to the Design of highway and road systems' service buildings. From 2015 he is retired. Mr. Pirro has many work related honors:

1984 – Republic award, 1st class for the project Skenderbeg Museum, Kruje

1989 – Republic award, 1st class for the project the Pyramid, Tirane

1997 – Mathis award, for the project Town & Gown Players, inc., Athens, Georgia, U.S.

He has shown excellent skills at :

Building Codes: International Building Code, ADA for Accessible Design

Computer Aided Drafting: AutoCAD, MicroStation, CAiCE

Hand drafting

Multilingual fluency: Albanian, English, Italian, French, Russian.

M. Sc. Klevis Zaimaj

Klevis Zaimaj holds the bachelor degree in architecture and a diploma in Art and Design from Birmingham City University, also he has a Master of Science degree from Polytechnic University of Milano. He has been part of many projects such in Albania and Italy. He is mastered in AutoCad, ArchiCad, Scetchup, Photoshop, Illustrator, Vray and other programs. Also, he speaks fluently English, Italian and Greek languages.

M. Sc. Kreshnik Merxhani

Graduated in Architecture at the Polytechnic University of Tirana. He is generally focused in Traditional Architecture and is distinguished for his writings , artistic photos and for restoration and re-implementation projects. Since 2008, he is committed as a co-author in restoration projects of several monuments of Ottoman and Communist period mainly in the City of Gjirokastër. In 2014-2016 (March) he was the Head of the Technical Sector of DRKK (Regional Directory of National Culture) - Gjirokastër, a terrain office at the Ministry of Culture. In addition, some project that he was co-author and some activities of former organization that Merxhani was part of , are nominated and be short listed for Aga Khan award (GCDO) the 2010 Cycle, and are winner of Europa Nostra Price (CHwB). His work as a co-author has been part in Biennale in Venice “Common Ground”, in the Albanian Pavilion. He has been guest in various Universities in Albania such as the Faculty of Architecture and City Planning, UT and Epoka University. He has been part of different exhibition and online illustration with his photography and graphic art like “Martin Parr” (2010), EVOCED (2016), Photos from Spaç (World Monument Fund – 2015), CHwB publications etc. Some of the articles are being published at different scientific journals and are presented at some conferences inside and outside Albania.

M. Sc. Gentian Shkurti

Mr. Gentian Shkurti holds a degree in Painting at the Academy of Arts in Tirana, Albania, where he later worked two years as associate professor. His works have been exhibited in several major institutions in Europe: Promesses du Passé /

"Tirana Case", Centre Georges Pompidou (Paris, 2010; curator: Christine Macel), In The Gorges Of The Balkans. A Report, Fridericianum Museum (Kassel, 2003; curator: René Bloch), 54th Venice Biennale (Albanian Pavilion, curator: Riccardo Caldura). His works have also been displayed at the New York Chelsea Art Museum, the Ljubljana Museum of Modern Art, the National Gallery of Kosovo, National Gallery of Tirana, as well as at the Vienna Sammlung Essl; Shkurti took part in the First Tirana Biennial (2001). He was one of the invited artists of the 2016 exhibition at Ludwig Museum titled The Whale that Was a Submarine – Contemporary Positions from Albania and Kosovo. His work Alice in Wonderland was since acquired by the Ludwig Stiftung's Collection.

Academic Visitors (2017-2018)

Dr. Vasco Barbosa

Born in Oporto and graduated in Architecture in 2000 at the Faculty of Architecture and Arts, Oporto, Portugal. Ph.D in territorial planning and rural development at the University of Santiago de Compostela, 2013. In 2016 finished a Posdoctoral period of 3 years in Brazil, about the application of Space Syntax (from University College London) to urban Planning and forest fires, as the main research issue. In 2011 completed a Master in "Management in Sustainable Land Use Planning" in the University of Santiago de Compostela. In 2008 completed a postgraduate degree in "Environmental Management and Land Use Planning" in the Superior Institute of Viana do Castelo. During these years, won prizes in international competitions in the fields of architecture and urban planning.

Dr. Piotr Lorens

Prof. Piotr Lorens - PhD, DSc is an Urban planner. Lecturer in urban design and development and - since 2007 - Head of the Department of Urban Design and Regional Planning at the Faculty of Architecture, Gdansk University of Technology. Besides his academic career he is also actively involved in the activities of the International Society of City and Regional Planners as well as of the Society of Polish Town Planners. Piotr Lorens graduated

as architect from the Gdansk University of Technology, also completed the post-graduate studies at Harvard University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

At the same time he is conducting his professional career with the focus on planning and management of the urban regeneration projects in Poland. Among others, he was involved in development of urban regeneration plans for numerous municipalities in Poland and also for many years was involved in planning for regeneration of the Young City in Gdansk - the large-scale urban project located on the site of former Gdansk shipyard. His professional interests include urban planning and regeneration processes, with special focus on waterfront areas and public spaces.

Dr. Nicola Parisi

He graduated in 2002 and became Ph.D. in Architectural design for Mediterrenean countries. He founded STUDIO PARISI in 2006. He's active in project research and collaborate for years with Polythecnic of Bari, participating also to numerous natonal and international conferences. He's actually Researcher in Architectural and Urban Planning at Polythecnic of Bari.

