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ОСНОВНІ СКЛАДОВІ ЗАБЕЗПЕЧЕННЯ ЯКОСТІ ВИЩОЇ ОСВІТИ В УКРАЇНІ

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KEY ELEMENTS OF QUALITY ASSURANCE OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN UKRAINE

Community development of any country depends primarily on the educational level of its citizens, including the availability and quality of education they receive. In Ukraine, the dynamics of the network of universities and the number of university students is a sign of the transition to mass higher education. Though European countries made such transfer on a “high-quality higher education for some → high-quality higher education for many → high-quality higher education for all” scheme; in Ukraine most universities have neglected the quality of education for the sake of the amount of students.

In any debat about quality assurance it is clearly important to start by defining the terms. Quality in manufacturing, a measure of excellence or a state of being free from defects, deficiencies and significant variations. It is brought about by strict and consistent commitment to certain standards that achieve uniformity of a product in order to satisfy specific customer or user requirements. Educational definition is that of an ongoing process ensuring the delivery of agreed standards. These agreed standards should ensure that every educational institution where quality is assured has the potential to achieve a high quality of content and results.

Quality assurance clearly emerged as a principal business methodology in the Western world throughout the 1950’s and in the early 1960’s. Two principles included in quality assurance are: “Fit for purpose” (the product should be suitable for the intended purpose); and “Right first time” (mistakes should be eliminated). In education the means by which an institution can guarantee with confidence and certainty, that the standards and quality of its educational provision are being maintained and enhanced.

The application of quality assurance in the sphere of higher education is somewhat complicated by the important socio-economic role that education plays in developing local, national and global societies. Quality is the distinguishing characteristic guiding students and higher education institutions when receiving and providing higher education. The integration of quality assurance principles into higher education have become a European wide issue since the need for a clear quality assurance and accreditation system was laid out as one of the aims of the Bologna Process.

For guarantee the quality of higher education Ukrainian universities should:

- implement external assessment of the quality of education, including foreign experts as evaluation of the effectiveness of university made by fellow professionals, their conclusions and recommendations will stimulate the exchange of experience improving the quality of education;

- involve students and employers both to the formation of the requirements for the quality of education and to its evaluation. Students’ ideas and employers’ needs should be considered while organizing the educational process, and professors should have the authority not only in academia, but also in the professional community.