

Academic staff and students – key actors in Internal Quality Assurance



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The Law on higher education

The current Law on Higher Education was adopted in 2014.

Therefore, it does not fully meet the requirements of ESG-2015

Some changes were made when the new Law on Education was adopted in 2017. And some changes are being prepared now.

The Law on higher education

- ❖ Representation of students in the governing bodies of higher education institutions. In particular, this concerns the academic council which approves educational programs and regulations for the organization of educational process
- ❖ Some decisions can be taken only in agreement with student self-government
- ❖ The right of students to choose at least 25% of the educational program

Current state

- ❖ Two representatives of the students were elected to the National Agency for the Quality Assurance of Higher Education in 2015.
- ❖ However, this agency did not actually start work and was dissolved in 2017
- ❖ A representative of the Ukrainian Students' Association has been delegated to the competition commission for the election of new members of the agency

Current state

- ❖ Representatives of students are actively involved in the development of new legislation in education and other areas
- ❖ In many universities, students have no real opportunity to choose part of the educational content.
- ❖ The educational content in many cases is determined by the traditions of universities and the advantages of staffs, but not the needs of students.
- ❖ Staffs do not always have an opportunity to use their own practical experience and the results of their own research in teaching

Current state

- ❖ There are only a few examples of involving students in the development and assessment of educational programs and educational activities in higher education institutions
- ❖ There are many legislative and factual restrictions to attract external professionals to teaching.
- ❖ Universities have no sufficient resources to effectively motivate staffs for professional growth and improving the quality of their activities.

Current state

- ❖ Most staffs consider students as small children who are not able to solve their own problems independently, as well as to help in solving “adult” problems. Most students are quite satisfied with it.
- ❖ A significant proportion of students do not see the impact of education quality on their future professional activities and is not motivated to obtain quality education

Current state

- ❖ In many universities, students' self-government bodies are far from the needs and interests of most students.
- ❖ Sometimes they actually turn into university administration units
- ❖ Attempts of self-government to solve the real problems of students or interfere in the activities of the administration including the issues of quality assurance in universities, often leads to serious conflicts.

The Law on education

- ❖ The possibility of recognition of the learning outcomes received by students through non-formal education and informal learning is provided.
- ❖ The rules on the right of students to choose a part of educational content were formulated more clearly.
- ❖ Teachers have more rights and opportunities in choosing advanced training programs.

Changes to the Law on higher education

- ❖ The principles and procedures for quality assurance must involve internal and external stakeholders
- ❖ Periodic revision of educational programs to ensure that they achieve their assigned goals and meet the needs of students
- ❖ Encouraging of students to take an active part in the development of the educational process and taking into account their participation at the assessment.

Changes to the Law on higher education

- ❖ Ensuring the competence of staffs
- ❖ The use of fair and transparent processes and procedures of staff recruitment and development
- ❖ Providing the necessary funding for educational and teaching activities
- ❖ Involve students and employers as full partners in quality assurance procedures
- ❖ The student-oriented approach in the educational process must be provided

Changes to the Law on higher education

- ❖ Involving employers and students representatives in defining objectives and developing external quality assurance procedures for higher education
- ❖ Involving representatives of staffs, employers and students in the management and operation of the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and independent institutions for the quality assurance in higher education