

UZDOC 2.0

Furthering Quality of Doctoral Education at Higher Education Institutions in Uzbekistan

External Quality Report of the second year (March 2018 - October 2018)

Introduction

The second report is covering the activities of the Project in the period March 2018 - October 2018. In that period four main activities took place: job shadowing activity at the University of Granada (WP 2.7), 2nd Uzbek Local Coordination Board meeting in Nukus, Knowledge sharing event at Polytechnic di Torino (WP. 2.3) and the Business Roundtable in Tashkent (WP. 2.8).

In a way we could say that this was a very intensive period in which project members actually had a chance to meet, to start collaborating and start appreciating mutual exchange. This period was in a way an important period for developing trust among the project participants.

Effectiveness, Quality and Efficiency

Two visits to two recognized European institutions was not only direct learning about the system of doctoral education organized in doctoral schools, but also an important step in learning about different academic cultures. Participants from Uzbekistan were faced with very good organisation and adequate approach which was marked with a high level of mindopeness, friendly academic atmosphere and readiness to share all the experience and accumulated knowledge.

Both visits were very well organized and stimulating for colleagues from Uzbekistan. As much as they had an opportunity to learn how the system is organized and how it works, it also enables to meet doctoral students and to better understand their experience. It was very important to have a chance to meet with different stakeholders, both in academic and administrative level. An important takeaway was that a modern university needs a good quality administrative staff has been reflected in paying more attention to the issue of administrative support in discussions that took place later.

Meeting in Tashkent, which has been a combination of working with doctoral candidates and offering for the first time some basic trainings for transferable skills, was a big turn up for the academic community. Although this first courses brought together different stakeholders, with probably also different expectations, proved to be very satisfactory for everyone involved. At once, it has been identified that that kind of courses were needed and were therefore welcome by the academic audience, frequently regardless of the particular generations.

Impact

Impact has been articulated, and even primarily on institution level, it actually very abruptly changed the level of understanding and a new identification of personal needs in the process of doctoral education.

In a way we might say that some kind of educational revolution has been initiated and motivated different reactions from both professors and students, both master and doctoral level.

An impression toward the end of the meeting was that there is some kind of accumulation of positive thinking and openness for a real change. However, it was obvious that not everyone was equally ready to ask for those changes.

It became clear that the Project and its topic does represent a relevant topic, but unfortunately, some doctoral students (and professors) are over introverted and it was not an easy task for them to open for a broader public. One can feel that the Uzbek academic community is still predominantly closed and not very experienced when it comes to work and cooperation with colleagues from other professions and/or their own.

15 December 2018

Prof Melita KOVACEVIC

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Melita Kovacevic', is written in a cursive style.