The role of employers in improving the quality of educational activities

Work experience on the example of an accreditation agency "El baasy"
Independent accreditation agency
«El baasy»
Re: CEENQA membership
Düsseldorf, 30.10.2019

Manasbek Babakulov
Director
Independent accreditation agency "Elbaasý" (Elbaasý)
287/20 Kurmanzhan Datko
725500 Osh city
Kyrgyz Republic

Dear Manasbek Babakulov,

This letter is to certify that the independent accreditation agency "Elbaasý" (Elbaasý, Kyrgyz Republic) has been accepted as a member of the Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEENQA) by the General Assembly of CEENQA on 02 July 2019.

Sincerely,

Raphaela Font
Secretary General
Mission of the agency "El baasy"

• Assessment of the quality of educational organizations and educational programs based on accreditation standards;

• Providing guarantees to society and the individual of the quality of higher education of the activities of educational organizations.
The main external consumers of educational institutions' services are employers (enterprises, organizations, public authorities, etc.) who employ graduates of educational institutions and expect them to possess a set of professional competencies that meet the requirements of developing an innovative model of the economy and society.
The vocational education system today cannot develop as a closed system. Educational organizations and employers are links in the same chain. Employers must formulate requirements for both the quantity (target order) and the quality of training professional personnel, and educational institutions must meet these requirements.

However, as the results of monitoring of employers' satisfaction with the quality of training of graduates of educational organizations accredited by the Elbaasy agency show, many employers note the low level of special training in educational institutions, complain about the lack of practical knowledge and narrow professional horizons of young specialists.
To assess the educational activities of educational institutions, the Accreditation Agency "Elbaasy" has developed 60 criteria. More than half of the specified number of criteria provides for the participation of employers during the accreditation of educational programs (specialties).

In general, the respondents from among consumers of educational services of higher educational institutions believe that “the problem of high-quality training of specialists is due to the insufficient efficiency of interaction between educational institutions and employers,” the solution of which can be the following aspects:
• practical training of students in real workplaces;
• expanding the range of educational services of educational institutions in demand on the labor market;
• conducting by representatives of employers - practitioners training sessions for students of educational institutions, including lectures, seminars, master classes, business games, workshops, etc.;
• participation of employers in the final state certification of graduates;
• training of teachers in real workplaces;
• professional development of employers' representatives in educational institutions;
• participation of employers in scientific and practical conferences, educational projects, scientific sessions, days of science in educational institutions, etc.;
• employment of graduates;
• organization and joint participation in regional advisory councils and associations in order to improve the content of vocational education, taking into account the needs of specific regions, etc.
To meet the needs of employers and the compliance of graduates of educational institutions with their requirements, the latter were called by our agency to work closely with educational institutions during interviews to which they were invited during accreditation.

Summing up, it can be stated that the effectiveness of interaction between universities and employers in the interests of improving the quality of professional training increases significantly if educational institutions manage to transfer their strategic partners—employers from the position of outside observers and passive consumers of educational services to the position of interested participants in educational and innovative processes, in every possible way promoting the mastery by students of a complex of professional competencies that meet the requirements of the modern labor market.
Thank you for your attention!!!