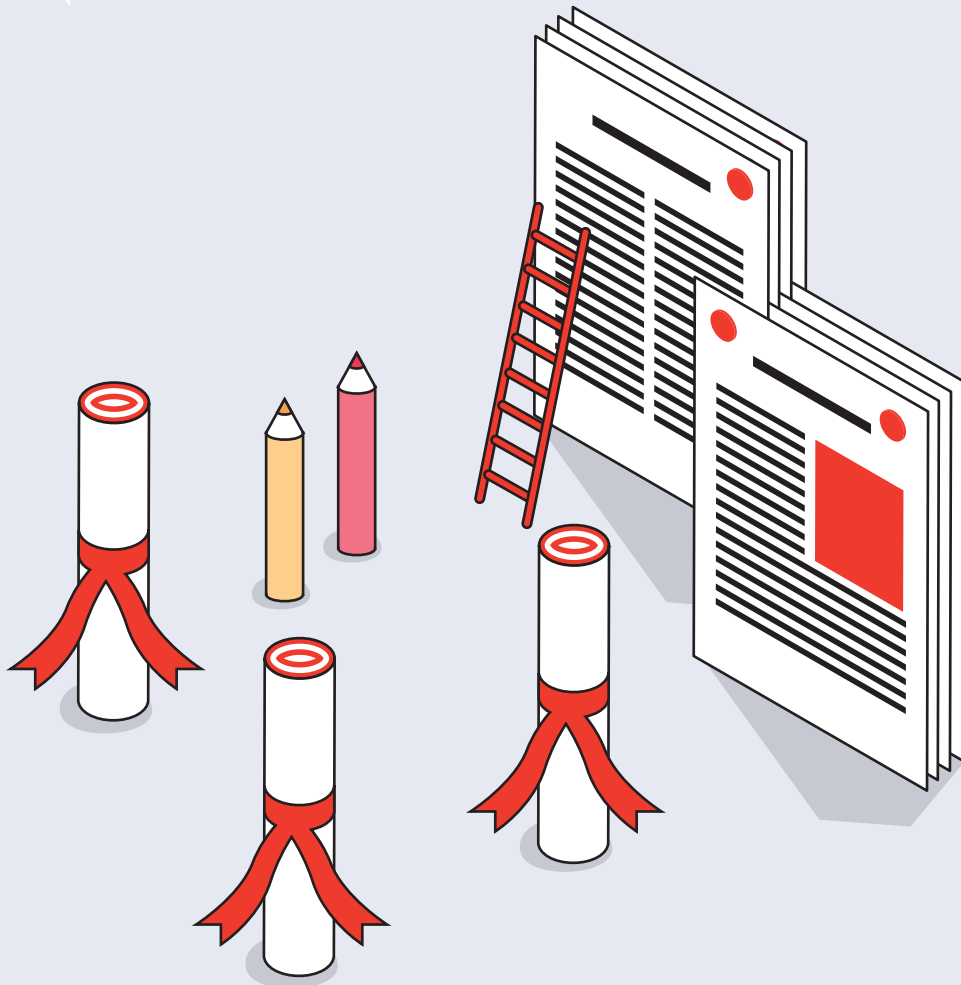


PRISHTINA, FEBRUARY 2020

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND SCIENTIFIC PUBLISHING IN THE UNIVERSITY OF PEJA



ACADEMIC
INTEGRITY
AND SCIENTIFIC
PUBLISHING IN
THE UNIVERSITY
OF PEJA

Publisher:



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“Our Father, who art in heaven, give us the power to keep our mouths shut when we have nothing to say. And forgive us the patience to think before we write! Inspire us with a sharp sense of justice to speak not only without bias, but to also act thus! Save us from the traps of grammar, distortions of language and errors of typing. Amen!”

