

**Czech Development agency**

**„Temporary Expert Assignment“**

**Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Ukraine**

Prepared by: Zdenka Vágnerová (AMO)

- April 2017 -

**Temporary expert assignment (within the framework of transfer of Czech transitional expertise)**

**Title in Czech Language:**

Zajištění kvalitního vyššího vzdělávání na Ukrajině

**Title in English Language:**

Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Ukraine

**Applicant:**

Czech Ministry of Education and sports nominated representatives of National Accreditation Bureau for Higher Education Mr. Smrčka and Mrs. Vidláková and the former Head of Accreditation Committee prof. Dvořáková.

**National Accreditation Bureau for Higher Education (NAB)** – Czech quality assurance agency was established in September 2016 by newly amended Higher Education Act. Agency decides on the accreditation of degree programs, institutional accreditation for the training and accreditation of habilitation procedure and procedure for appointment of professors; performing compliance control while implementing accredited activities and performs external evaluation of educational activities, scientific, research, development, innovation, artistic and other creative activities and related activities of universities. <https://www.nauvs.cz>

**Associaton for International Affairs/Asociace pro mezinárodní otázky (AMO)**

AMO is a non-governmental non–profit organization founded in 1997 that aims to promote research and education in the field of international relations. AMO has been implementing educational project in Ukraine since 2006 and will be responsible for administration and logistics of the project.

[www.amo.cz](http://www.amo.cz)

**Partner Institutions:**

**American Councils for International Education and its partners**

American Councils were established in Ukraine in 1992.  Since then American Councils has administered numerous programs sponsored by the US Government, developed projects in civil society building and contributed to the development of standardized testing in Ukraine. Among thein partners are leading Ukrainian universities as well as Ministry of Education and Science.

**Estimated Area of Expertise:**

* External (level of National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance - NAHEQA) and internal (level of universities) quality assurance systems functioning;
* Formation of criteria in the process of accreditation of education programs (for NAHEQA)
* Specifics of preparation of self evaluation reports by university (for universities);
* Preparation of experts for the process of external evaluation of educational programs (for NAHEQA);
* Specific features of national agencies of quality assurance and their participation in ENQA (European Network of Quality Assurance) (for NAHEQA)

**Expected Start and End Dates:**

April 24, 2017 – July 31, 2017

**Total Amount of Days in the Field:**

Prof. PhDr. Vladimíra Dvořáková, CSc. – 10 days

PhDr. Jiří Smrčka, Phd. – 10 days

Martina Vidláková, MSc. – 5 days

**Expected Partner’s Institution Type of Cooperation:**

* Logistic preparation of seminars and workshops
* Logistic arrangements of Czech experts stay in Ukraine
* Communication with involved Ukrainian HEI´s and Institutions (Ministry of Education and Science, National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education etc.)

*On the partner´s side the contact person is:*

Taras Tymochko, Project Coordinator, American Councils for International Education,

Contacts: +38 044 289 3952, ttymochko@americancouncils.org.ua

C**ontext:**

Ukrainian branch of non-profit organization American Councils for International Education asked the Czech Development Agency Czech to provide experts, who could share their experiences and best practices in the field of national and international quality assurance in Higher education.

According to Ukrainian Law on Higher Education (2014) Ukraine has an independent board on quality assurance for the first time in the Ukrainian history – National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance (NAHEQA).

NAHEQA is a new institution in the system of higher education in Ukraine which should be responsible for quality assurance and quality enhancement. NAHEQA is at initial state of its development and needs consultancy and guidance for successful work.

The problems of quality assurance and internationalization are crucial for Ukrainian higher education system that is why it is important for National Agency as well as for the universities to receive recommendations, trainings and practices in these areas from European partners.

As a result of major legislative change, the Accreditation Commission Czech Republic

(ACCR) ceased to operate as of 31 August this year. The newly amended Higher Education Act established a new quality assurance agency under the name of National Accreditation Bureau for Higher Education (NAB) as well as introduced significant changes to the quality assurance system. Unlike in the previous period, higher education institutions will be able to apply for institutional accreditation alongside program accreditation. The NAB gained new competencies as compared to the ACCR, most importantly it will have the authority to not only issue expert statements on applications for accreditation, but also to grant accreditation and apply sanctions, which used to be reserved to the Ministry of Education. The NAB will also perform evaluation of higher education institutions and audit of their compliance with legal provisions in their activities. NAB performs its role with a sense of responsibility, openness and transparency of the quality assurance and accreditation processes and supports higher education institutions in the development of their internal quality assurance mechanisms.

ACCR was a member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), an umbrella organization which represents quality assurance organizations from the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).

Because of above mentioned facts Czech experts have current experience with reforming the quality assurance system as well as international standards, so they could contribute to Ukrainian discussion with sharing Czech experiences and best practices.

