

Report

Quality Assurance in Higher Education

Seminar for Scientists from Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan

Kassel June 6 - 10, 2005

July 2005

Table of Contents

1	Framework, Goals and Target Group of the Seminar	3
2	The Organisational of the Seminar	4
3	The Schedule of the Seminar	4
4	Assessment of the Seminar	7

ANNEXES

Annex 1	Programme of the Seminar
Annex 2	Participants of the Seminar
Annex 3	Speakers

Quality Assurance in Higher Education Seminar for Scientists from Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan

1 Background, Goals and Target Group of the Seminar

A further training seminar on Quality Assurance in Higher Education for Uzbekian and Kyrgysian scientists was implemented by KIMS Kassel International Management School at the University of Kassel from 6th to 10th June, 2005.

The seminar was part of a Joint European Project (JEP)¹. The partners of this project are, on the Eastern European side, *the Bishkek Academy of Finance and Economics* and the *Kyrgyz State National University* (Krygystan), *the Tashkent State University of Economics* and *the Institute of Economics of the Uzbek Academy of Sciences* (Uzbekistan). The participants from Western Europe were *the Institute for Advanced Studies* (Vienna, Austria) and *KIMS Kassel International Management School* (Germany). The goal of this comprehensive project is the development and implementation of study programmes in economics and business administration. It was reported at the seminar that up to now, in Kyrgstan, two relevant study programmes have been implemented. In Usbekistan courses have been planned and will be put into operation in the near future.

In a further step the newly developed study programmes as well as those which have already been implemented should be complement by a Quality Assurance System. 'Quality Assurance' means measures to safeguard standards by (i) a preliminary accreditation of study programmes, (ii) by the monitoring of the programmes and (iii) by a re-accreditation after a certain time span.

The seminar here under discussion was aimed at imparting appropriate concepts and methods of Quality Assurance in Higher Education. The goal of the event was:

- to introduce to the participants concepts and methods of Quality Assurance in Higher Education
- to check the adaptation of respective concepts to the newly developed study programmes and
- to schedule a time plan for the implementation of Quality Assurance measures in regard to study programmes developed within the project

The target group of the seminar were those participants from Kyrgysian and Uzbekian universities and scientific institutions involved in the project. Each of the four above mentioned institutions had sent a representative to the event. On the side of the Western European project partners, Prof. Dr. H. Brinckmann represented KIMS Kassel International Management School and the University of Kassel and Dr. T. Balabanov the Institute of Advanced Studies in Vienna. The seminar was conducted

¹ CD_JEP-23030-2002. Cf. List of Tacis-/Tempus Projects in Uzbekistan.

by A. Over, GES. A list of participants and speakers can be found under attachment 2 and 3.

2 The Organisation of the Seminar

The participants arrived on Saturday, 4th June 2005. They were met at Frankfurt Airport by a representative of the GES and accompanied to Kassel. Departure was on Sunday, 12th June. The guests' accommodation was in the Guest House of the University of Kassel, in the immediate vicinity of the conference venue.

The seminar programme began on Monday, 6th June 2005 and ended on 10th June, the Friday of the same week. The venue was the 'Centre for Research on Higher Education and Work' of the University of Kassel. The sojourn in Kassel was interrupted on Wednesday and Thursday: in order to experience the work of an agency for accreditation at first hand, a two-day workshop at the 'Central Agency for Evaluation and Accreditation' - ZEvA in Hanover was arranged².

The seminar was organised by the GES, the individual events were chaired by representatives of the GES. Expert speakers were invited according to the respective topics on the agenda. A list of the speakers can be found in attachment 3.

3 The Schedule of the Seminar

The event was cursorily divided into four parts. Firstly, an introductory and practically-orientated one. In a second complex the general description of the topic was complemented with the presentation of accreditation and monitoring procedures of various study programmes at the University of Kassel. A third area dealt in detail with the individual procedures necessary for accreditation and evaluation. The presentation of the appropriate examination procedure by the officially appointed agency for accreditation, ZevA, conveyed a complementary picture to that of the universities. In a fourth chapter, as a conclusion, the possibilities were discussed of transferring corresponding procedures to the study courses which had been newly developed within the framework of the project.

