TWINNING AZERBAIJAN

Support to the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan for Further Adherence of the Higher Education System to the European Higher Education Area (AZ-ad-EHEA)

**AZ/14/ENP/OT/31**

**EU Short Term Expert Mission Report**

**1. Basic Information**

**Component and Activity:**

Component: 4. Standards and Guidelines for QA in HE

Activity: 4.3 Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Azerbaijan

**Name of the Expert:** Ms Helka Kekäläinen and Ms Heli Mattisen

**Dates of the Mission:** (31.8.)1-2 September 2016

**Contractor:** Finnish Education Evaluation Centre (FINEEC) /

 Estonian Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational Education (EKKA)

**2. Relevant Background Information/State of Affairs**

In order to create the Azerbaijani understanding of the European Standards and Guidelines for quality assurance in higher education, ESG the Twinning project and the Azerbaijani Ministry of Education invited a drafting group to work on a concrete proposal for the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Azerbaijan (AzSG) in April 2016. The drafting group consists of stakeholders from Azerbaijani universities, representatives from the Ministry of Education, students and experts from Finland and Estonia. Also the representatives of the newly founded Accreditation and Nostrification Office, ANO joined the 3-day drafting seminar that was held in Quba in May 2016. The seminar was successful and resulted in first draft of Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance of Higher Education in Azerbaijan – Manual for Pilot Evaluations. During the summer, ANO had drafted their own version of Accreditation standards for higher education institutions.

**3. Objectives and Tasks of the Mission**

The task of the mission was to finalize the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance of Higher Education in Azerbaijan – Manual for Pilot Evaluations document in collaboration with the Quba drafting group and the representatives of the Accreditation and Nostrification Office, ANO. The working method was to compare the two standards and look for solution that would serve both the Twinning project objectives and ANO’s interest in testing their standards with international experts.

**4. Time Schedule of the Mission**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** | **Activities/Meetings**BC experts met (title and institution) | **Remarks** |
| 31.8.2016 | **Meeting with ANO and the drafting group:**Ms. Elmira Ismayilova, Baku State UniversityMr. Ruslan Mammadov, Ganja State UniversityMr.  Anar Naghiyev, Azerbaijan University of LanguagesMr. Tofig Ahmadov, Ministry of EducationMr. Ragif Gasimov, Azerbaijan State University of EconomicsMr. Samir Valiev, ANOMr. Elshan Nuriyev, Ministry of Education, ANOMs. Elmira Manafova, Ministry of Education, ANOMs. Konul Fatieva, ANO RTA Reijo Aholainen, Language assistant Tarlan Arzumanov |  |
| 1.9.2016 | **Meeting with MoE high level representatives:**Mr. Emin Amurullayev, Mr. Sulhaddin Gozelov, Mr. Tofig Ahmadov, Ms. Vusala Gurbanova |  |
| 2.9.2016 | Reporting and finalizing the draft |  |

**5. Achievement of the Expected Results**

The STEs finalized the draft of the Manual for Pilot Evaluations after the discussions with the Quba drafting group and ANO. The result will be circulated among the participant of the drafting and MoE representatives.

**6. Unexpected Results**

The STEs did not recognize any unexpected results.

**7. Issues Left Open After the Mission**

If any changes to the Pilot manual seem necessary after the circulation, the STEs have to deal with that via e-mail.

**8. Recommendations for Future Mission**

The next missions of the Component 4 will take place in 26.-30.9.2016, 10.-14.10.2016 and 28.11.-2.12.2016. The STEs will support the self-evaluation process in the pilot universities (Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University, Azerbaijan State University of Economics and Azerbaijan Technical University). The Ministry of Education in collaboration with the Twinning office will send an official letter to the pilot institutions to remain them of the up-coming pilot evaluations and to ask to appoint a contact person for the process.

**9. Conclusions and General Remarks Concerning the Project**

Component 4 is labor intensive and some additional missions might be needed in order to receive the mandatory results in the best possible way. This should be kept in mind when the savings are calculated in the project.

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**(Date and place) (Signature of Expert)**

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**(Date and place) (Signature of Expert)**