

Summary of the National Survey SLOVAK REPUBLIC

Higher education institutions in the Slovak Republic provide the study programmes at **three levels**: the Bachelor's study programme, the Magister's (or Engineer's and Doctor's) study programme and the PhD. study programme. Higher education institutions award the following **academic degrees**:

1st level is Bachelor, 2nd level is Master and 3rd level is Doctor.

Study at the Slovak higher education institutions is based on a **credit system**. The standard load of the student for the entire academic year is expressed by number of 60 credits, for semester 30 credits and for trimester 20 credits.

There are **three types** of higher education institutions in the Slovak Republic: public (20), state (3) and private (10) higher education institutions.

The system and situation of the joint degree study programmes is explained in the Act No. 363/2007 of The Call. Higher education institution can provide the study programme in cooperation with other higher education institutions including HEIs abroad. Cooperating HEIs participate in setting the joint study programme, selection of students and decision making on completing of conditions of duly finishing of the study.

The conditions of cooperation are stipulated by the agreement of the relevant HEIs. The agreement settles especially the conditions of selections of students, details about the organisation of study, awarding of academic degree and details of the documentation about the graduation.

That means that pursuant to the law the recognition of study and the issuing of academic degrees and the form of them are up to the head of each participating HEI.

However, the reality is different. There is a need of extra accreditation of the whole joint study programme even if the individual parts thereof are accredited on the national level. On the basis of the initiative of the Slovak EM NS there are the negotiations between the Ministry of Education and the Accreditation Commission about simplification of accreditation of the joint study programmes at the moment.

Slovak higher education institutions participate mainly in ERASMUS – Intensive programmes, they actively work in the frame of the Fond NIL and CEEPUS.

However, there is not such optimistic situation concerning ERASMUS MUNDUS projects. At the moment, since the second phase has been running, there is only one higher education institution actively participating in the Erasmus Mundus programme, Action 1. University of Agriculture in Nitra is a satellite partner providing a case study. It is the EMMC project “**IMRD, International Master of Science in Rural Development**”. This project is running since 2004 and has been prolonged.

After EMAP training seminars we have one application submitted under Action 1 (and the first application submitted under Action 2 ever).

The consortia for the training seminars in the frame of the EMAP project were founded on the basis of intensive search and exploration of existing IP programmes, submitted and not successful EMMC

projects, CD projects, CEEPUS and NIL programmes. Effective sources were even the individual web pages of the Slovak Higher Education Institutions.

The first consortium selected for the training seminar in Prague was found on internet on the basis of already accredited double degree with the French partner. We contacted the person in charge and the result is the only submitted EMMC project under the call 2010.

The second consortium selected for Larnaka seminar was contacted on the basis of their IP project which has been running for 3 years. They declared in their IP the future preparation of the joint study programme and this was the reason why we decided to contact them. After the seminar in Larnaka they finally realized that the best way for them would be to prepare their application more precisely and to submit it in the next call in 2011.

The situation in the Slovak Republic is not very optimistic but also thanks to EMAP project we still hope that it turns better, step by step. Our higher education institutions have to realize that the main condition for internationalisation is just to open to the world, accept new challenges, learn and try.

In the frame of EMAP project in cooperation with our well experienced colleagues we trained two consortia and we hope that project EMAP is going to continue in its second volume. The aim is to find next HEIs who will submit the application forms for the EMMC and even the EMJD programmes.

In order to fulfil this aim the first steps have been made. The Slovak EM NS prepared the questionnaire and distributed it to the HEIs in Slovakia to find out the actual situation about preparation of joint study programmes, to define the most crucial questions to discuss on the planned information seminars and to find the next potential consortia for the future EMAP II.