

The institution's implementation of the evaluation committees' recommendations

Institution B: Tel-Aviv University

1. Information:

The evaluator used the following documents:

- a. The evaluation committee's report of August, 2012.
- b. Implementation report submitted by the institution on 14 October, 2014.
- c. Other documents (if there are any): CV for A. Gorodzeisky, list of BA, MA and PhD courses, and syllabi of courses (mostly in Hebrew, which this evaluator was unable to read) submitted by TAU along with their implementation report

2. Did the institution implement the evaluation committee's recommendations?

Recommendations	Was the recommendation implemented? Yes/No/Partially	Is the implementation of this recommendation is crucial for the study program to continue? Yes/no	Is there a need for further follow up before the next round of evaluation? Yes/no/partially	Notes
Hire additional tenure line faculty in areas of anthropology, political sociology, and stratification	No. The DSA reports that it was unable to obtain permission to hire new faculty (though it reports that it was able to recruit Dr. A. Gorodzeisky in October 2014 as a Senior Lecturer)	Yes	Yes	Implementation requires administration approval to allow DSA to hire new faculty
The DSA should invest in another specialty) beyond stratification) in which it believes it can achieve international distinction	No. While the DSA was able to recruit Dr. A. Gorodzeisky (who specializes in stratification), it was unable to	Yes	Yes	The DSA needs to replace 2 recently retired faculty members (in 2013 and 2014) and 3 anticipated retirements in

	recruit in another specialty, such as political sociology.			2018. These are key researchers and replacing them is vital for the DSA to maintain its level of excellence, especially in stratification
Rethink the formulation of MA programs, based on the concerns listed in the evaluation report of August 2012 (which includes reservations about the titles of some program areas, the role of stratification in the Pan-disciplinary track, and requiring a substantive concentration in the Surveys and Public Opinion program)	Partially. The DSA reports that the new MA program “continues to maintain its attractiveness to students” but is unclear on how they have reformulated it. The DSA reiterates that the faculty provides instruction in a full range of research areas in Sociology (especially stratification) and is planning to offer a non-degree diploma program in Survey Research.	Yes	Yes	The reformulation of the MA program is still in progress, though the evaluation committee’s concerns still appear relevant
Devote attention to maintaining a robust program in Social and Cultural Anthropology; reconsider decision to not study cultures outside of Israel; and invest in ethnographic approaches to complement focus on “critical” studies	Partially. The DSA reports that they have enhanced the Anthropology track by adding Dr. Kravel-Tovi and Dr. Weiss to the faculty. It also says that they continue to	Yes	No	No details or examples are provided as to how the DSA has “acted in the spirit” of encouraging students to study

	“act in the spirit” of encouraging Cultural Anthropology students to conduct ethnographic research outside of Israel.			cultures outside of Israel
Consider establishing a closer relationship between the DSA and the Department of Labor Studies, perhaps within the framework of a School	Partially. The DSA reports that the academic relationship between these two departments continue to improve, reflected in research collaborations, number of faculty holding joint appointments, and more students taking courses in both programs	No	No	Situating both departments in the same school as part of TAU’s reorganization would help to further reinforce ties between them

3. Conclusions regarding the implementation of the recommendations. Please include operative recommendations for the continuation of the follow up to be implemented by the institution's administration, department, CHE, PBC, etc.

The Department’s implementation of the evaluation committee’s recommendations has been hampered by its inability to obtain permission to recruit new faculty. This has hampered its efforts to build a second specialty, beyond stratification, in which it might be able to achieve international distinction. Hiring additional faculty is especially critical now, given the relatively large number of recent and looming retirements of excellent scholars, many of whom are in stratification, the specialty for which the DSA at TAU is best known. The DSA also should continue to monitor and rethink its progress in the reformulation of the MA program.

General observations:

This part should include your review on the effect of the process on the quality of the evaluated field in the higher education system Israel.

My observations address issues that are common to several, if not all, departments that were evaluated.

- The evaluation process stimulated each of the 8 Departments of Sociology and Anthropology to assess their strengths and weaknesses. The departments benefited from both from having to conduct a self-study and to respond to the evaluation committee's recommendations.
- The departments have generally made good progress in implementing the evaluation committee's recommendations. In a number of cases, though, the department has been hampered in addressing the recommendations due to budgetary constraints imposed by the University. For example, some departments have not been permitted them to hire needed faculty and thus to implement curricular changes (such as strengthening their statistical offerings or developing additional MA concentrations).
- There does not seem to have been any attempt to develop a cross-university consortium that would facilitate graduate study in anthropology. Several departments have been able to enhance their anthropological offerings, however.
- Inadequate library resources remain a problem for several departments.
- The expansion of applied programs at the graduate level remains a concern. Departments should continue to monitor these programs (especially those in applied organizational studies) so as to balance academic goals with the desires for greater enrollments.