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PAQUALITY: Public Administration Education Quality Enhancement

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Project Multiplier Event E6 -Virtual

Public Administration Education Quality Enhancement in Hungary

PROMOTING QUALITY ASSURANCE IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION RELATED HIGHER EDUCATION IN HUNGARY

workshop organized

by Corvinus University of Budapest

SUMMARY

The aim of the workshop was to present, disseminate and discuss the results of the PAQuality project and to critically evaluate the future opportunity for further development of Hungarian public administration education programs in line with the European standards and explore the opportunities for international accreditation. In this frame the following main questions and topics were addressed during the presentations and discussions:

- Introduction of NISPAcee as the consortium leader and the NISPAcee's role in creating network among PA experts, academics and practitioners in the CEE region.
- Introduction of the PAQ project

- Assessing the methodology and subjects of PA education and its relevance for practice in Hungary,
- What kind of competencies are required by the main employers / government institution from the qualified civil servants?
- Which skills and competences have the students developed during the different PA study programmes, and to what extent?
- To what extent did the acquired competences match competencies need in graduates' daily work?
- What is EAPAA ? How does it operate? What are the key principles, challenges and benefits of EAPAA accreditation?
- Lessons have been learnt during the accreditation process at the Corvinus University.

The workshop participants were program managers representing PA related programs in HEIs, academics working on the field of PA, potential employers of graduated students representing government organizations, and specialists in the areas related to accreditation such as Hungarian Accreditation Board or academic staff has already experience with international accreditation. (Find attached the participant list)

Please , NOTE: Due to the fact that there are only three universities running PA education program in Hungary the number of relevant stakeholders who were invited to the event was limited.

The PAQ outputs (especially a summary of reports on IO1 and IO3) are shared and circulated among participants. Participants are encouraged to share their experiences and opinion on the subject from their institutional point of views.

The Vice – Rector of National University of Public Service (NUPS), Norbert Kis stated that he is very enthusiastic about the results and research of the project, he believes that diversity of PA educational programs is very useful. Since the labor market, actually the government itself, is less and less able to give a clear direction on what the market's needs and what kind of knowledge and competences are expected from graduated students. So there is a kind of HR crisis emerged in the last decades. Hence, there is a growing pressure and responsibilities on universities and program managers. It makes difficult to define the conditions and substantial criteria for PA training programs and education. The NUPS has

also these challenges and this project is a huge help for them to find their positions in PA education market.

György Kiss the head of the PhD program at the NUPS and also program manager of an PA MA program explained that there is a high complexity in PA education programs. Many program curricula are still filled up with too many extra “buffer” subjects that are not so relevant in the program. And there are other disciplines or subjects that are still missing from the curricula even though they would be very useful for the practice such as sustainable development. In Hungary, the purely legal approach has a tradition in PA education, but there is a tendency to move beyond and apply other approaches to the education. It is also important for students to be aware of what competencies are available and where they can utilize them.

Attila Bartha added that several traditions are present at the same time in Hungary. The Anglo-Saxon approach has been emerged in many schools as well which also focusing on the market types mechanism (New Public Management). In CEE countries, such as Hungary, the ethos in the public sector is still traditionally high.

Györgyi Nyikos stated the importance to find a balance between scientific approach and practical knowledge when designing a PA educational program. Éva Kovács added that it seems more and more demand from the labour market for dual /more on- the – work training programs.

Kiss Norbert expressed about EAPAA accreditation practice that all accreditation system defines a kind of “elite club”. But there is a question we need to consider whether or not there is a good recipe for developing the curriculum of public administration program in the higher education? Would it be good to have a specific curriculum which suits everywhere, or is it not necessary to define one?

The representatives of NUPS have not identified any special program that they would like to accreditate internationally in special, but NUPS has already an experience with international accreditation with one program, so they see it as an opportunity in the future.

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