Apart from the lectures and discussions at the ZevA, the individual issues were each divided into a two-hour session. Each session was introduced by an invited expert and followed by a discussion of the topic with the speaker. Including the event at the ZevA, 10 speakers dealt with 11 different topics.

At the overall beginning of the seminar the guests were welcomed by the manager of the Centre for Research on Higher Education and Work at the University of Kas-

² ZevA: Zentrale Evaluations- und Akkreditierungsagentur Hannover

sel, Prof. Dr. Helmut Winkler. The actual seminar began with an introduction by A.Over.

The following list shows the speakers of the seminar, the topics dealt with by them and the issues discussed:

	Speakers	Subject
1	Dr. Tudor Balabanov <i>Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna/ Austria</i>	Report on the Status of the JEProject
2	Albert Over <i>GES - Association for Emp. Studies Kassel/ Germany</i>	Quality Assurance in Higher Education, Concepts, Methods and Procedures
3	Prof. Dr. Burghard Hermeier <i>Univ. of Applied Sciences of Economics and Management, Essen/ Germany</i>	Accreditation Procedures in Business Administration
4	Ms. Marion Schomburg <i>Head of the Dept for Teaching and Research, University of Kassel/ Germany</i>	Quality Assurance at the Central Level of the University of Kassel
5	Ms. Helga Boemans <i>Dept for Teaching and Research University of Kassel/ Germany</i>	Inner University Implementation and Organization of Accreditation
6	Mr. Thomas Haubrich <i>Dept for Teaching and Research University of Kassel/ Germany</i>	Inner University Implementation and Organization of Evaluation
7	Dr. Renate Pletl <i>Dept. V: Social Sciences University of Kassel/ Germany</i>	Administration of Modularisation and Modularized Study Programmes
8	Prof. Dr. Helmut Winkler, <i>Center f. Research on Higher Education and Work, University of Kassel/ Germany,</i>	The Accreditation Process of the Study Program 'Master in Higher Education'
9	Thomas Reuke, Dr. Stefan Arnold <i>ZEvA, Hannover/ Germany</i>	Introduction: Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Europe
10	Dr. Stefan Arnold <i>Head of the Accreditation Department, ZevA,</i>	Principles and Standards for Accreditation in Germany
11	Prof. Dr. Hans-Jörg Jacobsen <i>Standing Accreditation Commission of ZEvA</i>	Decision-Making of the Standing Accreditation Commission of ZevA
12	Dr. Thorsten Futterer <i>Head of the Evaluation Department, ZevA,</i>	Evaluation Procedures

- 1 At the beginning of the seminar Dr. Balabanov, Vienna, gave a report about the results which have already been achieved by the project. He put stress on the fact that the newly developed courses of study must introduce Quality Assurance measures in order to be able to achieve current European standards. He also pointed out that the results of the ongoing seminar should be included in a conference in September.

As mentioned by the Eastern European participants during the final discussion of the seminar, the new courses of study – insofar as they are already being offered – are being accredited by the relevant Ministry of their home country. No study programme could be installed without such an accreditation. The question is, therefore, (i) if such an accreditation can meet up

to European standards and (ii) which Quality Assurance measures must be installed in order to ensure a continuous high level of the study courses. The question also arises (iii) how can one work towards convincing the ministries in these home countries to apply customary international standards concerning their accreditation procedures. This will surely be a point for discussion at the next conference.

