



**2010 - 2016**

**ANNUAL REPORT DATA  
RELATED ON GRADUATED  
STUDENTS**





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**2010 - 2016**

**Tirana, 2017**

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

POLIS University in 2006, opened a Master's degree program in Architecture and Urban Design, a branch that was highly required by students in that period, but also in the upcoming years. In 2007, another program, the MSc.Planning & Urban Management, was opened. In the following years, new study programs were opened: BSc. Art and Design (2010), BSc Environmental Study (2011). In 2010, six new study programs were opened in the second cycle (Joint Master Degrees with IHS / ERASMUS University, Rotterdam, and with the participation and the contribution of Lawrence Technological University, Detroit). In 2012, the decision no. 270, dated 20.05.2016, The Albanian Government approved the amendment of the status of private institution of higher education "POLIS University ". In the same year, the MASH (Ministry of Education and Science) also give the opportunity to offer studies of the Third Cycle, Doctorate (Joint Program with the Ferrara University, Italy). In 2013, U\_POLIS opened new branches: BSc. Civil Engineering and professional Schools in Energy Efficiency, in accordance to the fields of interest of U\_POLIS. The MBA Master Program, in collaboration with IPAG Business School in Paris, opened in October 2014.

In this report, Alumni collected employment data of each of them. Students are contacted via e-mail, mobile or even through conversations or meetings, and so some cases were highlighted as more successful than the others. From this data we understood that, the highest percentage of alumni are in the MSc Architecture and Urban Design and MSc. Urban Planning and Management Programs, as they are branches that have been 10 years since their opening. Other branches are new and have few graduates.

Civil Engineering or Environmental Studies and Energy Efficiency, as they are relatively new programs, are in the early years and have released few professionals in the market, some of them still attend Master studies. It is expected that, in the coming years, this alumni number will create a more critical measure and increase the number of employees. Professional Master Students study and are employed at the same time. At the moment they attend a master's degree at U\_POLIS, but the university aims to pursue these alumni in improving their career.

A support for the employment of the students has been the Career Office through its contacts with various firms: Studio architecture, engineering, or design, construction companies, Ngo, etc., has made possible the relationship of graduate students with the market demands. These links have proved to be successful, as a large part of the students are employed, leaving very good impressions and professional growth in their careers.

## 2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is the joint information of former alumni students of POLIS University, their professional, academic, civil engagement and their general experience. The forms used in this study looked at the general experience that these alumni have had with POLIS University, since entering the University as a student until their graduation, then graduation, in a professional career. Students were contacted via social networks, directly on the phone and via e-mail.

The data collected from this study, converted into several statistics, serves the University in drawing several conclusions about the strengths and weaknesses of the curricula and where one can work harder to increase the quality of Alumni at the moment. Dealing with the labor market, improving relations with alumni by following them in their careers and also serving in the field of marketing domestically and internationally as well as informing future students of the forerunners and their career achievements. In this study, data was collected for 566 POLIS Alumni graduates from 2010 to 2016. The number of Alumni students who responded and gave their thoughts and experiences from the EE cycle to the Professional Master and Phd was 95%. The highest percentage is the Master of Science Program in Architecture and Urban Design and Master of Science in Urban Planning. Other branches are new branches and have few graduates in number. It is expected that in the coming years this alumni number will create a critical scale and increase the number of employees. The approach contact with graduates (through the ALUMNI structure) as well as the wide network of partners provide U\_POLIS with a very good access to the needs and demands of the labor market. This extended network also plays an important role in the further extension of the social impact that U\_POLIS intends to achieve.

## 3. EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

### 3.1 University level statistics

#### 3.1.1 Total number of graduates allocated according to respective programs

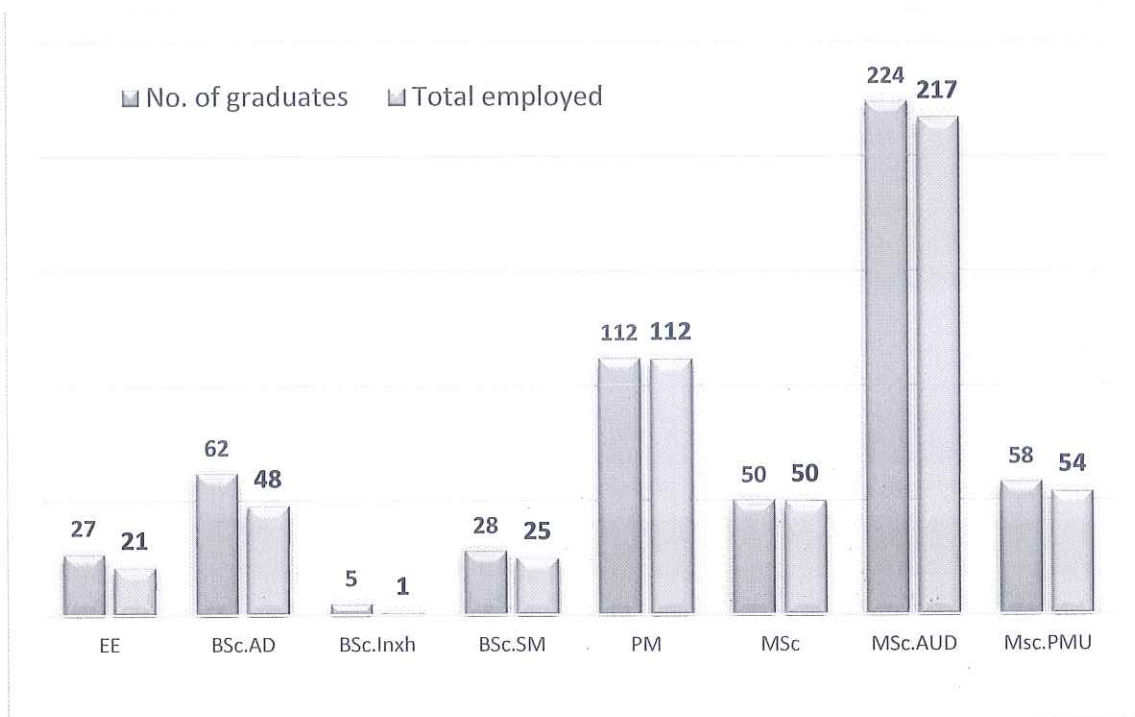
| NO           | Study Programms | No. of graduates | Total employed | Without job | Employed in the profession | Employed not in the profession | Employed in the public sector | Employed in the private sector | Freelancer | Private Business | Continue Studies |
|--------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1            | EE              | 27               | 21             | 6           | 4                          | 17                             | 1                             | 18                             | 0          | 1                | 2                |
| 2            | BSc.AD          | 62               | 48             | 5           | 27                         | 1                              | 1                             | 28                             | 14         | 6                | 21               |
| 3            | BSc.Insh        | 5                | 1              | 0           | 1                          | 0                              | 0                             | 1                              | 0          | 0                | 5                |
| 4            | BSc.SM          | 28               | 25             | 3           | 4                          | 21                             | 3                             | 5                              | 0          | 1                | 17               |
| 5            | PM              | 112              | 112            | 0           | 102                        | 12                             | 25                            | 65                             | 2          | 6                | 3                |
| 6            | MSc             | 50               | 50             | 0           | 44                         | 6                              | 24                            | 22                             | 3          | 1                | 5                |
| 7            | MSc.AUD         | 224              | 217            | 9           | 203                        | 14                             | 52                            | 95                             | 42         | 32               | 10               |
| 8            | Msc.PMU         | 58               | 54             | 4           | 30                         | 24                             | 13                            | 34                             | 0          | 5                | 5                |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |                 | <b>566</b>       | <b>528</b>     | <b>27</b>   | <b>415</b>                 | <b>95</b>                      | <b>119</b>                    | <b>268</b>                     | <b>61</b>  | <b>52</b>        | <b>68</b>        |

