



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

*Implementation of Education Quality Assurance System
via Cooperation of University- Business-Government in
HEIs (EDUQAS)*

Project no. 586109-EPP-1-2017-1-RO-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP
(2017-2895/001-001)



Workshop/training seminar
"Quality Assurance self-evaluation system in HEI
and collaboration with social partners"
Riga, University of Latvia, 7th – 10th May 2019

*Address: Faculty of Business, Management and Economics, University of Latvia
Aspazijas blvd. 5, Riga*

As the seminar in Riga was the last training seminar in the frame of the project, the partners were asked to send the topics which should be discussed during the workshop. The identified topics were the following:

1. The main objective of the Riga session is to finalize the self-evaluation framework and the action plan for carrying out the evaluation visits. To do this, we need from our Ukrainian partner to receive the repository they intend to use in Ukraine. From there, a proposal for a reference system that would also include ESG.

At the end of the Riga session, we must have agreed on the document and methodology.

2. Recommendations for internal QA regulations in organizational part (QA unit (mission, tasks, regulations), Program Working Group (composition, roles, responsibilities), Evaluation Commission)

3. Self-evaluation report - template and discussion about the structure, content, annexes (evidencies). KhNUE and University of Liege are working on this. We will send the draft before the meeting in Riga, so let's plan to work on it.

4. Action Plan, structure, recommendations.

Perhaps your University also has experience (or specialized software) that we could be interested in in terms of the implementation of work package 3.2. It's about QA tools.

We are now preparing an analysis of existing QA tools in Partner Universities and possibly other universities in Ukraine and Kazakhstan, and also in Plovdiv and Nancy there were some elements.



As the project provides that we should:

a. Analyse existing QA tools;

b. Identify relevant tools for PC HEIs;

c. Upgrade and test QA tools;

5. The evaluation of the educational programs, which one of the outputs of the project. Other trainings were more dedicated to the QA system and the accreditation process. Another proposal is to include good practices of connection between university and business in the field of QA.

6. Forms of students' involvement in quality assurance (what instruments, in addition to questionnaires, are used);

7. How employers and civil society groups can be involved in quality assurance (especially, the first steps to establish partnership relations between HEI and civil society representatives, and HEI and employers or employers' associations)

Since quality assurance in the educational process implies designing a development of study programs in a way to eliminate deficiencies and errors, so that the educational system can be continually improved, we consider that one of the themes of the Riga meeting could be to identify and evaluate employers' requirements.

What should be emphasized:

a. how to contact and consult with employers;

b. examples of formalizing relationships with employers (partnership agreement, collaboration agreement for various actions such as specialized practice, internships, scientific events, etc.);

c. examples of good practice.

This aspect of the project has not yet been achieved.

8. The presentation of the quality assurance tools used in the university system in Latvia.

During the workshop-training seminar in Riga the following subjects were discussed:

Tuesday, May 7

During the morning session the dean of the Faculty of Business, Management and Economics prof.G.Bērziņš made a welcome speech introducing the workshop. After that, project coordinator



prof. B.Šavriņa introduced the University of Latvia and the faculty of Business, Management and Economics. The quality assurance system of University of Latvia was presented starting with the higher education system and qualifications framework in Latvia. It was followed by expanding on the quality assurance system for study directions/study programmes at the University of Latvia. The system is based on international standards such as ESG and EFQM. The experience of UL participating in quality assurance system projects and own initiatives such as evaluation by EFMD EQUIS were discussed in detail. Based on these quality management principles, the faculty is using a model of excellence to create its own quality assurance system. The principles of evaluating study programmes at the faculty and at the university were shown **(Point 8)**.

Vice-dean prof. M.Dunska was talking about the accreditation process and its problematic aspects at the faculty because all 20 faculty study programmes are moving to their next accreditation in the year 2020. Explanation of previous experience and lessons from previous accreditations were mentioned **(Point 5)**.

Lect. K.Bērziņa, as a participant of numerous training projects of performance in business education such as Start-up Campus in Cambridge in UK, LU Business festival “Icebreakers” etc, was telling about the partnership agreements with employers. In particular, the experience of international project POWER providing the collaboration possibilities between employers, Business incubators and start-up`s aiming the internship organization for master level students was explained **(Point 7)**.

During the afternoon session, the representative of Students council D.Balodis was telling about the possibilities for students to be involved in the quality assurance system on the level of University and on the level of faculty **(Point 6)**.

The presentation about the relationship with social partners and employers in particular was made by the executives responsible for public relations at the faculty E.Ansonska and prof. B.Šavriņa – showing two visions to this collaboration: first, image building (E.Ansonska) and second, synergetic aspects of the collaboration (B.Šavriņa) **(Point 7)**.

The visit to the main building of the University of Latvia and the introduction to quality assurance system tools made by the head of Studies department A.Līgotne were completing the day. The working tools of the system were shown, such as the course descriptions in electronic system and their evaluation, accordance between study results (knowledge, skills, competence), mapping of study courses in the study programme **(Point 5, Point 8)**.

Wednesday, May 8

The participants of the project were working on the methodology of quality assurance system. 2 different approaches were presented by partner universities from Kharkiv and from Lviv. By the time of discussions, a consensus was found and the partners were working on a common document self-evaluation report template and discussing the structure and content **(Point 1, Point 2, Point 3, Point 4)**.



Thursday, May 9

The work on development of quality assurance self-evaluation report was continued (**Point 1, Point 2, Point 3, Point 4**).

During the afternoon session, the representative of Academic Information Center of Latvia A.Kažoka was explaining the system of evaluation existing in Latvia. The systems of evaluation of universities and of study programmes were shown (**Point 8**).

Friday, May 10

During the morning session, a Skype meeting with University of Craiova was ensured. The project manager A.Bandoi explained the future tasks for the participants – the preparation of the necessary document with methodology and description of requirements for self-evaluation reports to use them for quality evaluation in HEIs in Ukraine. A preparation for evaluation visits will be necessary.

Project finance manager A.Tanasie was explaining the situation with the use of financial means during the first financial period. After the discussions about the possibilities to use the financial means within the confines of the project positions, it was proposed to participate in the conference in Ukraine in Kiev about quality insurance - “Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Ukraine: global and local challenges”, organized by Kyiv National University of Trade and Economics, 11-12 June 2019. It could be an important opportunity for the participants to use this additional activity aimed to assure the quality in higher education.

During the afternoon session, the project participants were continuing to work on project documents in smaller groups.