[Faik Konica]

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DEFINITIONS

Papers published in a journal with a coefficient – are papers published in journals foreseen by the laws and regulations in power

Papers in dubious journals – papers published in journals listed in Beall's list

Justification of academic rank – having the necessary number of scientific papers for the respective academic rank according to the laws and regulations in power

Men and women – presumed gender of the academic staff based on their name without prejudicing their personal identification

INTRODUCTION

The need for the public to know about the quality of the public universities who are funded by the taxpayers, forced ORCA to extend the research conducted for the past three years on the University of Prishtina, to include all public universities.

This report is the result of the research conducted in June - October 2019 where ORCA's researchers reviewed the CVs of the academic staff of the University of Peja with the academic ranks of a professor: assistant professor, associate professor and full professor.

As it was expected, the results are not satisfactory, but such an analysis could be useful to plan a future reform or to undertake a measure to remedy the situation.

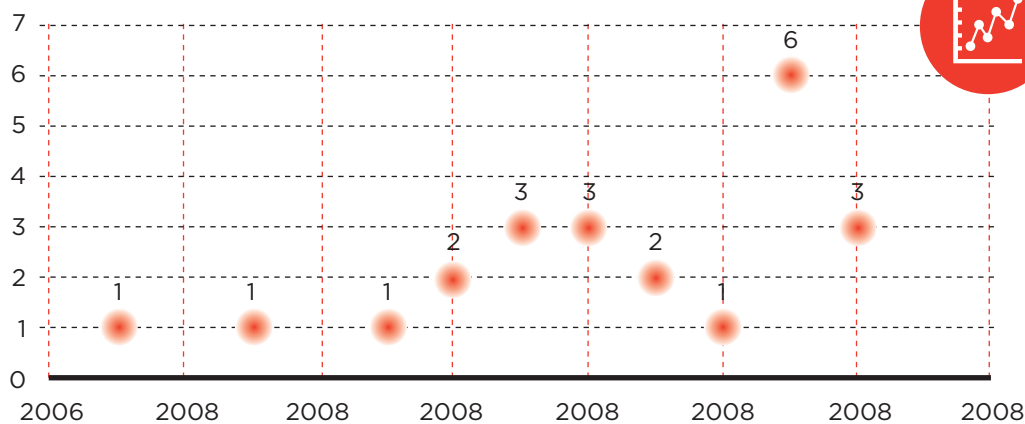
The low number of scientific papers published in proper scientific journals by the academic staff as first or corresponding author, while the number is multiplied for dubious publishing, is a telltale sign that the pressure for publishing in one hand and lack of grants for scientific projects in the other, has forced most professors to publish for the sake of publishing. This has produced a reality where publishing in dubious journals is the rule and not the exception.

GENERAL DATA

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATION

From 2006 to 2018 the professors of the University of Peja have published a total of 23 papers with a coefficient, as first or corresponding authors. 22 professors have not published any paper with a coefficient. The largest number of professors with 0 papers is in the Agribusiness Faculty and the Business Faculty with 8 professors each.

PAPERS IN JOURNALS WITH A COEFFICIENT



We can see that in 2008 and 2010 no papers were published, while there's an increase in publishing from 2013. The total number of papers in dubious journals is 84. If we compare it to the number of papers with a coefficient, it shows that the number of papers in dubious journals is 3.65 times higher.