- 2 In his introductory lecture Over gave an account of the methods of Quality Assurance. He described the reasons for the implementation of such procedures - safeguard of standards and international comparability of study programmes according to the Bologna Process - and introduced into the methods of accreditation, monitoring and re-accreditation.
- 3 Hermeier discussed aims and procedures of accreditation (i) using the example of the accreditation of his university, then the accreditation of certain newly introduced study courses there: (ii) 'MBA Master of Business Administration', (iii) 'Diploma in Business Administration' and (iv) 'Diploma in Computer Sciences'. He explained in detail which measures had been undertaken by those within the university in order to meet the requirements of an accreditation and to ensure the corresponding high standards on a long-term basis.

Apart from accreditation and accreditation procedures in Germany, Hermeier also spoke about international accreditation standards. The institutional accreditation of colleges by AACSB (Association of Collegiate Schools of Business) or the accreditation of study courses by EQUIS (European Quality Improvement System) are recognised throughout Europe.

- 4-7 Ms. Schomburg, Ms Boemans, Mr Haubrich and Dr Pletl each presented in an individual session the procedure of Quality Assurance and monitoring at the University of Kassel.

In accordance with the Bologna Ruling, by the year 2010, in Germany, too, 'Bachelor' and 'Master' study programmes should be offered all over the country. In order to guarantee the creating of an 'European Higher Education Area' the comparability of final examinations, transparency and compatible standards must be ensured. Every course should be accredited in order to safeguard the quality of the studies.

At the University of Kassel up to now (1/6/05) 15 BA or MA study programmes have been accredited. 13 other courses are in the process of accreditation.

Kassel University has also introduced a monitoring system whereby individual courses are continuously checked as to their upholding standards of quality.

Using as support relevant documents and other papers the speakers described (i) the external accreditation of various courses of study and (ii) the monitoring procedure developed and implemented by the university itself.

- 8 Prof. Winkler gave an introduction into the postgraduate study programme 'Master in Higher Education' recently established by the 'Centre for Research on Higher Education and Work' of the University of Kassel. At the time being the study programme is in the process of accreditation.

In principle Winkler welcomed the assurance of standards of quality in study programmes. However, in his opinion, the obligatory procedures laid down only ensure "minimal standards".

- 9-12 Speakers from the 'Zentrale Evaluations- und Akkreditierungsagentur' ZevA (Central Evaluation and Accreditation Agency) at the University of Hanover gave the participants over a period of two days a detailed introduction into (i) accreditation and (ii) evaluation procedures. At the beginning of the first day Thomas Reuke and Dr. Stefan Arnold pointed out the preconditions and requirements of such procedures in the European context. The main topic of the first day was then a full introduction into the accreditation of study programmes. The second day was reserved for the explanation of relevant monitoring procedures.

On the last day of the seminar the participants summarized the results of the seminar and the requirements demanded of the study programmes newly-formed during the project. As a first step the information available at present about accreditation and monitoring procedures in Germany and Europe (EQUIS) was gathered together in a list. A second step was to compare the requirements necessary, according to the list, for an appropriate accreditation with the characteristics and basic conditions of the new study courses. Deficits were to be seen especially in

- the modularization of certain phases of the study courses
- the rating of individual modules with credit points (ECTS) and
- certain framework conditions which were not optimal (e.g. supply of literature)

4 Assessment of the Seminar

From an organisational point of view the seminar went off without any problems worth mentioning. With regard to content, the aims set were more than realised. After their return the seminar participants were asked to give their opinion of the event per email and the later responses were very positive.

In the time to come the study courses should be improved taking into consideration the above mentioned points. Even though the courses already established in Kirgisgia have already been accredited by the appropriate ministry, they still do not fulfil European accreditation requirements in all points. It could not yet be decided in how far an accreditation by, for example, an European agency should be initiated. It was, however, felt necessary for the ministries in the home countries to feel the need to adjust their accreditation standards to those of Europe.