Table no.1

*Note: The total number of employees is not equal to the total number of other employment items, since a graduate may be employed in several categories. However, the ratio of employed students compared to graduate students is 528/566. Otherwise, employment at the institutional level for all graduates is 93%.*

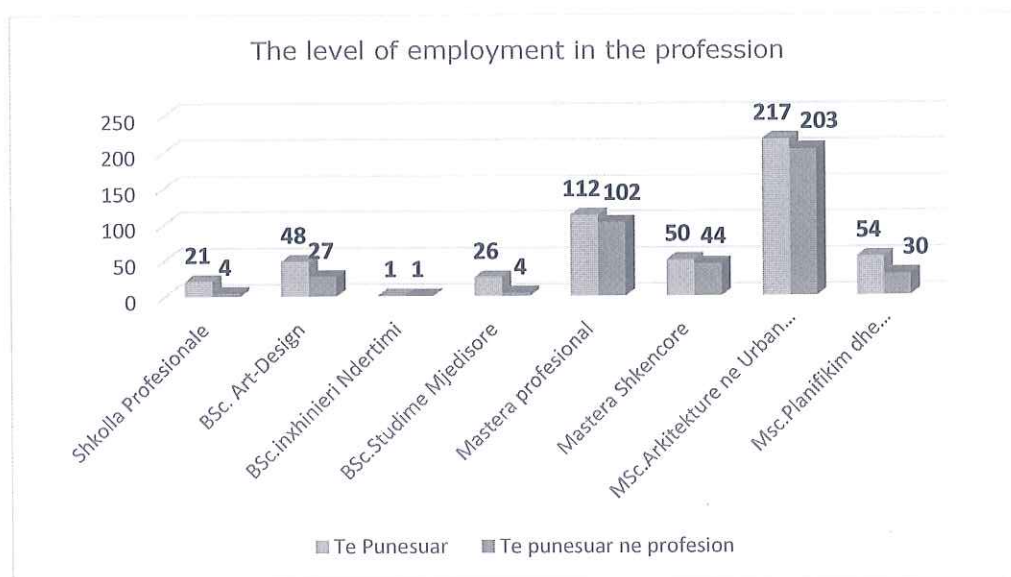
### 3.1.2 Total number of graduates from 2011-2016 calendar year, in relation to employment

**Graphic 1**



### 3.1.2 The level of employment in the profession, based on the data collected from EE to the scientific master

Graphic 2



As we note in the chart above, but also from exchanged information with former students on energy efficiency, the comments are very positive. A comment that was said by most students involved the development of learning, the acquisition of much information and theoretical deepening. The first year the practice had a small place in the curriculum, but it had an improvement and increased significantly with the opening of the laboratory at POLIS University, as students could take more time and gain more practical knowledge. Students of BSc.Art and Design, are at bachelor level. Some of them are at work, some are attending master studies and some are doing both. Here we have very positive cases:

*Xhesika Berisha - First Designer AKZ Studio*

*Merilin Tota - graphic designer AKZ Studio, but recently with her Memphis state of mind exhibit, which also received the International Design and Design Award, with the Lolita coverbook.*

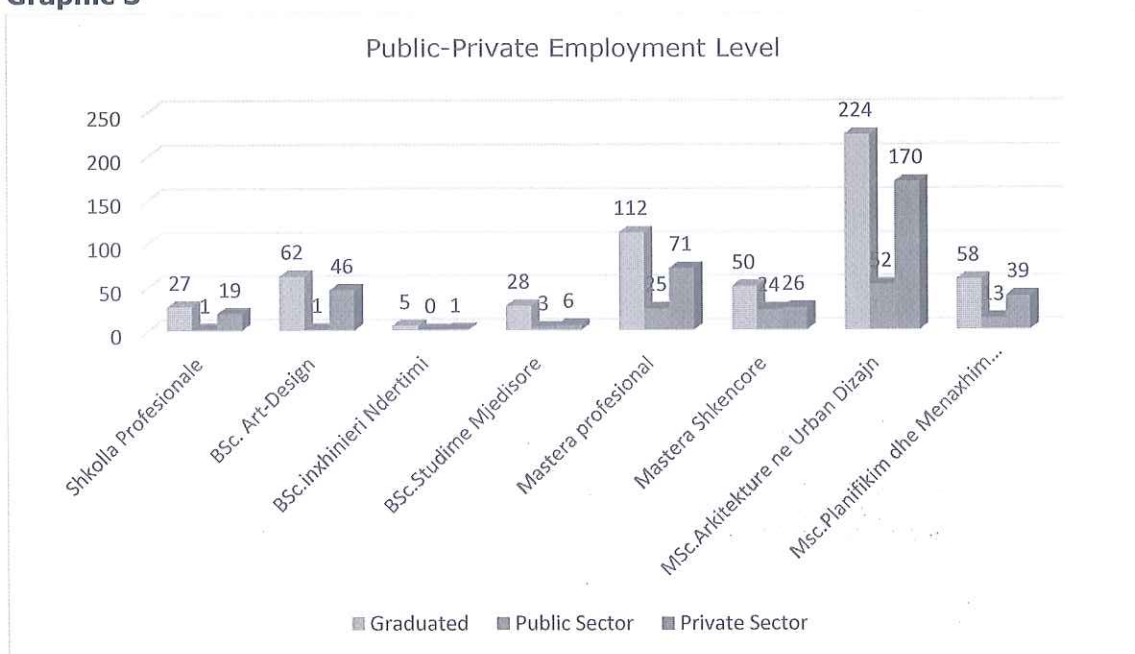
The first generation graduate in Civil Engineering are all students who have continued Msc studies. Ing.1. some of the students work in parallel. With the support of a career office at POLIS University, which makes contact with various businesses with POLIS alumni, they have managed to hire a considerable number of our graduates and one of them is Alba Agolli, the alumni of bachelor level engineering who Today works at Alufloor Company. The Alufloor Company has voiced a very positive comment to Polis Alumni who are walking with success stories in their career and now they have made a new request for two-three architects a civil engineer and an Engineer Implementation. Environmental studies have a

Difference with other branches in employment because it is a new branch and also students continue master studies.

Professional masters are more general. They come from a specific background and are in working. The feedback from these students to POLIS University and the academic experience in the respective fields is very positive and it has been said that the experience at POLIS has helped their, growth professional, work culture and in every table discussion.

