



STUDIŲ KOKYBĖS VERTINIMO CENTRAS

General report of the evaluation team visiting Lithuania
from October 25, 2010 until October 30, 2010
and
from November 7, 2010 until November 13, 2010

1. The research and publication activities at all the visited universities should be substantially increased. In particular the commitment of the teaching staff towards the EU sponsored FP7 programmes must be strengthened. The actual teaching load is far too high for relatively small groups of students (see also item 13).
2. The senior academic staff should strengthen their coaching and guiding activities for young professionals. Since the habilitation procedure has been abolished in Lithuania more personal efforts are required to promote the professional careers of junior staff members.
3. In general, the teaching scope should be transformed from a component oriented towards a system orientated approach.
4. The international exchange of staff members and students should be substantially increased. The administrative staff is responsible for the establishment of reliable and strong contacts to other preferably European universities; however the teaching staff and the students must implement them with a strong and active exchange programme. The exchange programmes must work in both directions i.e. incoming and outgoing activities.
5. Different departments within a faculty of electrical engineering cover power engineering, electronics, and communication. These three departments should be merged according to the modern requirements towards a unified electrical and communication engineering including electronics, power, and control.
6. The Higher Lithuanian education system is far too much fragmented. The study field of electronic and electrical engineering should be handled by one faculty at each university. The nine branches of study fields of electrical engineering – presented on

the diagram prepared by the CQAHE - do not correspond to a modern integrated science structure. The bachelor and master students of so many study field branches as offered in Lithuania are not competitive with European graduates in electrical engineering.

7. The relation with professional and learned societies such as IEEE, IEE, CIGRE, CIRED, PSCC etc. must be strengthened and in several cases even started. The formation of IEEE student branches in the universities might be a valid start in the right direction.
8. The significant increase of study fields in 2009 was combined with the introduction of a fixed number of state financed places in each study area. This has a negative influence on the number of admitted students but a positive impact on their entrance grades.
9. Although the number of self paid places is not fixed the admission of students who pay the tuition themselves is practically equal to zero in all the programmes evaluated. There is need for action to provide more financial opportunities for students who are willing to support themselves. A further problem seems to be that a too low number of pupils at gymnasiums elect advanced mathematics.
10. The procedure for the assessment of bachelor and master thesis one per year is far too complicated and bureaucratic. It is far more important that the faculty of each university defines a well defined evaluation procedure based on two university experts preferably one of them being a full professor much engaged in active research work.
11. The scheduling of master courses in the afternoon and evening - due to the fact that many students have to work - is not compatible with European standard. This practice seems to be a practical and cost efficient one for arranging continuous education. The problem is that real master education is considerably suffering from this. New forms of financing master students through the universities by means of research contracts should be developed and implemented as soon as possible. Another practical solution might be to continue this practice but establish a completely new high level master program in a single university.
12. Although this evaluation team only visited six Lithuanian universities with engineering degrees the presentation on the first day of the visits in the centre in Vilnius was suggestive on the fact that there are too many universities and technical colleges in the field of electrical engineering. A concentration on fewer loca-

- tions would make it possible to reach a higher quality with the present funds.
13. The universities are encouraged to form strong alumni associations because the in-kind and financial feedback from successful graduates substantially improves their reputation and possibilities to be abreast with other European universities.
 14. [The Rectors' Conference](#) of the Lithuanian Universities should address academic issues to the industry and seek its involvement in the education process. Similar regular meetings should be installed at the faculty level for the different study fields in order to improve the coordination of the study programmes.
 15. A general recommendation might be establishing a national graduate school in the field of electrical engineering which would make common doctoral courses possible. It would be easy for students to travel from all over the country to join a few e.g. two to three days intensive courses per year to one location.

This report has been compiled by the evaluation team consisting of

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