HEI'25
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ORCA
organizata për rritjen e cilësisë në arsim

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PEJA



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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

Table of Contents

5 **Executive Summary**

6 **University Data**

7 **Scientific publication**

10 In Which SCOPUS Quartiles are the journals where the staff published?

12 Countries of Journal Publishers

15 Papers Eligible for Academic Promotion

17 **Publication in Dubious Journals and by Dubious Publishers**

18 **Justification of Academic Titles**

21 **Methodology**

Executive Summary

[Summary generated by ChatGPT]
"Generate an executive summary of the attached research report, based on the data presented. (max. 350 words)"

This report provides an in-depth analysis of the composition and academic performance of the staff at the University of Peja, focusing on academic integrity and scientific publishing. The university includes 74 academic staff members across four faculties, 63 of whom hold professorial titles. The gender structure is 58% men and 42% women, with a positive trend in female representation in lower academic ranks, suggesting a potential increase in their presence in higher positions in the future.

Staff members have published 309 papers in journals indexed in Scopus, of which 43 are also indexed in Web of Science. 88% of these publications were produced after 2018, coinciding with the implementation of the administrative guideline for academic promotion. However, 12% of publications are in journals later removed from Scopus due to quality concerns.

Approximately 28% of the papers are published in Q1 and Q2 Scopus journals, reflecting a satisfactory level of scientific quality. However, 27% fall into Q4, considered less rigorous. Five individual journals account for 31% of all publications, indicating high concentration and lack of diversity in publishing.

Out of the 309 papers, 252 are eligible for academic promotion. 51 of them have both first and corresponding authors from the university staff, meaning two individuals can use each for promotion. Only 4 of the 63 professors have no eligible publications. The Faculty of Agribusiness leads with 4.1 publications per staff member.

Overall, 79% of professors at the University of Peja justify their academic titles, an impressive improvement from 2020, when only 30% did. Women outperform men in this regard (92% vs. 72%), reflecting both stricter application of standards for women and the potential for sustainable gender equity and academic excellence in the future.

University Data

The University of Peja employs 74 academic staff members across its four academic units. Among them are 17 full professors, 18 associate professors, 28 assistant professors, a total of 63 academic staff members with professorial titles, and 11 teaching assistants.

Number of academic staff divided by faculties

	Full Professors	Associate Professors	Assistant Professors	Assistants	Total staff
Faculty of Tourism, Hospitality Management and Environment	4	2	7	1	**14**
Faculty of Business	7	6	13	7	**33**
Faculty of Agribusiness	3	6	6	2	**17**
Faculty of Law	3	4	2	1	**10**
All faculties	**17**	**18**	**28**	**11**	**74**

The University of Peja includes 43 men and 31 women in its academic staff, 58% male and 42% female, which reflects a relatively balanced gender structure for public institutions in Kosovo.

At the highest academic rank, full professor, there are only 3 women compared to 14 men. A similar disparity exists among associate professors: 5 women vs. 13 men. However, the ratio reverses at the assistant professor level, where women are the majority: 16 women and 12 men. This suggests that gender inclusion has been taken seriously in recent academic hiring and that patriarchal biases in academia have notably declined.

Among the teaching assistants, 7 are women and 4 are men, which suggests that future appointments to professorial ranks may continue the trend of increasing female representation in academic staff.

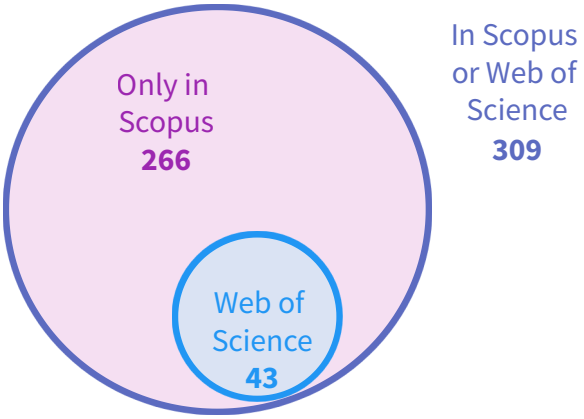
Academic Staff Composition by Gender

	Full Professors	Associate Professors	Assistant Professors	Assistants	**Total**	
Women	3	5	16	7	**31**	**42%**
Men	14	13	12	4	**43**	**58%**
Total	**17**	**18**	**28**	**11**	**74**	**100%**

Scientific Publication

The academic staff (professors and assistants) have published 309 scientific papers in journals indexed in Scopus. Of these, 43 papers (14%) are also indexed in Web of Science, while 266 papers (86%) are in journals indexed only in Scopus.

This figure excludes papers published in dubious journals or by dubious publishers, as well as short communications or preliminary communications (11 such cases).



The earliest recorded publication by a current member of the academic staff dates to 2010. A significant upward trend begins in 2021, with double-digit year-over-year growth expressed in percentage terms.

