

PRACTICES OF DL IN WB: THE ISSUE OF QUALITY

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Table of contents

- Introduction
- DL and QA in DL in:
 - SERBIA
 - THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
 - MONTENEGRO
- Conclusion

Introduction

- Idea of quality assurance is not new, neither our concern about it in education. All over the world there is an increasing interest in quality and standards, reflecting both the rapid growth of higher education and its cost to the public and the private purse.
- The transformation of European education and vocational training systems involves both the development of e-learning as a means to increase quality of learning as well as a need to increase the quality of e-learning itself
- The first experiences of e-learning were generally very disappointing for learners - the emphasis was put on technological aspects with unrealistic expectations that e-learning would reduce the costs of training and replace face-to-face learning
- Original issues concerning connectivity and infrastructure are now much less important and focus is being placed on content, quality, pedagogy, standards, teacher training and organisational change

SERBIA

- Distance learning
 - initiated through personal interests and international connections of university researchers interested in various forms of Internet-based technologies applied to education
 - They introduced the use of learning management systems - LMSs
 - Several universities in Serbia have started offering DL courses and, over time, some of them have accredited their DL programmes of study.
- QA in DL
 - official information from the Committee for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in higher education in Serbia (CAQA) that there are 6 DL programmes officially accredited at the university level in Serbia (3 with state universities, and 3 at a private university), as well as 4 at the college level.
 - inspection of current practices reveals that most courses claimed to be DL courses are actually offered in blended mode, with much of the course material available through Moodle or another LMS, but with few other educational components and processes (such as assessment and administration) supported in the DL mode.

MACEDONIA

- Distance learning
 - E-learning and distance learning in Macedonia were introduced mainly by several successful projects
 - They introduced the use of learning management systems - LMSs
 - the legislation in Macedonia does not consider e-learning and DL different from the conventional classroom based learning
- QA in DL
 - Quality assurance procedure of study programs is well defined in the High Education legislation acts.
 - According to the law, universities are obliged to obtain accreditation from Accreditation and Evaluation Body and periodically to perform external and internal evaluation.
 - Implementation of internal quality assurance procedures varies among universities.
 - new law for Higher Education does not consider the DL as specific way of learning and there is no any adopted QA standards for eLearning programs or DL programs.

MONTENEGRO

- Distance learning
 - E-learning and distance learning were introduced by successful projects of WUS Austria
 - They introduced the use of learning management systems – LMSs
 - the legislation does not consider e-learning and DL different from the conventional classroom based learning
- QA in DL
 - Unfortunately, there is no any adopted procedure for quality for any kind of programmes with elements of eLearning.
 - On all faculties QA for programmes with some kind of eLearning is internal and done as face to face lectures.
 - Council of higher education have not accredited any program for DL or some other form of eLearning in Montenegro yet

Conclusion

- QA is important for high education - traditional as well as for DL education
- Many defined standard and procedures on European level for QA in DL, but there is no unique accepted.
- All higher education institutions in the WB have some elements of distance learning in their education systems
- QA procedure is done as on the traditional, face to face programs
- Progress and intentions for further improvement of DL and adoption of QA in DL - especially through institutional framework and projects

Thank you!

Questions???

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