

Establishment and Development of Quality Assurance Centers in Azerbaijan Universities

DESCRIPTION: Azerbaijan HEIs are highly heterogeneous in terms of the structure of being public and private. The need for strategy development with regard to quality assurance is among all other common problems for both type of the universities. Traditional system of quality assurance in HEIs of Azerbaijan has 2 main directions: control of student's knowledge on institutional level and control from the Ministry of Education or other relevant authority based on academic aspects.

Most of the universities don't have Internal Quality Assurance System in terms of administration and effective control of the processes. Some of the universities have the Quality Assurance Centers but they are not functional or the functions are not appropriated with the common standards.

First of all there is a lack of training of the staff involved, the low profile of QA culture and the low level of communication between the QA structures and the academic staff involved. Even though Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan have several attempts to increase the Quality Assurance System of the universities to the international level, but the universities didn't absorbed the importance of these attempts. Taking into account the backwardness in this field, especially in the regions of Azerbaijan, this project is planned by BBU to contribute to the improvement of the situation.

Considering all of these issues their overall aims of the project is to enhance the quality of higher education in Azerbaijan and to promote voluntary union with EU developments, to develop a model of principles, priorities, guidelines and procedures to improve and assess the quality.

Coordinator: BAKU BUSINESS UNIVERSITY

SHARIFZADA STREET 131, H. ZARDABI STREET 88A

BAKU AZ1011,AZ

Internet site address :

Partner	AZERBAIJAN ARCHITECTURE AND CONSTRUCTION UNIVERSITY	AZ
Partner	Azerbaijan Cooperation University	AZ
Partner	AZERBAIJAN STATE PEDAGOGICAL UNIVERSITY	AZ
Partner	Azerbaijan Technological University	AZ
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