Administrative Staff

Ms. Livia Plaku

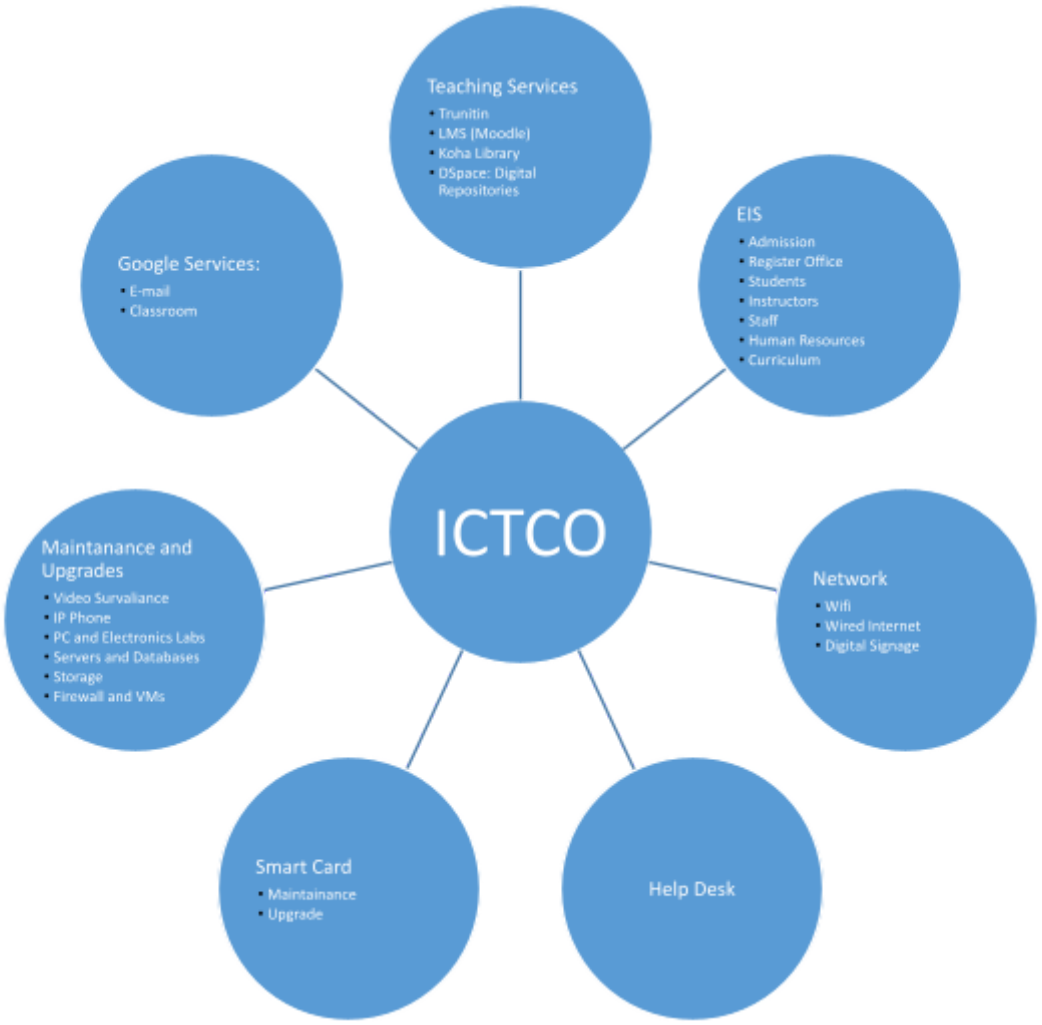
Livia is the Coordinator of Department. She holds a Bachelor degree in Banking and Finance and is currently pursuing Master studies at Epoka University. Since September 2018 she works as Coordinator of Architecture Department. She exercises her duties in coordination with the Faculty Administrator and Head of Department. The Coordinator of the Department is responsible for management of the department activities with administrative character and incoming and outgoing correspondences.

Finance

Income and Expenditure Summary

IT Resources, Physical Infrastructure and Library Resources

ICTC Office Services:



The Information and Communication Technologies Coordinating Office (ICTCO) provides informatics services needed in the University. It plans the informatics infrastructure of the University, provides its security and ensures the continuation of its functions. ICTCO works on the project for effective, legal and extensive usage of the informatics services for students and personnel.

The Information and Communication Technologies Coordinating Office (ICTCO)provides:

Teaching Services:

- **Turnitin** software helps you to understand and avoid plagiarism and develop your understanding of how to cite sources as part of an academic argument. ICTC office manages the users and train the staff about how to use turnitin.
- **Learning Management System (LMS)** – A service based on Moodle offered for students and instructors in order to access, coordinate and organize course materials online. Students and instructor can login on LMS using the provided official email account.
- **Library Automation System (Koha) -** Koha is an open-source Integrated Library System in use today by hundreds of libraries worldwide. Koha is web based, so there is no software to install on desktop computers. Users can check the books online and reserve them via web. Its features are more than enough to manage the Epoka Library effectively and efficiently.
- **DSpace** – The institutional repository of Epoka University: DSpace is an open source repository software package typically used for creating open access repositories for scholarly and/or published digital content. The proceedings of the conferences which are organized by Epoka University can be accessed from this repository. Epoka University is the only university who has digital repository in Albania(http://repositories.webometrics.info/en/Europe/Albania). We also give services to other international journals to publish their publications(http://dspace.epoka.edu.al/handle/1/1378) in our digital repository.

Google Services:

- **Webmail (Google account) –** Epoka University is using Google Apps for Education services and all students and academic and administrative staff are provided with an email address under epoka.edu.al domain which is a Google account. Beside official communication which is done through this email address, this account can be used for authentication to other online systems offered by university.

- **Google Classroom** – A more interactive service offered by Google as part of Google Apps for education in order to access, coordinate and organize course materials on cloud. By using Google Classroom, course materials can be integrated with other Google services where assigned users can collaborate. Students and instructors can access this service using the provided account.

Education Information System (Curriculum) – a website containing information related to study programs, curriculum and course syllabus.

Smart Card: All students and staff are provided with Smart Card identification cards. The Smart Card is put as an e-ID application at three buildings, two PC labs, one Electronics Lab, and campus gate entry turnstiles and barriers. The e-wallet application is active for staff but has not started yet for students.

Help Desk: ICTCO is also responsible for the maintenance of personnel and PC Lab computers in respect to software and hardware. Its staff monitors the personal computers within the frame of distribution of duty and authority and brings the issues to a conclusion. At the same time, ICTCO plans servers and cabling services of the University. Staff can open ticket via help.epoka.edu.al for their ICTCO related problems and follow the process from here. You can share your opinions

on every subject related to information technologies and informatics with help@epoka.edu.al and you can also write your complaints and suggestions for a better campus life.

Software Opportunities

Epoka University has a subscription of Microsoft Program which is called DreamSpark. It supports technical education by providing access to Microsoft software for learning, teaching and research purposes. Epoka family members can download software through www.dramspark.com website at no cost. Epoka University also provides Office 365 accounts to all staffs and students which includes all office applications for free.

Network

Wireless: Epoka University provides wireless internet connection to all Epoka members in the campus. As ICTCO, we ensure that the wireless signal is strong and covers everywhere in campus.

Wired: Besides wireless, there are three PC labs, one Civil Engineering lab, one Electronics lab, one PhD study room, and library where PCs serve students and staffs with wired internet. In the Epoka Library and one of the classroom, there are plug and use stations next to each table where students and staff can use for wired internet and electricity for their laptops.

