

ОЛЬГА ДАЦКО

м. Суми, Україна

МОЖЛИВОСТІ СПІВПРАЦІ У СФЕРІ ВИЩОЇ ОСВІТИ МІЖ
ЄВРОПЕЙСЬКОЮ АСОЦІАЦІЄЮ УНІВЕРСИТЕТІВ ТА АСОЦІАЦІЄЮ
АРАБСЬКИХ УНІВЕРСИТЕТІВ.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGHER EDUCATION COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION AND THE
ASSOCIATION OF ARAB UNIVERSITIES.

В статті обґрунтовується важливість вивчення досвіду Європейської асоціації університетів в процесі забезпечення якості вищої освіти. Аналізуються особливості співробітництва між Європейською асоціацією університетів та Асоціацією арабських університетів у сфері вищої освіти.

Ключові слова: *якість вищої освіти, партнерство, співробітництво, освітня організація.*

В статье обосновывается важность изучения опыта Европейской ассоциации университетов в процесс обеспечения качества высшего образования. Анализируются особенности сотрудничества между Европейской ассоциацией университетов и Ассоциацией арабских университетов.

Ключевые слова: *контроль качества высшего образования, образовательная организация, сотрудничество, партнерство, .*

The paper explains the importance of studying the experience of European University Association (EUA) in the process of ensuring the quality of higher education. It determines different directions of EUA's activities in higher education and in the process of promoting the policy of universities at different levels. The peculiarities of EUA's cooperation with the Association of Arab Universities in the sphere of education are analysed.

Key words: *higher education quality assurance, cooperation, partnership, educational organization.*

Undoubted is the fact that higher educational institutions of the present time aim to develop in the atmosphere of cooperation and partnership. European University Association is just that organization which supports the universities in their development, defends the interests of the universities-members, influences the national politics of higher education and promotes the cooperation in the sphere of higher education and research among Europe and the rest of the world. The organization works towards creation the only worldwide space of higher education where all teachers, scientists and students will easily exchange their experience, carry out new reforms and implement new initiatives [2].

It is necessary to stress that changes in the systems of higher education in the wide world space continually take place. It is the natural fact nowadays. That is why EUA has been recently expanded its experience beyond the European Union. It closely cooperates with AARU (Association of Arab Universities) in the field of higher education quality culture in Arabian countries.

Let's dwell upon some most important meetings of EUA and AARU (Association of Arab Universities). First meeting of EUA and the AARU took place at the University of Barcelona, Spain in May, 2013. The conference considered specific themes in Arab-European collaboration and compared recent higher education developments in both regions, including internationalization. The main topics for discussion were the following: higher education development trends in Europe and the Arab world; comparability and equivalence of higher education systems (Bologna as an example); employability (cultural, social and economic perspectives); research and doctoral education; internationalization of higher education; enhanced higher education collaboration between Europe and the Arab World. There were some presentations about the nature and history of the AARU and EUA, delivered by their respective Secretary Generals. The emphasis was put on strategies for enhancing

cooperation between the European and Arab universities in a changing world through dialogue, understanding, and exchange of knowledge [3].

Participants of the conference were the rectors, vice chancellors and presidents of universities or their delegates from both regions and this allowed for networking as well as bilateral and multilateral meetings and the signature of collaboration agreements.

The information above proves the EUA's input into worldwide higher education quality assurance. We also consider it essential to tell some words about AARU. The Association of Arab Universities is non-governmental organization that has an independent legal character. Its membership includes 260 Arab Universities. Its permanent headquarters is in Amman, Jordan. The association is one of the first ones in this region greatly interested in networking and interconnectivity among both Arab and European universities.

Two above-mentioned associations didn't stop their collaboration after their first meeting at Barcelona University. The second Arab-Euro higher education conference took place in Amman, 26 June 2014. The conference was devoted to the topic "Strengthening Arab-Euro University Collaboration: the importance of regional mobility". It was hosted by the Princess Sumaya University for Technology (PSUT) and organized jointly by the Association of Arab Universities (AARU), the European University Association (EUA) and the University of Barcelona. The conference discussions highlighted a number of important issues regarding mobility and bi-regional cooperation: two-way mobility should be enhanced, by encouraging more students and staff from Europe to study and teach in Arab universities; joint programmes should be increased as they are a strategic means to link institutions, generate collaborative teaching and ensure recognition of mobility periods abroad; mobility programmes and activities should be embedded in institutional strategies in order to render maximal impact [4].

It is necessary to admit that lately much is talked about the importance of cooperation between Arab and European higher education systems. While situated in very diverse national environments, they are facing the same challenges in developing meaningful partnerships for teaching and research that benefit their students and society at large. Arab and European universities are also increasingly seeking to develop further

cooperation between each other; this occurs against a specific regional, political and social background: the Arab world with its linguistic unity and a shared cultural and historic heritage, Europe in the context of 50 years of integration and with considerable challenges now facing the European Union. As part of the Arab-Euro Higher Education Conference (AECHE) platform, the El Gouna conference which took part in October 2015 focused on concrete case studies for exchange and collaboration between the Europe and the Arab world, and explored the development potential for the coming years.

So, we arrived at a conclusion that the idea of the Arab-Euro cooperation on higher education and the dialogue platform for Arab and European university leaders are lively for both regions and already extensive for geopolitical and economic reasons as well as proximity.

REFERENCES

1. Association of Arab and European Universities Projects [Electronic resource]. – URL : <http://www.aeua.net/home>
2. EUA. The voice of European Universities / QA Policy Development [Electronic resource]. – URL : <http://www.eua.be/policy-representation/quality-assurance/qa-policy-development>
3. First Arab-Euro University Conference on Higher Education [Electronic resource]. – URL: <http://www.eua.be/activities-services/events/past/2013/AECHE-Conference-2013/Home.aspx>
4. Higher education collaboration between Europe and the Arab world
By Gudrun Paulsdottir (EAIE Past President) [Electronic resource]. – URL: <http://www.eaie.org/blog/collaboration-between-europe-and-arab-world>