### 1.2 Public-Private Employment Level

Graphic 3



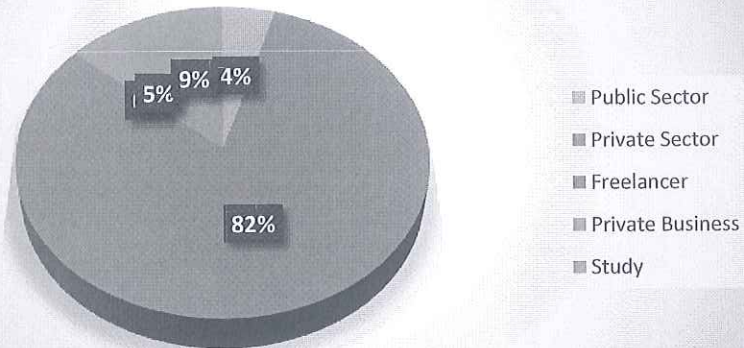
The chart 3 tells us that the level of employment in the private sector occupies the most significant share of the employed, as the private sector offers more jobs and is more accessible.

### 3.2 Statistics divided according to study programs

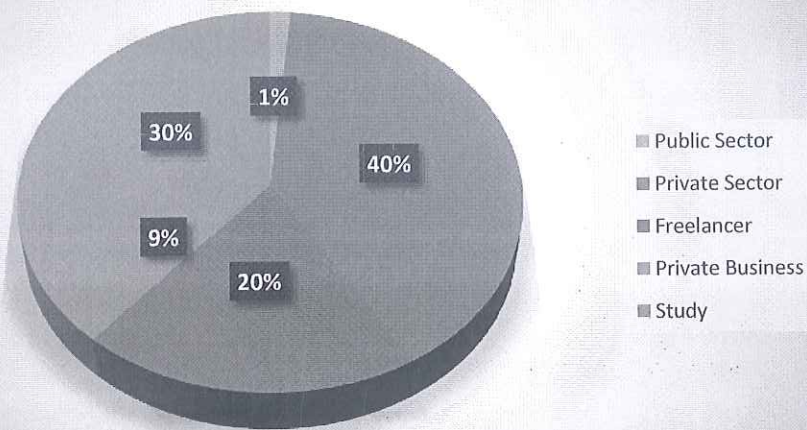
The following graphs show all study programs divided by percentages by employment sector and data for graduates who are continuing their studies.



