

TUE-PB-1-MKM-02

POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THE PROJECT “TOWARDS THE MODERNISATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN UZBEKISTAN” (MATCHES)

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***Abstract:** In the conditions of the reforms occurring in Uzbekistan's higher education the necessity of improving the pedagogical potential of higher school arises that would increase the education quality, Higher Education Institutions integration in the international education space in accordance with the context of the Bologna declaration.*

***Key words:** Higher education, pedagogical potential, education quality.*

JEL Codes: I23

Introduction

From the old times our forefathers considered upbringing of the rising generation to be the most important problem. People's Pedagogics is envisaging early development of a personality with taking basic principles of teaching and education into account has created, developed and improved in the course of the centuries.

Uzbekistan was the first of the countries of the CIS to begin institutional reforms in the educational sector. Education is one of the most important components of human development; and it possesses a core role in solving fundamental challenges. As a key component of human development education determines a governing influence in solving of a number of social, economic, political and humane problems.

Body

From our many years of experience in higher education we know that the higher education is the source of energy which activates the society for development. All important persons in society gather knowledge and skills in this stage. The university life influences on the activity of person for future and determines its right role in a society. So, the positive and negative things at the university influence anyway to society.

As for the Namangan Engineering Pedagogical Institute (NEPI) is a modern and dynamic developing and one of the leading institutes in Uzbekistan. The main purpose of NEPI is to train highly qualified specialists, who are able to get adaptation in the competition of market conditions, in submission of qualified educational programs, guided by energy, initiative, creation, professionalism and especially international cooperation of the professorial-pedagogical staff.

Moreover, NEPI is one of the active higher educational institutions in Uzbekistan which has a lot of international partnerships being a member of such programs as Erasmus+ and Tempus funded by EU which give chances for teachers & researchers to retraining at the universities of Europe on many branches like International relations, Entrepreneurship, Economical sciences, Management, Accounting, Languages, Pedagogical Sciences, Logistics and etc.

In the conditions of the reforms occurring in Uzbekistan's higher education the necessity of improving the pedagogical potential of higher school arises that would increase the education quality,

HEI integration in the international education space in accordance with the context of the Bologna declaration.

1. Adopting and realization the plan-program of retraining and qualification improvement of HEI pedagogical staff on the following trends:

- Innovation and information technologies
- Pedagogy and psychology
- Master-classes on economic profile and other subjects
- Practical work of teachers and students directly at the ventures
- Quality management

2. Working out or developing modules and methodological complexes on improving the teaching staff quality

3. Organizing trainings, seminars, experience of exchanges, round tables.

4. Training of teachers-trainers on innovation informative technologies of education on the basis of the set centers.

Now, a few words about the field of international relations of NEPI. It goes without saying, international activities of NEPI with the other higher education institutions has significantly changed since 1999. In comparison with the period before 1999, the changes in international relations have been linked especially to volume of relations, number of partners involved, reorientation of the international relations to the new geographical and also professional (pedagogical/research) areas. The International Relations' main aim is to keep, develop and improve the current level of international relations in line with the institution development goals. The starting point for the international relations is derived from the strategic NEPI priorities and from the integrated shape of the activities within the institution, which both correspond with the Ministry of High Education strategy.

Due to many different forms of international relations this has a good name and holds a prestigious position among the best high educational institutions in Uzbekistan. In relation to NEPI environment they take into account the complete socio-economic situation in Uzbekistan as well as the international atmosphere in the global environment, which still keeps its significant particular regional attributes. The tasks of NEPI international activities are to support international relations as a way to enhance the position and good name of NEPI within and outside the Central Asian education area.

Key focus within the international relations has been changing from quantity to quality, which is just a continuation of the process started in the past. It means that they focus on those, which significantly help to enhance and improve the specific dimension given by study programs. They offer several well-established activities linked to the international education area.

The above information confirms that the key activities within international relations support the internationalization of studies and research. Such activities are as follows:

- Students and Teachers mobility within the Erasmus Mundus and Erasmus+ programs.
- Participation in international research projects.
- Support of the student organizations, which recruit more students into the international arena.
- Building a network with other similar universities and faculties with the aim of supporting and extending international cooperation.

As we mentioned above, role of the International cooperation in Higher Education System is very important in our lives. For this we have a lot of reasons to participate in projects (MATcHES project) with European universities.



With MATcHES project partners at Ruse University, Bulgaria, February, 2014

- ✓ The first reason is to learn invaluable experience from European universities (for example, Ruse University, Bulgaria, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain, Jan Kochanowski University, Poland). During our visits to these universities we have gained as much as possible with the help of proficient scientific advisors.
- ✓ The second reason is the international scientific atmosphere of European Higher Education; it would play an important role in providing the productivity of our research activity as well as successful accomplishment of it. For our teachers very important thing was to talk with overseas colleagues and students so that we can conduct some surveys for our research in order to compare their higher educational system with that of ours. Moreover, European System of Education is the most developed in the world which promises advancement opportunities for researchers and scientists.
- ✓ The third reason, we could have an opportunity to use huge library resources (research database of EU, E-books, so on), business centers, so on and thus, investigate new knowledge within the mobility programs to Spain and Poland.

There are many kinds of positive aspects in MATcHES project within the international mobility. It can provide new experiences and widen the ways of thinking. When the exchange is organized in international groups they can familiarize themselves not only with the hosting country, but also with other cultures and systems of education.

They also have to learn to communicate and collaborate in a new group with people from different cultures. This opens a wide challenge: observing lessons, introducing small business and Technological Scientific Parks, learning and teaching abroad and acquiring new backgrounds.

Every partner university gains new knowledge and international atmosphere for their everyday lives.

Conclusion

For us, personally, it brought a lot of experience. We persuaded ourselves that it was interesting, also fun and joy for us! We got on very well with everybody, we have seen real education systems and culture events, we joined many interesting and long informal discussions not only on the Economical and educational topics. During this three-year' period we made friends who we would miss. But we hope that we will see them once again!

We could also see and feel a little bit how the social life is in Spain, Poland and Bulgaria. It was interesting and useful.

Literature

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