

Support to strengthening the higher education system in Azerbaijan



Twinning project ENI/2018/395-401

Mission Report

Short-Term Mission on Activity 3.7 Undertake a mock accreditation at each pilot university for a study programme in a priority area

(Oct 28-Nov 2, 2019)

1. Name and Function of the Expert:

Full name of expert

Ms. Jolita Butkiene, Lithuania

Signature

Full name of expert

Mr. Audrius Lopata, Lithuania

Signature



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2. Objective and Tasks of the Mission:

The mission is carried out within the framework of:

COMPONENT 3: THE QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM IS FURTHER DEVELOPED TO REFLECT THE STUDENT-CENTEREDNESS OF STUDY PROGRAMMES

Activity 3.7 Undertake a mock accreditation at each pilot university for a study programme in a priority area

Benchmarks for this activity are:

- Minimum 4 mock accreditations of study programmes implemented



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3. Time schedule of mission:

Date and Time	Activity
Monday, 28 th of October, 2019	Preparation for the Computer Engineering programmes peer- evaluation meetings at four universities , distribution of tasks among the peer-review team, appointing the chair of the peer-review team, revision of the methodology for the peer-evaluation, discussion of the questions arising from the Reports submitted for the Computer Engineering peer-review evaluation.
Tuesday, 29 th of October, 2019	Peer-evaluation visit to the Baku Engineering University to evaluate Computer engineering programme. Meetings with the main stakeholder groups: management of the University and the programme, self- evaluation group, academic staff of the programme, students of the programme, graduates, and employers.
Wednesday, 30 th of October, 2019	Peer-evaluation visit to the Sumgait State University to evaluate Computer engineering programme. Meetings with the main stakeholder groups: management of the University and the programme, self- evaluation group, academic staff of the programme, students of the programme, graduates, and employers.
Thursday, 31 st of October, 2019	Peer-evaluation visit to the Azerbaijan Oil and Industry University to evaluate Computer engineering programme. Meetings with the main stakeholder groups: management of the University and the programme, self- evaluation group, academic staff of the programme, students of the programme, graduates, and employers.
Friday, 1 st of November, 2019	Peer-evaluation visit to the Azerbaijan State Engineering University to evaluate Computer engineering programme. Meetings with the main stakeholder groups: management of the University and the programme, self- evaluation group, academic staff of the programme, students of the programme, graduates, and employers.
Saturday, 2 nd of November, 2019	Meeting at the Accreditation and Nostrification Office (ANO) to discuss the process of the first peer-review visits, preliminary conclusions and to plan distant work among members of expert team to finalise evaluation reports.

4. Relevant Background Information/State of Affairs regarding the mission

Only institutional evaluation has been performed in higher education institutions of Azerbaijan so far. The first Twinning project implemented in 2015-2017 supported the then newly established (2016) Accreditation and Nostrification Office at the Ministry of Education to build up its capacity in the field of quality assurance in compliance with the principles of the European Higher Education Area. The Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Azerbaijan (AzSG) reflecting best EU quality assurance practices were developed jointly by the Twinning experts and ANO staff and pilot institutional evaluations were carried out in three pilot universities. At current stage the Accreditation and Nostrification Office needs to build its capacity in the field of study programme accreditation. As part of the Component III of the ongoing Twinning project certain number of documents concerning the programme evaluation (Handbook for Requirements and Methodologies for Programme Evaluation, Guidelines for Assessing Competence-based and Student-Centered Approach of St.Ps, Grid for Self-assessment of Competence-orientedness and Student-centeredness of Study Programmes) have been



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already developed by the Twinning experts to ensure the compliance of programme accreditation practices in Azerbaijan with EU best practices. As a next step, the higher education institutions were trained on how to conduct a self-evaluation of study programmes and were instructed to write the initial draft of self-evaluation reports on relevant programmes and submit them both in Azerbaijani and English before 25th of April. The second mission under this Activity took place from 29th of April to 3rd of May 2019. The objective of this mission was to hold meetings with the HEIs representatives involved in the SER writing and to support them in this process. The deadline for the submission of final draft of self-evaluation reports was set for the end of August 2019. The current mission which is being implemented under the Activity 3.7 aims to conduct the mock evaluation of the programmes in Computer engineering in four pilot universities based on the final drafts of self-evaluation reports already submitted.

5. Achievement of the Expected Results

Planned action was achieved. Four mock-evaluations of the study programme of Computer Engineering performed in four universities: Baku Engineering University, Sumgait State University, Azerbaijan Oil and Industry University, and Azerbaijan Technical University.

6. Unexpected Results

State if any unexpected results were identified during the mission. Add any relevant comments.

Not applicable.

7. Issues Left Open After the Mission

State if any issues were left open. Add any relevant comments.

Not applicable.

8. Recommendations (including recommendation for future missions)

Recommendations to ANO:

1. According to the Handbook On Methodologies and Requirements for study Programmes Evaluation, to check the completeness of the Programme Reports, especially to check whether all annexes specified in the Methodology are provided for the experts' review.
2. To decide on the chair of the peer-review team before the mission so that the chair can communicate with the group, discuss and decide how the tasks will be distributed among the members of the group.
3. To make sure that the same staff of the programme under the evaluation does not participate in the meetings with the different stakeholders' group.
4. To ensure that the meetings are not interrupted by people that are not involved in the peer-review meetings.



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5. In the mock evaluation and accreditation exercise the experts suggest to assign points to the whole assessment area not to the separate criteria.

9. Acknowledgments (if any) for study Programmes evaluation

The experts would like to extend their appreciation for the support provided by the ANO, and the head Mrs. Lala Abasova, and especially to the coordinator Mr.Tofiq Mustafayev, who liaised with the universities and arranged all the meetings, to Mr. Tarlan Arzumanov for his impeccable translation, to Mrs. Aytaj Ataishiyeva for timely communication, and to Mrs. Lisa Bydanova for overall support during this exercise.

Annexes

(if any)



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