Digital Signage: There are four TVs in the campus, they are used to inform Epoka members about latest news and announcements.

Epoka Interactive Systems (EIS)

Recognizing the needs of campus community, Epoka has made a strategic decision to replace its aging, cumbersome, and vendor-supported student, instructors, and staff systems with a modern, nimble and effective internally built system that includes admissions, enrollment, registration, financial aid, student, instructor, and staff accounts, and advising in one platform.

EIS is developed by ICTCO at Epoka University. From the user interface, EIS is an online interactive system where users can log in using the provided official email account. It is a modular system organized by roles and respective units at the university and the information is stored in a centralized database. All users have access to their personal information, can update general details and CV and they can manage job related tasks and activities according to their role and job position.

- **Students:** Students in their profile can access their personal information and information related to their study program. Course registration is done through the system and after that, students can view the ongoing academic activity of the registered courses during the semester. They can check attendance, exam dates, interim grades and final grades. Also in the system, they can access the program curriculum, transcript, grade calculation, weekly schedule, requests and notifications. The EIS prompts students when they are in the "warning zone" for financial or academic issues. It empowers students to create course plans to ensure timely graduation.

- **Instructors:** Academic staff including full-time and part-time lecturers, can have access to their courses assigned in the current semester and can also view previously assigned courses. Lecturers can update the syllabus, complete student attendance, assign and finalize grades. Advisor lecturers can have access to academic information of the students assigned for advisory and they can approve student course registration.

- **Coordinators:** The opening of courses according to course appointment in each semester is done by department coordinators and approved by faculty coordinators. Coordinators can monitor the academic activity of the lecturers under respective department.

- **Admissions and Registrar's Office:** Admissions Office enters all pre-registered student information and assigns scholarships. After the student has completed the registration, all the related information entered by Admissions office, is managed by Registrar's office.

- **Finance:** Finance office can manage and follow up all student financial information related to tuition fees and scholarship.

- **Human Resources:** Human resources office can manage all staff information data and assigns roles and job position for each staff.

- **Curriculum:** a website containing information related to study programs, curriculum and course syllabus.

All users have access to their personalized reports according to their roles and respective units. Faculties and units are liberated from tedious manual tasks. EIS supplies them with new and most updated information that will empower them to make informed decisions based on data.
EIS can be continuously updated with new modules according to the university needs. EIS can be accessed via: https:// eis.epoka.edu.al and users can log-in by their Epoka Mail account credentials.

Measurable indicators:

number of PC per doctoral students	120
number of PC furnished labs per students	4
number of PC for academic staff	87
number of PC for administration	53
number of printers for each one	15
number of photocopying machines for each one	15
number of head projectors	1
number of video-projectors	27
number of scanners	10

PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Epoka University is located on the Tirana-Rinas road, on the 12th kilometer. The campus extends over a total area of 67,000 m2. The 2017-2018 academic year is being conducted regularly in the premises of two buildings with a total area of 14352 m2.
The E-building has a modern infrastructure and a central heating and cooling system. The classrooms are equipped with video projectors and smart boards that enable the normal conduct of the learning process.

On September 2013, the construction of A-Buiding the "Cultural Social Object of Epoka University" was completed. In addition to classes, there are plenty of recreational facilities for students such as cafeterias, libraries, Wi-Fi, facilities for the Student Council and student clubs, sports facilities, etc. Below are shown current picture of the building.

Measurable indicators:

- Premises of the Faculty

Premises for the Faculties	**Quantity**	**Surface**	**m^2/student**
Auditoria/Classrooms for lectures	5	752	0.40
Classrooms for seminars	17	1545	0.82
Premises for promotion activities	1	128	0.07
Classrooms for course/professional practice	2	258	0.14
Laboratories for courses	3	233	0.12
Informatics laboratories	2	174.6	0.12

Internet Room	2	151.8	0.12
Library Hall	1	322	0.17
Premises for photocopying, bookshop etc.	1	85.2	0.05
Student information office	2	71	0.04
Corridors/halls	25	2707.4	1.44
Sports premises	5	463	0.25
Premises for service to third parties	1	56	0.03
Restrooms (WC) for students	54	327.2	0.17
Restrooms (WC) for academic personnel	35	212.1	2.16
Premises for personnel:	**Quantity**	**Surface**	**m^2/person ratio**
Offices for the Dean/Vice-Dean	5	285.5	40.79
Office for the Administrator	1	25.4	25.40
Offices for the Department Coordinators	2	60.6	20.20
Offices for departments/research centers	12	328.5	27.38
Offices for the academic personnel	40	620	6.33
Office for the Finance Office	2	37	18.50
Office for the Internal Quality Assurance Unit	1	50	50.00
Meeting rooms	2	75	0.77
Premises for service personnel	11		30.33
Premises for the activities of the Student Council	1	30	1.30
Recreation premises such as cafeteria/fast-food/ restaurant	1	337	0.17
Total	234	9335.3	

During the 2017-2018 academic year, the EPOKA University Campus uses for the 17 classes: (E-010, E-011, E-211, E-212, E-213, E-311, E-312 (E-012, E-110, E-214, E-314 and A-005), E-313, A 117, A118, A119, A120, A127, A128, A129, A130, A131) a conference room (E-B01), three computer laboratories (E-011, E-015, A-126), an electronic lab (E-010) and a civil engineering laboratory. There are 3 internet rooms as it is reflected in the table above, but the University offers wireless internet all over its space. The capacities used are given in the table below.

Classes used during the 2018-2019 academic year.

No.	Name of the Class	Surface (m2)	Capacity
1	E B10	75	56
2	E B11	104	60

3	E 211	64	36
4	E 212	81.32	72
5	E 213	81.72	72
6	E 311	63.46	40
7	E 312	81.32	48
8	E 313	81.72	40
9	A 117	138.0	35
10	A 118	138.0	35
11	A 119	138.0	35
12	A 120	138.0	35
13	A 127	72.41	56
14	A 128	73.53	56
15	A 129	73.71	56
16	A 130	72.02	56
17	A 131	72.02	56
total	**17**	**1548.23**	**836**

Auditoriums used during the 2018-2019 academic year

No.	Name of Auditorium	Surface (m2)	Capacity
1	E 012	131.54	66
2	E 110	130.82	136
3	E 214	154.32	150
4	E 314	154.32	134
5	A 005	145.2	65
total	**5**	**716.2**	**551**

Epoka University has a conference hall with a surface of 128 m^2 and a capacity of 99 persons. The conference hall is used more for social, cultural and various national and international conferences. The hall is equipped with central heating-cooling system, video projector, sound system and two cabins for simultaneous translation. Also in the premises of the "Cultural Social Object" building is a conference hall with a surface of about 400 m^2 and a capacity of 300 persons.

