

## **REPORT**

about the learning meeting in the EDUQAS project

in Plovdiv, 15-17.05. 2018

According to the EDUQAS project work plan, a training based on the performance of EU higher education institutions in the design of the quality assurance system should be made in the start-up phase. The aim is to familiarize the participants from the partner countries with the European standards and quality assurance standards in the field of higher education, the strategy and the implementation of the EU quality assurance policy at the national and institutional level, qualitative analyzes, staff training techniques for QA.

The training is shared by the experience of the team work of the partner organization in previous projects and in the preparation of the documentation and the implementation of the accreditation procedures.

The training was conducted in the following sequence, observing the Agenda, which has been sent by the project supervisor.

### **15.05.2018**

Start: Guests are welcomed at the 315 PU Lab.

Assoc. Prof. Raykova presented the agenda and discussed some organizational issues related to the conducted training.

Prof. Mileva, Project Manager for Partner P4 and Deputy Rector of the University of Plovdiv presented the Faculty of Physics, the European projects at this faculty as well.

While discussing EDUQAS project's tasks and activities, the participants expressed their discomfort that there were no representatives from the project management organization and concerns about a possible lack of coordination. In the course of work in the upcoming days this uncertainty disappeared and the mood got improved.

Following the mutual introduction of all participants, prof. Mileva organized a visit to the Technological Center of the University of Plovdiv.

After lunch, the meeting was due to be continued by the Deputy Rector of Plovdiv University Professor Krushkov, who had to present the preparation of the institutional accreditation, according to the accepted agenda. Unfortunately, Professor Krushkov was suddenly accepted in hospital and therefore the training was conducted by Assoc. Prof. Hadjikoleva, who is the Deputy Chair of the University Accreditation Commission. Assistant Professor

Hadjicoleva got the audience acquainted with the web-application "Compass", which is a useful tool to organize the documentation for the institutional accreditation. Assoc. Prof. Hadjikoleva also discussed the issues of Institutional quality assessment and external evaluation of the National Quality Assurance Agency. Procedures for institutional accreditation and documentation and its application. The two presentations, as well as the articles, are put in a drop of booze to be available to all participants.

### **16.05.2018**

The beginning of the training was set at 10.00. Prof. Raykova presented the structure of NEAA in Bulgaria. The presentation was - accepted with a great interest: issues related to the establishment of NEAA, its relations with international similar organizations, the structure of NEAA, ways of forming expert groups, the functions of the Accreditation Council, the quality assessment methodology according to the study cycle; standards and indicators and specific documents. During the discussions, specific questions related to the experience of colleagues from the University of Plovdiv were discussed.

In the afternoon, the training continued with the examination of the issues of programmatic accreditation for bachelor programs. Prof. Marekova shared some technological details and gave advice on how to prepare an accreditation report for a bachelor's and master's degree program. Assoc. Prof. Raykova organizes the review of the content of the website of NEAA, Bulgaria. A specific case of preparing a report on the accreditation of PN4.1 was considered. All presentations and documents are placed in the Dropbox Internal evaluation of the Master program / field at Plovdiv University (deliverables - training materials

At 16.00, a meeting of the participants in the training with the Dean of FINS was held, Prof. Kabaivanov. Provided that most participants were representatives of economic higher education institutions, it was very interesting to ask questions to the dean of this faculty on the internal quality assurance system. Possibilities for organizing student mobility were discussed.

### **17.05.2018**

At 10:00 a.m. a training on the requirements and the structure of the accreditation policy of the Republic of Bulgaria organized. The training continued with discussion of the details in the preparation of a report on the opening of a departments/ unit and one related to the

capacity. Technical questions and questions related to internal evaluation of Bachelor's program at Plovdiv University were discussed.

In the afternoon there was some time for a walk through the Old Town of Plovdiv and a visit to some of the sights.

At 15.30 a meeting of a representative from the Kazakh Higher Education School was held with the Dean of the Faculty of Philology. Possibilities for student mobility were discussed.

All documents and materials are uploaded at the drop box.

Prepared by *Assoc. Prof. Zhelyazka Raykova, PhD*

21.05.2018

Plovdiv