PAPERS IN DUBIOUS JOURNALS

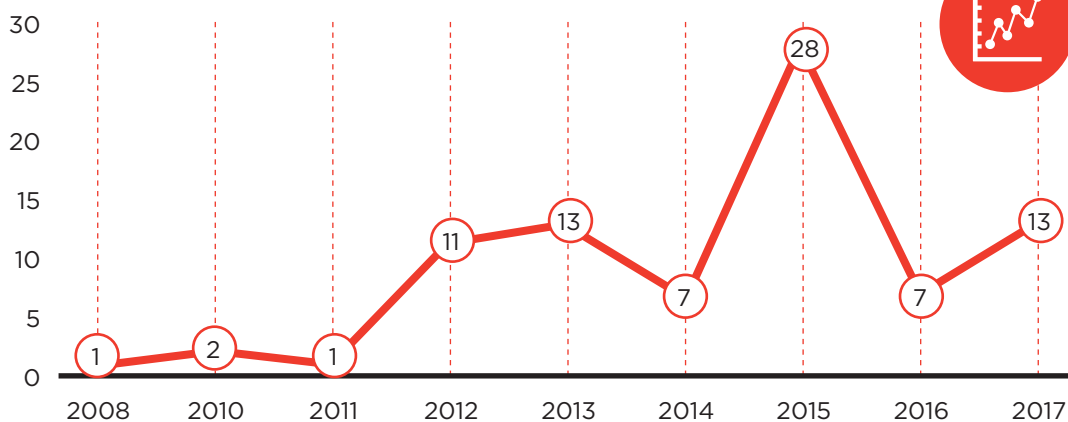


TABLE OF PAPERS PUBLISHED ACCORDING TO FACULTIES

Table of papers published according to faculties

No.	Faculty	Papers in scientific journals - first or corresponding author	Papers in dubious journals	Number of professors	Papers per professor
1	Agribusiness Faculty	12	33	11	1
2	MTHE Faculty	2	29	6	0.3
3	Law Faculty	5	1	5	1
4	Business Faculty	4	21	11	0.4
TOTAL		23	84	33	0.7

JUSTIFICATION OF ACADEMIC RANKS

Out of the 33 professors in the University of Peja, 9 professors (30%) justify their academic ranks, while 24 professors (70%) do not. The University of Peja has only one full professor, 12 associate professors, and 20 assistant professors.

4 professors who justify their ranks have published in dubious journals. While there are 11 professors who do not justify their academic ranks, but have published scientific papers. In total 15 professors (45%) have published in dubious journals.

TABLE OF GENERAL DATA ACCORDING TO FACULTIES

No.	Faculties	Professors who justify their academic rank			Professors who do not justify their academic rank		
		Assistant professor	Associate professor	Full professor	Assistant professor	Associate professor	Full professor
1	Agribusiness Faculty	1	0	1	7	2	0
2	MTHE Faculty	2	0	0	1	3	0
3	Law Faculty	2	1	0	1	1	0
4	Business Faculty	2	0	0	4	5	0
TOTAL		7	1	1	13	11	0
		9			24		

AGRIBUSINESS FACULTY

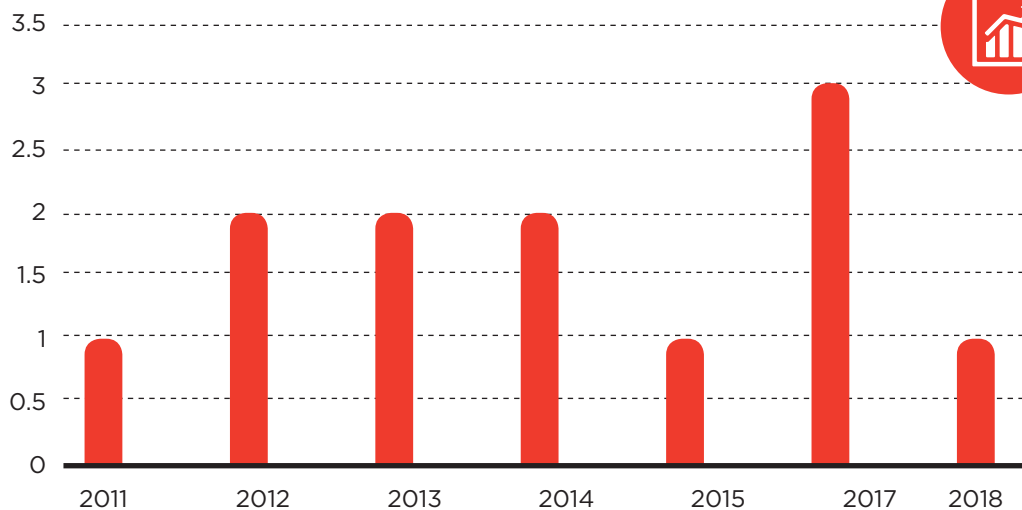


In total this faculty has **11** professors as full time academic staff, **ten** of which are men, and only **one** of them is a woman.