LIBRARY

The Epoka University Library, which is located on the first floor of A-Building in the Rinas Campus, was founded to support the education and research activities of the university by providing and organizing the needed documents.

With its 100-seating capacity, our library has 400 square meters area of use. Our University Library is composed of entrance, book and reading hall. In the entrance, there is a check out desk. The periodicals, including the exhibition of new arrivals, are also shelved in this section. The reading hall is equipped for students to study and to do research.

Epoka University is a member of Balkan Libraries Union which was founded on 29 July 2009 with the participation of 10 institutions from 6 Balkan countries.

Our library collection is enriched by purchases and donations. The books to buy are chosen in accordance with the needs and requests of the students, administrative and academic staff. Under the Department of Library and Documentation, the library has a total of about 7500 printed books.

Digital Databases

Epoka University has full membership in JSTOR, a shared digital library created in 1995 that includes more than 2,000 academic journals.

JSTOR was founded to help libraries and academic publishers transition their activities from print to digital operations, to expand access to scholarly content around the world and to preserve it for future generations.

Every member of Epoka staff can access to JSTOR's collections by going to http://www.jstor.org/ and searching or browsing for content.

Using the Library

Our library works on the open shelf system enabling you to reach the books directly. The books in the open shelves are topically sorted in the book hall according to LC classification method. To find the book you are looking for, you should follow these steps:

1. Through the catalog search computers in the library; you can search author name, book name, and publisher, topic, or keyword areas.

2. To get the book, you can go to the shelves with the classification and location numbers of the books appearing on the screen as a result of your search.

Example of LC number for the book: "Exchange rates and international finance", Laurence S. Copeland / Financial Times, 2008

HG

3821

.C78

2008

The first part of the LC number "**HG**" represents the category of the book by its topic. In the LC system, the first letter **H** stands for **Social Science** class. Each subsequent letter indicates next level of sub categories of the main topic. In the given example **G** stands for **Finance**, **3821** indicates sub categories included between 3810-4000 (Foreign exchange, International finance, International monetary system), C78 indicates the first letter of authors surname, **2008** indicates book publication year.

Regulations

Students of Associate Degree, Bachelor's Degree and Master Students and academic and administrative personnel are the members of the library. They can borrow library materials in accordance with the rules.

Researchers coming from outside the university are not lent books, they are only allowed to use and copy the materials in the library. Readers in this group are requested to fill up the related form Lending Service.

Circulation Rules

Resource	**Patron**	**Loan period(days)**	**Maximum number of check-outs(items)**
Book	Pre-undergraduate/Undergraduate students	15	3
	Graduate students	15	5
	Staff	20	5
Bound Journal	Graduate students Staff	5	2
Visual/Audio Resources	Pre-undergraduate/Undergraduate students Graduate students Staff	3	3

C. The Curriculum

Faculty of Architecture and Engineering																
Department of Architecture																
Integrated Second Cycle Study Program in Architecture 5 (Five) Years																
First Year																
First Semester																
Courses		**Course Type**	**Compulsory /Elective**	**Weekly Course Distribution**				**Epoka Credits**	**Semestral Lecture and Studying Hours**						**ECTS**
Code	**Course Name**			**Theory**	**Pract.**	**Lab.**	**Total**		**Lect.**	**Pract.**	**Lab.**	**Site W.**	**Other**	**Total**	
ARCH 101	Basic Design	A	Compulsory	4	8	0	12	8	64	128	0	108	0	300	12
ARCH 105	Graphic Communication I	A	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	3	32	32	0	86	0	150	6
ARCH 121	Introduction to Architecture	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4
MTH 125	Basic Mathematics	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4
ENG 103	Development of Reading and Writing Skills in English I	D	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4
Semestral Total				15	10	0	25	21	240	160	0	350	0	750	30

First Year																
Second Semester																
Courses		**Course Type**	**Compulsory /Elective**	**Weekly Course Distribution**				**Epoka Credits**	**Semestral Lecture and Studying Hours**						**ECTS**
Code	**Course Name**			**Theory**	**Pract.**	**Lab.**	**Total**		**Lect.**	**Pract.**	**Lab.**	**Site W.**	**Other**	**Total**	
ARCH 102	Introduction to Architectural Design	B	Compulsory	4	8	0	12	8	64	128	0	108	0	300	12
ARCH 108	Graphic Communication II	A	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	3	32	32	0	86	0	150	6
ARCH 124	History of Art and Architecture I	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	0	52	100	4
ARCH 106	Free Hand Drawing	A	Compulsory	1	2	0	3	2	16	32	0	52	0	100	4
ENG 104	Development of Reading and Writing Skills in English II	D	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4
Semestral Total				13	12	0	25	20	208	192	0	298	52	750	30
Second Year																
Third Semester																
Courses		**Course Type**	**Compulsory /Elective**	**Weekly Course Distribution**				**Epoka Credits**	**Semestral Lecture and Studying Hours**						**ECTS**
Code	**Course Name**			**Theory**	**Pract.**	**Lab.**	**Total**		**Lect.**	**Pract.**	**Lab.**	**Site W.**	**Other**	**Total**	

ARCH 201	Architectural Design I	B	Compulsory	4	4	0	8	6	64	64	0	122	0	250	10
ARCH 253	Building Construction Technology I	B	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	3	32	32	0	61	0	125	5
ARCH 231	Statics and Strength of Materials	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4
ARCH 261	Building Materials	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4
ARCH 213	History of Art and Architecture II	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4
ARCH 211	Digital Graphics I	A	Compulsory	1	2	0	3	2	16	36	0	13	10	75	3
Semestral Total				16	8	0	24	25	256	132	0	352	52	750	30

Second Year

Fourth Semester

Courses		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and Studying Hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
ARCH 202	Architectural Design II	B	Compulsory	4	4	0	8	6	64	64	0	122	0	250	10
ARCH 214	History of Art and Architecture III	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	0	52	100	4
ARCH 232	Structure Analysis	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4
ARCH 240	Landscape Design	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4
ARCH 254	Building Construction Technology II	B	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	4	32	32	0	61	0	125	5
ARCH 218	Digital Graphics II	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	75	3
Semestral Total				18	12	0	24	25	288	96	0	339	52	750	30

