

Experiences of the Campus Hungary internationalization audit project

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MAGYARORSZÁG
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és Beruházási Alapok



BEFEKTETÉS A JÖVŐBE

Background

Tempus Public Foundation TÁMOP 4.2.4. B1 and B2 projects: internationalization of HE

End of September 2013: PLA, partner: Academic Cooperation Association (ACA)

November 2013: start of the internationalization assessment exercise (“audit”) with 10 institutions on voluntarily basis

April 2015: 10 evaluations have been completed

Methodology

Phase 1: Self-assessment report: each chapter describes a particular internationalization dimension with a list of indicators.

Phase 2: External evaluation with the help of an International Expert Team.

- Analysis of the self-assessment.
- Institutional visit.
- Final evaluation: an integrated view on the international activities of the given institution and recommendations for improvement.

Phase 3: Feedback.

Objectives:

- Supporting tool for internationalization
- Improving quality in the areas of internationalization
- Evaluation tool for the institutions and for external reviews
- Comparative analysis, benchmarking

Further goals:

- Certification
- Accreditation

Evaluation of the audit process

Supporting documents:

- Self-assessment reports and appendices
- Expert reports and recommendations
- Institutional feedback: comments, action plans
- Questionnaire on the experiences of the process

Questionnaire 1

9 institutions sent them back.

Method: questions with assessment scales and open questions

Interpretation of internationalization: important element of the strategy to be built in the practice of teaching and research (8)
– breaking point (4)

Motivation: external view (7), supporting tool (7), positioning the institution (5) – decision of the management (3)

Expectations: exploring strengths and weaknesses (8), finding development goals (8) – meeting best practice (5)

Questionnaire 2

Benefits – mainly conceptual: rethinking of the institutional internationalization structure and processes; data collection; conclusions for further development.

Problems – mainly technical: constraints of the self-assessment; short time for preparing and completing the institutional visit; timing.

Data collection: easy access to those data which have been recorded in the internationalization offices (e.g. student numbers and mobility data); financial data and information on the research activities have been reached with difficulties.

Success stories

- Degree programmes in a foreign language with large number of students from abroad
- Increase in the number of courses offered in foreign languages
- Significant increase in student mobility activities
- New international office with strengthened role inside of the institution
- Increased number of scientific publications and projects

Drawbacks

- Top management positions (e.g. vice-rector for international affairs) could be found only in exceptional cases
- International activities of the faculties were not homogeneous
- The institution did not have a separate budget for internationalization
- There was a shortage in foreign faculty and staff members; international research activities have not been recognized properly

Institutional feedback

Differences in length and format:

- New elements in the institutional development plan
- Internationalization development strategy
- Action plan with deadlines and responsible units
- Regulatory actions (quality assurance documents)
- Non-formal reactions

Monitoring: 5 institutions are willing to participate

Extended audit with certification: 5 institutions are willing to participate

Conclusion

The project proved that a significant part of the Hungarian higher education institutions has a valid internationalization strategy and they are ready to be evaluated by international standards.

Participating institutions

Budapest Business School

Eszterházy Károly College

Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design

Pázmány Péter Catholic University

Semmelweis University

Szent István University

University of Debrecen

University of Miskolc

University of Pécs

University of Szeged

Group discussion I: Collecting experiences of the previous audit process

- a) Which elements of the assessments have been proved successful (based either on their own experiences or the PLA documents)? List some success factors!
- b) Have the audits been able to contribute to the institutional internationalization strategy including its implementation arrangements? What was the attitude of the institutional management? Would it be possible to improve the motivation of the institutions to participate in the audit? How?
- c) What were the shortcomings of the process with a potential negative impact on the evaluation? Do you agree with the main points of the presented project summary? What else could have been important?

Group focus

- GREEN** Organization process of the audit from the reparatory activities to the closing consultation: experiences, recommendations
- RED** Institutional reception: from the decision to participate in the assessment to the discussion of the findings
- BLUE** Success factors of the audits
- YELLOW** Missing elements, areas to be improved