



CIOSTA

XXXVI CIOSTA & CIGR Section V Conference

ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

26-28 May, 2015
Saint Petersburg, Russia

Environmentally friendly agriculture and forestry for future generations
XXXVI CIOSTA CIGR V Conference 2015

THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Federal State Budgetary Educational Institution
of Higher Education
«Saint-Petersburg State Agrarian University»

Proceedings of International Scientific
XXXVI CIOSTA&CIGR Section V Conference

**ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY AGRICULTURE
AND FORESTRY
FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS**

SAINT PETERSBURG – PUSHKIN
2015

Environmentally Friendly Agriculture and Forestry for Future Generations: Proceedings of International Scientific XXXVI CIOSTA & CIGR SECTION V Conference, 26-28 May, 2015, Saint Petersburg, Russia: SPbSAU, 614 p.

The Proceedings include the abstracts of scientific papers presented at XXXVI CIOSTA & CIGR SECTION V Conference, which cover the challenging issues of further development of the world agricultural and forestry science and the ways to address them.

Chief Editor V. D. Popov
Vice Chief Editor V. V. Belyakov

Editorial Board:

Efimov V.A., Selikhovkin A.V., Shirokov S.N., Ovchinnikova E.I.,
Maksimov D.A., Levchenko L.V., Smelik V.A., Ruzhev V.A.,
Korostelev A.A., Lepp N.V., Shaytarova O.E., Belinskaya I.V.

Reasonable efforts have been made to publish reliable data and information the publisher cannot assume responsibility for the accuracy of the materials, their translation and presentation or for consequences of their use.

МИНИСТЕРСТВО СЕЛЬСКОГО ХОЗЯЙСТВА
РОССИЙСКОЙ ФЕДЕРАЦИИ

Федеральное государственное бюджетное
образовательное учреждение высшего образования
«Санкт-Петербургский государственный аграрный университет»

Материалы
Международной научной конференции
XXXVI CIOSTA&CIGR Section V Conference

**ЭКОЛОГИЧЕСКИ ДРУЖЕСТВЕННОЕ
СЕЛЬСКОЕ И ЛЕСНОЕ ХОЗЯЙСТВО
ДЛЯ БУДУЩИХ ПОКОЛЕНИЙ**

THE CREATION OF THE SYSTEM FOR PROFESSIONAL PUBLIC ACCREDITATION OF AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

E. Horská¹, M. Petropavlovskiy², V. Smelik³, N. Tcyganova³

*¹Slovak University of Agriculture in Nitra, Tr. A. Hlinku, Nitra, 94976,
Elena.Horska@gmail.com*

²Mari State University, Lenin Square, Yoshkar-Ola city, 424000

*³Saint-Petersburg State Agrarian University, Petersburg Road, Saint-
Petersburg, 196601, pacagro@spbgau.ru*

Summary

The article describes the current state-of-affairs in the system of professional public accreditation of educational programs in the Russian Federation. It unfolds the main peculiar features of professional public accreditation of agricultural programs being developed within the TEMPUS project "Development of Professional Public Accreditation of Agricultural Programs in Russia".

Key words: professional public accreditation, agricultural programs, accreditation procedure, accreditation indicators and criteria, professional standards.

Introduction

The Federal law "On Education in the Russian Federation" № 273-FL of 29.12.2012 effective from 2013 introduced a new notion of "professional public accreditation of educational programs" in the Russian system of education. Professional public accreditation of educational programs shall be the recognition that the quality and level of training of graduates who have studied such an educational program at a particular educational organization meet the requirements of professional standards and labor market set for workers and employees of the relevant specialization. It may be noted that professional public

accreditation focuses at evaluating the graduates' learning outcomes unlike state accreditation of educational activities which is aimed at "confirming that education and training on basic educational programs delivered by educational organizations and organizations carrying out specialists' training correspond to the federal state educational standards" [1, Art. 92, Par. 2]. One of the drawbacks of the current system of state accreditation is the lack of mechanisms for objective evaluation of the final outcomes of educational programs' delivery.

Material and method

In accordance with the law [1] professional public accreditation shall be conducted by employers, their associations and organizations authorized by them. The procedure of professional public accreditation of educational programs, its forms and applied evaluation methods, as well as the follow-up process are established by an employer, employer's association or an organization authorized by them who conduct this accreditation.

In Russia there are a number of organizations carrying out professional public accreditation: Association for Engineering Education of Russia, Association of Lawyers of the Russian Federation, Agency of Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Career Development (AKKORK), the National Center for Public Accreditation (NCPA).

