

THE ALIGNMENT OF ROMANIA UNIVERSITY TEACHING TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE QUALITY INSURING STANDARDS

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Abstract:

Due to any institution in the national teaching system, indifferent of type, level and activity organization form, is to insure the quality teaching, learning and researching, from the necessity of making the bases of an institutional cultures of the education's quality, for contributing to the personal and professional development of the students, at the society's welfare. The quality insurance policies and strategies of the national teaching system of Romania have as marking the permanent correlation with the orientations and actions promoted at European and global level, in consense with the recommendations of the Superior Education Quality Insurance European Association, recommendations which have been taken by the Bergen Ministerial Conference (19-20 May 2005).

Keywords: quality standards, higher education

Education represents a conscience, whose quality depends in a good part not only on the future welfare of the respective nation but, at the same time, the power, influence and even its existence as a distinct entity in the regional and global configuration.

Through law, *the education's quality* is defined as being the ensemble of characteristics of a study program and its supplier, through which the beneficiaries' expectations are fulfilled, as well as the quality standards.

The education's quality constitutes a priority, being an indispensable condition for the lowering of the professional occupation, of the social cohesion and economic competitiveness.

The superior education is the one, which generates specialists, which will lead, in the near future, the Romanian society and economy thus it, will have to permanently align to EU requirements.

For this, the entire activity of the university must be oriented to the growth of the competitiveness of the

institution at a national and international level through insuring a high quality offer level, respectively of the activity's results: a good management; a financial policy adequate to the rational use of the resources and attracting new resources; the strengthening of the international dimension of the activity; the encouraging of a responsible attitude to all the personnel.

Aside from the orientation to performance and the growth of competitiveness, which are the generic requirements, need the introduction of quality management in the university teaching is determined by concrete and immediate requirements:

- the requirement of the society to the efficient and transparent use of public and extra-budgetary resources given to the superior studying;
- the creation and development of a quality culture in the university, as well as for the personnel and students;
- the insurance of the standards and practice of the European teaching institutions in the quality management

domain, condition for strengthening the university's international dimension;

- the insurance of the good preparing of the graduates for living up to the high standards of the current market economy and perspective economy from Romania;
- the increase of the Romanian society's belief that they will satisfy the need and the expectations, explicitly and implicitly regarding the superior teaching institutions' work;
- the identifying of the deficient links and the avoiding of the nonconformities which can appear in the university work;
- the increase of the international community's trust in the capacity of the Romanian superior teaching to show a good activity;
- the improvement of the efficiency of the activities in all the fundamental competence domains', of organizing and functioning of the university;
- The continuous improvement of the university quality work.

A superior teaching institution, is conceived as a systematic evaluation process and continuous improvement of the university education quality, the defining of the long term actions' directions, of the quantifiable objectives such as the strategy development and the giving of resources adequate to the accomplishment of these objectives, being based of the principal which states: *"A high quality university education can be realized only in an environment in which all the implicated parties take responsibility for the quality of their contribution to its mission's accomplishment."*

In the majority of superior education institutes in our country, there has been made a specialized department for problems in insuring the quality in the education/teaching act and there have been initiated acts, which are based on the following principles:

- *the performance standards are clearly defined and documented;*
- *there has to exist a continuous and active preoccupation for the*

development of a institutional culture and quality at all teaching levels;

- *the value is promoted and the performance in all domains is encouraged thus the high qualification human workforce is attracted and maintained;*
- *the continuous improvement is actively followed.*

The introduction in the superior education of quality systems presumes an internal institutional development, at the university's level, which will give a certain guarantee on the education process quality.

Romania is interested in the implementation of the European policies, in making the Romanian superior education compatible with the European one. Moreover, in the Romanian Position Document, at chapter 18 regarding the introduction of the community Acquis, it is stated that it is necessary to fully adopt the legislation and directives in the education domain, which demonstrates the desire of our country to perfectly integrate in the European academic education space and to actively help in its construction.

The national strategy of the Romanian superior education in the 2004-2010 period states:

- *"The increase of responsibility of the leadership of the universities in the decisions taken at the respective institution's level. The rectors must effectively assume the responsibility for the mode they use a superior education institution, and in the case of serious breaking of regulation, they must know the repercussions they are exposed to. The assuming of responsibility does not only have a declarative character, but they have concrete implications on the one who has adopted a wrong decision, with unwanted effects for the respective institution or for the who superior education system."*
- *"The creation of external and internal evaluation, as an instrument for reaching a new quality level. The auto-*

evaluation at the level of universities must be instituted as being compulsory in each year or once every two years. In the auto-evaluation process, the students must have a ponder between 30-50%. It will be instituted as compulsory the external evaluation made by MECT, ARACIS etc., by other specialized institutions from the country or abroad. There will be a search of concrete ways for a permanent evaluation of universities, on whose base there will be made a performance hierarchy in the quality of the didactic and research process.”

- “*The correlation of the changes in the superior education system with the triad: tradition-social-economical reality and culture.* The following action directions are punctuated: a) the curriculum's flexibility, through the permanent adaptation to the inputs, which come to the university and extra-university environment; b) the stimulation of the student's thinking and less of his capacity of containing information; c) the accentuation of the post university studying in the superior education system; d) the association of universities, their association with other institutions and enterprises for realizing common objectives”.

The recommendations of the European Commission for the mutual reconnaissance of the quality systems in education refer to:

the instituting of *internal quality insurance mechanisms* and promoting a *efficient and effective quality management*;

- the realization and applying of a *common set of standards, procedures and directive lines (guides)*;
- the establishment of a *European Register of Quality Insurance Agencies*;
- *the total autonomy of the superior education institution* in choosing of a quality insurance agency registered in the European Register;
- the obligation of the members states of the Bologna process to accept *evaluations effectuated by any agency*

registered in the European Register and to validate its results.

Keeping in view these recommendations, as well as the other European and international norms, for the year 2007 it has been and still is kept in view the necessity that the superior education institutions to continue/plan the following activity types:

- the finishing of the Quality Management Department;
- the finishing of the Quality Manual;
- the establishment of the Quality Insurance Commission;
- the development of the communication interface specific with the socio-economic and cultural environment;
- the persuading of the faculties' leadership for the implementation of the activity evaluation system to the teachers from the students, in conformity with the Law project of education quality;
- the Consulting Activity for making the documents forwarded to the Romanian Superior Education Quality Insurance Agency (ARACIS);
- auditing activities;
- the positioning of the interest center of the auditing activities towards the student;
- the making of the activity compatible with the latest law modifications in the domain;
- the specific training in the quality management domain;
- the global analysis of the study programs (license cycle and post university cycle).

Conclusions

The main markings of the European educational system have been implemented in Romania's legislation and follow a coherent and progressive implementation process, which maximum efficiency.

All these actions represent, for an university, a major effect, from the given financial resources point of view, as well

as from the point of view of the human workforce implicated in this type of activity.

It is appreciated that, these actions are extremely useful to the leadership of the faculties/departments, as well as the leadership of the university, having a

contribution to the increase of the perfecting grade of the activities, to the putting the bases for what a superior education institution names *modum vivendi*, at the increasing of the culture of the academic community in quality's spirit.

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