



Job shadowing week at the Polytechnic University of Turin

9-13 October 2017

Reports by participants

Report by Gulnoza Aripova, the Uzbekistan State Institute of Arts and Culture

Our visit to Turin Polytechnic University was really interesting and fruitful. We learned a lot about education system, responsibilities of Administrative and academic staff and even students. Likewise, we learned more about the following items:

- The Doctoral School which involves The PhD courses of Politecnico di Torino, PHD programs and the companies, Doctorate and internationalization, the way of supporting to doctoral studies, how to organize PHD programs and PHD regularions. Rules and procedures and financial support to Doctoral studies. Moreover, we were given information about PHD in Italy and Europe.

- Italian University Incubator and meeting with innovative start-ups. Who are they, what they do, what they have done and what they are doing. Likewise, We learned about QVAL: research evaluation and international publication ranking.

- Case studies from PHD Candidates (International mobility, apprenticeship, collaboration with enterprises). The Technology Transfer Area: the private-public partnership.

- International Area: International relations and networks.

- Masters and long life learning.

- The Research Area: Support Services for management of funded research projects.

- Stage and job Placement: The career service.

- Internationalization of the PHD (co-tutelle agreement. Joint PHD, Marie Curie)

I think Programme job shadowing in Turin was really interesting. I was impressed by their Doctoral school and the system of working there. Especially, training supervisors every year for 5 days is the most useful thing, because it connects relationship between student and supervisor. The most valuable thing for me is 10 principles of Doctoral education. Besides, I got information about PHD regulations that Doctorate should publish 1 publication in an international journal. Then, we were shown case studies by PHD candidates Sara Torabi and others. They answered to all our questions which were interesting for us. Likewise, I got much information about PHD in Italy and Europe.

Our visit to Incubator and meeting with innovative start-ups was also very interesting. Their mission is to create companies to start-up and make real. I would like to mention that I was excited from these meeting, because it was one of the most important task for Institutions.

On the 11th of October we learned about the international relations and networks. I would like to note that masters and long life learning is really good department which connect students (masters) with their future job.

Learning about Supporting services for management of funded research projects was very useful for me. Because they help to connect cooperation on career development.

I learned more about Horizon 2020 and how does it work. As I understand Horizon 2020 is Polito's goal.

To sum up, It was really fruitful meeting for me. Nowadays I am preparing presentation about what I learned during my visit. Thanks to Claudia for giving a helping hand to me. If I have any question about Turin she is always ready to help me.

At the end of October I will make my presentation to all Academic and administrative Staff and PHD candidates of our Institute. It is a good choice to inform them about what I learned. Surely, after my presentation I will inform you too.

Report of Zebo Babakhanova, Tashkent Chemical-Technological Institute

Job shadowing week allowed us to get acquainted with the structure of the university, to get knowledge about the opportunities created here for obtaining education at all levels - Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral studies. Every day of this week was well and carefully organized by the authorities and responsible persons from PoliTO Flavio Canavero and Claudia Giordano.

During this week I have acquainted with:

- The areas of education and research in Politecnico di Torino;
- Organization of Doctoral School, activities of Doctorate candidates, information about regulations and history of ScuDo, about Courses for PhD candidates;
- Scholarships and other funding possibilities for PhD candidates;
- Quality and evaluation Department activity, procedure of evaluation of teachers, academic staff, study results and all University at final stage;
- International relations of PoliTo are wide and strong; a lot of attention is paid to international students and foreign citizens, as well as multilateral support for all types of mobility, from maintaining of language courses and informational support for these programs;
- Much attention in PoliTo is paid to supporting scientific activity. Interesting information was given by the head of Researchers Mobility Office about three types of internal project: fundamental research and talent development, collaborative and multidisciplinary research, internationalization of research. All of them are funded by local banking foundation. In contrary at Uzbekistan we have External science projects that funded by Government as for fundamental, applied, innovative or young researchers projects. As another type of funding of science and research activity we do have business contracts with industry.

Information about European Charter for researchers and code of conduct, EURAXESS, Researchers in Motion and opportunities for researchers was very interesting and useful for me. Case studies of PhD candidates, especially involved in MSCA program shows us how active, well prepared and multilaterally developed should be the PhD candidate.

Most interesting for me was presentation about I3P Incubatore, Specializing Master and Lifelong learning School and Stage and Jobs Placement: the career service.