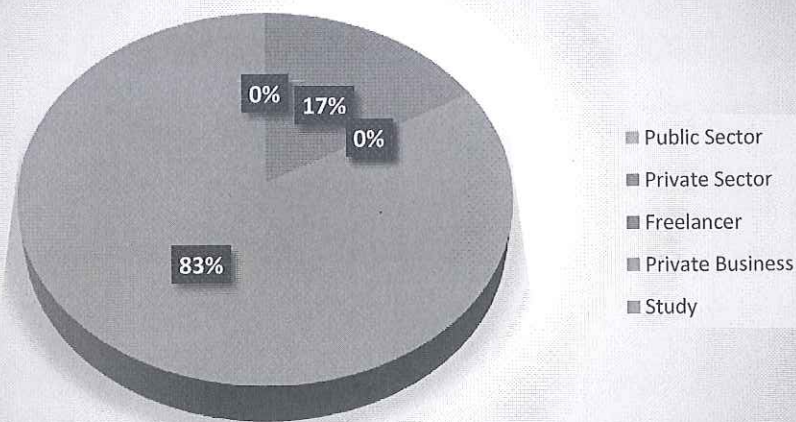
### Energy Efficiency



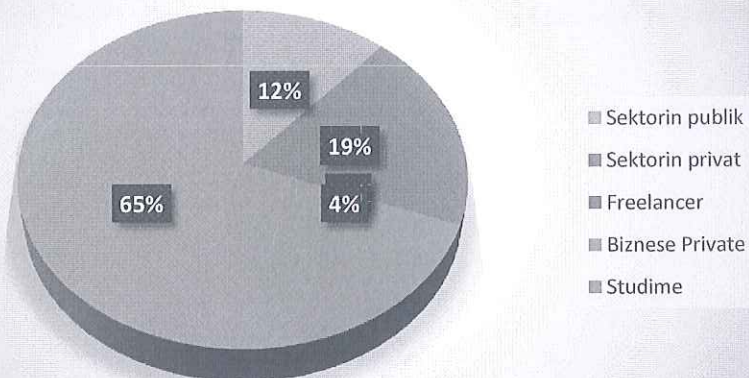
### BSc. Art-Design



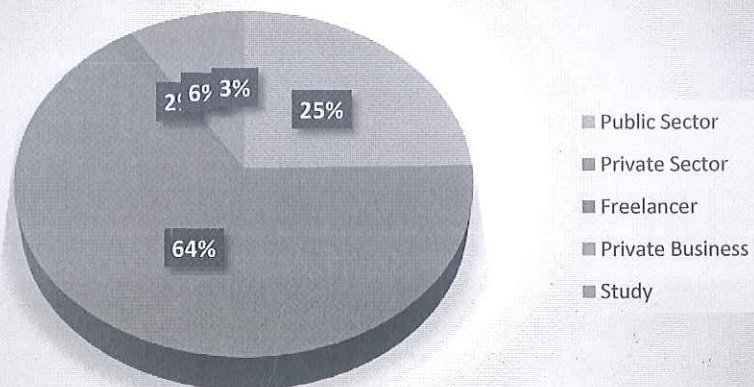
### BSc. Civil Engineer



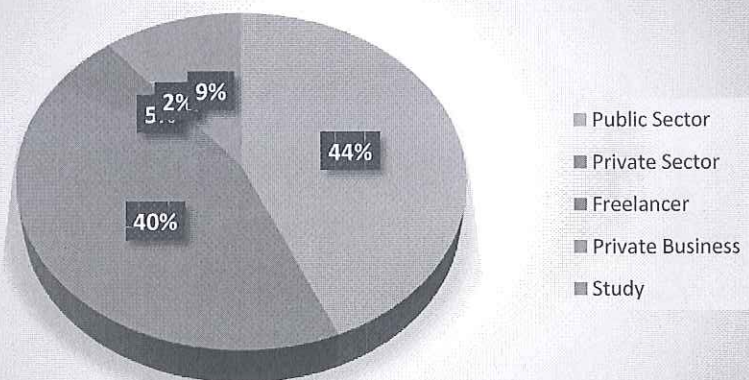
### BSc. Environmental Studies



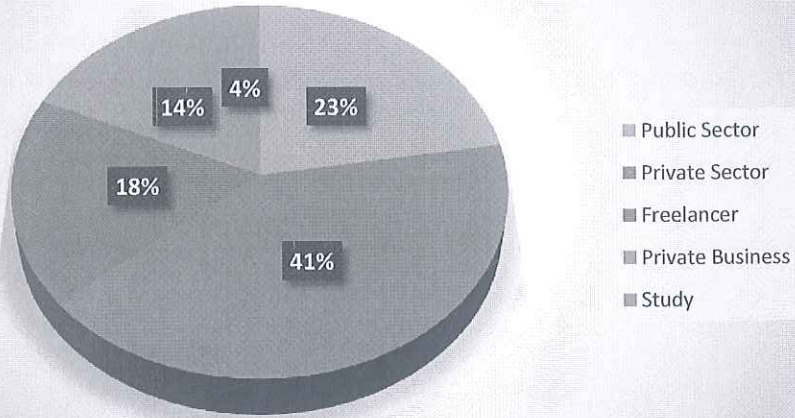
### Professional Master



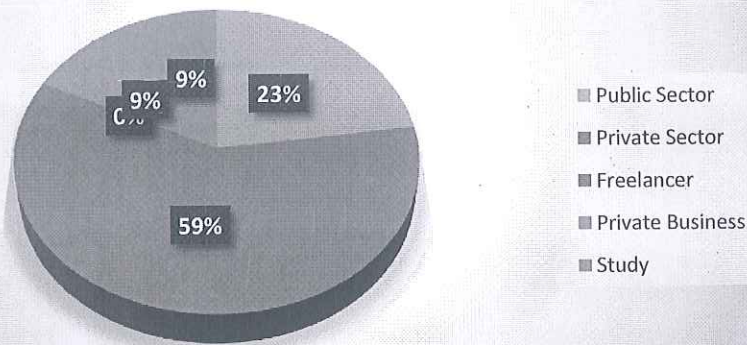
### Master of Science



### MSc Architecture in Urban Design

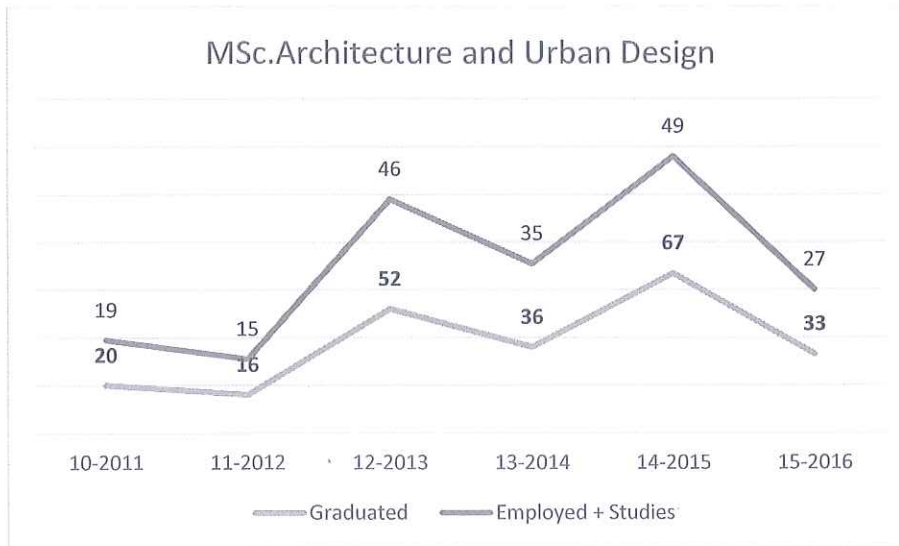


### MSc. Planning and Urban Management

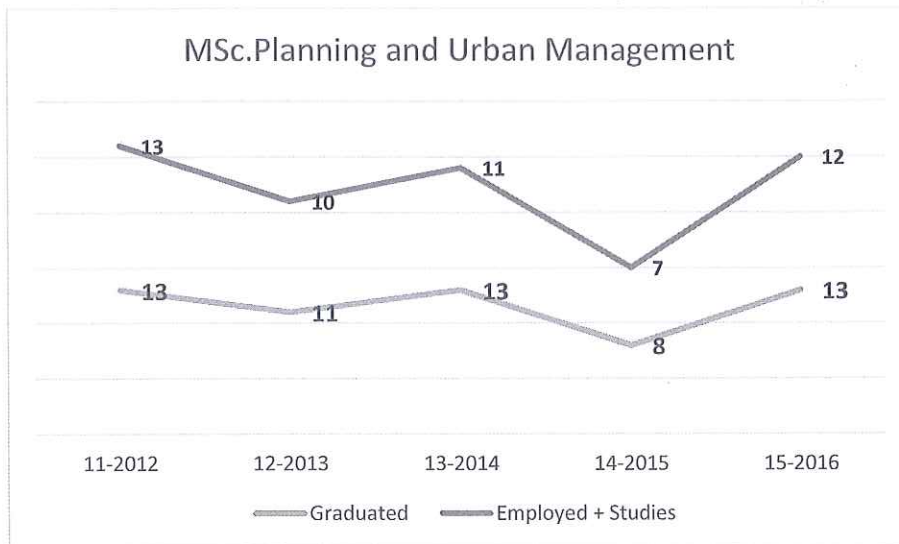


### 3.3 Report of graduates and employed students

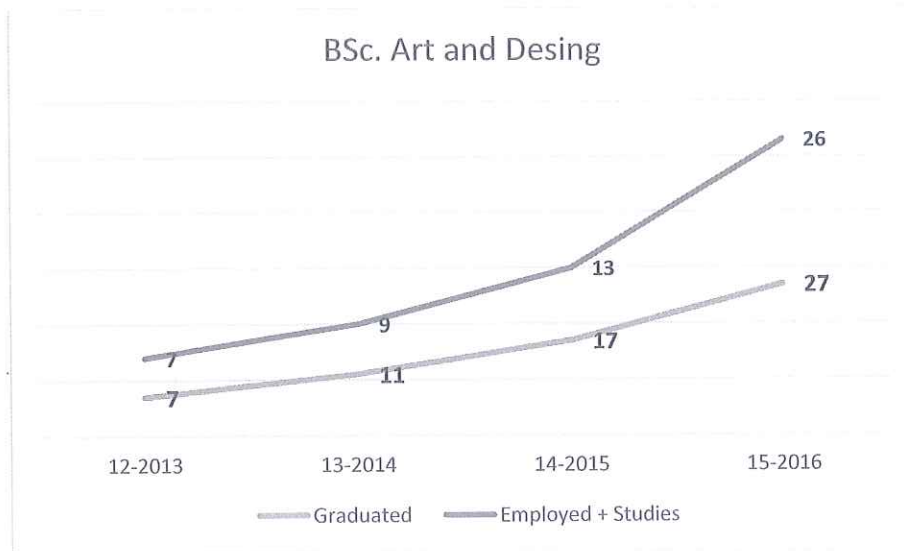
The proportion of graduates and students who, in parallel with the studies, work for four of the major programs: MSc. Architecture and Urban Design, MSc Planning and Urban Management, BSc.Art and Design, BSc. Environmental Studies



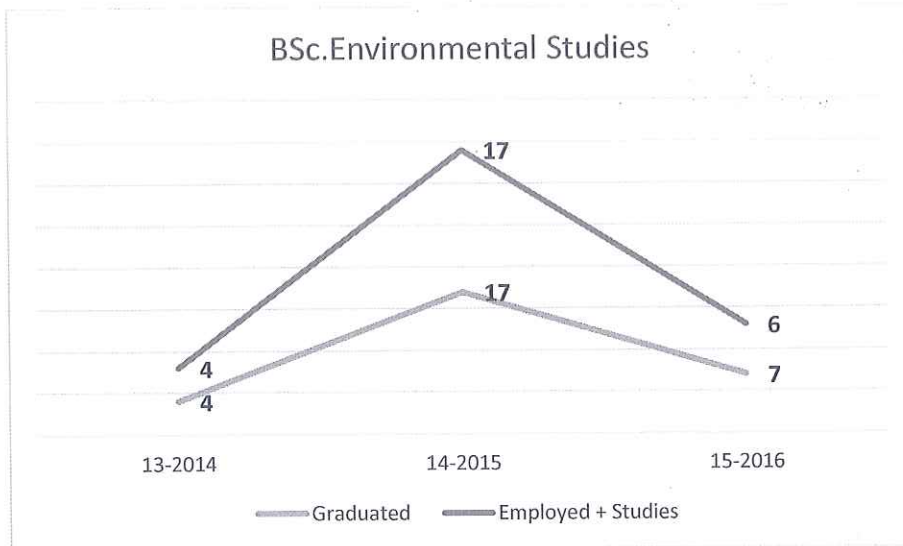
#### 1. Programs /MSc Architecture and Urban Design



#### 2. Programs/ MSc Planning and Urban Management



## 2. Programs Art and Design



## 3. Programs/ Environmental Studies

#### 4.1 SUCCESS IN PROFESSION

In this group are mentioned those Alumni, who during these years, have managed in succeeding in their professional fields.