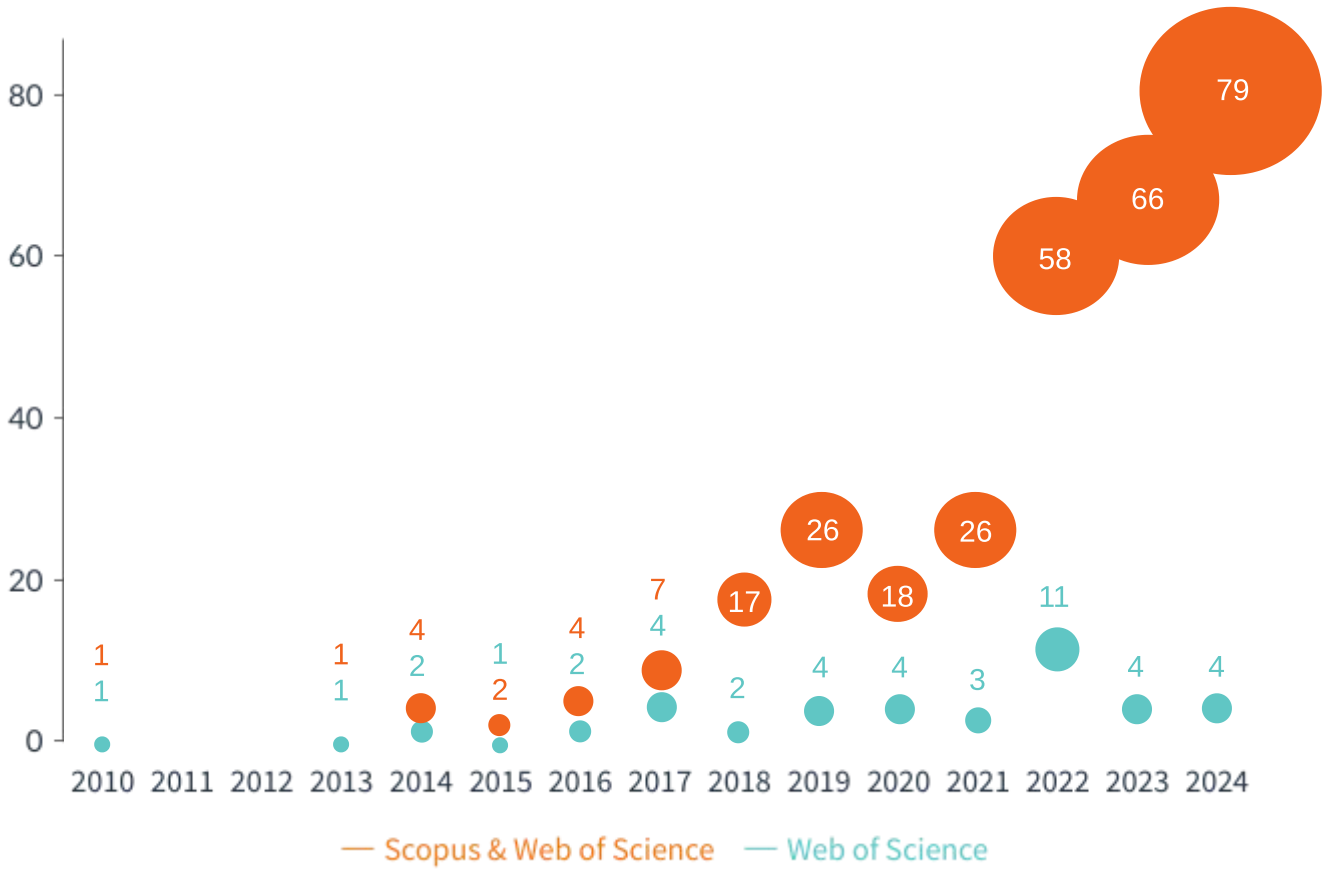
It can be said that the vast majority of all publications from the University of Peja were produced after 2018, coinciding with the implementation of the first administrative instruction that defined the indexing platforms accepted in Kosovo for academic promotion.

88% of all publications by current staff in Scopus or Web of Science journals were published between 2019 and 2024.

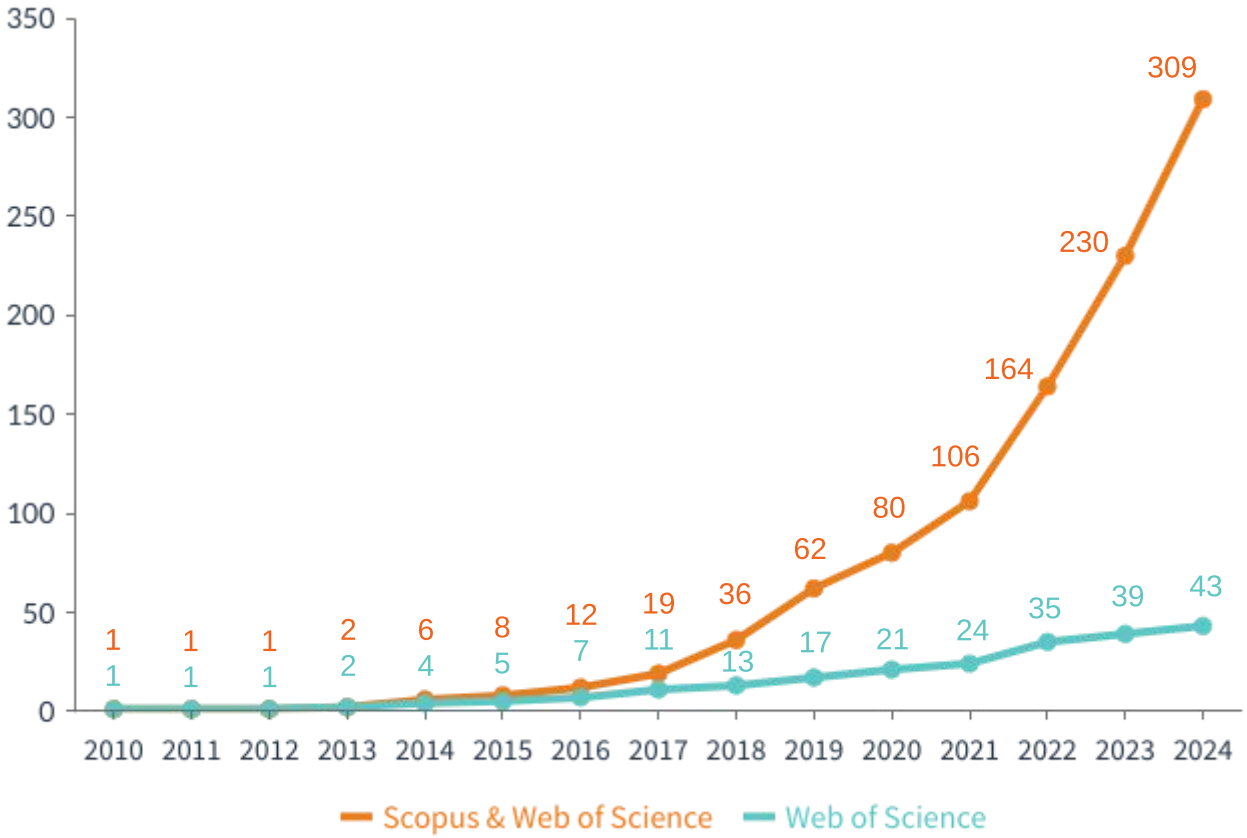
This instruction, still in force, was issued on January 1, 2018, and signed by then-Minister Shyqyri Bytyqi. Although it initially recognized five platforms for journal indexing, most public universities, along with the Kosovo Accreditation Agency, have since only accepted Scopus and Web of Science.