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATION

There are 12 papers published in journals with a coefficient by the professors of the Agribusiness Faculty as first or corresponding author, in the 7-year period - 2011 to 2018 - where in 2017 the most papers were published (3).

PAPERS IN JOURNALS WITH A COEFFICIENT

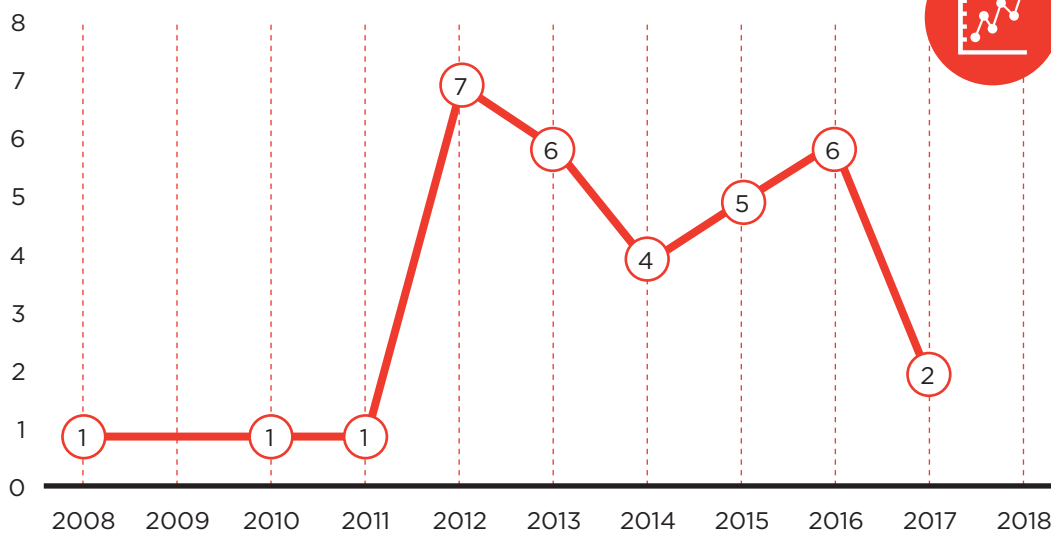


PUBLICATION IN DUBIOUS JOURNALS

7 professors have published in dubious journals, 2 of which are associate professors and 5 are assistant professors. None of these professors justify their academic ranks.

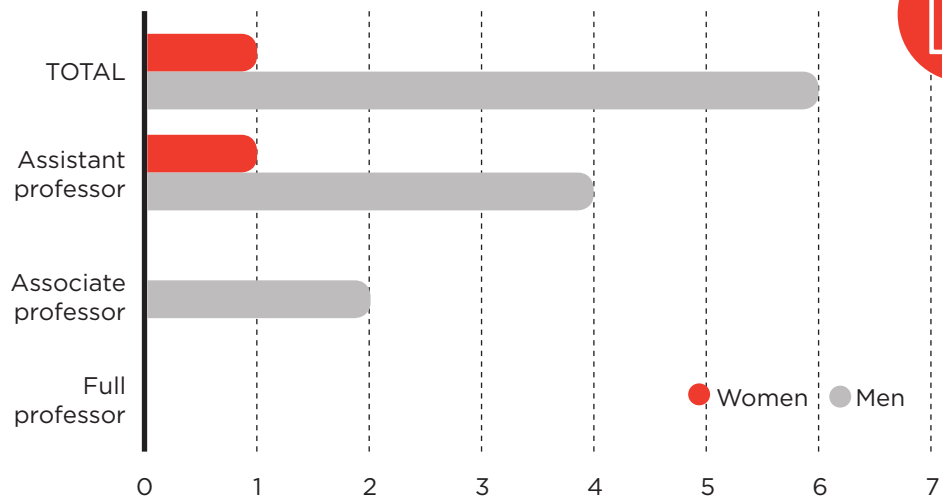
These professors have published a total of 33 papers in dubious journals in 12 years, with most of the papers published in 2012.