Third Year

Fifth Semester

Courses		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and Studying Hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
ARCH 301	Architectural Design III	B	Compulsory	4	4	0	8	6	64	64	0	122	0	250	10
ARCH 311	Urban Design I	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	77	0	125	5
ARCH 380	Environmental Control Studio	B	Compulsory	2	4	0	6	4	32	64	0	54	0	150	6
ARCH 320	Theories of Architectural Design	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	0	52	100	4
ARCH 381	Structural Design	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	77	0	125	5

Semestral Total	16	4	0	20	20	240	128	0	330	52	750	30

Third Year

Sixth Semester

Courses		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and Studying Hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
ARCH 302	Architectural Design IV	B	Compulsory	4	4	0	8	6	64	64	0	122	0	250	10
ARCH 312	Urban Design II	B	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	3	32	32	0	90	0	150	6
ARCH xxx	Elective course	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 322	History and Theory of Restoration	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4
ARCH 331	Building Systems	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4
Semestral Total				15	6	0	21	18	240	96	0	418	0	750	30

Fourth Year

Seventh Semester

Courses		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and Studying Hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
ARCH 401	Advanced Design Studio I	B	Compulsory	4	4	0	8	6	64	64	0	122	0	250	10
ARCH 419	Advanced Detailing in Architecture	B	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	3	32	32	0	36	0	100	4
ARCH 411	Studio of Conservation and Restoration	B	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	3	32	32	0	61	0	125	5
ARCH 332	Building Construction Management	D	Compulsory	4	0	0	4	4	64	0	0	61	0	125	5
ARCH xxx	Elective course	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
Semestral Total				15	8	0	23	19	240	128	0	382	0	750	30

Fourth Year

Eighth Semester

Courses		Course Type	Compulsory /Elective	Weekly Course Distribution				Epoka Credits	Semestral Lecture and Studying Hours						ECTS
Code	Course Name			Theory	Pract.	Lab.	Total		Lect.	Pract.	Lab.	Site W.	Other	Total	
ARCH 402	Advanced Design Studio II	B	Compulsory	4	4	0	8	6	64	64	0	122	0	250	10
ARCH 410	Research Methods	A	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4

ARCH 414	Architect's Market Structure and Real Estate	D	Compulsory	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	52	0	100	4
ARCH xxx	Elective course	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH xxx	Elective course	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
Semestral Total				16	4	0	20	18	256	64	0	430	0	750	30

Fifth Year

Ninth Semester

Courses		**Course Type**	**Compulsory /Elective**	**Weekly Course Distribution**				**Epoka Credits**	**Semestral Lecture and Studying Hours**						**ECTS**
Code	**Course Name**			**Theory**	**Pract.**	**Lab.**	**Total**		**Lect.**	**Pract.**	**Lab.**	**Site W.**	**Other**	**Total**	
ARCH 505	Special Topics in Architectural Design	B	Compulsory	2	2	0	4	3	32	32	0	86	0	150	6
ARCH 515	Thesis Research	B	Compulsory	3	0	0	0	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH xxx	Elective course	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH xxx	Elective course	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH xxx	Elective course	C	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
Semestral Total				14	0	0	13	15	224	0	0	494	0	750	30

Fifth Year

Tenth Semester

COURSES		**Course Type**	**Compulsory /Elective**	**Weekly Course Distribution**				**Epoka**	**Semestral Course and studying hours**						**ECTS**
Code	**Course Name**			**Theory**	**Pract.**	**Lab.**	**Total**		**Lect.**	**Pract.**	**Lab.**	**Site W.**	**Other**	**Total**	
ARCH 310	Summer Practice at Construction Site	D	Compulsory	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	125	0	125	5
ARCH 409	Summer Practice at Architectural Studio	D	Compulsory	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	0	100	4
ARCH xxx	**Non-Technical Elective**	E	Elective	3	0	0	3	3	48	0	0	102	0	150	6
ARCH 500	Master Thesis	E	Compulsory	2	0	0	2	2	32	0	0	343	0	375	15
Semestral Total				**5**	**0**	0	5	**5**	80	0	0	670	0	750	**30**

CURRICULUM OF PhD STUDY PROGRAM

Year I - First Semester		**T**	**P**	**C**	**ECTS**
ARCH 8xx	ELECTIVE COURSE	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 8xx	ELECTIVE COURSE	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 8xx	ELECTIVE COURSE	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 8xx	ELECTIVE COURSE	3	0	3	7.5
Total:		**12**	**0**	**12**	**30**

Year I - Second Semester		**T**	**P**	**C**	**ECTS**
ARCH 8xx	ELECTIVE COURSE	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 8xx	ELECTIVE COURSE	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 8xx	ELECTIVE COURSE	3	0	3	7.5
ARCH 8xx	ELECTIVE COURSE	3	0	3	7.5
Total:		**12**	**0**	**12**	**30**

Year II+III		**T**	**P**	**C**	**ECTS**
ARCH 800	PhD Thesis	0	0	0	120
Total:		0	0	0	**120**

Note: **T** – Theoretical hours
P – Practical hours
C – Credits according to American System
ECTS – Credits according to ECTS System

Teaching, Learning, Assessment & Research

Graduate Students' List of Theses

1. *Arta Ramadani, Urban Microclimate: Reducing the Urban Heat Island Effect in Pristina, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sokol Dervishi.*

Taking into consideration the importance of urban microclimates in small developing countries, the attention towards this issue is constantly increasing due to its effects on the living environment and thermal comfort of its inhabitants. As a developing country, Kosovo has undergone through the process of rapid urbanization which has caused immense changes in the morphology and material composition of the urban structure of its cities. This research focuses in the capital city of Kosovo, Pristina, where the effect of urbanization has caused various issues of which the most prevailing is urban heat island (UHI). UHI is a phenomenon that is present when the city temperatures are higher compared to its surrounding peripheries, an issue identified in the urbanized sectors of Pristina. This study localizes three different sites with different thermo physical properties through which UHI can be evaluated. Site analyses are conducted through field studies on urban configuration and patterns, and through meteorological data. For this research, the ENVI-met software was used for simulating environmental conditions of the existing and proposed mitigation scenarios and also to analyze and reduce UHI effects in Pristina as well. The optimization results extracted from the simulations, display positive results in comparison to the existing statistics by decreasing the temperatures more than 2 grade Celsius.