As of July 2025, the instruction remains unchanged and serves as the minimum standard upon which universities and higher education institutions may build their own academic publishing regulations.

Number of scientific publications throughout the years in University of Peja



Increase of scientific publication throughout the years in the University of Peja



Out of the 309 papers, 38 (12%) were published in journals later discontinued by Scopus for quality reasons. 30 staff members (41%) have published in such journals. Scopus discontinues journals after periodic re-evaluation if issues are found with content quality, a lack of reliable editorial practices, or violations of publishing ethics.

Papers Published in Journals discontinued by Scopus Due to Quality Issues

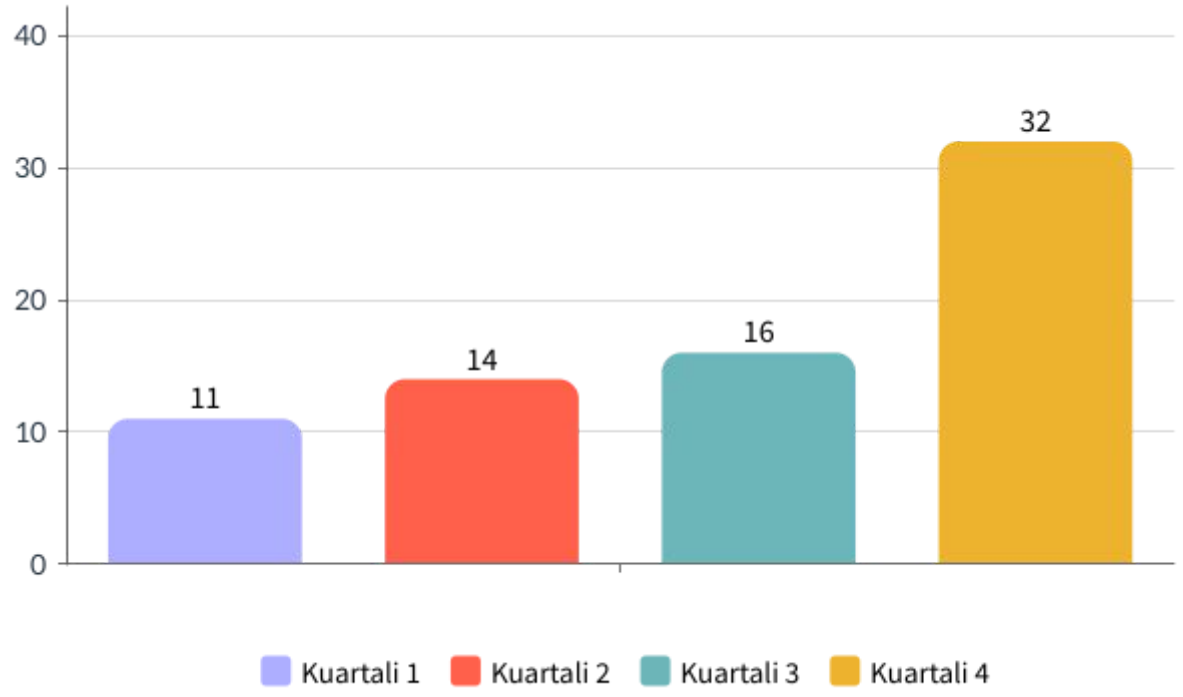
Journal Name	Year of Publication	Last Indexed Year in Scopus
PONTE	3 papers - 2016	2017
International Journal of Economic Perspectives	1 paper - 2017	2018
European Research Studies Journal	1 paper - 2018	2018
International Journal of Economics and Business Administration	4 papers – 2019 5 papers - 2020	2020
Informatologia	2 papers - 2018	2021
Oriental Journal of Chemistry	1 paper - 2018	2021
Review of International Geographical Education Online	1 paper - 2021	2021
Journal of Survey in Fisheries Sciences	1 paper – 2018 1 paper – 2023	2023
Journal of Liberty and International Affairs	1 paper – 2019	2023
Journal of Hygienic Engineering and Design	1 paper – 2021 6 papers – 2022 4 papers – 2023	2023
International Journal of Emerging Technologies in Learning (iJET)	2 papers – 2022	2023
International Journal of Instruction	1 paper – 2022	2023
International Journal of Professional Business Review	1 paper – 2022	2023
Journal of Eastern European and Central Asian Research	1 paper – 2023	2024
Nurture	1 paper – 2024	2024
Revista de Gestão Social e Ambiental	1 paper – 2024	2024
Journal of Management World	1 paper – 2024	2024

In Which SCOPUS Quartiles Are the Journals Where the University of Peja Staff Published?