PUBLICATION IN DUBIOUS JOURNALS



Another interesting finding for this faculty is that the assistant professors published the most in dubious journals. 4 of them are men and 1 is a woman. Furthermore, 2 associate professors have also published in dubious journals.

PUBLICATION IN DUBIOUS JOURNALS



JUSTIFICATION OF ACADEMIC RANKS

Out of 11 professors in this faculty, only 2 of them justify their academic ranks, while 9 others are unmerited professors. Professors that do not justify their rank the most are assistant professors, but that's because there's more of them compared to other ranks.

It's important to emphasize that the professors who justified their ranks did not publish any papers in dubious journals, while the professors that do not justify their ranks have published 33.

Professors that justify their ranks			Professors that do not justify their ranks		
Assistant professor	Associate professor	Full professor	Assistant professor	Associate professor	Full professor
1	0	1	7	2	0

MANAGEMENT IN TOURISM, HOSPITALITY AND ENVIRONMENT FACULTY (MTHE)



There are **6 professors** in MTHE, **4** of which are men and **2** are **women**. Men have higher academic ranks than women, even though there are no full professors in this faculty. While there are **3 associate professors**, all men.

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATION

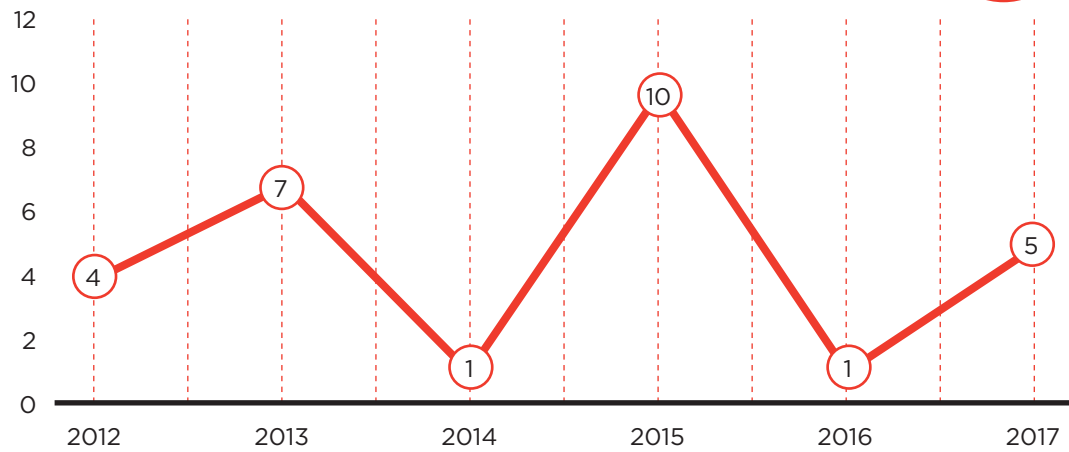
This faculty's professors have a total of two papers published in scientific journals with a coefficient as first or corresponding authors. The papers are by the two assistant professors who justify their academic ranks. These papers were published in 2015 and 2017.

PUBLICATION IN DUBIOUS JOURNALS

In total the MTHE faculty has published 29 papers in dubious journals in the period of 2012-2017. 2015 is the year with the most papers published in dubious journals, a total of 10.

Only two professors from this faculty have published in dubious journals. They are both men, and one is an assistant professor, the other is an associate professor.

PUBLICATION IN DUBIOUS JOURNALS



JUSTIFICATION OF ACADEMIC RANKS

Out of 6 professors, only 2 justify their ranks. Both are assistant professors and only one of them has published 24 papers in dubious journals. While there are 4 professors who do not justify their academic ranks. One of them has published five papers in dubious journals.

MTHE Faculty has no full professors, 3 are associate professors (all men), and 3 assistant professors (2 women). No woman has published in dubious journals.

