

and (iv) the link between quality assurance, internationalization and strategy development of HE institutions.

Apart from its pragmatic goals—to make the existing QA structures in Moldova functional and to prepare the accredited study programmes for participation in joint and double degree programmes within Erasmus for All starting in 2014—the project aims at the scientific assessment of this process in the broader context of HE institutions' transformation and the current debates on QA worldwide. In the meantime the University of Leipzig regards this project as a joint and mutually beneficial learning process for all the partners involved.

Partner institutions:

UNIVERSITÄT LEIPZIG

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QUAEM

DEVELOPMENT
OF QUALITY ASSURANCE
IN HIGHER EDUCATION
IN MOLDOVA



Development of Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Moldova - QUAEM

Project number:

530537-TEMPUS-1-2012-1-DE-TEMPUS-SMGR

Budget:

€ 939,727.07

Project description:

In view of the prevailing situation in Moldovan higher education (HE) as well as the high priority placed on quality assurance (QA) in HE in Europe, the project is aimed at making the existing QA structures at Moldovan HE institutions functional, integrating QA into the strategic development of the universities and supporting Moldova to develop its own QA system on all levels up to the international accreditation of pilot study programs in accordance with EU standards. Its target groups are the management, teaching staff, administration staff and students from 27 state and private Moldovan HE institutions as well as representatives of two Moldovan state ministries responsible for the quality and accreditation in the area covered by the six HE institutions belonging to the Consortium.

Project goal:

The goal of the project is making quality assurance at Moldovan higher education institutions functional and conducive to strategy development at the universities.

Objectives:

- ✓ Make the internal quality assurance offices of the Moldovan higher education institutions functional
- ✓ Empower students to participate in quality assurance, foster quality culture on level of students and staff
- ✓ Establish a functional dialogue between quality management structures and academic staff in order to complete the quality assurance cycle
- ✓ Empower quality assurance offices to conduct self-evaluation and prepare accreditation process
- ✓ Conduct international accreditation process of three study programs
- ✓ Capacity building at the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health, including groundwork, a pool of experts and documentation for the activity of the Agency for Evaluation and Accreditation of the Republic of Moldova

Results:

- ✓ Quality assurance offices, academic staff and students from 27 Moldovan HEIs trained in QA
- ✓ QA peer networks established at national level
- ✓ Six HEIs (members of the Consortium) evaluated
- ✓ Strategies for six HEIs developed
- ✓ Three pilot study programmes prepared for internal accreditation
- ✓ Capacity building at the Moldovan Ministry of Education for evaluation and accreditation of study programs
- ✓ Website on quality assurance in Moldova

Statement by the Project Coordinator – University of Leipzig

This project investigates and supports the development of a QA system in HE institutions of the Republic of Moldova under the conditions of a transition society and the involvement of a large number of exogenous actors in this process. A study on the needs analysis conducted in January 2011 has demonstrated that the newly established quality management structures at the Moldovan universities are not functional because of the lack of training of the staff involved, the low profile of students in QA, the low level of communication between the QA structures and the academic staff involved, the missing link between quality assurance and HE institutions' strategy development and the lack of a body that brings QA activities together and helps to implement common standards in the Republic of Moldova.

The project addresses all these challenges through (i) a series of trainings for all the actors involved in the quality cycle (quality management officers, deans, professors, students, universities' central administration) that are tailored to the specific needs in Moldova, (ii) the creation of peer networks for all the actors' groups, (iii) the internal evaluation and the international accreditation of three pilot study programmes, (iv) the creation of a pool of experts (professors and students trained and actively involved in the process of international accreditation of the selected study programmes) for the future accreditation body of Moldova →