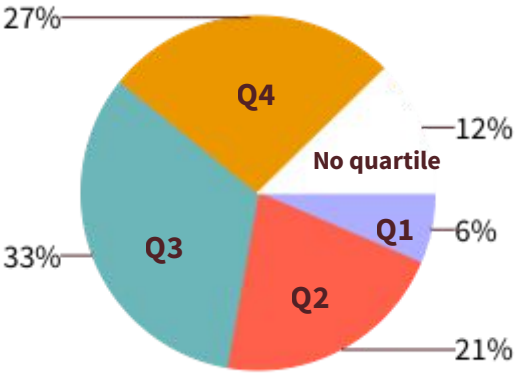
The quality of Scopus-indexed journals where academic staff at public universities publish is reflected in their quartile ranking.

First (Q1) and second (Q2) quartiles generally guarantee quality, while third (Q3) and fourth (Q4) quartiles do not, especially since ORCA has previously identified suspicious practices among journals indexed in Scopus, some of which were either discontinued by Scopus or blacklisted by public universities following ORCA's reports.

Number of Publications by Quartile



27% of publications in Scopus-indexed journals by staff at the University of Peja belong to Q1 and Q2, indicating a satisfactory profile in terms of publication quality.



Quartiles and Their Link to Web of Science

Typically, Scopus journals in Q1 and Q2 are also indexed in Web of Science, which further increases the reliability of their peer-review process.

Occasionally, Q3 journals may also be indexed in Web of Science, but it is rare, or nearly unheard of, for Q4 journals. As a result, journals that are discontinued by Scopus are most commonly found in Q4.

According to the data, 27% of all Scopus-indexed publications by University of Peja academic staff fall into the fourth quartile (Q4).

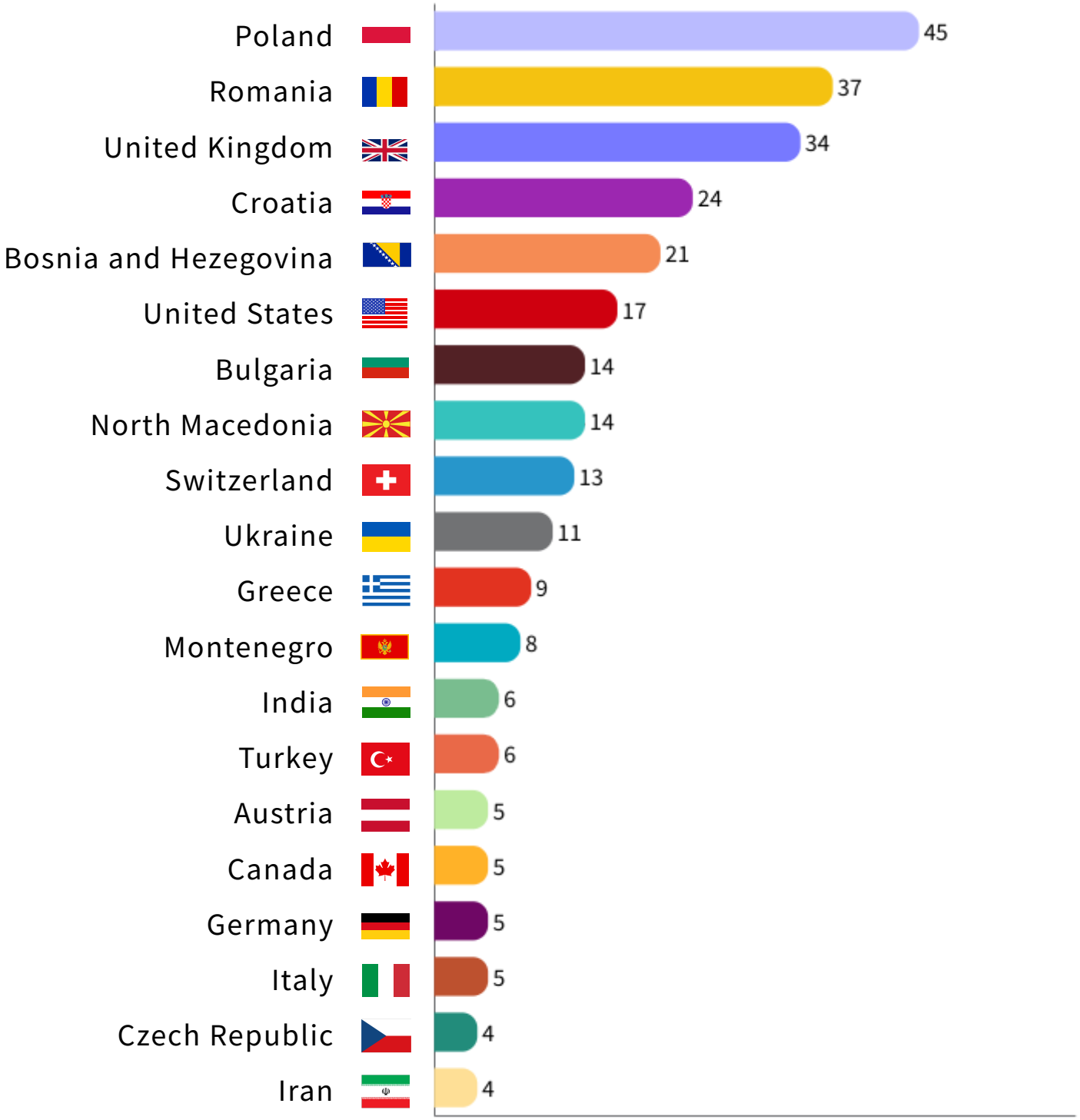
	Number of papers in Scopus	Also Indexed in Web of Science
Q1	20	13
Q2	66	12
Q3	102	7
Q4	83	8
No Quartile*	38	3

*Papers in journals that were discontinued by Scopus are not assigned to any quartile.