However, in the modern context the need for an objective evaluation of the education quality is crucial for educational programs and other fields. One of the strategic trends in the development of the Russian economics is agriculture and today it's hard to overestimate the value of the quality training of graduates of agricultural programs. The development of the system of professional public accreditation of agricultural programs with the involvement of all stakeholders can enhance the quality of agricultural education, ensure the implementation of requirements set by employers of agricultural sector to HEIs' graduates.

In Russia over 100 HEIs realize agricultural programs, about 50% of them are specialized educational organizations (agricultural universities, academies and institutes), others – realize educational programs on a wide range of training fields. As of the beginning of 2014 these HEIs realized 1525 agricultural programs, including: Bachelor's level – 611 programs, Master's level – 270 programs, Specialist's level – 644 programs.

Results and Discussion

In 2014 on the initiative of Russian HEIs the project “Development of Professional Public Accreditation of Agricultural Programs in Russia, PACAgro” was launched under financial support of the European Union program TEMPUS [2]. The project participants include HEIs from different regions of Russia (Moscow, St.-Petersburg, Republic of Tatarstan, the Kabardino-Balkarian Republic, the Republic of Mari El), 4 HEIs are specialized agricultural institutions, 1 HEI – regional classical University, one of the training fields of which is agricultural education. In the context of economic crisis and demographic fall HEIs are the first to be interested in the quality of their work, active involvement of employers in quality management of educational programs both by way of the established quality standards and their participation in external reviews.

The main goal of the project is the creation of a Russian system of professional public accreditation of agricultural programs adjusted for the requirements of the current legislation and based on the principles of the Bologna Process and the documents of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). Therefore, the project also involves Russian employers who have partnership relations with St. Petersburg State Agrarian University, as well as a non-profit organization “Association of educational institutions of agribusiness and fishery” (“Agroobrazovanie”). The European Union is represented in the project by higher education institutions from Lithuania, Estonia, Spain and the accreditation agency from Spain – AQU Catalunya (Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency, Barcelona).

The project can serve as an additional incentive for employers to participate in the procedures of quality evaluation of educational programs, it will provide them with the necessary knowledge of quality assurance in education, of new ways of interaction between the system of education and labor market. In Russia the involvement of employers in accreditation was limited to formal presence in expert panels, thus the European best practices can change the role of employers in the system of quality assurance of higher education.

Much attention is also paid to the engagement of students in quality assurance of higher education. The lack of students' involvement in accreditation of educational programs is one of the drawbacks of the

quality assurance system in Russia. The project will allow to develop methods for engaging students in quality evaluation and to prepare relevant information and methodological materials.

The project contemplates the creation of a system of professional public accreditation of agricultural programs. The project activities are aimed at the development of: methods and procedures for the accreditation of agricultural programs; information and analytical system of professional public accreditation of agricultural programs; methodological support of the accreditation procedure.

When developing accreditation indicators the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG) [3], as well as the requirements of professional standards and employers for graduates' training should be considered. The procedures being developed must assume the participation of representatives of employers and students in the evaluation of programs and accreditation decision-making.

The basic structuring unit of the system should be the Agency for Professional Public Accreditation of Agricultural Programs. The activity of the Agency must comply with the requirements for external quality assurance agencies established by ENQA. The main principles of the Agency's activity shall be: objectivity of the decisions made; openness of the applied procedures and results; coherence when using indicators and decision-making criteria; involvement of all stakeholders in the development of accreditation indicators and procedures and participation in external reviews and accreditation decision-making.

The Agency's activities will be to support the process of making a decision by the Advisory Board on accreditation of educational programs. The Advisory Board will be composed of the representatives of: the Ministry of Agriculture of the Russian Federation; employers (on recommendation of the Ministry of Agriculture of RF and HEIs); educational organizations delivering agricultural programs; students of agricultural universities.

In accordance with the project plan all the preparatory work for the establishment of the Agency (development of indicators and procedures, information and analytical system, methodological support, financing scheme of the Agency's activity, training of experts,

including representatives of employers and students) shall be performed in 2015. In 2016 it is planned to conduct accreditation of agricultural programs realized at the Russian universities participating in the project.

References

1. Federal Law "On Education in the Russian Federation" № 273-FL of 29.12.2012.
2. <http://pacagro.uniag.sk/> // Web site of the project "Development of the system for professional public accreditation of agricultural programs in Russia".
3. Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area. — Yoshkar-Ola: Accreditation in Education, 2008. — 58 p.

English language courses as one of the main phases of implementation of international project TEMPUS PacAgro

V. Smelik, E. Ovchinnikova, N. Berseneva

Saint-Petersburg State Agrarian University,

elenov55@gmail.com

Summary

Internship for English language courses in European universities - partners is one of the main stages of the implementation of any international project. Education allows to study in detail the methodological basis and practical experience in the organization of educational process in the universities of the European Union, as well as to the methods of public accreditation of agricultural programs.

