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Abstract	<p>The following document is a report on the current situation of the ethics committee at the University of East Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina). Ethics is an important area which is governed by the legal framework (although only in the form of general principles), and the Statute and special acts which are committed to providing maintenance of mutual relations of academic staff and their students on the basis of accepted ethical principles. Since the authority in the field of higher education in the country is divided, entities and cantons have their competences in the field of higher education. Laws on Higher Education contain general principles, which are mostly focused on the commitment to ethics. The body responsible for the protection of professional ethics at the University of East Sarajevo is the Committee for Ethical Issues. The Committee consists of seven members, five teachers and two representatives of the student representative body, elected by the Senate. Regarding Institution's own legal framework, this matter is regulated by the Statute of the University and Code of Professional Ethics at the University of East Sarajevo. Also, some ideas from improvement are given.</p>
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Report on the current situation of the ethics committee at the University of East Sarajevo

1. Introduction

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Given the nature of the university as an institution, the tasks that it performs as well as university practice, ethics is an important area which is governed by the legal framework (although only in the form of general principles), and the Statute and special acts, about which more will be said, and which are committed to providing maintenance of mutual relations of academic staff and their students on the basis of accepted ethical principles. To make this possible, it is necessary to meet several conditions. Firstly, it is needed to establish awareness of the importance of regulating mutual relations based on certain ethical principles. Secondly, it is necessary that the awareness and principles obtain legal form, or to be translated into appropriate legal norms and acts as a guarantee that the principles of ethical conduct will be respected. Thirdly, it is necessary to establish appropriate bodies to take care of the realization of these principles.

2. National legal framework in the partner country

Since higher education institutions are autonomous in their functioning and regulation of internal relations of members of the academic community, the national legal framework is arranged in order to provide almost full autonomy to higher education institutions. Since the authority in the field of higher education in the country is divided, entities and cantons have their competences in the field of higher education. Laws on Higher Education contains general principles, which are mostly focused on the commitment to ethics as the basis for relations and functioning of teaching and scientific research process, while higher education institutions are supposed to specify this question in more detail.

3. Bodies responsible for ethics at your university

The body responsible for the protection of professional ethics is the Committee for Ethical Issues. The Committee consists of seven members, five teachers and two representatives of the student representative body, elected by the Senate. The Committee conducts a procedure for determining whether a violation of principles of professional ethics occurred and proposes measures to the University Senate. The final decision on the existence of liability and the measure is adopted by the Senate.

The Committee faces certain problems in its work. The first problem is the excessive number of notifications sent to the Committee, as a result of insufficient knowledge of the nature of the proceedings and a violation of professional ethics, also, in some cases, and the biased behavior of those who run the procedure. Another problem lies in the fact that even among members of the academic community, many of them do not have enough knowledge and awareness of the differences between the cases related to the violation of professional ethics and in cases involving disciplinary responsibility of employees, which is governed by other laws. The third problem is in understanding the appropriate measures that can be prescribed and imposed in cases of violation of the principles of professional ethics.

The Committee is elected for a term of two years. It is responsible and submits reports on its work to the Senate.

The Committee is committed to the rules of procedure as required under the Code. It conducts evidentiary procedure, realizes insight into documents and interrogates the person against whom proceedings have been initiated as well as other witnesses. The Committee is chaired by one of the Vice-Rectors, who organizes meetings and represents the link of the Committee with the Senate.

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4. Institution's own legal framework

This matter is regulated by the Statute of the University and Code of Professional Ethics at the University of East Sarajevo. This second act regulates the principles of professional ethics, established unacceptable behavior and prescribed process of protection of professional ethics. The specific articles of the Code (total of ten) are dedicated to certain ethical principles. They give the definition of these principles and cases in which there may be violated. Seven items determine unacceptable behavior. These are violations that can be made by teachers and other staff members of the academic community.

5. Remarks/Suggestions for improvement

- Improvements of the Code of professional ethics can be:
- precise definition of actions that indicate a violation of professional ethics,
- increasing the number of measures that can be imposed for violations of professional ethics,
- refinement of procedures under which the Committee for ethical issues gives its recommendations,
- clear delineation of the cases of disciplinary proceedings from the cases in which the procedure is conducted by the Committee.