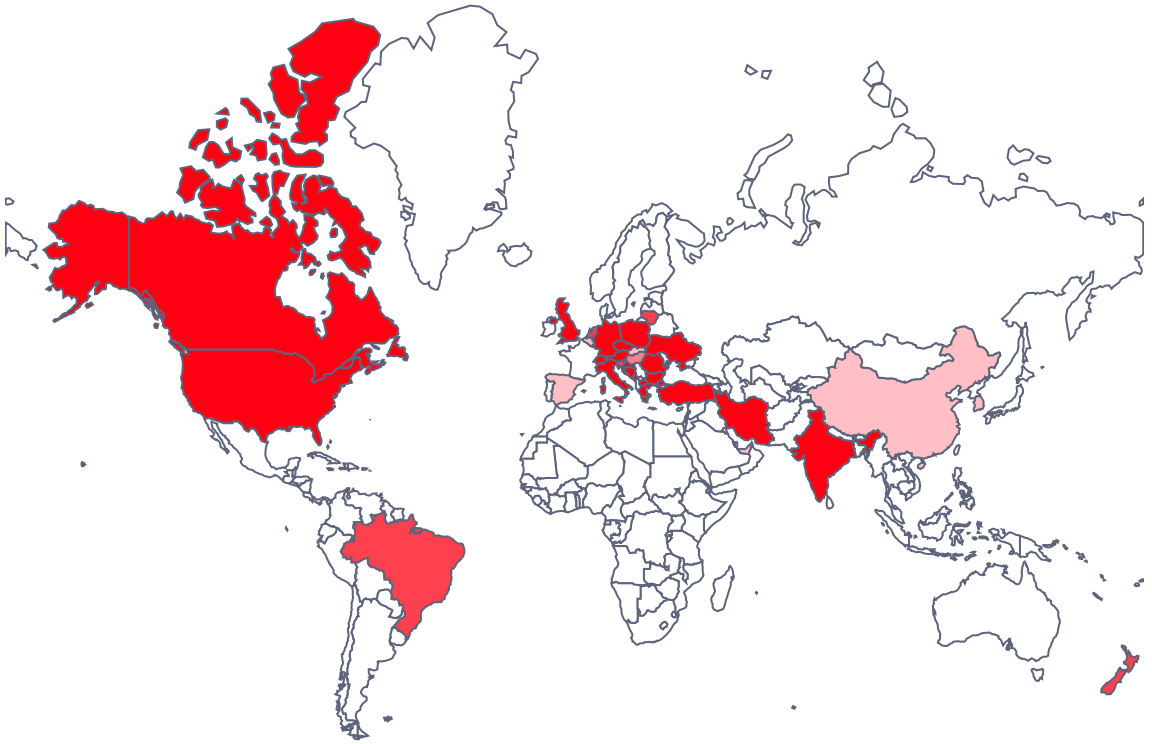
Countries of Journal Publishers

The academic staff at this university have published in journals from 32 different countries. 15% of all papers were published in journals based in a single country, Poland. This concentration suggests internal cooperation among staff in identifying and targeting journals where colleagues have already published.

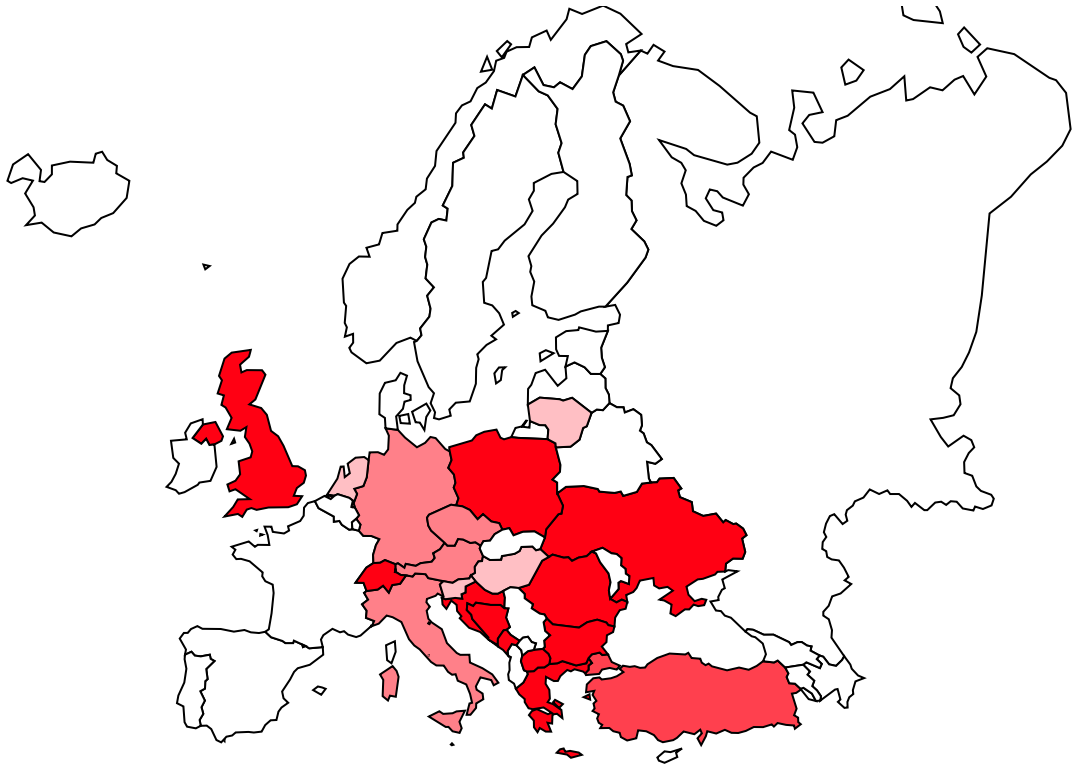
Countries of journal publishers - 20 countries with the most publication origins



Countries where the publishers of journals, in which the staff of the University of Peja have published, are based.