I3P Incubatore gives an incredible chance to put your ideas into practice and allows you to bring it to life, fully supports of your endeavors. Unfortunately in our institute there is no such experience, in this connection it would be desirable to study the structure and procedures provided by the incubator in details.

Lifelong learning School shows us a good example of adaptation of Higher education to the rapidly changing demands. At present, enterprises require graduates to have different skills, and these requirements change very quickly due to the rapid development of technologies. Particularly interesting from this point of view is the possibility of organizing the 1st level Specialized Master Program and 2nd level Specialized Master Program courses.

An online recruitment service provided by PoliTo is another good example to study and share. The availability of such system, which provides free of charge services to both students and hiring companies, facilitates the rapid and successful employment of graduates.

In conclusion, I can say that the Job Shadowing Week was very informative and allowed me to study the best experience, structure and positive aspects of the Politecnico di Torino University.

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Report by Shakhnoza Kadirova. Head of International Relations Department, Samarkand Institute for Economics and Service

We were invited to Turine to learn the European system of Doctoral education and how doctoral school is organized in University. From first day of the programme we were presented the doctoral school that is called SCuDO at Turine Politecnical University. We learnt its structure, regulations and programs. They have a separate website of doctoral school where we can learn and find useful information to implement in our institute.

During our job shadowing, we were introduced with incubator that is something new for me. Their mission is to help start-ups to develop their project. I find, making a

connection between start-ups and companies is a great opportunity to introduce new ideas and implement it in a market.

Moreover, we had a meeting with international relation department. As I work in this sphere, it was curious to learn how the department is organized in university. We were discussing the projects, international agreements, staff and structure of department. The department is quite big that there are working 40 people in several departments containing incoming students, outgoing students, mobility, project etc.

During the week we met specialists from research area: Support service for management of funded research projects. The presentations were about overall organization of research, its funds, different fields of research (Industrial Engineer, Information Technology, Industry and Architecture etc.), and number of scientific projects in collaboration with international universities. The presentation was also included some programs such as Horizon 2020 and Marie Curie Skłodowska.

What's more, I have found quite important to have the department called Job placement: the career service. They make a link of the students with the companies. The career service provide the platform where the company can find and recruit students from Politecnico di Torino. There is a database of all students with their CVs where company can easily find the students while the students also can find job offers and apply directly to them. It would be great if in our institute we also can create this department with special platform and staff.

We had a tour in Valentino Castle that is property of university. We were presented the Internationalization of PhD, its organization, projects etc. We learnt how international students can apply to university or go abroad to make a research. Internationalization is very important in our institute as it gives a chance to widen the knowledge, make a connection between universities and develop new technics.

In general, I have learnt a lot from European doctoral education by following the job shadowing programs. Meeting the specialist from different departments gave me more and new ideas to introduce in my institute.

Ulugbek Khalikov, Tashkent Financial Institute

Job shadowing session, hosted by Politecnico di Torino, commenced on October 9-13, enabled me to undergo the true experience of European education system and advanced research. During job shadowing, I had great opportunities to be aware of the key differences and best practices of European education research policy in the exemplary of Italian one. Despite the similarities structure and stages of higher education in Europe, key attributes, principles and procedures differ in terms of complexity, relevancy and efficiency compared to those of Uzbek practice. Especially in doctoral education, which was the main focus area of our job shadowing event, I found many must-do things to be done by TFI under UZDOC 2.0. project.

Measures taken in UZDOC 2.0. project will benefit from following events which were truly effective and useful:

1. University organization and doctoral school presentation: these two events facilitated to find out more about organizational structure, departmental relations, education and research integrity, education and research quality assurance, doctoral school structure, requirements and principles.
2. Meeting with innovative start-ups and public-private partnership in technology transfer: I gained clearer understanding of commercialization of research results and research funding opportunities.
3. Case studies with doctoral students: this presentation had an inherent value for UZDOC 2.0. project. All participants obtained valuable knowledge from European best practices in collaboration with enterprises, doctoral mobility and apprenticeship in advanced research from the experience of doctoral students.
4. Masters and lifelong learning in EU: Although masters education possesses structural similarities, lifelong learning is a new concept in Uzbek educational system. Despite the absence of any barriers, any formal and official status has not been introduced yet. So in this lesson we found something new to Uzbek higher education system.
5. Internationalization of PhD: this presentation had the biggest impact and impression on my experience and knowledge in doctoral education. I revealed some areas which I have to learn from Italian Polito's experience. Research funding, joint doctoral research opportunities and internationalization paths under EU structural funds and other funding supports.

