



Monitoring visit #2 to Moldova

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Visited Partners: *State University of Moldova (SUM), State University „Alec Russo“, Balti (USB), State University Cahul (SUC), Technical University of Moldova (TUM), State University of Medicine and Pharmacy (SUMPh), Tiraspol State University (TSU), Ministry of Education of Moldova (MEM)*

Objectives of the monitoring visit:

The monitoring visit had the following objectives:

1. To familiarize the project management with the structure of the QA system of the Moldovan partner universities
2. To get an update on the preparation of self-evaluation reports for the international accreditation
3. To verify the arrival and project-conform use of the technical equipment purchased within the framework of the project
4. To get feedback from the partner universities where they see priorities within the remaining activities of the project
5. To get feedback on the state of the implementation of the Moldovan QA agency and the perspective for the remaining 15 study programmes to undergo an international, binational or national accreditation

Findings of the monitoring visit:

1. Structure of the QA system of the Moldovan partner universities

All partner universities have a centralized structure (Vice-Rector for QA and a QA manager) as well as QA “Methodists” at the level of faculties (TSU only has a centralized structure). The focus of QA activities lies on assuring the qualifications of the teaching staff and the quality of study programs.

The Ministry of Education provides a framework for QA activities through regulations and guidelines. The QA structures see the implementation of these regulations as one of their foremost tasks. In this sense, the primary focus of QA activities lies on ensuring compliance and thus follows a control paradigm.

2. Preparation of self-evaluation reports for the international accreditation

All partner HEIs (with the exception of SUM) have begun working on the preparation of their self-evaluation reports, both for the three study programs that were selected for international accreditation, as well as for the applications that could not have been selected in the first round.

The representatives of SUM expressed disappointment that pharmacy was not selected. As long as it is unclear according to what model the remaining study programs will be accredited, SUM does not see the finality of investing time and resources in developing self-evaluation reports.

The type of future accreditation of the study programmes that were not selected in the first round will be clarified as soon as possible.



The feedback regarding the accreditation methodology and the guidelines for the preparation of the self-evaluation reports brought the following findings to light:

In principle all universities have all the necessary documents at their disposal, even in a much more detailed form than what is required by the international accreditation by AQAS. Challenges exist regarding

- a) the formulation of intended qualification goals of study programmes as competences as well as regarding the transparency of the curricula. At most universities, documents pertaining to the study programme are accessible only to teachers and the administration, not to students or the interested public.
- b) The qualitative, fitness-for-purpose-oriented methodology of AQAS, which is far less specific in what kind of supporting documents or statistics are required.

These points will be discussed at the project meeting in Bucharest.

3. Use of the technical equipment purchased within the framework of the project

All universities have received the technical equipment purchased within the framework of the project. At all universities the equipment is being used not only for the activities of the QA offices, but primarily to improve the quality of teaching. While this is good insofar that it maximizes the equipment's usefulness, the universities need to ensure that the QA staff have unconstrained access.

At SUC, the majority of the equipment has still not been distributed to its intended recipients. The rector of the university has assured that the equipment will be put into use immediately.

4. Priorities within the remaining activities of the project

All partner universities are interested in exploring the link between QA and strategy development. The clear priority is, however, to move forward with the accreditation of study programmes.

TUM proposes to jointly develop guidelines for strategy development for all Moldovan universities.

5. State of the implementation of the Moldovan QA agency and the perspective for the remaining 15 study programmes to undergo an international, binational or national accreditation

The process of establishing the Moldovan QA agency is ongoing but, as of now, no date for the start of its operations can be established.

MEM is strongly supporting the project and is very interested in expanding its scope to include those study programmes which were not selected for the international accreditation. The funding and administration of this expansion is currently being discussed.