**Expected Outcomes and Results by the Applicant:**

Main aim of this project cooperation is to create capacity for external and internal quality assurance development in Ukrainian higher education system, that is:

* providing Ukrainian National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance with tools and mechanisms for their work;
* providing recommendations for internal quality assurance systems/frameworks at Ukrainian universities;

**Expected outcomes and results:**

* At least 120 people from nearly 15 Ukrainian universities will be trained as internal quality assurance experts;
* At least 20 NAHEQA members will be trained as external quality assurance experts;
* Practical recommendations (guideline) for providing the process of accreditation according to European standards will be developed

Based on partner´s request following activities will be implemented

* *3x 1-day training on internal evaluation procedures and international standards* for the representatives of Ukrainian HEI´s from several Ukrainian regions of east, south and west ( up to 30 attendees in each city - *90 in total*)
* *2-day advanced training on internal evaluation* *procedures* *and international standards* for the representatives of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and experts from partners organization (*up to 25 attendees*)
* *2-day training for the representatives of National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Ministry of Education and Science (up to 30 attendees)*
* 5-6 *meetings with high level officials of* Ministry of Education and Science, National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance, Parliament Committee on Education and Science, National Academy for Pedagogical Sciences; Rectors of HEIs, Education NGO activists – *(approximately 6-7 meetings)*
* 2 pages long follow up report, based on expert mission to Ukraine
* 10 pages long recommendations for providing the process of accreditation according to European standards

Content of the seminars and meetings is discussed with Ukrainian partners with the aim to provide them with the most needed information.

Based on previous experiences the seminars and the meetings will be translated from Czech to Ukrainian language by professional interpreter. Power point presentations and other materials will be translated in advance so there will be Ukrainian version available during the seminars.

All above mentioned activities will contribute to better understanding of Ukrainian system of Higher education and quality assurance and will enable future possible contacts on expert level between Czech Republic and Ukraine.

**Expected time schedule**:

*Preparatory period in the Czech Republic (April 24 – May 13)*

* logistic and administrative preparation of project
* preparation of presentations and materials by experts, translation

*Work in the field (May 14 – May 24)*

**May 14 – 24, 2017 – experts mission to Ukraine**

May 14 – Arrival to Kharkov

May 15 – Training #1 for faculty and administration staff (1 day)

Location: Kharkiv National University

May 16 – 17 Training #2 for faculty staff and administration (2 days) + meetings

Location: National University of Kyiv Mohyla Academy

May 18 – 19 Training #3 for National Agency of Higher Education Quality Assurance and Ministry of Education officials (2 days) + other meetings for consultations

Location: American Councils for International Education (Esplanadna, 20)

May 20 – Meeting Day with local education activists, Odessa Universities presidents

May 21 – Free day, without requesting funds

May 22 – Training #4 for faculty staff and administration (1 day)

Location: Odessa National University

May 23 – Training #7 for faculty staff and administration (1 day) + meetings

Location: Ukrainian Catholic University

May 24 – Departure to the Czech Republic

*3. Follow up experts activities in the Czech Republic*

June 2017 – evaluation, preparation of recommendations by experts

*4. Evaluation*

July 2017 – preparation of final narrative and financial report

**Team Members:**

*Prof. PhDr. Vladimíra Dvořáková, CSc*. professor of political science, University of Economics, Prague. From 2006 until 2016 she was the president of the Accreditation Commission, Czech Republic. Prof. Dvorakova will lecture on standards of internal and external quality assurance in higher education at the Czech Republic and participate in the preparation of recommendations.

*PhDr. Jiří Smrčka, Phd.* – since 2016 Director of Department of National Accreditation Bureau for Higher Education, Secretary General of Accreditation Commission Czech Republic (2008 – 2016), Deputy Director of Higher Education Department, Ministry of Education, Youths and Sport (2007 – 2010). He will lecture on overall functioning of the system of internal and external quality assurance in Higher education at the Czech Republic and participate in the preparation of recommendations.

*Martina Vidláková, MSc. -* since 2016 Head of Conceptual Unit of National Accreditation Bureau for Higher Education, previously officer of Accreditation Commission (2013-2016) Ms. Vidláková is responsible for international agenda and representing the agency in international network, so her presentation at seminars wills focus on sharing knowledge on international standards. She will also participate in preparing recommendations.

*Mgr. Zdenka Vágnerová* – project coordinator at Association for International Affairs. Since 2006 she has been implementing project at Ukraine in the sphere of education. Her task will be coordination and logistics on the Czech side and reporting.

*Mgr. Markéta Šonková* – administrative staff at the Association for International Affairs. She will work as administrative support for the project coordinator and experts, her work will also include website presentation of the project and its promotion at social networks.

**Expected Amount of Work in Total:**

500 hours (including interpreter and partner´s organization coordinator)

**Amount of Work per Expert in Total:**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | unit | In the Czech Republic | In Ukraine | unit |
| 1.1 Expert (Vladimíra Dvořáková) | hour | 20,00 | 8 | day |
| 1.2 Expert (Jiří Smrčka) | hour | 20,00 | 8 | day |
| 1.3 Expert (Martina Vidláková) | hour | 20,00 | 4 | day |
| 1.4 Coordinator (Zdenka Vágnerová) | hour | 60,00 |  |  |
| 1.5 Administrative staff (Markéta Šonková) | hour | 24,00 |  |  |

**Amount of Work per Team in Total:**

144 hours and 20 days

**Funding:**

Attached in Annex III of the Contract

**Complementarity:**

* Support for Implementation of Reforms and Increasing Expertise of Public Administration in the Area of Higher Education (UA-2015-116-FO-11120, 2015–2016)
* Modernization of the Public Education System in Ukraine (UA-2015-116-FO-11120, 2015–2017)
* Assistance in increasing quality of higher education in Ukraine (UA-2015-116-FO-11120, 2015–2016)
* Assistance in increasing quality of higher education in Ukraine II (UA-2015-116-FO-11120, 2015–2016)