

**PROJECT HRDSOP 155/1.2./S/139950 “IMPROVING QUALITY OF NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHANGING KNOWLEDGE-BASED SOCIETY AND LABOR MARKET DYNAMICS”**

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**Abstract**

*Paper presents the progress of the project IMPROVING QUALITY OF NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHANGING KNOWLEDGE-BASED SOCIETY AND LABOR MARKET DYNAMICS, co-financed by European Social Fund through the Human Resources Development Sectoral Operational Programme 2007-2013, implemented by the Ministry of Education, University of Agronomical Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Bucharest, University Politehnica Bucharest, University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj Napoca, University Politehnica Timisoara.*

*The project aims to reorganize and improve the national higher educational system by developing an implementing an integrated approach - National Higher Education Consortium and quality management by increasing access to higher education for a number of 1000 students and by delivering training programs to 500 key actors involved in university processes and activities. Relevant information about the project can be found at the address: [www.proiect-impact.ro](http://www.proiect-impact.ro).*

**Key words:** *quality management, National Higher Education Consortium, teachers lifelong learning, high education access*

**INTRODUCTION**

The lifelong learning education of human resources is the condition for performing a competitive labor market. A highly skilled workforce is essential to a knowledge-based competitive and sustainable economy. (National Development Programme 2007 – 2013, Lisabona Strategy, National Reference Strategic Framework 2007 – 2013, Study regarding the implementation of Bologna higher education process 2009). In the broader European plan for transforming the EU into a smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, which is based on the Europe 2020 Strategy, increasing employment and labor market participation rate is a major concern nationwide, necessitating the creation of a favorable labor markets for new jobs, improving adaptability of enterprises and workers, boosting employment and improving the quality and competitiveness of human resources entering the labor market and develop a permanent adaptation.

The specific objectives are:

- ❖ Strengthening innovation and reform in higher education system, by developing and implementing the National Higher Education Consortium between universities / public institutions / research centers / socio-economic environment in order to adapt the higher education system to the needs of the labor market and knowledge based society.
- ❖ Improving university management by developing a number of 10 tools / procedures / methodologies / mechanisms of quality management and by delivering training programs for 500 higher education key actors in order to increase the capacity of higher education institutions to provide higher qualifications according to labor market changes. ( Standards and Coordinates for Quality Insurance in the European Higher Education Area; Standards of Quality Assurance in Higher Education, Helsinki, 2005; Integrated Strategy for

Human Resource Development from the perspective of lifelong learning 2009-2020- Ministry of Labor, 2011)

- ❖ Increasing access to higher education for a number of 1,000 students in order to promote and correlate higher education to labor market.

## **MATERIALS AND METHODS**

The project offers a systemic and strategic approach in the design and implementation of reforms in higher education. The project aims to improve managerial training of teachers in order to gain a strategic management, to improve relations with the socio-economic and facilitating access to higher education for vulnerable groups.

The project aims improving professional skills of key actors involved in the higher education system in order to improve university management and student services delivery by focusing on teaching-learning process. In order to achieve the improvement of university management, a team of very experienced experts developed a number of 12 courses dedicated to university teachers:

- Risk Management
- Human Resources Management
- Financial Management
- Time Management
- Strategic and Educational Management
- Quality Management
- Benchmarking
- Equal treatment and access in higher education and sustainable growth of higher education
- The impact of the usage of information technology in higher education, including e-learning
- European and national legislation and policies in higher education
- Develop study programs and innovative methods of teaching / learning in order to increase the relevance of qualifications in higher education

The added value of the project comes from the commissioning of the knowledge triangle by linking higher education, research and socio-economic environment. It aims at producing excellence, developing partnerships between socio-economic and higher education by

reforming the national system of higher education in accordance with labor market needs.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS TNR 12**

- 500 university teachers beneficiaries of several training courses – “ Risk Management”, “Human Resources Management”, “Financial Management”, “Time Management”, “Strategic and Educational Management”, “Quality Management”, “Benchmarking”, “Equal treatment and access in higher education and sustainable growth of higher education”, “The impact of the usage of information technology in higher education, including e-learning”, “European and national legislation and policies in higher education”, “Develop study programs and innovative methods of teaching / learning in order to increase the relevance of qualifications in higher education”.
- 21 universities members of the National Higher Education Consortium
- 1 comparative analysis between Higher Education Quality Management in Romania and Higher Education Quality Management in Europe
- 10 tools / procedures / methodologies / mechanisms of quality management developed
- 1000 students participants in “ Career Days” and “Open days”
- 4 peer learning meeting debating relevant subjects for national higher education system
- 1 seminary “Encouragement and improvement of vulnerable groups to high education”
- 4 National Training Centers dedicated to key actors in higher education

## **CONCLUSIONS TNR 12**

The National Higher Education Consortium will improve cooperation and interaction between universities, socio-economic and Ministry of Education in order to reform and lead to a competitive higher education for the

alignment to European standards and the needs of knowledge society.

The creation of elite of 500 key actors in higher education will lead to the modernization and to the restructuring of the national education system.

The development of the innovative mechanisms of “Career Days” an “Open Days” will increase access for all undergraduates to higher education.

The improvement of university quality management will reform the higher education system and it will promote higher standards in line with labor market needs.

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The content of this paper does not necessarily represent the official position of European Union or the Romanian Government.

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