QUALITY ASSURANCE IN LITHUANIAN HIGHER EDUCATION. COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF NON-UNIVERSITY AND UNIVERSITY STUDY EVALUATION

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Content of Presentation

- Lithuanian Higher Education System
- Quality Assurance System
- Assessment of Study Programmes
- Comparative Analysis
• **Lithuanian Higher Education System**

Binary higher education system

- **Universities**: 135161; 72.1%
- **Colleges**: 52185; 27.9%

There are 48 higher education institutions in Lithuania:

- 21 university
- 27 colleges
• Lithuanian Higher Education System

State and non-state sectors of higher education

There are 48 higher education institutions in Lithuania:

- 31 state
- 17 non-state

172981; 92.3%
14365; 7.7%
Lithuanian Higher Education System

Number of students at higher education institutions

- State universities:
  - 130862; 96.8%
- Non-state universities:
  - 4299; 3.2%

- State colleges:
  - 42119; 80.7%
- Non-state colleges:
  - 10066; 19.3%
• Lithuanian Higher Education System

- Non-university and university first cycle studies
- Undergraduate, Bachelor studies
- Graduate, integrated studies
- Non-university studies
• Lithuanian Higher Education System

University second cycle studies

- Graduate, integrated studies
- Graduate Master’s studies
- Graduate specialised professional studies
• Lithuanian Higher Education System

university third cycle studies

University third cycle studies

postgraduate residential studies

postgraduate art studies

postgraduate doctoral studies
• Quality Assurance System

Development of the system of quality assurance (1)

✓ Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education was established and its regulations approved (in 1995);

✓ The Register of study programmes was established, all study programmes of higher education institutions were registered (in 1996);

✓ Evaluation of newly introduced study programmes was started on a regular basis (in 1997);

✓ External assessment of study programmes was started (in 1999);
Quality Assurance System

Development of the system of quality assurance (2)

- **Reform of none-university higher education sector was started (in 2000);**

  Institutions which applied to be granted the name of a college submitted their non-university undergraduate study programme drafts together with the analysis of the need for the specialists and the resources necessary to implement the programmes to the Methodological Centre of Vocational Education and Training, which organised the assessment of the programmes; the approval by the procedure established by the Ministry of Education and Science was needed;

- **The first university and college study programmes were accredited; for the external assessment of study programmes there were first experts from other countries invited (in 2002);**
The assessment of research activities of universities aiming to obtain the right of awarding doctoral degrees was started as well as the assessment of applications to start postgraduate study programmes in arts (in 2003);

Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education organizes and performs

- quality assessment of the study programmes;
- assessment of research and development;
- general qualitative assessment of institutions of research and higher education of the Republic of Lithuania.
The quality assessment consists of two parts

- an internal quality assessment (a self-assessment) of an higher education institution or research institution;
- external quality assessment (peer review) performed by expert groups
• **Assessment of Study Programmes**

**External (expert) assessment of a study programme includes steps**

- An internal quality assessment (a self-assessment), which results in preparation of self-analysis report;
- Review of self-analysis report by the experts group;
- Formulation of preliminary conclusions by the experts group;
- Visit of experts group to higher education institution;
- Final conclusions of the experts group;
- Follow-up (further actions undertaken by higher education institution, Centre of Quality Assessment in Higher Education and by governmental institutions)
How does it work? (1)

Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education

*Draft of external assessment plan*

Ministry of Science and Education

*Decree on annual plan of external assessment*

Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education

*Guidelines for preparation of self-assessment report*

Higher Education Institutions
Quality Assurance System

How does it work? (2)

Higher Education Institutions

Self-assessment report

Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education

Establishment of expert panel

Guidelines for experts

Self-assessment report of HEI’s

Expert panel

Draft evaluation report

Higher Education Institutions
How does it work? (3)

Higher Education Institution

Comments on draft evaluation report

Expert panel

Final evaluation report

Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education

Final evaluation report

Experts Council for Study Quality

Recommendations

Centre For Quality Assessment in Higher Education
How does it work? (4)

- Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education
  - Recommendations for accreditation
  - Final evaluation report and recommendations

- Ministry of Science and Education
  - Decree on accreditation of assessed study programmes

- Higher Education Institutions
  - Appeal
  - Appeal Commission
  - Examination of appeal and recommendations for accreditation
Types of Accreditation

**Full accreditation**
(valid for 8 years)

**Conditional accreditation**
(valid for 1-6 years)

**Restricted accreditation**
(valid for 1-6 years)
• **Assessment of Study Programmes**

Area of studies in non-university and university sectors

- University study programmes (977)
- Non-university study programmes (301)

Legend:
- **Humanities (8)**
- **Arts (5)**
- **Social Sciences (12)**
- **Physical Sciences (8)**
- **Biomedical Sciences (14)**
- **Technological Sciences (15)**

29 April, 2005

15th annual EURASHE conference, Vilnius
Assessment of Study Programmes

- Undergraduate university studies: 190
- Master studies: 185
- Specialized professional studies: 71
- Integrated studies: 5
- Non-university studies: 22

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15th annual EURASHE conference, Vilnius
Non-university study programmes assessment

University study programmes assessment

- Full accreditation
- Conditional accreditation
- Restricted accreditation
- Other

36% 14
64% 8

18% 13
62% 280
17% 77
3% 81

29 April, 2005
15th annual EURASHE conference, Vilnius
• Comparative Analysis

Most common strengths

University study programmes

✓ Subjects taught are diverse and modern;
✓ Highly qualified teaching staff;
✓ Learning resources, including library, computer technology and human resources contribute effectively to teaching and learning;
✓ Good external relations;

Non-university study programmes

✓ Very good relations with social partners;
✓ Concentration on internal quality assurance;
✓ Participation of foreign teachers in the programmes;
✓ Many visible and successful efforts to improve working conditions for the students;
### Comparative Analysis

#### Most common weaknesses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University study programmes</th>
<th>Non-university study programmes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>✓ Weak practical part of the programmes;</td>
<td>✓ Lack of teaching staff with scientific degree;</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ The order of priority of subjects in the programme should be improved;</td>
<td>✓ Poor library resources;</td>
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<tr>
<td>✓ Weak focus on student research work;</td>
<td>✓ The lack of vision for research and analytic work;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>✓ To big number of different degree programmes</td>
<td>✓ Critical thinking is not taught and promoted;</td>
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Thank You for Attention!