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# PRIORITY ISSUES OF INTERNATIONALIZATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION IN THE MODERN WORLD

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### **Abstract:**

Today, measures are being taken in the republic to internationalize higher education, to improve its quality and introduce international standards of education. In order for the education system to become a locomotive, it is necessary to create a new model of education, which would be based on the best world experience and centuries-old rich national traditions.

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According to economists, today 16 percent of the world's wealth comes from production, 20 percent from natural resources, and the remaining 64 percent of the wealth acquired by the world's population is directly related to human potential, knowledge and experience of people. In this sense, our country, which follows the path of advanced development and receives high marks in all areas, needs educated and experienced personnel who are mature in all respects.

Today, large-scale measures are being taken in the republic to internationalize higher education, to improve its quality and introduce international standards of education. In order for the education system to turn into a locomotive that would pull all sectors of the economy to new frontiers of development, it is necessary to create an education model that, based on the best world experience and not blindly copying all other people's samples, but only creatively and skillfully using it and the centuries-old rich national traditions in the field of education, it would reach the forefront of world development and would determine its specific directions and effectiveness.

The Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On Approval of the Concept for the Development of the Higher Education System of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030" states that "at least 10 higher educational institutions operate in the country (Academic Ranking of World Universities), included in the list of 1000 best universities in the world .1 It is also planned to transfer

 $^{1}$ The concept of development of the system of higher education of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030 // Norma Uz. URL :

https://nrm.uz/contentf?doc=587433\_koncepciya\_razvitiya\_sistemy\_narodnogo\_obrazovaniya\_ \_ respubliki\_uzbekistan\_do\_2030\_goda\_(prilojenie\_n\_1\_k\_ukazu\_prezidenta\_ruz\_ot\_29\_04\_2019\_g\_n\_up-5712)

85% of all higher educational institutions of the country to the credit-modular system by 2030, including 25 universities in the 2020/2021 academic year.

In recent years, a number of Decrees and resolutions of the government have been adopted, creating a solid foundation for this. The system of preschool, general and higher education is being updated, the Law "On Science and Scientific Activities" of October 29, 2019 has been adopted and is being consistently implemented.

The main goals set in these documents are the cardinal improvement of the higher education system, a radical revision of the content of training programs and its approximation to the level of international standards.

To achieve this goal, the higher educational institutions of the country have set priority tasks, which include: advanced training of the teaching staff; creation of new curricula, modern educational and methodological literature for various areas of education; gradual transfer of the educational process to a credit-module system: development of a methodology for calculating credits, taking into account the experience of the EU and ECTS, establishing the possibility for students to choose academic disciplines by analogy with universities EU; wide participation of faculty and students in foreign exchange programs and trainings; invitation of foreign teachers and professors to work in the universities of the republic in order to improve the educational process and exchange experience; ensuring the publication of articles by professors-teachers, scientific applicants, doctoral students, undergraduate and graduate students in reputable international scientific journals of the Scopus and Web database of Science, increasing the citation rates of articles, as well as the gradual inclusion of republican scientific journals in the international database of scientific and technical data; ensuring the academic independence of universities; increasing the investment attractiveness of higher education, attracting foreign educational and scientific technologies, creating technology parks and start-ups in universities; improving the infrastructure and material and technical base of universities, including through the widespread attraction of concessional funds from international financial institutions, the gradual transfer of universities to a self-financing system and ensuring their financial stability.

To implement the tasks set, higher education in Uzbekistan is actively developing international cooperation. Thus, joint educational institutions are being created, foreign teachers and scientists are involved in the learning process in the universities of the republic: academic mobility of both teachers and students is developing; joint research activities are carried out, international conferences are organized on topical issues in the field of higher education, information technology, resource and energy conservation.

These measures made it possible to significantly increase the number of universities in the republic. As a result, over the past four years, 43 new higher educational institutions have been created in the country, the total number of which today is 159. Universities of Uzbekistan, working side by side with branches of foreign universities, adopt advanced teaching technologies, progressive management methods; teachers have the opportunity to work and improve their skills in these universities.

One of the important measures for the development of international cooperation is credit mobility. Student mobility in Uzbekistan is carried out within the framework of political, economic and academic inter-university partnerships, and students can enter foreign universities on their own initiative. In addition, the mobility of students and teachers of Uzbekistan is carried out within the framework of international programs, such as the TEMPUS and ERASMUS + programs organized as part of the Bologna process of the European Union, the Fulbright educational exchange program student USA, DAAD Germany, programs of the German Society for International Cooperation GIZ , Chievening Program of Great Britain, educational exchange programs of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan, as well as various programs of China, Spain, Russian Federation.



