

NATIONAL ROUND TABLE ON QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HE

ROUND TABLE WITH MINISTRIES, QA AGENCIES AND UNIVERSITIES FOR THE
ADJUSTMENT AND REVIEW OF EXISTING NATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORKS

Friday, 10th December 2010

Venue: Room 2, Ground Floor, Faculty of Philosophy, Dr. Zorana Đinđića 2, Novi Sad

CONCLUSIONS

Objective

To review existing practices and national law in view with the up-to-date and coherent information and directed toward European developments.

Agenda and Participants

The detailed agenda for the roundtable and the list of participants is attached to this report.

Conclusions

- The key stakeholders in the field of quality assurance, in particular staff and students of higher education institutions, the quality assurance agency and the ministry, in the past four years have completed substantial steps in developing a quality assurance system for higher education in Serbia, in line with international best practice.
- With standards and guidelines for quality assurance, criteria for accreditation of higher education institutions, as well as guidelines for interpreting the criteria in place, most part of the preparatory work has been accomplished and the higher education institutions are now in the phase of preparing for self-evaluation.
- The Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher education Area and the criteria for accreditation of higher education institutions are a good approach both to supporting quality enhancement in the higher education institutions and demonstrating accountability towards the public. This is recognised by all stakeholders to be of high importance.
- In order to foster a common understanding of the purpose, the principles, and the procedures of quality assurance, further cooperation between Higher Education Institutions, the Commission for Accreditation and Quality Assurance and Ministry of Education, as demonstrated successfully in the Cubrik Project, is of high relevance.
- The Standards and criteria for quality assurance are basically in line with the *Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG)*. Notably the participation of students and labor market representative in the expert groups can be highlighted as a European good practice.
- The Commission strengthens the importance of the training of expert in its development strategies and activities. Having a pool of well trained and competent experts is of essential importance for the development of a well established quality assurance system. The appointment of experts, following an international call, was recognised as very valuable and it is intended to continue to strengthen and improve the process for appointment and for training.
- Further training of expert reviewers is necessary to ensure alignment of recommendations re outcomes of institutional reviews from all parties involved.
- The need for independence of the Commission was stressed and noted that this is in line with the ENQA policies. The Commission is preparing for application for ENQA membership in the next few years and is presently an Associate member.
- The Commission for Accreditation and Quality Assurance presented its publication '*Accreditation in HE*' at the roundtable and copies were circulated to all present.