2. *Klea Jorga, Design Optimization of Office Building Morphology, Envelope and Orientation Configuration for Energy Conservation in Three Different Climate Zones in Albania , Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sokol Dervishi.*

The present thesis aims at relating the impact of building shape, envelope materials and building orientation with enerfy performance and sustainability in office buildings. Diverse climates of three cities in the territory of Albania are taken in consideration: Tirana, Kukes and Saranda respectively. The approach presented by firstly defining various shape morphologies and shape

coefficient from the relative compactness formula which stands as the ratio between the external skin surfaces and the inner volume of the building. Ten building have been chosen according to their varieties in shapes and their suitability. The model includes inputting climate, building activity and envelope material data to generate simulation results. Five façades combined with two types of fenestration are studied. Results represented in terms of annual energy consumption show that building morphologies with 0.82 and 0.80 relative compactness coefficient perform respectively the best and the worst, specifically 2-5% better and 29-33% worse than the cube with the highest compactness factor. The triple glazed double brick façade operates the best in all scenarios while the triple glazed fully glazed façade operates has the most negative impact. In the climate of Kukes there is less energy spent comparing to two other cities and when the largest façade faces west the greatest amount of energy is spent in all scenarios.

3. *Ornela Gjoni , Prospects of Rural Tourism in Albania, Dr. Fabio Naselli, M. Sc. Egin Zeka*

Rural tourism seems to be a useful instrument that can drive the required progress and change regarding the situation of rural areas. Many European countries have opted for this sector of development by implementing various strategies and projects and have witnessed a positive impact in their rural communities. Therefore, this study aims to shed light on the prospects of rural agritourism in Albania by focusing in the work produced within “100+ villages” Academy, which can be considered as one of the first attempts that aim to integrate tourism planning policies in a rural context at the institutional level. This initiative aimed at formulating models of developments for more than 100 villages where rural tourism is the vehicle that regenerates and reactivated these rural areas. By analyzing similar successful initiatives undertaken elsewhere, the following research gives a list of guidelines and principles that can be taken into account during the process of planning for tourism and rural development. The paper is written about the work of Lot 09 in particular, a work that was produced within the Academy’s framework. At the center of the study stands the evaluation of Lot 09 proposal ideas, which cover five different villages in Elbasan region. Since this thesis is a continuation of the 100+ villages academy, it represents the findings and special characteristics of this Lot’s team.

4. *Rexhina Basha , Social and Physical Dimensions of Gated Communities in the South-Eastern Border of Tirana, Dr. Fabio Naselli, M. Sc. Egin Zeka*

Nowadays, gated neighborhoods are considered the trend of suburbanization, having high social, economic and political impact in the urban sustainability of the cities. At the same time, UN Habitat's Program has identified the parameters that an urban development should complete, in order to achieve sustainability in a long-term vision. Taking into consideration that gated communities are now a global phenomenon, same issues are recognized in Albania as well, especially in Tirana. Walled neighborhoods are becoming the urban planning challenges of the 21st century, especially in the south eastern border of Tirana. One of the main reasons for selecting this zone as a study area is a study area is the extension of these gated communities through the green areas; and the fact that every new residential complex constructed in this peripheral zone is following the same strategies. Additionally, there is no previous scientific study about the impact that these suburban developments are having in Tirana city.

5. *Shqiponja Dakaj,Connecting through Green-Blue Axis. A Proposal for Prizren, Dr. Fabio Naselli.*

Nowadays the population is growing so fast and the urbanization is talking over globally, there is an immediate need to undertake actions on providing better places for the inhabitants, especially in the cities which are growing and expanding every day more and more. Due to the uncontrolled overbuilding, there comes the destroying of nature elements, rivers, forest, green spaces, ecosystems, cultural values and human society. Even in small cities, new developments are taking over, increasing the economy and providing new spaces for the population, however, often leading to negative results for the ecosystem and community divergence. A similar situation has emerged in Kosovo since the end of the war in 1999, where the population has emigrated as a consequence of the raids that Serbians did during that period, have turned to their destroyed homes and that is when the overbuilding started to occur because of the absence of urban planning and regulatory plans. The cities have undergone through a lot of changes until the present days and now 20 years later every city including Prizren have development and conservation plans. The problem today of Prizren is the focus and expansion in commercial and residential building but neglecting the public spaces, leaving potential areas in bad conditions and creating a disconnection between different characteristic neighborhoods of the city.
The main challenge here is: How will we protect and at the same time promote the potential of green public areas that are currently abandoned and in bad conditions? How can be integrated these areas with the existing built environment?

List of Incoming & Outgoing Students

Research Areas and Research Groups

Architectural Design:

Research on the impact of physical, social and cultural environments on human behavior. The main aim of this research area is to develop activities so that to create social awareness on design; to establish concrete ties between practice, theory and education in the design, architecture, urban and environmental issues. It aims to search and solve the problems related to physical, social and cultural environments that arise in the country and sharing these solutions with the community. It focuses on understanding, changing or maintaining the behaviour in the built environment as a complex inter-relationship and shared social practice.

Research on Curriculum Reform in Higher Education. The issue of curricular restructuring in architectural education in most institutions of the European Higher Education Area, has emerged as a concern to adapt to the Bologna framework of qualifications. The implementation of the Bologna reforms mostly focuses on how to provide minimum training requirements measured by subject-specific competences. However there is a lack of clarity on the nature and implementation of generic-competences, part of the "21st century skills".

This research area focuses on exploring and developing bottom-up, learner/human-centered approaches to curriculum development. The overall aim is to expand the learner's capabilities to adapt to the changing nature of knowledge co-creation and sharing. The need to cultivate attitudes of knowledge-sharing in collaborative practices is ever growing to parallel the advancement in tools and corresponding technical skills. The conducted research has experimented on the intersections between design pedagogies and computational approaches to design.

Team: Dr. Edmond Manahasa, Assist.Prof.Dr. Anna Yunitsyna, Dr. Odeta Manahasa, MSc. Desantila Hysa.

Building Physics and Building Ecology:

The research area provides coverage of heat transfer, moisture, sound/acoustics, and illumination in urban and building scale. In addition, interrelationships between different building physics phenomena are elucidated to develop performance specifications that inform the design process. The research activities cover a wide spectrum of work including computational-assisted building performance, building systems control, building ecology, human ecology, sustainable architectural design and optimization.