European countries where the publishers of the journals in which the staff of the University of Peja have published are based.



31% of all publications (95 out of 309 papers) by academic staff in Peja were published in five journals listed in this report. Of these five, only one belongs to Quartile 2 (Q2), while the others are ranked in Q3 and Q4.

The concentration of publications in a small number of journals, or from specific countries, could pose a risk to the university's ranking on national and international ranking platforms.

There is a real possibility that a journal with high publication concentration may become discontinued by Scopus or face similar issues, potentially causing problems for the university's academic visibility.

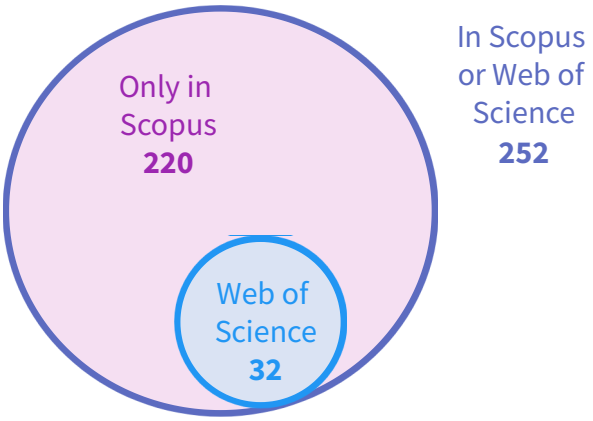
Diversifying publication outlets increases opportunities for international collaboration and exchange, which is one of the key indicators of university quality in the 21st century.

The 5 Journals with the Highest Number of Publications by University of Peja Staff

	Journal Name	Number of Papers	Country	SCOPUS Quartile
1	Quality-Access to Success	29	Romania	Q4
2	Ecological Engineering & Environmental Technology	17	Poland	Q3
3	Human Research in Rehabilitation	17	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Q4
4	Journal of Ecological Engineering	17	Poland	Q2
5	International Journal of Sustainable Development & Planning	15	United Kingom	Q3

Papers Eligible for Academic Promotion

Out of the 309 papers, 252 are published in journals indexed in Scopus or Web of Science and can be used for academic promotion. All are indexed in Scopus, and 32 of them (13%) are also indexed in Web of Science.



51 papers, or 20%, have both the first author and the corresponding author from the university staff. This means that both individuals may use the same paper for academic promotion.

The distribution of papers across the academic staff of the University of Peja shows consistent upward trends in scientific publishing over the last seven years. The Faculty of Agribusiness leads with a significant average of 4.1 papers per academic staff member.

Overall, the university has an average of 3.5 eligible papers per academic staff member, which aligns with the publication volume typically expected for the rank of associate professor. Of course, other relevant factors required for academic advancement are not included in this numerical comparison.

Only 4 out of 63 professors do not have any eligible paper for academic promotion as first or corresponding author. Two of them are not listed as authors in any scientific publication, in any authorship position.

The number of publications valid for academic advancement by faculty

	Number of Academic Staff	Number of Papers	Papers per Staff Member
Faculty of Agribusiness	17	70	4.1
Faculty of Business	33	98	3
Faculty of Tourism, Hospitality Management and Environment	14	55	3.9
Faculty of Law	10	39	3.9
University Total	**74**	**262***	**3.5**

** The number 262, in this context, does not represent the absolute number of distinct publications. Because in 51 papers both the first and corresponding authors are staff members and both have the right to use the same paper for promotion, and in 10 of those cases the co-authors belong to different faculties, the number 262 reflects how many times papers have been counted toward promotions, not how many unique papers exist. As mentioned in the earlier chapter "Scientific Publication," the absolute number of eligible publications is 252, representing the actual number of distinct papers published in international scientific journals. The figure 262 refers to how many times these papers have been counted in relation to professorial positions.*

