

# **Summary of the Evaluation Visit**

**9 – 12 September, 2013**

## **1. Vilnius University, Russian Philology**

The evaluation visit to Vilnius University, during which the Expert team met with the administrative staff of the Faculty of Philology, the self-assessment team, teaching staff, students, graduates and social partners, took place on 10.09.2013. Overall, the visit was well organised and presented ample opportunity for the Expert Team to become acquainted with the day-to-day management of the Russian Philology Programme, its curriculum design, staff and students. However, it should be noted, that the Russian Department's efforts were somewhat marred by the Faculty's management unpunctuality, which left the Team waiting for 30 minutes and wasting valuable time at the start of their visit. After this initial set-back, the visit progressed smoothly.

The Team's consensual view is that the Russian Philology Programme is of high quality. This is ensured by highly qualified, experienced and competent staff. The volume, structure and content of the programme are closely linked with the learning aims and outcomes, and reflect staff research input. It is flexible and responds well to labour market needs. The student support system is excellent.

The programme's main shortcomings stem from a very wide choice of optional modules and the lack of an adequate support system to monitor students' choices and self-study work. Therefore, it was recommended that the choice of optional modules be streamlined, the system of assessment feedback formalized and that the involvement of social partners in programme delivery and monitoring be strengthened.

## **2. Lithuanian University of Education, Polish Philology**

The visit to the University of Education took place on 11.09.2013. It was very well organised and thoroughly prepared. All meetings with relevant representatives of the programme took place on time and were highly professional.

The Team's consensual view is that the Polish Philology Programme is a solid and well delivered programme. It is extremely flexible. The staff, teaching on the programme, should be commended for ensuring continuity and a high quality of tuition in the light of the recent changes in the regulations and laws of Lithuanian higher education (which resulted in 3 changes to the programme in 4 years). Its main strength and unique selling point in the Lithuanian education market is the provision of a sound philological education in combination with teaching qualifications. Other strengths of the Programme are an enthusiastic, well-qualified and motivated staff, students and social partners, all of whom are fluent in Polish, and the high quality of general facilities.

Although the employability of the graduates is fairly high, the introduction of another subject area (for example, translation or history) into the curriculum would make graduates even more valuable in the current labour market and would strengthen the position of the programme.

Overall, the programme ensures a good integration of theory and practice through the strong involvement of a large number of programme-related social partners in curriculum design, assessments, and quality assurance. However, it was felt that a unified system of assessment feedback, tighter co-operation between various departments involved in the delivery of the programme and the implementation of up-to-date library data bases would strengthen the programme even further.