



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

ERASMUS+ project n° 586109-EPP-1-2017-1-RO-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP EDUQAS

Implementation of Education Quality Assurance System via Cooperation of University - Business - Government in HEIs EDUQUAS

WP3 Capacity building : Implementation of internal QA systems

Part 2. Report on the SWOT analysis and recommendation of the 2 curricula :

- BA in Translation Studies
- MA in Translation Studies

*Kazakh Ablai Khan University of International Relations and World Languages
(KAUIR)*



Almaty November 2019

Strengths

HEI prestige

Material resources :

Material and technical base for the professional competencies development : facilities (special classes, language labs, buildings, equipment), modern software, modern information technology infrastructure (interactive boards, translation equipment, etc);

State-funded budget places, scholarship programs from different countries available;

Use of modern technologies and methods corresponding to modern requirements, adequate methodological provision, wide availability of resources in the realization of the study process.

Human resources :

Teachers - practitioners : Experienced, qualified, proactive and professional teaching staff with extensive practical and teaching experience;

Involvement of practitioners in the study process in guest lectures and program development;

Close, long-term cooperation with employers and governmental and non-governmental organizations;

Collaboration with stakeholders and international partners (Confucius Institute, Center for Korean Studies);

The experience of another University is used.

Program-related resources :

The goals are clearly and in details defined;

Succession from undergraduate and graduate programs;

Including internship in the syllabus and giving credits for it;

Tendency to align with international standards - application and use of benchmarking and the content of the programs generally conforms to today's changing market requirements;

Original study programs with licenses for international events (Expo);

EP correspond to the business request and market conditions;

A variety of bases for practice activities;

Ergonomics and ethno-cultural support of EP;

Flexible schedule of educational process

Weaknesses

Program-related resources :

The limiting of students ability to freely choose disciplines in the EP : Limited evidence of free choice of optional courses (confirmed by the 3rd year students : they didn't have real choice of courses);

Lack of general teaching subjects in study programmes (only one such course is included) : Lack of such courses as economic theory, law, etc;

No translations of study courses syllabus if they are made in Chinese or in Korean (confusing for the students on initial stage of their studies and for external evaluators);

There are no clearly oriented career strategies of students (especially in junior courses);

Different approaches and requirements for study course descriptions as some course descriptions are widely elaborated, some are narrower. These differences in course descriptions can create confusion from student part.

Quality Assurance

No quality assurance process schemes or models and formal short term vision for quality assurance;

Limited evidence of teaching excellence monitoring and improvement (from discussing with teachers it's not clear how they implement new active teaching methods and improve their teaching excellence);

Students are not involved into the programme development and improvement (students have confirmed that they don't contribute to the syllabus and programme development);

The quality assessing mechanism of education is based on formal indicators (average academic performance) and doesn't correspond with received competencies;

Overregulation of education evaluation.

Integration of research into the curriculum

Insufficient involvement of students in research work;

No scientific articles are mentioned as suggested reading in course descriptions.

Opportunities

Employment :

Demand in the labour market for professionals with integrated knowledge, skills and competences; graduate competitiveness; Demand for skilled labour in the labour market;

Employers' responsiveness in improving the content of the program. According to the situation in the labour market and recommendations of employers.

Programme :

Attraction of guest lecturers from abroad;

Attraction of professional practitioners to study courses in the program.

Quality and internationalisation :

Opportunities for cooperation with foreign higher education institutions in implementation of programs and participation in scientific project;

Implementation of international experience and harmonization with European and Asian standards of the education quality assurance without prejudice to national identity.

Threats

Potential risks of non-systemic development of QA because of absence of strong QA unit;

Brain drain;

Migration of potential students abroad;

Increase of competition between local and foreign HEI, possible competition with similar study directions implemented at other HEI;

Outflow of qualified personnel of the University;

The cultural identity washout;

Socio-economic fluctuations;

Outflow abroad of graduates who has received government support for education.

Recommendations

Quality Assurance :

Define more clearly the form of the quality control;

Make questionnaires in the end of each semester and use social nets for making the polls >> The short analyses of the results of the questionnaires to be applied too;

Describe the innovative methods used in the teaching process and to prove by appropriate way;

Strengthening the collaboration with graduates and the formation of a system for tracking graduate career success.

Pedagogical approach :

Develop a student-centered approach in the education;

Develop teaching methods towards gamification;

Include facultative courses (scientific, technical, sport, management and etc.) in the syllabus;

Increase practical hours – communication with native speakers (students and stakeholders have confirmed);

Create free space /co-working for students to communicate, share ideas, etc. ;

Develop double degree programs;

Develop more active involvement of students in research work.

Employment

Develop Freelance opportunities for students;

Improve the system of professional development stimulating of teaching staff.

Collaborations :

Improve mobility of international cooperation for students and lecturers and internationalization of education;

Increase of interest of practitioners in teaching of study courses;

Expand cooperation with professional organizations and employers.