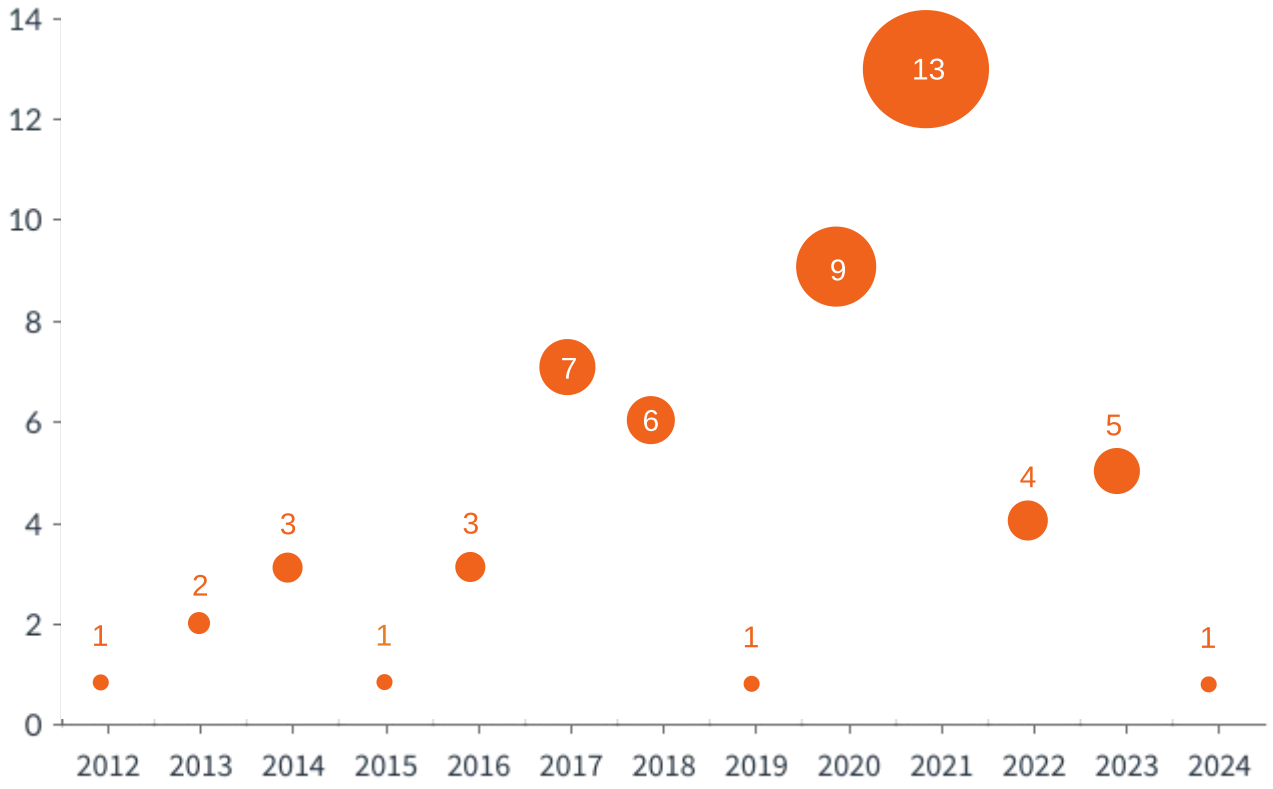


Publication in Dubious Journals and by Dubious Publishers

The academic staff at the University of Peja have published 56 papers listed in journals or by publishers considered dubious. These journals were indexed in Scopus at the time of publication, but 5 of them (where 25 papers were published) have since been discontinued by Scopus for quality-related issues in the years 2015, 2020, 2021, and 2023.

None of the papers indexed in Web of Science appear in journals listed as dubious.

Publication in Dubious Journals Publishers throughout the years



32 professors and 1 assistant, or 45% of the academic staff, have published at least once in a dubious journal or with a dubious publisher. Among professorial staff, this percentage rises to 51%.

Justification of Academic Titles

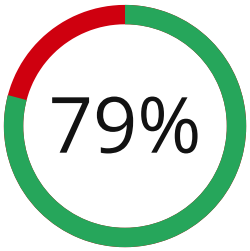
This chapter considers only the justification of professorial titles, full professor, associate professor, and assistant professor, based on the required number of scientific publications for each category. For assistants, this measurement is not applicable, as scientific publications are not required for their appointment.

The justification of titles at the University of Peja is satisfactory, with 79% of professors justifying their academic titles. In all faculties of the University of Peja, the result is either balanced or in favor of those who justify their titles, culminating in the Faculty of Agribusiness, where 93% of its professors justify their academic titles.

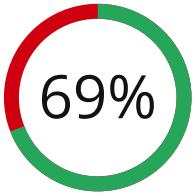
93% of assistant professors justify their titles, 78% of associate professors, and 59% of full professors also justify their academic rank. The overwhelming majority of assistant professors who justify their academic titles indicates consistent legal compliance in appointment processes in recent years.

Justification of Academic Titles by Faculty and Rank

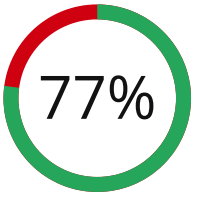
	Full Professors		Associate Professors		Assistant Professors		Total Professors	
	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗
Faculty of Tourism, Hospitality Management and Environment	2	2	2	0	5	2	9 69%	4 31%
Faculty of Business	2	5	5	1	13	0	20 77%	6 23%
Faculty of Agribusiness	3	0	5	1	6	0	14 93%	1 7%
Faculty of Law	3	0	2	2	2	0	7 78%	2 22%
All faculties	**10 59%**	**7 41%**	**14 78%**	**4 22%**	**26 93%**	**2 100%**	**50 79%**	**13 21%**



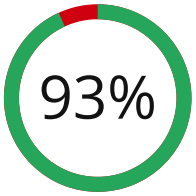
Percentage of Title Justification at the **University of Peja**



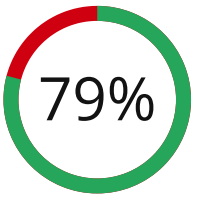
Faculty of Tourism, Hospitality Management and Environment



