

**EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT REPORT REGARDING
THE "EDUCA TEMPUS PROJECT" OF THE:**

**New Elective Course "The basics for
Pedagogical Assessment"**

For BA level students

**Naryn State University
(The Kyrgyz Republic)**

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I. INTRODUCTION OF THE PROCESS

The aim of the evaluation process is to assess compliance with previously established minimum criteria, and to identify the **strengths and weaknesses** of a programme. The process culminates with the setting out of **improvement recommendations** which should be implemented in order to improve the teaching concerned about the EDUCA tempus project and the implementation of the European Credit System (ECTS) in the Naryn State University (NSU).

The composition of the External Review Team is the following:

Academic and President of the committee:	Miguel Ángel Zabalza Beraza (University of Santiago de Compostela)
Student Representative of the committee	Alfredo Blanco Martínez (University of A Coruña)
Secretary of the Committee:	Luis Carlos Velón Sixto (ACSUG Quality Manager)

The **evaluation process** is organised into two stages:

1. SELF-ASSESSMENT

Self-assessment is a process whereby the education programme under assessment must reflect on, describe, analyse and evaluate its situation, basing its conclusions on objective facts.

2. EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT

The external assessment panel is appointed by ACSUG. The members of the panel analyse the self-assessment report and then the panel issues a report, in which the strong and weak points detected during the evaluation process are outlined, and also proposals for improvement for any aspects judged to require it, while highlighting any elements they consider to be critical or fundamental for quality assurance.

II. COMMENTS ABOUT THE SELF-ASSESSMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY

The NSU had written in a first moment a self-assessment report, including only some information of the subject "Basics of pedagogical assessment", and because of this it was impossible for the review team to analyze the implementation of the European credit system (ECTS) in the degree and in the university.

Taking into account that the previous situation could be motivated by a misunderstanding, the review team decided to give the possibility to NSU to send a new self-assessment report, and after the reception of this new report we are going to make comments about it.

The NSU has written a new self assessment report, including broad information of the "New Elective Course. The basics for Pedagogical Assessment": name of qualification, objectives of the program, languages used for teaching the course, very good description of the competences the students should acquire, number of credits of the study programme, basic information about the teaching staff, coordination and teaching methodologies, broad information about the resources for developing the course.

The review team can conclude that the university made a good job preparing the self assessment report. Nevertheless, the report could have been even better with the inclusion of the following information:

- Distribution of the subjects during the academic years and description of each subject.
- More information about the teaching staff.
- More information about the student mobility.
- Number of new students.
- Information about possible labour insertion of the students
- More information about the participation of the students in the university (fulfilment of evaluation questionnaires, etc)

III. COMMENTS ABOUT THE EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT

1. POSITIVE REMARKS

We want to emphasize some positive remarks detected during the external evaluation.

- **The interest of the governing of the university to change the teaching methodology according the European credit system. We consider in positive terms the pilot project carried out before the implementation of the new credit system in all the degrees.**
- **The self analysis made by the university to identify the areas for improvement regarding the EDUCA project, taking into account especially that the NSU decided to make again the self assessment report including broad information about the course.**

- The information provided about the teaching staff normative is considered in a positive way because of the promotion of the PhD and the participation of teachers with professional experience in the field of knowledge of the subjects.

We encourage the university to put in practice the normative and to work with the teachers in the implementation of the new European credit system: describing the competencies, with new teaching methodologies and with a positive orientation to the educational innovation.

- In the self assessment report there were included some comments about the procedure for the distance learning and the independent work of the students. We encourage the university to continue working in this aim.

- The number of hours of practices in schools (4 weeks in the 6th semester and 7 weeks in the 7th semester) is considered appropriate.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

We want to make also recommendations and opportunities for improvement, even more, taking into account the recent implementation of the new credit system (2012) and that some actions are still starting to initiate.

STUDY PROGRAMME

- It would have been necessary the information of the distribution of the subjects during the academic years and description of each subject to analyze deeply the study program and to make specific recommendations, but the inclusion of a specific course in pedagogical assessment is considered in a positive way.

- We don't know really the structure of the study programme, but as a general remark, the review team recommends to include some elective modules in the last academic years of the degree to make possible the elective and more specific training of the students according to the new training approaches that emphasize the need to strengthen the autonomy of students.

- It is important to improve in general the English level of all the groups of interest at the university to make easier the student mobility and their future labour insertion.

STUDENTS

- The engagement of the students in the learning and teaching processes is crucial to the continuous quality improvement, so we recommend to expand, where possible, the areas of decision-making in which they can intervene.
- In order to improve the quality assurance systems, it could be positive the development of satisfaction surveys for teachers, students and administrative staff. We suggest using the online tools available for making surveys to make easier filling them and to guarantee the anonymity.
- It is important to establish procedures to make the monitoring of the graduates and their labour insertion: Data base of graduates, labour insertion studies, implementation of a job listing, etc.

RESOURCES

- To increase the use of new technologies in order to make easier the independent work of students and the control of it by the teachers (virtual networks, intranet, blogs, forums, and social media).
- It is really important to improve the public information of the degree, especially through the website.
- The review team considers that the participation of the university in the EDUCA project (and other similar collaboration projects) is a great possibility to impulse the interchange of information between the countries of the region and the European Higher Education Area and it could boost the mobility.
- To continue improving the academic resources (books, computers, laboratories, etc) in order to reinforce the student learning.