##### 1. "StudioArch4"

Gjergji Dushniku (arch), Rezart Struga (arch),  
Klaudio Cari (arch), Lorin Çekrezi (arch).



StudioArch4 was founded in 2011 by four Alumni of Architecture and Urban Design program, who graduated in 2013 and a part of them also attended Professional Master Studies at Polis University. This studio deals mainly with design, but their work varies depending on the type of design program and the level of intervention. The basis of their work is always the innovation of creating architectonic spaces and solving different problems at the same time. Competitions are a tool they use to test themselves but also to collaborate with international studios. Some of them are: the competition for the Isle of Berat, the Lake Park Entrance Competition in collaboration with AZPML (Alejandro Zaera Polo & Maider Laguno), a global-scale architectural firm or the ALN (ArchitekturbüroLeinhäupl + Neubernje), a German studio operating in Bavaria since 1978, specialized in public facilities such as hospitals and schools. In co-operation with this studio they won the second prize in the competition of Master's Plan for the "Student City". Finally, this studio has been qualified as one of the 17<sup>th</sup> representatives of Albania in the Mediterranean Biennale.

##### 2. Lorena Xhaxho (arch.)

After completing her studies in Architecture and Urban Design at U\_POLIS for five years now, she lives in Ohio and is part of the staff of one of the most known companies in Cleveland, Ohio, USA. Architectural Vision Group Company LTD mainly deals with large projects such as schools, stadiums, etc. Lorena herself says that her achievement comes as a result of the knowledge and the love for work Polis has given to her during the study years.



##### 3. Juxhin Balliu (arch.)

Juxhini is an architect who has a super success story of his career. He managed to merge his profession as an architect and interior designer with another business, a successful store also known as the Nova Architect Studio, which dealt not only with the design but also the implementation of projects, using furniture that this firm itself traded. With its success in the market, this studio managed to hire many colleagues of Juxhin, former Alumni of Polis University. This is not the only successful business of Juxhin, but another success story is Mon Cheri, a project that combines its profession as a designer with business, thus creating environments with a unique architectural design and relaxing space.



#### 4. Klaudia Llupo (arch.)

After several different design experiences as members of Nova Architecture for four years and her participation in various interior projects, Klaudia today works as a freelance architect.

##### Interview:

I've been part of the *Nova Architect Studio* for four years. My different experiences include both interior and exterior design. Polis has helped me to create a clear concept of how an architectonic project works and clear ideas about a functional and tasteful design. It has also helped me to increase self-esteem and quality design. Some of my works and projects are: designer of bars and coffee shops of Mon Cheri, Designer of showrooms such as Ami event, Primavera House, Big Ben pub, Opium sushi bar, Millennium restaurant, Baby Drive stores, Bio Mia market, interior at the Rolling Hills complex, etc.



#### 5. Visar Haxhibeqiri (arch.)

Visari, a former Kosovo student, has completed Master's degree in Architecture and Urban Design and later he returned to his hometown to practice his profession as an architect. He is the co-founder of the "Cooperation Design - Atelier for Architecture and Urban Design" platform, and is also employed in the NGO "Cultural Heritage without Borders" in the field of restoration.



##### Interview:

After completing the first cycle of studies, Bachelor, at the Faculty of Civil Engineering and Architecture in Pristina, I started to work as an architectural technician in the studios of my former professors, as a designer. Later, I attended Master of Science in Architecture and Urban Design at Polis University in Tirana, where for two full years I sailed with the infinite academic possibilities, offered by the university in question. After this experience, I started working in Kosovo in the field of restoration, revitalization and reconstruction at CHWB - Cultural Heritage without Border, where the main focus has been the treatment of architectural heritage objects. Since 2012, together with several other architects, we have established the Cooperation Design platform, which has always been engaged in a variety of different Urban and Architectural projects.

Polis University gave me the opportunity to open my horizon in the theoretical, artistic and philosophical part, which could then concretize in the architectonic field. So, the experience in Polis had a tremendous transformational influence on me, where from the technically correct architect (urbanist / designer) but cool of reading and interpreting contexts, gave me the philosophical nature of creation of spaces. There is no better place than Polis University to clarify the architect's position towards the understanding of the process of creation, starting from inspiration, idea or concept to its concretization, in work and space. All this transformation of my beliefs and practices about everything that has to do with the world of architecture was thanks to the existence of Polis, thanks to the highly qualified staff of Albanian and international lecturers and without forgetting the social life inside POLIS.

## 6. Loft Arch

Fatjon Molla (arch.)

Fatjoni, after completing his studies at U\_POLIS, was hired in an architectural studio at Atelier Martel, Paris, where he became part of some architectural projects. In 2014, he founded an architecture studio called Loft Architects, specialized in architectural and interior projects and in designing special products. This studio is based in Tirana but its projects extend all over Europe.

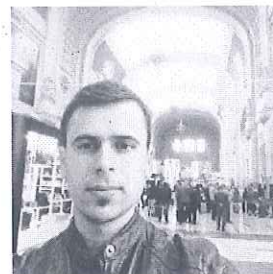


### Interview:

My story as an architect started in 2011 at NOVA Architect Gallery, where for two years I have worked many interesting projects and very important at the same time, which taught me a lot about the technical development of the projects, as well as the relationship with the clients. My experience as architect expanded in Paris, where for 8 months I was employed at Atelier Martel, an architecture studio. During these months, I worked with great projects such as: the Swiss Hospital in Paris; 35 Collective Housing; Competition of 120 Collective Housing in NYON, Switzerland; Specialized housing for people with special needs; Restoration and extension of a professional re-education centre in Saint-Etienne, etc. My experience in Polis has been very beautiful and intensive. During my endurance in Paris, I was familiarized with the teaching methods there and with the work culture, as it was very similar to the spirit and philosophy of U\_POLIS. There I realized that the experience at Polis University has played an important role in my development as an Architect.

## 7. Ervis Lila (plan.)

Ervisi, after studying at Polis University in Urban Planning and Management, continued his master's degree in Sweden. Immediately after that, he was successfully employed in a planning studio in Sweden, which mainly deals with regional planning, but also on the city scale. Employee feedback has been very positive for Ervis's education, work culture and knowledge acquired in our University.



## 8. TAK-FAK Company

Ester Nuriu (Bsc. Art Design), Amela Fejzo (Bsc. Art Design), Raisa Myftia (Bsc. Art Design)

This Professional Services Agency was created by the initiative of a group of girls graduated in Art & Design. They have managed to create a business that intertwines with their profession. Through contacts with different firms or businesses, they provide clients with the implementation of interior projects or other electrical or hydraulic services, with the help of an employed staff.