Professors that justify their ranks			Professors that do not justify their ranks		
Assistant professor	Associate professor	Assistant professor	Associate professor	Assistant professor	Associate professor
2	0	0	1	3	0

BUSINESS FACULTY



The total number of academic staff in this faculty is **11, 10** of which are men, and **one** is a **woman**. The Business Faculty doesn't have any full professors. **5** are associate professors (all men), and **6** are assistant professors (1 woman).

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATION

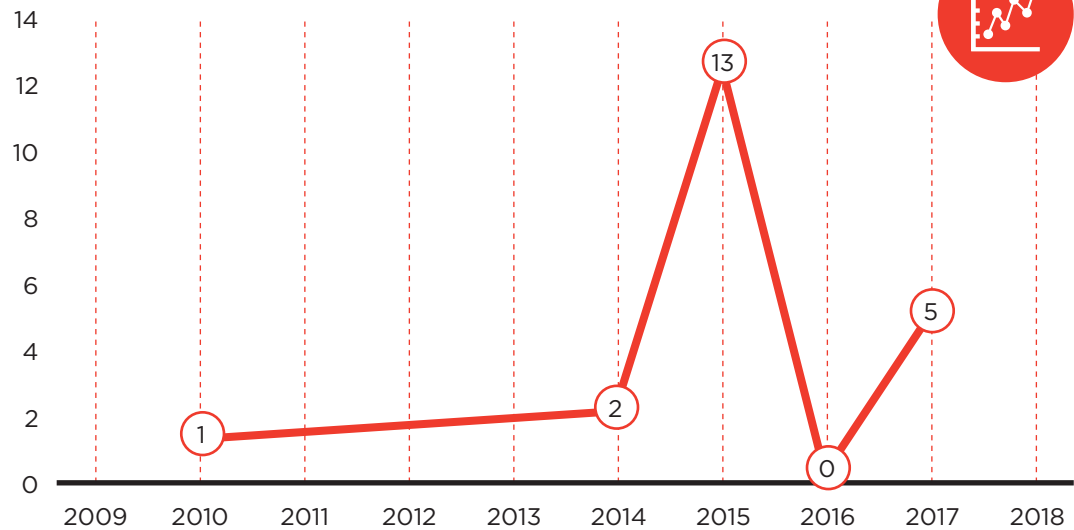
The Business Faculty professors have published 4 papers in scientific journals with a coefficient as first or corresponding authors. These papers have been published in 2016-2018.

PUBLICATION IN DUBIOUS JOURNALS

In total 5 professors of the Business Faculty have published in dubious journals, 3 do not justify their academic ranks, and 2 do.

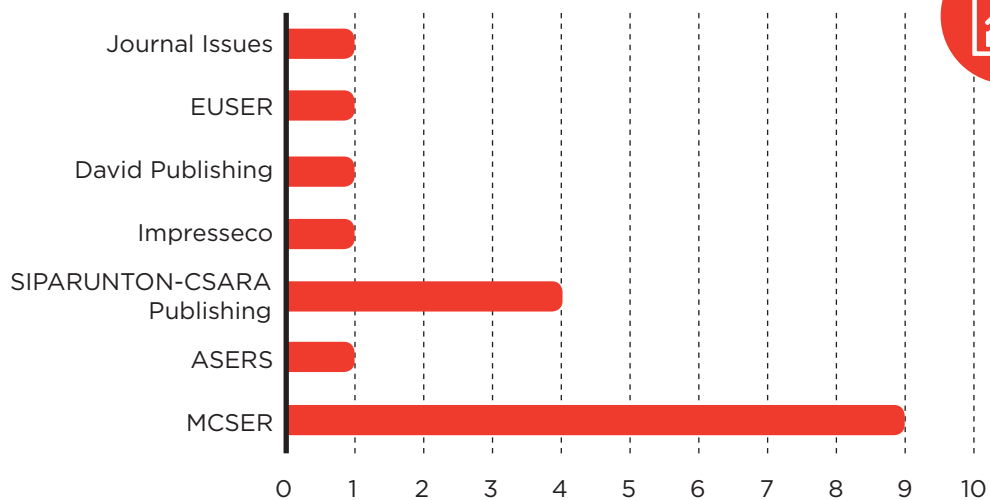
The number of papers published in dubious journals in this faculty is 21. Four of the professors who have published papers in dubious journals are men, one of which is an associate professor, while three are assistant professors. The other person who published in dubious journals is a woman.

