

QUALITY IMPROVEMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION – A PERMANENT OBJECTIVE OF A PRIVATE UNIVERSITY

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There is some issues related to education quality:

- the content of development programs;
- the level of interactivity of courses;
- the professional development and training of the academic staff;
- the student induction and access issues;
- the intellectual property issues, and
- resources available.

OVERVIEW ON ECOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST

- It was founded in 1990, as a first private university in Romania.
- In April 2010, we celebrated two decades of existence, in fact a double youth.
- UEB had a real contribution to diversify the offer of educational services and the flexibility of the new requirements of the national economy.

QUALITY IN THE ECOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY OF BUCHAREST

- In a large view, we could indentify three periods of the state of academic quality:
- the first is related to the organization process and implementation of the study programs, all the concepts being harmonized with the ecological concepts and the mission of the university, but subordinated quasy-total to authorization requirements of National Council for Accreditation and Academic Evaluation .
- Preoccupation for respecting rules and requirements was predominant.

Specificity of UEB academic programs

- UEB initiated new academics programs for the new qualifications and occupations in the labour market, as the followings:
 - diplomat ecologist, environment evaluator, environment inspector etc.
- Implementation of some courses, completely new for the Romanian tertiary education, like *environmental economics and management, intern and international environmental law, urban ecologies*, drew up a valued academic staff and also reputed researches from certain institutes of Romanian Academy.

THE SECOND STEP

- In the line of institutional consolidation and creation of conceptual balance, the second period could be linked by the official UEB recognition, through the foundation law no. 282 from 2003 and also implementing the Bologna process.

SOME SPECIFICATIONS

- UEB is the first Romanian private university that implemented the transferable credits system since 1998, being considered the pilot tertiary institution unit in the frame of a UNESCO project for Central and East Europe;
- The academic programs developed in certain faculties have been broken in two parts, the specialization programs carrying out in the last four semesters. That is the reason for the pass to Bologna process had been easy, the efforts being concentrated especially in assimilation of European standards and also for consolidation of internal tools used in order to assure and to *improve the quality of activities* in academic field.

UEB - Today

- The migration of youth teachers to better paid domain and the negative impact of the economic and financial crisis on the population earnings are the main reasons of the start of the third developing stage of the UEB.
- We appreciate that UEB has a positive imagine in the national system of education between other institutions supplying tertiary education services since the ARACIS evaluated the academic activity with the judgement “confidence”.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

- New concrete and fast actions are necessary in order to follow the ARACIS recommendation and to improve the mechanisms for the distance and reduce frequency educational programs.
- Other aspects to be improved are referring to the diversification the social services for students, as well as the feedback from the students and employers in the labour market.
- In other words, the quality must be focused on academic output and educational results.

Thank you!