ANNEXES

Annex 1 Programme of the Seminar



Centre for Research on
Higher Education and Work

GES Maiworm & Over

Seminar:

Quality Assurance in Higher Education University of Kassel, June 6 - 10, 2005

Program

Saturday
04. June

Welcome at Frankfurt Airport
by Albert Over, Mobil 0170 - 93 78 274
Transfer to Kassel

Seminar

Monday 09:00h
06. June

Welcome at the Centre for Research on Higher
Education and Work of the University of Kassel

Report on the status of the project
by *Dr. Tudor Balabanov*, IHS Vienna, together
with the trainees from Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan;

09:30h - 10:00h

**Quality assurance in Higher Education:
Concepts and Methods**
Introduction by *Albert Over*, GES

10:00h - 12:30h

Accreditation procedures in Business Administration
and similar study programs: preconditions, procedures and
consequences for the respective higher education departments.
An experience report.

Prof. Dr. Burghard Hermeier, Dean, University of Applied
Sciences of Economics and Management, Essen

Lunch

Quality Assurance in Higher Education
University of Kassel, June 6 - 10, 2005

Monday	14:00h - 16:00h	Quality assurance at the central level of the University of Kassel <i>Ms Marion Schomburg</i> , Head of the Dept for Teaching and Research of the University of Kassel
	16:30h - 17:30h	Compilation of open questions regarding concepts and procedures of the implementation of quality assurance modules for the newly developed study program in Uzbekistan and Kyrgystan - to be examined at ZEVA
Tuesday	09:00h - 10.00h	Models of Quality Assurance at the individual study programs of the University of Kassel Introduction by <i>Albert Over</i> , GES
07. June	10:00h - 12:00h	Quality Assurance: Presentation by representatives of the individual study programs at Kassel University
		<i>Lunch</i>
	14:00h - 15:30h	Presentation of the accreditation process of the Master of Higher Education
Wednesday	09:00h	Departure to ZEvA Hannover
08. June	10:00h - 11:00h	Introduction: Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Europe , <i>Hermann Reuke</i> , Managing Director of ZEvA
	11:00h - 12:30h	Principles and Standards for Accreditation in Germany , <i>Dr. Stefan Arnold</i> , Head of ZEVA Accreditation Department
		<i>Lunch</i>
	14:00h - 17.30h	Case study on Accreditation
18:00h	return to Kassel	

Quality Assurance in Higher Education
University of Kassel, June 6 - 10, 2005

Thursday 09. June	08:00h	Departure to ZEvA Hannover
	09:00h - 10:30h	Evaluation in Lower Saxony, <i>Dr. Thorsten Futterer</i> , Head of Evaluation Department
	10:30h - 13:00h	Conclusions for the implementation of monitoring procedures <i>Lunch</i>
	14:00h - 15:30h	Study Projects: Write up session
	15:30h - 16:30h	Concluding Session <i>Dr. Arnold, Dr. Futterer</i> , other ZEvA representatives
	17:30h	return to Kassel
Friday 10. June mented	09:00h - 16:00h	Working session: Adoption of the information received to a quality assurance module for the newly implemented study programs in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyztan <i>Albert Over</i> Design of a working plan for the implementation of the developed quality assurance modules – next steps

Venue: **University of Kassel**
 Centre for Research on
 Higher Education and Work
 Conference Room
 Mönchebergstrasse 17
 34127 Kassel

Phone: 0561 - 804-2415

For further information please contact:

GES - Association for Empirical Studies
 Albert Over
 Querallee 38
 34119 Kassel

Phone: ++49/ (0)561 - 7 29 75-33
 Mobil ++49/ (0)170 - 93 78 274
 Fax ++49/ (0)561 - 7 29 75-25
 Email: over@ges-kassel.de

Annex 2 Participants of the Seminar

Participants of the Seminar

Prof. Dr. Elmira Akimova	Bishkek Academy of Finance and Economics, Bishkek / Kyrgystan
Prof. Dr. Chinara Adamkulova	Kyrgyz State University, Bishkek / Kyrgystan
Prof. Dr. Katimova Mafizat	Tashkent State University of Economics Tashkent / Uzbekistan
Mr. Bakhodiv Khakimov	Uzbek Academy of Sciences Institut of Economics Tashkent / Uzbekistan
Dr. Tudor Balabanov	Institute for Advanced Studies, Vienna / Austria
Prof. Dr. Hans Brinkmann	KIMS Kassel International Management School and University of Kassel, Kassel / Germany
Albert Over	GES - Association for Empirical Studies