PUBLICATION IN DUBIOUS JOURNALS



The professors have selected various dubious publishers to publish their papers. One of the most common ones is MCSER. During the research we have also noticed that two professors have listed the same paper 2-4 times as different papers in their CV.

THE PUBLISHERS OF THE DUBIOUS JOURNALS



JUSTIFICATION OF ACADEMIC RANKS

Out of 11 professors in the Business Faculty, only 2 justify their ranks, while 9 do not. The Faculty doesn't have any full professors, but it has 5 associate professors and none of them justify their ranks. All of them are men.

In total the Faculty has 6 assistant professors, 2 of which justify their ranks. Only one woman is an assistant professor, and she justifies her rank.

2 professors who justify their ranks have 4 papers in dubious journals, while 3 professors who do not justify their ranks have 17 papers published in dubious journals.

Professors that justify their ranks			Professors that do not justify their ranks		
Assistant professor	Associate professor	Assistant professor	Associate professor	Assistant professor	Associate professor
2	0	0	4	5	0

LAW FACULTY



The number of professors in this faculty is very small, with **5** in total, **3 men** and **2 women**. There are no full professors, **two associate professors**, and **three assistant professors**. All of the associate professors are **men**, with higher ranks than **women**. **One** assistant professor is a man and the **two** others are women.

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATION

The Law Faculty has five papers published in scientific journals with a coefficient in a period of 11 years, from 2007 to 2018.

PUBLICATION IN DUBIOUS JOURNALS

Only one assistant professor has published one paper in a dubious journal.

JUSTIFICATION OF ACADEMIC RANKS

Out of 5 professors, 3 justify their ranks, while 2 do not.

1 professor that justifies his rank has published 1 paper in a dubious journal.

Professors that justify their ranks			Professors that do not justify their ranks		
Assistant professor	Associate professor	Assistant professor	Associate professor	Assistant professor	Associate professor
2	1	0	1	1	0

THE METHODOLOGY OF RESEARCHING SCIENTIFIC PAPERS

Legal basis:

- ① Law for Higher Education in the Republic of Kosovo
- ② The University of Peja Statute, specifically Articles 171, 172 and 173
- ③ Administrative Instruction 01/2018 the recognition principles of platforms and international magazines with reviews
- ④ Administrative Instruction for supplement and precision - Annex - I - (MEST) 7/2018 of AI No: 01/2018 the recognition principles of platforms and international magazines with reviews
- ⑤ Regulation 754 for the electing procedures related to election, re-election, and promotion of academic staff in the University of Peja “Haxhi Zeka”.

ORCA has reviewed a number of relevant documents implemented by the law-makers such as the Kosovo Parliament and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. Concretely, we analyzed the Law on Higher Education in Kosovo, and the Administrative Instructions 01/2018 and 07/2018. This review was conducted to ensure that the research is as accurate as can be. Furthermore, ORCA has researched the publications in international scientific journals, defined as a criterion by the Statute of the University of Peja for electing and appointing academic ranks and the Regulation 754 of the University of Peja. Through this criteria, we can guarantee continuous scientific activity which is essential for obtaining the latest methods and results in science, upon which we can guarantee quality and sustainable teaching and scientific contribution.

RESEARCH OBJECT

The CVs of 4 faculties of the University of Peja were researched (Agribusiness, Law, Business, and Management in Tourism, Hospitality and Environment). This research does not include assistants, lecturers, foreign language lecturers, and other collaborators who do not have the academic ranks of assistant professor, associate professor or full professor.