Faculty of Business



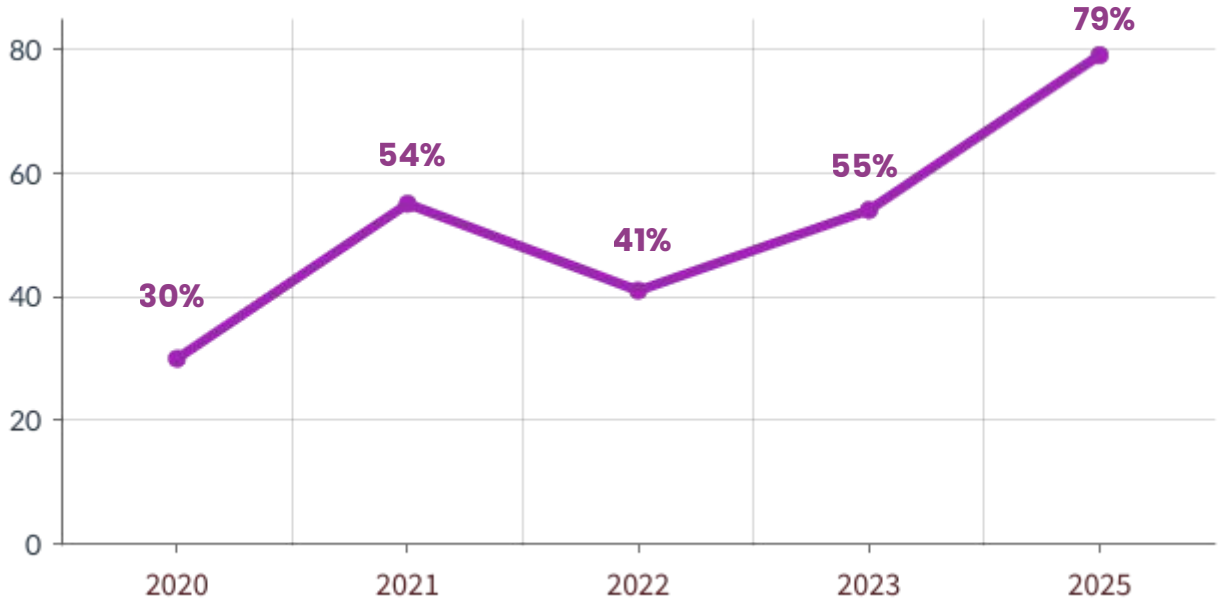
Faculty of Agribusiness



Faculty of Law

As shown in the chart below, in ORCA's first measurement in 2020 regarding academic title justification at this university, only 30% of staff holding professorial titles justified their titles. The reversal of this result marks a significant improvement, especially considering that the current measurement includes only publications in journals indexed in Scopus or Web of Science, unlike previous years when Kosovo's applicable regulations allowed publications in other indexing platforms to be counted for academic promotion.

Justification of academic titles in the University of Peja throughout the years



The University of Peja may be the public university with the greatest improvement in this aspect in Kosovo. This is also reflected in other academic achievements, such as the successful accreditation of a doctoral program evaluated by international experts of the Kosovo Accreditation Agency. This marks the first time that a university in Kosovo, apart from the University of Prishtina, has succeeded in accrediting a doctoral program.

According to the collected data, 92% of women justify their academic titles, compared to 72% of men. This suggests that systemic discrimination against women has led to stricter enforcement of rules for women in academia compared to men. Although this is a form of discrimination, it may result in women becoming more academically competent, and in a context where the law is strictly enforced, women could become the leading force in higher education in Kosovo.

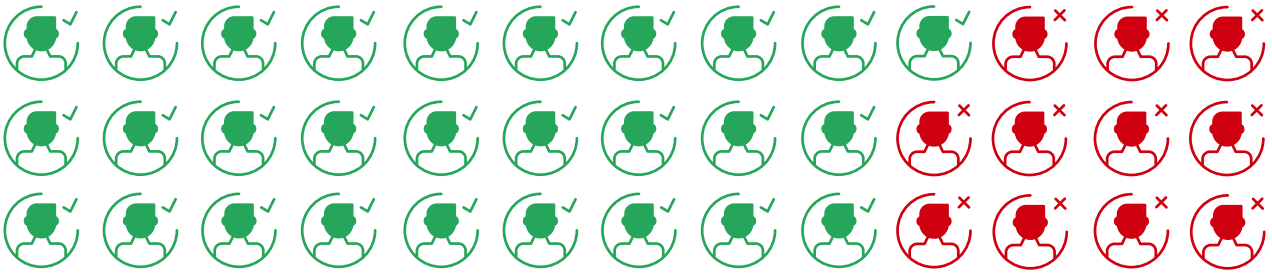
Justification of Academic Titles by Gender

	Full Professors		Associate Professors		Assistant Professors		Total Professors	
	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✗
Women	3	0	5	0	14	2	22 92%	2 8%
Men	7	7	9	4	12	0	28 72%	11 28%
Total	**10**	**7**	**14**	**4**	**26**	**2**	**50**	**13**

92% of women justify their academic titles



72% of men justify their academic titles





Methodology

Selection of academic staff
In December 2024, the list of academic staff by faculty was generated from the official website of the University of Peja. Due to the specific nature of the Faculty of Arts, this faculty was excluded from the analysis.

Collection of scientific publications
During January 2025, for each academic staff member (full professor, associate professor, assistant professor, and lecturer), a database of scientific publications was created:

- If the staff member had a Google Scholar profile, all publications were extracted from that profile.
- If not, a name search was conducted on Google Scholar, and the first 50 papers were selected for each individual.

Processing of bibliographic data
For each paper, the following data were identified and analyzed:

- Title of the paper, list of authors, year of publication, journal name, unique identifier (DOI), publisher, and author order.
- ISSN numbers of the journal and the type of publication.
- It was checked whether the journal or publisher was listed as dubious (according to Beall's List).

- **Verification of indexing**
- It was verified whether the journal was indexed in Scopus in the year the paper was published.
- It was also checked whether the journal belonged to one of the three core collections of Web of Science:
  - Science Citation Index Expanded (SCIE)
- Social Sciences Citation Index (SSCI)
- Arts & Humanities Citation Index (AHCI)
- Cases where the journal had been discontinued by Scopus due to quality issues were noted.

Selection of eligible publications
Only papers that met the following criteria were considered eligible:

- Scientific articles published in journals that were indexed in Scopus or Web of Science at the time of publication
- Not published in journals or by publishers listed as dubious
- Not published in local journals
- Not classified as short communications

Analysis and categorization

Analysis was conducted by:

- Faculty, academic rank, and gender
- The average number of publications per staff member
- The eligibility of publications for academic promotion based on the author's role (first or corresponding author) and whether the journal was indexed in Web of Science or Scopus at the time of publication

Analysis of title justification

- For this analysis, the following standard was applied:
- Full professor: at least 5 papers as first or corresponding author
- Associate professor: at least 3 papers as first or corresponding author
- Assistant professor: at least 1 paper as first or corresponding author

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