## 9. Arnisa Jahaj (arch.)

Graduated in Architecture and Urban Design, today Arnisa lives and works in Manhattan, USA. She has managed to be hired as an architect and exercises her profession, complemented by university education, with all the potential and the appropriate capacities for the American market as well.



### Interview:

I work in an architecture studio in Manhattan, New York, a private studio called Case Development, Inc. After arriving in Manhattan, I legalized the Albanian diploma and now I am employed as a full-time architect. I mainly deal with building permits, interior design, design and constructive arrangement and even with customer consulting. Projects are mostly residential houses.

## 4.2 SUCCESS IN POLICY

In this group are included those Alumni, who during these years have managed to succeed in key positions in state administration and political forums.

### 1. Nevin Bilali (arch.), Advisor of the Mayor of Tirana, Erion Veliaj.

Nevin's position in the Municipality of Tirana comes as a result of her engagement in Albanian politics, but also because of her professional and managerial growth, since the university formation. Her position as an advisor focuses on architecture and urban planning issues, thanks to the excellent knowledge and experience gained during the University studies, the group work culture, organized during studio courses, and workshops, organized with foreign and Albanian lecturers.



### Interview:

The innovative spirit during my studies at POLIS University has helped me to have a cleaner and richer perception concerning architecture and urban design.

Architecture is a process ... a non-linear but interactive process, not static but dynamic, not only intellectual but also abstract, as well as organic and concrete.

Light, space, quietness, form, all these have the power to transform even the most common space. These are notions for which POLIS University is the co-founder of my convictions today. POLIS University has been and remains one of the inspirational points of my personal reference, even in distance and each time frame. Inside it, you feel powerful and definitely creative ... "POLISJAN".

**2. Brixhilda Biçaku (arch.),** Chairwoan of FRESH, in Librazhd district

Brixhilda is an alumni who, after studying at U\_POLIS, left for several years in America. There she legalized the Albanian diploma and practiced the profession as an architect, also by obtaining a local license. After a period of time there, she returned to Albania for family reasons, where she successfully manages her family restaurant-hotel business, expressing good creative and management skills. Beside other commitments in the city of Librazhd, she successfully manages, for several years, the Youth Forum of the Socialist Party.



**3. Joleza Koka, (arch.),** Ex-Chairwoman of FRESH, currently a member of the City Council, Tirana

Joleza is an architect who has been very active in collaboration with the Alumni colleagues of the same year. After university studies, she started the Master's Degree in "Urban Social Development and Human Resources" at POLIS University, helping her in issues regarding Management and Urban Policies. Thanks to her professional training and engagement at the Youth Forum of the Socialist Party in Tirana, she managed to be elected Chairwoman of this Forum in 2013 - 2016. Her political experience is very active even nowadays, both in Albania and abroad, as a representative of young people.



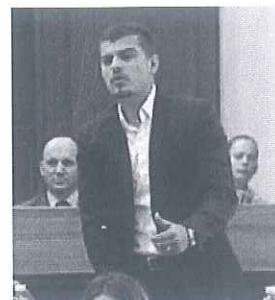
**4. Edona Gjonaj (bsc. ing.)**

Edona has completed her Bachelor Studies in Civil Engineering at U\_POLIS and actually she continues her Master of Science again in Civil Engineering, in this university. She is a good student in her profession, who tries to work well in group, participate in workshops with Albanian and foreign lecturers, organized at the University to enhance her professional and managerial skills and manage the teaching load at the same time with activities related to profession outside the university. Alongside master studies, she is very active and she is the member of the youth group of PD, FRPD, in Tirana, unit 8.



## 5. Getoar Besimi (arch.)

After finishing the university, Getoar exercises his profession as an architect in his hometown, in Prizren, Kosovo, and successfully manages his family business. Currently, he is a member of the Board for Economic Development and also the member of the Municipal Assembly of Prizren. His several-year political involvement goes hand in hand with his profession in construction.



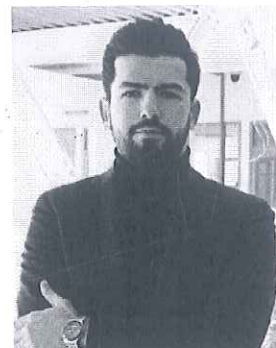
## 4.3 SUCCESS IN THE POSTGRADUATE SYSTEM (Master and PhD)

As successful, in the postgraduate system are identified those Alumni who have successfully completed their postgraduate studies at Master or PhD level. In this group are included those Alumni, who in these years have achieved success in the academic life, those who have been or are still in the process of deepening their knowledge, within or outside Albania.

### 1. Saimir Kristo (arch.)

Saimir has completed his five-year studies in Architecture and Urban Design program at POLIS University, continuing his studies in the postgraduate Master in Applied Design, and further on his PhD studies, also at POLIS University in the Joint Degree program in collaboration with Ferrara University, Italy.

Currently, aside from being lecturer at U\_POLIS, he is involved in the organization of important events in this University such as TAW and TDW, Conferences, Exhibitions in national and international level. He has also represented POLIS University in Future Architecture Platform and he is Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Architecture and Design.



#### Interview:

My personal journey in POLIS University starts at the moment I took the radical decision to return to Albania and continue my studies in Architecture and Urban Design.

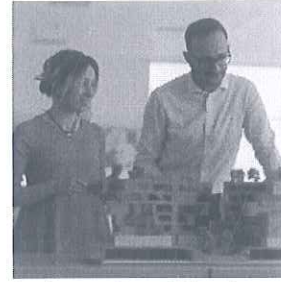
From that moment, as a student of POLIS University, I joined not only a University ... but an open minded spirit, a space for thinking, which has the mission of educating individuals and professionals who will be able to change our country, based on universal values.

The true value of POLIS and those who are part of it, is the passion to challenge yourself and the desire to overcome the physical and mental barriers continuously.

This value, part of the mission of POLIS University, makes me feel proud that today I am an integral part of it, in a role that requires more and more responsibility to contribute to the education of younger generations in the city's sciences program.

## 2. Joana Dhiamandi (arch.)

Joana has completed her undergraduate studies in Architecture and Design at U\_POLIS and has further pursued a Master in Applied Design and the PhD studies at Polis University in the Joint Degree Program, in collaboration with Ferrara University, Italy. Currently, she continues to pursue her profession as a part time freelancer architect and glass artist, while she is full time lecturer at Polis University. She is mainly focused in arts, interior design and the design of architecture magazines.

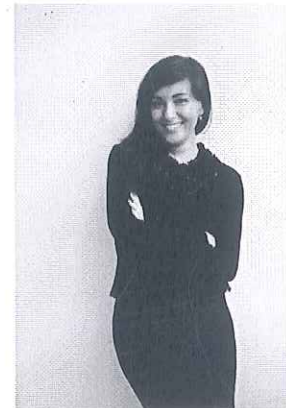


### Interview:

When I finished high school, my only need was to draw, work with the form and dream of the possibilities that I could create in the future. My passion for art and creativity, that could impact the lives of people, inspired me to become an architect. I realized that what I needed was a space in which I could cultivate this energy and passion, a space that I would get to know the right people who would be inspirational and motivating to look for the best of myself and realize my desire to become an architect. I managed to find this space 10 years ago at POLIS University, where as part of an active open minded community, I could find the way not only to a horizon beyond the purely profession but also towards the civic and intellectual life.