The research investigates different methods in design and optimization towards sustainable built environment. In addition, the studies are focused on estimation and prediction of innovative systems in various building/urban typologies. Different design principles are critically reviewed and compared via different range of systems and calculation methods to assess optimization.

Sustainability and system integration: The research area focuses on the development of urban sustainability assessment methods towards cities. The studies involve the sustainable neighborhood pattern and design, environmental impact on microclimate and ecosystems, urban form, land use and infrastructure. These indicators are instruments to direct sustainable development and select appropriate policies for achieving urban sustainability. The study identifies sustainable measures towards improvement of quality of life of city inhabitants through optimal management of its resources.

Team: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sokol Dervishi, MSc. Ina Dervishi

History and Theory of Architecture:

The research area of history of architecture focus mainly in those architectural movements or styles which have been present in Albania until 19th century including Byzantine and Ottoman architecture, as well as the historical developments of 20th century like the influence of Italian styles (Novecento and Rationalism), Stalinist Soviet Union Neo-classicism and socialist period heritage.

The research area of theory of architecture focus mainly in the 20th century architectural discourse especially after the fall of modernism as a paradigm. The influence of philosophical movements like phenomenology, structuralism and post-structuralism on architecture are the main research topics. Another sub-division of this research area are environmental behavior theories which earned importance after the criticism made to modernism for producing similar and monotonous architecture in global scale, revealing the issue of place identity. This sub-division approach is based on the study f relation between individual and built environment.

Team: Dr. Edmond Manahasa, Dr. Frida Pashako.

Research on Urbanism and Landscape:

The main objective is to explore human settlements of different typologies and understand the relationships among urban, natural and social environments. The research tries to focus on challenges of contemporary urban habitat and find proper solutions for a sustainable development. It is on the scope of this research to study the city in different contexts and layers and develop a multidisciplinary approach to understand the complexity of urbanity. Some sub-themes of the research are: Strategical Urban Planning; Urban Morphology; Emergent Urbanism; Urban Revitalization; and Design of Public Space.

Landscape Research: The research motivation is based on the principles of European Landscape Convention designating landscape "as an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and/or human factors". As the target focus it includes the entire territory of natural, rural, urban and peri-urban character. It concerns landscapes that might be considered outstanding as well as every day or degraded landscapes. The over compassing definition of landscape aims at building holistic analytical approaches towards real life complex problems of spatial development/ alteration at a gradient of spatial scales. A special concern is dedicated to the utilization of computerized and digital analytical means like Geographical Information Systems (GIS) technologies, not only as a tool but as well as a common ground for communicating in a trans-disciplinary working environment.

Team: Dr. Fabio Naselli, MSc. Egin Zeka, MSc. Artan Hysa.

Housing and Parametrics:

The Housing Research: deals with social, psychological, political and economic regarding housing in today's global economy. The focus is upon how the research can impact the practice of design at the interior and architectural as well as the community and regional planning scale. The research is combined from the practical and theoretical parts based on the contemporary understanding of housing with reflection of such approaches, as House and Time, House and Culture and Economy, House and Aesthetics, House and Psychology, overview the guidelines and recommendations of the dwelling construction, such as Design with Environmental Levels, Universal Design, Lifetime Homes, Design for Disassembly, to see, how the dwelling can be evaluated both by architects and inhabitants. Parametric modeling and design: The research deals with the main principles of creation of the innovative design solutions using the techniques of parametric 3d modelling. The instrument of design is Grasshopper - a graphical algorithm editor tightly integrated with Rhino's 3D modeling tools. The research is organized as a series of practical demonstrations of the software, which is supported by the theoretical and practical works of students. The work is devoted to the study of the new approaches towards creation of the algorithmic shape, which is responsible to the external factors at the final stage of design. It proceeds from the simple single objects and operations towards the complex sets of data and patterns study.

Team: Dr. Edmond Manahasa, Assist.Prof.Dr. Anna Yunitsyna.

List of Publications

The Academic staff of the Epoka University, during this period of functioning (2018-2019) has published articles in different scientific journals, proceeding books, newspapers, etc.

No	Name Surname	Scientific Publications and Academic Activities

1	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sokol Dervishi	Sky Radiance and Luminance Models: The Boundary Conditions (Book)
2	Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sokol Dervishi	Thermal and energy performance evaluation of underground bunkers: An adaptive reuse approach
3	Dr. Edmond Manahasa	Place attachment to a larger through a smaller scale: attachment to city through housing typologies in Tirana

Participation of Academic Staff in Academic Events

International Conference on Architecture and Urban Design

Every two years, the Department of Architecture at Epoka University organizes the International Conference on Architecture and Urban Design.

The conference promises a wide range of topics on architecture and urban design and an international audience of academics and practitioners from around the world. The ICAUD provided an international forum for knowledge exchange where scientific papers and posters were presented by academics from different countries. All contributions were reviewed from a scientific committee consisting of internationally acclaimed scholars.

The conference topics include:

- Architectural History and Historic Preservation

- Architectural and Landscape Design

- Urban/Building Physics and Technology

- Urban Planning and Design

- Architecture & Urban Design Education

-Industry and Practice in Albanian context.

