



Higher Education Policy as it applies to EIE programmes in Turkey

This document applies only to education at Level 6 and above of the European Qualifications Framework. All terms used in this document have the meaning specific for Turkey and may have different meaning when used in any other country.

Overview of Quality Assurance

The performance indicators and processes for implementing Academic Assessment and Quality Improvement in Higher Education (HE) is defined by YÖDEK (National Commission for Academic Assessment and Quality Improvement). Every HE Institute (HEI) has to have a board called ADEK (Academic Assessment and Quality Improvement Council) that coordinates and organizes all works in the Process of Academic Assessment and Quality Improvement in that specific HEI. ADEK is responsible to organize and coordinate internal and external assessments within the scope of strategic plan (strategic goal, targets and performance indicators) approved by senate. According to this strategic approach, the institutional vision, mission and values has to be consistent with the institutional aims, the units' aims as well as the individuals' aims in the institution. Having officially approved by the HEIs, these reports are sent to YÖDEK in CoHE (Council of Higher Education). This process is repeated every year in order to track all of the Quality Circle also by the external Commission, YODEK [1][2][3]

External Evaluation

External evaluation is not compulsory. HEIs can apply to external assessment agencies for Quality Assurance for the institution as a whole or some departments or faculties of the HEI. The most well-known external Quality Agency in Turkey is MÜDEK (ing: Association for Assessment and Accreditation of Engineering Programs). Some Universities in Turkey prefer international agencies like Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) from USA or EUA- European Universities Association as an external Quality Agency [4].

New programme creation

The opening of degree programmes within the academic units at any level are subjected to ratification by the CoHE upon application of the HEIs [5].

Each "department", which is the main unit for an academic degree program, each faculty, consisting of departments and finally each university has an academic body, called, respectively, departmental board, faculty academic board and senate being composed of academic staff and a student representative (without a vote). The requests of academic nature start from the relevant board and goes up the highest level stated in the Higher Education Law. Some decisions are concluded at the Senate level while some need the approval of the Council,



some that of the government and some a new legislation. The universities do not have any non-academic administrator or external agencies in their boards or senate [6].

Changes to existing programmes

Changes to degree programmes like adding, deleting or changing credits of a course are proposed by the departmental board and approved by the faculty or institutional board.

Student influence of programme content

It can be compulsory or optional to apply course assessment questionnaires to students to get their feedback both on the course material and its delivery.

Industry influence of programme content

Collaborating with industry is highly motivated. Industrial collaborative projects are funded by the governmental agencies. There is no formal way of influencing industry in the formation of educational programmes.

Students with disabilities/special needs/unconventional needs

To enable effective involvement of physically disabled students in education Disabled Counseling and Coordination Centers to provide students with appropriate equipment, instructional material, research and accommodation facilities, are required to be founded [7][8]. Educational fees are reduced based on the degree of disability [9].

Mobility and life-long learning processes

“Mevlana” is an exchange programme for students and academic staff between the HEIs of Turkey and all other countries regardless of their region [3][11]. “Farabi”, on the other hand is for exchange of students and academic staff within HEIs of Turkey [3][12].

ERASMUS program is in action since 2003-2004 academic year. The activities concerning the ECTS and Diploma Supplement implementations in Turkey have been carried out by the universities under the supervision of the CoHE and coordination of the National Agency[4].

Almost all the universities have "continuous education centers contributing to Lifelong Learning[4]. In these centers seminars, conferences and refresher courses are offered. “Second University” initiative started in 2001 enables people with a university diploma to get another degree without taking the university entrance exam.



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More than 80 universities are giving bachelor and master degrees in distance education in varying disciplines. Boğaziçi University has started “Second Spring Certificate Programme” based on Harvard Institute for Learning in Retirement in 2013 [13].

Information management

Most university web pages are both in Turkish and English. General information is open to public; opening course material to public is left to the instructors will.

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