## 3. Sonia Jojic (photography)

Sonia finished her studies in 2008, "Media Art & Communication, Photography and Digital Imaging" at Wayne State University, Michigan, USA. In 2013, she pursued her studies at U\_POLIS interested in the study program of "Applied Design". After successfully completing her post graduate studies in Applied Design, Jojic found interest in pursuing her PhD studies in the field of "Place Branding" and "Sustainable Tourism", where she successfully completed her research and studies in the Joint PhD program between POLIS University and Ferrara University, Ital, in 2017. Jojic is a full-time lecturer at POLIS University focused in Multimedia Design, Graphic Design, City Marketing and Urban Photography, where she has also been part and elaborated several exhibitions.



### Interview:

As a graduate of POLIS University, I know first-hand the high quality of education provided to students. I appreciate not only the post graduate education I received, but also the values that U\_POLIS instilled in me—a critical perspective on the world and the fields of interest. I am also proud that the POLIS University has become a leader in Albania and the Balkan Region and sought to involve students in decision-making in the fields of Architecture, Urban Planning and Design. Thus, one of the greatest gifts you can give yourself, right here, right now, in the single, solitary, monumental moment in your life— is to decide, without apology, to commit to the journey, and not to the outcome, a lifetime journey found only at POLIS.

### 6. Gerdi Papa (arch.)

During his one year experience in Metro\_POLIS, he was involved in various projects such as interior design, architecture, restoration, urban design and other projects about urban planning. Gerdi is part of Innovation\_Factory, Interdisciplinary Research Center, near Polis University, which conducts research and projects related to architecture and technology. He is also part of the Polis and Ferrara Joint degree doctorate, IDAUP program in Architecture and Urban Design. The quality education i received, the tutelage and professionalism that Polis University has shown in both academic and professional situation deeply influenced the person I am today. I believe that through my studies at Polis I received much more than just an education, I received the right mindset to succeed



### 7. Mamica Burda (arch.)

Mamica graduated from her studies in Architecture and Urban Design program at POLIS University. Today she is in the process of PhD in TU WIEN (Technisches Universität Wien), Austria. Besides her doctoral studies, she works in her profession as Freelancer Architect and she is a member of the Cultural Innovators Network.



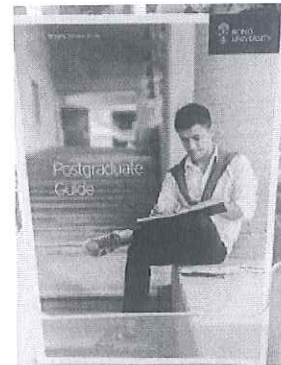
### 8. Miranda Rashani (arch.)

Miranda finished her Bachelor studies at the University of Pristina and transferred her studies of Architecture at POLIS University. After studying at the Department of Architecture, she practiced her profession as Architect in Albania and Kosovo. Besides the profession of the architect, she holds the activity as a lecturer at the University of Pristina, Kosovo. Currently, she is also successfully attending her PhD studies at TU Wien, (Technisches Universität Wien), Austria.



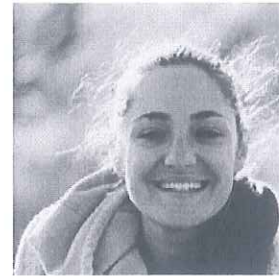
### 9. Mario Shllaku (Planner)

Mario graduated in the Urban Planning and Management program, at U\_POLIS, and had a brief experience as an assistant lecturer at this University. At the same time, he successfully engaged himself in an active urban sketchers group in Albania, where he had the role of the Executive Director. He then holds a master's degree at Bond University, Roobina, Queensland, Australia, after having matriculated the Polis University degree and is granted the right to continue postgraduate studies at this University.



#### **10. Olesja Lami (arch.)**

Olesja, a former student who has performed with great success during her university education and has participated in many projects and working groups that were organized by the University's lecturers, during studio subjects or different workshops, today holds a 2-year master's degree in Lund University, Sweden, for Sustainable Design - Energy Efficiency.



#### **11. Nevila Zaimi (arch.)**

After her studies, Nevila has contributed as assistant lecturer in U\_POLIS and as a studio designer at Studio Metro\_POLIS, Tirana. This experience has helped Nevila professionally, both in practice and theory. Currently, she continues her 2-year master studies at Lund University, Sweden, for Sustainable Design - Energy Efficiency, and at the same time, she works as a graphic designer in the communication department of Helsingborg municipality, where she lives. Nevila has told us that her experience is special, beautiful, with young people and different cultures.



#### **12. Viola Deti (arch.)**

After university studies, Viola was engaged by giving her contribute in Urban Sketchers Albania as a member and as News Director. After engaging herself in the profession of the architect, she left for Stockholm, Sweden, where she continued her postgraduate studies at KTH Architecture.



#### **13. Helena Liçaj (Bsc. Designer)**

Immediately after finishing her studies at U\_POLIS, Helena left for America and successfully legalized her diploma obtained at this university. Currently, she continues her master's degree in New York at Parsons University in the Interior Design program.

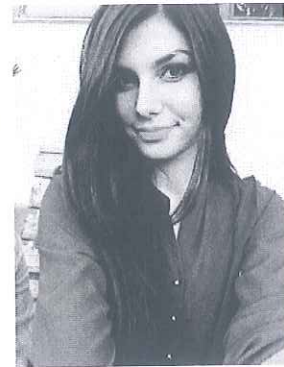


#### **14. Sindi Haxhija (plan.)**

After university studies in Planning and Urban Management at U\_POLIS, Sindi continues her Master studies in the European Spatial Policy and Regional Development (Netherlands-Sweden), with the Erasmus Mundus program.

### **Interview:**

The completion of university studies for Urban Planning and Management at Polis University has been one of the best investments, having an impact not only in my educational and professional formation, but also in social and moral formation, as well. Today, as a master student of an international program such as Erasmus Mundus, in the European Spatial Policy and Regional Development (Netherlands-Sweden), I am aware that I have studied at a university that is increasingly trying to approach the Western model of studies. This has helped me not to feel the difference of levels with Western students and to be competitive in an international study environment. Of course, I must emphasize the importance of lecturers at Polis University, where a large number of them try to co-operate with students at a college-to-college level more than student-lecturer. It was exactly one of these professors who encouraged me to apply for the study program where I actually am.



Also, I have to admit the fact that I have never been part of the students with absolute grades, 9-10 in each subject. However, I managed to get a scholarship in one of the best programs for a Planner. I never doubted the fact that I could do this program, since I came from Polis University with a CV, said with conviction, that students from any other university in Albania (perhaps more broadly when compared to my international friends) would envy me. Without any doubt this was one of my strongest weapons, for which Polis University students should be proud of. We have the chance and the opportunity to apply theoretical knowledge on practical issues much earlier than our peers. This is because Polis University has initially created a spirit of cooperation and student integration into various projects, where it has always been one of the main partners. In conclusion, having studied at Polis is 'cool' and relatively fashionable. I think students and ex-students have a kind of image that makes them distinguishable from others.