ORCA did not research the artistic work that is the criteria equivalent to scientific papers for the Faculty of Arts. Thus, Faculty of Arts professors were not researched by ORCA.

THE DURATION OF RESEARCH

The research process of CVs was conducted during August 2019 based on the information published on the university's website. The last check was done in October 2019. The research was conducted based on the CVs published in the website of the University of Peja, <http://unhz.eu/>. To guarantee the accuracy of the data, these CVs went through a review round by the collegium of ORCA researchers. All changes evidenced during the second round of research, where all ORCA staff was present, were applied in the database upon which this report was built.

ANALYSIS OF JOURNALS

Based on the legislation in force, specifically A11/2018, A17/2018 and Regulation 754 of the University of Peja "Haxhi Zeka", ORCA has given each scientific paper listed in the CVs a coefficient. These coefficients were given based on the databases where the journals are indexed, giving them a coefficient of 1.

ORCA has given a coefficient of 0 to papers published in dubious journals, and papers that are not indexed in any of the five platforms of the international scientific journals with peer review, as foreseen by A11/2018, article 3.¹ Papers that were published in dubious journals but at the time of their publication they were indexed in Scopus or Web of Science were given a coefficient of 1.

¹ <https://masht.rks-gov.net/uploads/2018/01/ua-nr-01-2018-parimet-e-njohjes-se-platoformave-dhe-revistave-nder-kombetare-me-recension.pdf>

A coefficient of 0 was given by ORCA for conference proceedings, reports, projects, books or book chapters, which are not considered as scientific papers, and papers that are in the process of being published.

Papers published in local journals were given a coefficient of 0, as well as regional journals that are not indexed in Web of Science or Scopus.

Based on AI7/2018, Article 2, point 4.2² which emphasizes that a journal for Albanology can be local or from Albania, if it has an international editing board. Only in that case was it given a coefficient of 1.

INDIVIDUAL AND COLLECTIVE RESEARCH

The process of researching all of the CVs was conducted by a single ORCA researcher. With added care, the researcher verified each CV and each scientific paper listed in the CV. These papers were checked if they were published in a journal which is indexed in one of the five indexing platforms according to regulations in power, and whether the journal or the publisher is in Beall's lists.

² https://masht.rks-gov.net/uploads/2018/05/ua-7-2018-per-plotesimin-dhe-precizimin-e-ua-parimet-e-njohjes-per-revistat-nderkombetare_1.pdf

THE METHODOLOGY OF RESEARCHING JUSTIFICATION OF ACADEMIC RANKS

The CVs of 33 academic staff with full time contracts in the University of Peja “Haxhi Zeka” were researched. This included four faculties excluding the Faculty of Arts, since ORCA does not possess the evaluating skills for reviewing artistic works through which the arts professors are promoted. Thus, Faculty of Arts professors were not researched by ORCA. Furthermore, this report does not include assistants, lecturers, and other collaborators who do not have the academic rank of assistant professor, associate professor or full professor.

The research of CVs was done in full accordance with the legislation in Kosovo for higher education. Specifically, the CVs research was based on AI/2018 for international peer reviewed journals, and the relevant laws in power. It is especially based on the Regulation 754 of the for the electing procedures related to election, re-election, and promotion of academic staff, and on the Statute of the University of Peja “Haxhi Zeka”.

For the academic rank of full professor³, the professor must have a PhD and at least five scientific papers in peer reviewed international scientific journals, as first or corresponding author.

For the academic rank of associate professor⁴, the professor must have a PhD and at least three scientific papers in peer reviewed international scientific journals, as first or corresponding author.

For the academic rank of assistant professor⁵, the professor must have a PhD at least one scientific paper in a peer reviewed international scientific journal, as first or corresponding author.

³ Article 171, point 1.1 and 1.1.2., Statute of the University of Peja

⁴ Article 172, point 1.1 and 1.2, Statute of the University of Peja

⁵ Article 173, point 1.1 and 1.2, Statute of the University of Peja

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