Report by Abdulaziz Kurbanov, Karshi State University

Participating in the job shadowing program we learned much about the activity and structure of POLITO.

First of all the history of the university, its organization and activity are very rich. POLITO is one of the most prestigious technical universities with a history of over 150 years.

It is valuable that the University provides multi purpose facilities for teaching, research activities, student services and has wide range of network of technology centers. 30 % of programmes are held in English. 14 % of students are international.

There are 16 PhD programmes, 5 of which is in cooperation with other educational and research institutions. There is Language Center the main activity of which is to help students to learn languages and this activity is for free.

I would like Language Center was created in our university similar to that of POLITO. Facilities should be created for learning languages. We organize some courses for doctorates at Doctoral Centre, but wider language centre is needed so that bachelors and magistrates could be more prepared for doctoral studies.

PhD schools In POLITO have close connection between education and research and are very fruitful. PhD graduates acquire high professional researcher skills. There are huge investments made by POLITO for financing PhD programs. Additional prizes awarded for high quality PhD candidates. PhD education is internationalized (1/3 out of all is foreign PhD candidate) and has wide cooperation with different high rank companies. Soft skills courses make great contribution in PhD candidate's success (MOC). Each year supervisors have obligatory training courses. 6 month study abroad is obligatory for PhD students

I find very useful to make substantial investments to finance PhD education in Uzbekistan. Scholarships or other forms of funding for the activity of PhD and DC candidates should be created to support them and enhance talent. The cooperation with foreign educational and noneducational institutions should be created more.

I3P of POLITO is a very good example of the support for research activity, innovation and entrepreneurship creation. POLITO has great achievements thanks to it.

The experience of POLITO is of great importance to be learned by our universities.

Service for quality evaluation provides all important evaluations of all the staff, students and activities within the University. The service is strong because it is provided by 7 professionals for different sectors (science, admission, teaching and others) and has centralized regulations.

POLITO pays much attention to internationalization process. As a result of it international courses are developed, mobility of students and professors are supported, teaching staff is international. The University became internationally attractive.

Internationalization very important for our universities, especially in developing new teaching staffs and enrolling supervisors. More students should have classes abroad. These activities should have much support.

Research activity is strongly supported in POLITO. It would be very helpful for the researchers and students in our universities to establish kind of support services giving help and wider opportunities for research activity, developing transferable skills.

As a conclusion I'd like to underline what would help to rise the efficiency of doctoral study in our University.

- Language Centre;
- Study programs should include soft- and hard skills parts and should have flexibility in the sense of scheduling;
- Institutional research support (financing, creation environment, information, networking) should be strengthened;
- Involvement of high professionals from abroad in teaching bachelors and masters should be increased so that better doctorate candidate can be prepared.

Report by Pulatkhon Lutfullayev, Namangan State University

Overall, the job shadowing weekend us gave a wide range of opportunities to establish network with colleagues in host university and to learn more detail about organization the doctoral education in Italy. More specifically, the session provided platform to perform the followings:

- to get into more details of scientific and research potential of the host university,
- to get acquainted with the Postgraduate study system and programs (during the presentation of "The Specializing Master's Programmes and Lifelong Learning School"),
- to get into more detail of funding the research works, for instance, developing the research proposals for calls, the major pros and cons of applying for international donor organizations, working in Marie Curie proposals, working Horizon 2020, implementation and realization the research results,
- to discuss establishing links and collaboration with International Relations Department in host university,
- to learn the experience of organizing the start-up activities, spin-offs, to transfer the innovative ideas for industry, (During the presentation "Technology transfer and Industrial Liaison Department"),
- to learn more about the PhD studies and structure, (During the presentation "PhD in Italy and Europe")

Furthermore, this seminar gave a great chance to benchmark the best practices organization the doctoral studies and research works both in Italy and Uzbekistan. The results prove that researchers in both countries have to pass the long and complicated roads in order to achieve the degree and to apply the research results in practice. Especially, this is obvious in technical and engineering fields. The researcher has to master the knowledge of applying for funding, to bring the innovative idea to wide range of academic network, to be able financial managing the projects, to work with team members and etc.

The gained ideas and obtained views can be used in implementing the government policy reform directive in the field of research potential development and widen the academic potential in Uzbek universities. The major policy reform order is

2909 about to further improve the research and academic activities of higher education in Uzbekistan.