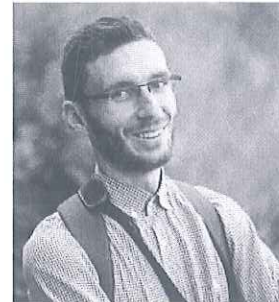
### **15. Imeldi Sokoli (Planner)**

Imeldi graduated in 2014, in Urban Planning and Management program. During the period of September 2014 - February 2015, he follows the Internship at the Institution of the National Territorial Planning Agency. During this period, he was engaged in drafting an analysis on the evaluation of the administrative-territorial separation options of the Republic of Albania and in the drafting of a document on the analysis of new municipalities according to this division, on the potentials and weaknesses they represent. In 2015, he is employed as urban planner at Co PLAN (Institute for Habitat Development), Tirana, where he actually works. He is engaged in drafting the general local plans of the municipalities of: Berat, Elbasan, Fier, Lushnje, Kuçovë and Mat. Besides the work at Co Plan, Imeldi is also attending Master's Degree in Housing and Land Development, conducted in collaboration between Polis University, Albania, and the IHS (Netherlands Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies), Netherlands.



#### **16. Kristi Bashmilli (Bsc. Planner)**

Kristi has completed Bachelor studies in U\_POLIS for Environmental Studies and is completing Master's studies in the Urban Environmental Management program. Beyond Master studies, Kristi has been employed at Co-PLAN, Tirana, focusing on Energy Efficiency and urban lighting. He has experience in projects related to mobility in urban areas, near GO2 Shkodra, in the drafting of Strategic Environmental Assessments in the framework of the drafting of the General Local Planes, in the drafting of Local Integrated Urban Waste Management Plans and their monitoring, etc.



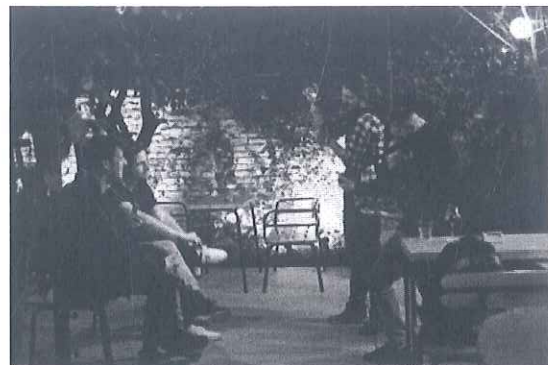
### **4.4 SUCCESS IN SOCIAL CREATIVE ACTIVITIES (creative business)**

In this group are included those Alumni who, during these years, have succeeded not only in their profession but also in social and creative initiatives.

#### **1. DESTIL**

**Renis Batalli (arch), Qendrim Gashi (arch), Sonila Abdalli (arch), Edjon Myftaraj (arch)**

There is a villa on the Elbasan Street, in the Italian style, which was designed by an Albanian architect in 1938. It was originally a doctor's villa, then after the '45s it was inhabited mainly by the generals and after the '90s it was left in full abandonment. Four new architects took and fixed it up as a space which was conceived as a centre for art exhibitions, national and international, and as a study place in Tirana, open every hour of the day and night. 200 people every day come and leave the "Destil" Villa, mainly young architects, who are familiar with each other and enjoy socializing with a place that is not just a café. They design, collaborate and study together. From their experience as former architecture students, with long-time working hours and group work, they felt the need to create a wider space to work on their projects, creating a mixture of simplicity and abstraction that are intertwined perfectly, allowing interaction in a social space. The design is used as an instrument to produce comfort for "Destil" visitors.





## 2. URBAN SKETCHERS

**Mario Shllaku (plan.), Anduena Dragovi (arch.), Klajdi Dinellari (arch.), Viola Deti (arch.), Klaudia Sorra (designer), Jona Osmënaj (arch.), etc.**

Urban Sketcher is an international organization that came in Tirana as well, and spread all over Albania, with the initiative of students or alumni of architecture, planning and design. These alumni, who were passionate about painting, joined and decided to share their sketches, which had as main theme fragments of different cities, throughout Albania.



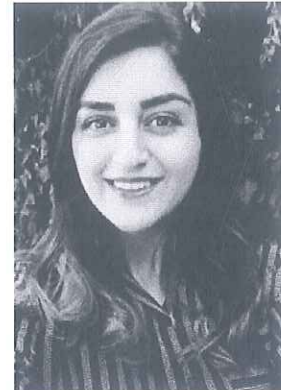
They are young, willing to interpret the world around us and not just observe it, and also passionate to promote the values of our country, through the technique of field design. They organize joint travel experiences, as well as workshops, where besides the promotion of this technique, they create opportunities for young people who want to master this technique.

## 3. EDUINA JAUPI (arch.)

Eduina graduated at U\_POLIS in Architecture and Urban Design, and during her studies she has often been engaged in different photo exhibitions or competitions, based on her passion for photography, also helped by university lecturers. Today, she is pretty active in her profession as an architect, mainly in interior design, but she also works as a photographer. Some of her experiences are: graphic designer for Mon Cheri, photographer at "Tulla Centre", etc. Eduina is the model of the professional girl who likes to share her passion with all of us, appreciates the beauty and shoots it through her camera. She continues to be active through photography even in national and international competitions and has been a winner in some of them.



#### **4. Merilin Tota (Bsc. Art Design) Graphic Designer AKZ Studio**



She has been very active on exhibitions related to her art. Her first exhibition took place in Tirana, with posters of graphic design. She has participated in different competitions about Design, where she got highly rated and won prizes as listed down below:

Design and Design International Award 2017 (8 TIMES WINNER)

Behance Coin @ Behance Review Tirana 2016

2-nd place "Albanian Skills" Graphic Design Competition May 2016

2-nd place "UNDP "INNOVATION BOOTCAMP" for Gender Based Violence in Albania January 2016

3-rd place, "Tirana Business Park Wayfinding" September 2014

She has also gotten a few prizes on the international Design and Design Award, with the "Lolita" book cover, "Memphis State of Mind" graphic posters, which also was the topic of the exhibition.

Also, there have been written some articles on famous international design blogs such as: Fubiz, Baron Magazine, Design Culture, Tongue Magazine etc.

Since two years now, she is working as Graphic Designer, at the creative design studio "AKZ creative studio". Since she was a kid, she was inspired by details and small things she looked at with curiosity, which in the future made design grow naturally into her.

My thought about Polis and the studies:

I have always shown it as a wonderful story the day when I came unexpectedly and occasionally to Polis University, with the idea that I would start studying Architecture. But during the conversations with the staff and other students, without thinking twice, I decided to study Art and Design. In fact, in that moment, I was a little informed about this study program, but, over time, I realized that I had made a choice that I would do over and over again. I fell in love with design since the first day in Polis. Moreover, the staff and the Pedagogical Council explained me how people were so fond of, so humane, so correct, and made me understand things that I did not know they existed. I felt inspired by each work they were showing us, so I got completely involved in Art and Design at U-Polis. And so, the three years filled with creativity, fatigue, work, love, travel and effort, ended successfully, and I could not leave that family where I had already found myself. And of course, the best choice I made after finishing the Bachelor's inception at Polis was to start the Master of Applied Design, where the expectations that I had, got fulfilled perfectly. Polis helped me become what I am today, and I am very grateful for everything, for all the knowledges, creativity, methodology and culture that it gave me, as a result helped be successful and creative.