Projects

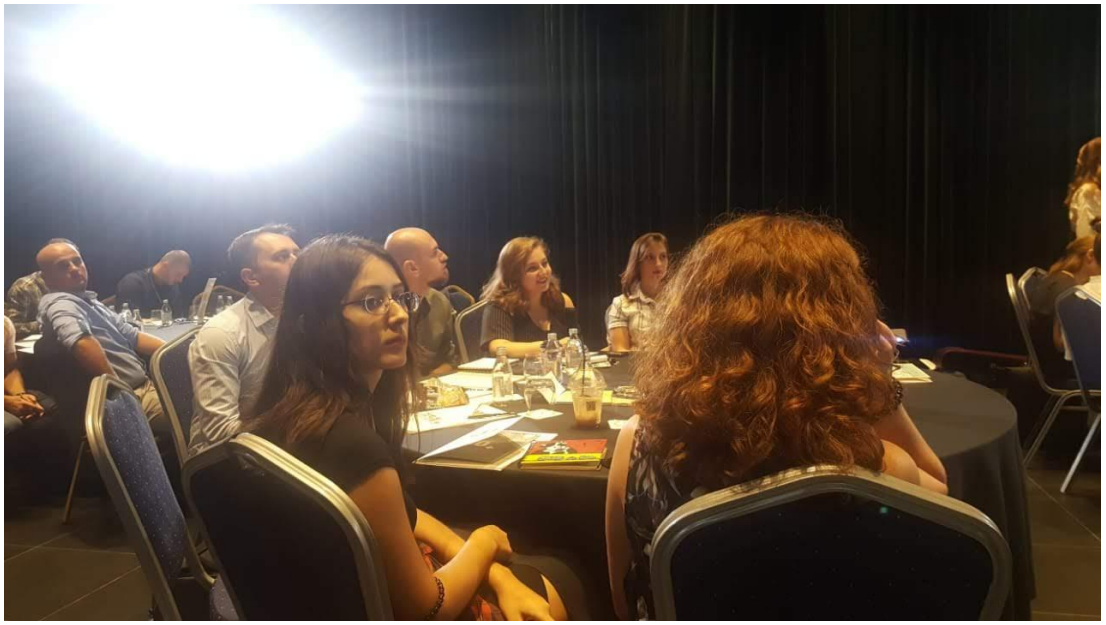
Support, Resources & Representation

Participation in Academic Events

“Akademia 100+ Fshatrat” First workshop

On September 14th, 2018, representatives from Epoka University, department of Architecture took part in the first workshop of 100+ Villages Academy, “Akademia 100+ Fshatrat” organized by National Territorial Planning Agency and other institutions. During the workshop, the working teams, institutions and different experts conducted an intense discussion of first findings, experiences and expectations of the Academy.

Epoka University is a partner institution of “Akademia 100+ Fshatrat” which is coordinated by National Territorial Planning Agency (NTPA). Two teams from our department of Architecture are contributing in this project through an intensive engagement of professors and students. The Academy, which aims to build innovative models and proposals for rural development, has started in August 2018 and is planned to be finished in six months.



Open Lecture on "Spatial Syntax And Algorithms: Research Tools In Urban Planning And Architecture " with Prof. Dr. Vasco Barbosa, a Guest Professor coming from Oporto, Portugal.

The series of Open Lectures, Architecture Department held on Tuesday, December 11, 2018 introduction session to " Spatial Syntax And Algorithms: Research Tools In Urban Planning And Architecture " with Vasco Barbosa (PhD).
The Guest Professor coming from Oporto, Portugal introduced the students of the department with the approach that investigates the different relationships between spatial environments and other phenomena: social economical or environmental. Mr. Barbosa shared some of the researches they had done in their university with the help pf this scientific approach for giving some solutions to spatial planning problems.
The forum closed after a talk with students where they shared their questions and discussed opportunities for further engagement and possible implementation of the space syntax in their researches.

"Arena Kombëtare" Technical Trip

Within the framework of "History of Art and Architecture III" course Department of Architecture 3rd year students visited "Arena Kombetare" stadium. The students together with lecturers Edmond Manahasa and Teuta Kodra were guided by Archea Associati Studio

representative architects through the construction site. Furthermore the students were introduced to innovative construction techniques and materials related to the new "National Stadium" of Albania.

Open Lecture with Prof. Piotr Lorens focused on "Planning for large-scale urban interventions. Gdansk young city case study"

On 8th of March a very attractive open lecture has been held by Piotr Lorens on urban transformation process on-going in Gdansk (Poland). This lecture was focused on "Planning for large-scale urban interventions. Gdansk young city case study".

It has been a stimulant lecture for our students and for us all, in which various topics of extremely current interests have been stressed, related to the City of Gdansk but strictly contextualized with a wide range of topical urban issues. During the Open Lecture Gdansk has becomes, thus, a paradigmatic practice in the field of urban transition through its experiences in managing abandoned and marginal inner areas, in regenerating ex-industrial settlements and in designing the contemporary architecture and public open spaces.

His considerations on relationships between different scales of intervention and about the real (professional) difficulties on the process from design to implementation have interested the present students whom have reacted with great enthusiasm and attraction (thanks also to his particular pleasantness in the storytelling).

The Aga Khan Award for Architecture

From November 19-27, Epoka University, Department of Architecture is exhibiting the wining and shortlisted projects of Aga Khan Award for Architecture, 2016 cycle. In the opening speech for the event, Mr. Bekim Ramku, the representative of Aga Khan Foundation in Balkans and Eastern Europe and at the same time the Director of Kosovo's Architecture Foundation discussed about the Aga Khan Award, its objectives and other works covered by the foundation.

The Aga Khan Award for Architecture focuses on processes of change in parts of the world where the built environment is undergoing rapid transformation, at times with dire consequences. Over the last four decades the Award has sought to understand the nature of this change and to have an impact on design and building in the hope of creating a better quality of life for the people who inhabit these environments. Each three-year cycle of the Award involves an

exhaustive search for innovative solutions and positive achievements which highlight the significant contribution that architecture can make towards shaping and improving our lives.

The aim of this exhibition is to share the findings of the 13th Award Cycle, spanning from 2014 to 2016. Among hundreds of nominations the Master July reviewed 348 projects from 69 countries and shortlisted 19 of these for in-depth inspection and expert review. From this shortlist six projects were then selected to share the prize money of 1,000,000 USD. Both the Award recipients and the shortlisted projects propose creative solutions to some of the most relevant issues facing architecture today. While different in scale and approach, all of the projects are part of their contexts and enhance the sense of belonging in their communities. What emerged from the many nominations received, and most notable from the 19 projects featured in this exhibition, is a sense of what can be achieved when architects and clients work collaboratively, combining their forces in a conscious effort to improve the built environment and the everyday lives" (Farrokh Tearstain).

Student Best Success Stories

Sindi Balla, has been ranked first from the Epoka University for her achievements. While being a student she has been enabled in different workshops and internships.

Office Holders

The department would like to thank the following for their valuable contribution to teaching, administration and management over the past year:

- Dr. Edmond Manahasa(Head of the Department of Architecture)
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sokol Dervishi (Dean of Faculty of Architecture and Engineering)
- Assist. Prof. Dr. Anna Yunitsyna
- Dr. Odeta Manahasa
- Dr. Artan Hysa
- Dr. Fabio Naselli
- MSc. Desantila Hysa
- MSc. Egin Zeka
- MSc. Ina Osmani

- MSc. Artemis Hasa
- Coordinator Livia Plaku

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