Key word: higher agricultural education, English language courses, quality management, public accreditation of agricultural programs

Introduction

In 2014 the project «Development of Professional Public Accreditation of Agricultural Programs in Russia, PACAgro» was launched under financial support of the European Union program TEMPUS. The project participants include HEIs from different regions of Russia (Moscow, St.-Petersburg, Republic of Tatarstan, the Kabardino-Balkarian Republic, the Republic of Mari El), 4 HEIs are specialized agricultural institutions, 1 HEI – regional classical University, one of the training fields of which is agricultural education.

Material and methods

The main goal of the project is the creation of a Russian system of professional public accreditation of agricultural programs adjusted for the requirements of the current legislation and based on the principles

of the Bologna Process and the documents of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). Therefore, the project also involves Russian employers who have partnership relations with St. Petersburg State Agrarian University, as well as a non-profit organization «Association of educational institutions of agribusiness and fishery» («Agroobrazovanie»). The European Union is represented in the project by higher education institutions from Lithuania, Estonia, Spain and the accreditation agency from Spain – AQU Catalunya (Catalan University Quality Assurance Agency, Barcelona).

Specific project objectives are defined as follows:

- Development of Standards and Procedures for Public Accreditation of Agricultural Programs (Aps) in line with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area.
- Establishment of the Agency for Public Accreditation of Agricultural Programs (Agency).
- Recognition of the Agency on the Russian and International levels.

Project is aimed not only at the development of accreditation standards and procedures but also at the elaboration of methodological materials and organization of seminars for different target groups of beneficiaries. In the project implementation plan for 2014 included the following activities:

- creation and maintenance of the project's website¹;
- intensive English course for the selected staff;
- survey of stakeholders on quality assurance of Aps;
- development of the Perspective plan for the system of quality assurance within the agricultural sector of higher education in Russia;
- visit of EU partners to Russia;
- studying European best practices in Quality Assurance of agricultural programs;
- publishing Perspective Plan and Analytical Report «European best practices in Quality Assurance of agricultural programs» and other.

Results and Discussion

An important factor in the work on the project was the participation of Russian partners in training on English language courses in the Estonian University of Life Sciences in June and October 2014 in Tartu. The program language courses was tailored to different levels

of language knowledge of project participants and provides for the formation of two groups of trainees (levels A and B) on the theme «Quality Management. Agricultural Education». For students of level B2 main aim: the learners will be able to use English for basic specific purposes, both active (speaking and writing), and passive (reading and listening). Learning outcomes: Skills of English for basic specific purposes: reading (basic language structures of official documents), writing (CV), speaking (basic conference communication), listening (basic conference communication) For students of level B2 main aim: the learners will be able to confidently use English for specific purposes, both active (speaking and writing), and passive (reading and listening). Learning outcomes: skills of English for specific purposes: reading (QA documents of EU projects), writing (5-paragraph essay, summary, report, skills for preparing project documents), speaking (presentation, discussion, peer feedback), listening (presentation, discussion, peer feedback) The methodology of the studies included: group work, peer work, individual work, frontal work, presentation practice, pronunciation practice, listening practice, writing practice, feedback practice; language structures and specific vocabulary analysed and practiced. Essential for the continuation of the project was the fact that the trainees level B2 were to master the skills of reading and use of the terminology of official documents governing the assessment of the quality of education in the European Union. So, while having studied documents on quality assurance of education programs and their evaluation, the experience of Russian and European universities, the activities of agencies for accreditation of educational programs and educational organizations. As a result of intensive work together in the classroom was created glossary on the project, which includes information on the main European associations of higher education institutions, their directives and guidelines. For example, Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area² are designed ENQA. Also important was the study of the experience of compiling and using the feedback questionnaire for the survey of students and employers. The lack of students' involvement in accreditation of educational programs is one of the drawbacks of the quality assurance system in Russia. The project will allow to develop methods for engaging students in quality evaluation and to prepare relevant information and

methodological materials. In addition, the project can serve as an additional incentive for employers to participate in the procedures of quality evaluation of educational programs, it will provide them with the necessary knowledge of quality assurance in education, of new ways of interaction between the system of education and labor market. In Russia the involvement of employers in accreditation was limited to formal presence in expert panels, thus the European best practices can change the role of employers in the system of quality assurance of higher education. Thus, the participation of Russian partners in the intensive English courses allowed us to study the European best practices in Quality Assurance of agricultural programs through the Professional Public Accreditation.

References

1. <http://pacagro.uniag.sk/> // Website of the project «Development of the system for professional public accreditation of agricultural programs in Russia».
2. Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area. — Yoshkar-Ola: Accreditation in Education, 2008. - 58 p.