Annex 3 Speakers

Dr. Tudor BALABANOV

IHS - Institute for Advanced Studies
Stumpergasse 56
A-1060 Wien / Austria

Phone: +43 - (0)1 - 599 91-243
Fax: +43 - (0)1 - 599 91-555
Email: balabano@ihs.ac.at

Prof. Dr. Hans BRINCKMANN

KIMS Kassel International Management School
and University of Kassel
Mönchebergstrasse 19
D-34109 Kassel / Germany

Phone: +49 - (0)561 - 804 - 0
Email: brinckmann@uni-kassel.de

Prof. Dr. Burghard HERMEIER

University of Applied Sciences
for Economy and Management
Rolandstrasse 5-9
D-45128 Essen / Germany

Phone: +49 - (0)201 - 8 10 04-350
Fax: +49 - (0)201 - 8 10 04-110
Email: burghard.hermeier@bildungszentrum.de

Prof. Dr. Helmut WINKLER

University of Kassel
WZ I - Centre for Research
on Higher Education and Work
Mönchebergstrasse 17
34109 Kassel / Germany

Phone: +49 - (0)561 - 804-2412
Fax: +49 - (0)561 - 804-7415
Email: winkler@hochschulforschung.uni-kassel.de

Ms Marion SCHOMBURG

University of Kassel
Head of Dept. II: Study Programs and Teaching
Mönchebergstrasse 19
34109 Kassel / Germany

Phone: +49 - (0)561 - 804-2212
Fax: +49 - (0)561 - 804-3196
Email: mschom@uni-kassel.de

Ms Helga BOEMANS

University of Kassel
Dept. II: Study Programs and Teaching
Mönchebergstrasse 19
34109 Kassel / Germany

Phone: +49 - (0)561 - 804-1864
Fax: +49 - (0)561 - 804-3196
Email: boemans@uni-kassel.de

Mr Thomas HAUBRICH

University of Kassel
Dept. II: Study Programs and Teaching
Mönchebergstrasse 19
34109 Kassel / Germany

Phone: +49 - (0)561 - 804-3598
Fax: +49 - (0)561 - 804-3196
Email: haubrich@uni-kassel.de

Dr. Renate PLETL

University of Kassel
Dept. V: Social Sciences
Nora-Platiel-Str. 1
34109 Kassel / Germany

Phone: +49 - (0)561 - 804-3256
Fax: +49 - (0)561 - 804-3464
Email: pletl@uni-kassel.de

Dr. Thorsten ARNOLD

ZevA - Central Agency for
Evaluation & Accreditation
Wilhelm Busch Str. 22
30167 Hannover / Germany

Phone: +49 - (0)511 - 762-8286
Fax: +49 - (0)511 - 762-8289
Email: arnold@zeva.uni-hannover.de

Dr. Thorsten FUTTERER

ZevA - Central Agency for
Evaluation & Accreditation
Wilhelm Busch Str. 22
30167 Hannover / Germany

Phone: +49 - (0)511 - 762-8283
Fax: +49 - (0)511 - 762-8289
Email: futterer@zeva.uni-hannover.de

Hermann REUKE

ZevA - Zentrale Evaluations-
und Akkreditierungsagentur
Wilhelm Busch Str. 22
30167 Hannover / Germany

Phone: +49 - (0)511 - 762-8282
Fax: +49 - (0)511 - 762-8289
Email: reuke@zeva.uni-hannover.de

Albert OVER M.A.

GES - Association for Empirical Studies
Querallee 38
34119 Kassel / Germany

Phone: +49 - (0)561 - 7 29 75-33
Fax: +49 - (0)561 - 7 29 75-25
Email: over@ges-kassel.de