Thanks to these programs, hundreds of teachers and students of Uzbekistan have the opportunity to get acquainted with the best international practices in the higher education system, acquire new knowledge and skills, improve their skills in the world's leading universities. This will help to improve the statistics of scientific activity in Uzbekistan. According to 2020 statistics, Uzbekistan ranked 99th in the world according to published articles in the Web database of science 2.

I would especially like to note that during the first Uzbek - Russian educational forum, held in the city of Tashkent in October 2019, under the motto "New personnel for the new economy", the universities of Uzbekistan and Russia signed about 130 agreements and contracts. Under these agreements, specific "road maps" have been developed for the creation of branches and joint educational programs.

Samarkand Institute of Economics and Service is one of the universities actively implementing these transformations. The Institute, being the only higher education institution in the republic specializing in the training of economic personnel for the service sector, actively implements double degree programs with foreign universities. Thus, the institute implements joint training programs with Kazan Federal University, with Vladimir and Tambov State Universities - in the educational direction "trade business". In the future, the institute plans to organize training under double degree programs with the Kuban State University, with which a memorandum on the exchange of personnel and relevant agreements have already been signed.

The Samarkand Institute of Economics and Service, like many other universities in Uzbekistan, participates in the Tempus and Erasmus + programs. So in recent years, within the framework of these programs, such projects have been implemented as UQASE - the Uzbek system of quality assurance in higher education, PERSEUS - Creation of public benefit universities on the principle of "Research-Science-Production", QAPD - Improvement of the quality assurance system of education through professional development of academic leaders, UZDOC - Improving the quality of doctoral studies in universities in Uzbekistan, CANEM I and CANEM II - Central Asian Network of Economics and Management, KA 107 - International Credit Mobility (University of Granada and University of Las Palmas ), Great Silk Road - Peoples' Friendship University of Russia, DECIDE - Development of services for people with disabilities.3 The Institute has cooperation agreements with 32 foreign universities in Spain, Belgium, the Czech Republic, Russia, India, Indonesia and other countries, in accordance with which joint conferences are held, online lectures are organized, and the exchange of students and teachers is organized.

In the context of the ongoing measures to reform the education system, there are already certain positive results:

- > entering universities is growing;
- > new educational institutions are being created, including branches of foreign universities;
- the requirements for the organization of the educational process are increasing;
- > a system of additional payments to teaching staff is being established;
- > expanding the rights and independence of educational institutions;
- introduction of the credit module of the ECTS system in universities, etc.

The introduction of a credit-modular system in higher education will improve the quality of education, ensure transparency, eliminate corruption, reveal the true knowledge of the student and create a basis for independent study and work of students. Today, the European credit system is practiced in almost all higher education institutions. The credit system of education increases the exchange of students.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>Uzbekistan: Overview of the Higher Education System. Erasmus +. February 2016 http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/education/Eurydice/eurypedia\_en.\_\_php



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>http://uzscience.uz/docs/news/Web%20of%20science/report-2017.pdf

Because loans taken from one university count towards another, and students can transfer from one university to another without losing credit. It is this system that allows Uzbek students to continue their studies at leading foreign universities and eliminate complex bureaucratic barriers.

Significant number of measures are being taken to form a competitive environment in the field of education. So, for example, the approach to the introduction of public-private partnerships in the system of secondary education does not correspond to the current situation. It is illogical to shift the main part of participation in this process onto the shoulders of private entrepreneurs, if only because the sphere is not sufficiently protected on the legislative basis. It is enough to change approaches to the organization of microzones and increase the shift ratio so that in every city and region of the republic there is an opportunity to release and transfer the premises of several schools to private investors. In the meantime, the situation is such that only a few rural areas and small towns in Uzbekistan have secondary educational institutions based on public-private partnerships.

At the same time, the study of the organization of international cooperation of universities in Uzbekistan made it possible to identify the main problems they face. This is, first of all, the low level of knowledge of a foreign language by teachers and students, which makes it difficult for them to actively participate in the process of academic exchange. An important problem is the lack of experience and low competence of teachers, doctoral students, students in the development and implementation of joint international scientific, technical, educational projects. The lack of experience of teachers in ensuring the compatibility of educational programs with partner universities, the lack of a developed system for recalculating and accumulating credit units should also be noted.

Research shows that international cooperation is complex and not easy to achieve or maintain in a short time. From our point of view, the preparation for international cooperation is influenced by such factors as the relevance of competence and technological level, as well as the behavior, values and trust that need to be developed in order to achieve the internationalization of higher education; low motivation of the teaching staff in the development of educational programs for foreign partners or, in other words, the resistance of teachers against institutional changes; slow assimilation of knowledge by the education system in the rapid flow of information.

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