Impact of Quality Assurance System on Higher Education of Georgia (2005-2019)

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Background of Reforms:

➢ Post-soviet HE system;

➢ 300 HEIs;

➢ Few excellence clusters;

➢ Corruption;

➢ Autonomy – "no accountability";

➢ Outdated infrastructure;

➢ Limited international collaboration;

➢ Limited human resources;

➢ Etc.

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Pillars of Reforms:

➢ New Law on Higher Education – December, 2004;

➢ Unified exams;

➢ Bologna Process – May, 2005;

➢ Implementation of "Bologna Tools";

➢ Merging of several HEIs;

➢ Merging of Research Institutes with HEIs;

➢ **Quality Reform** – 2006 till present (**no end!**);

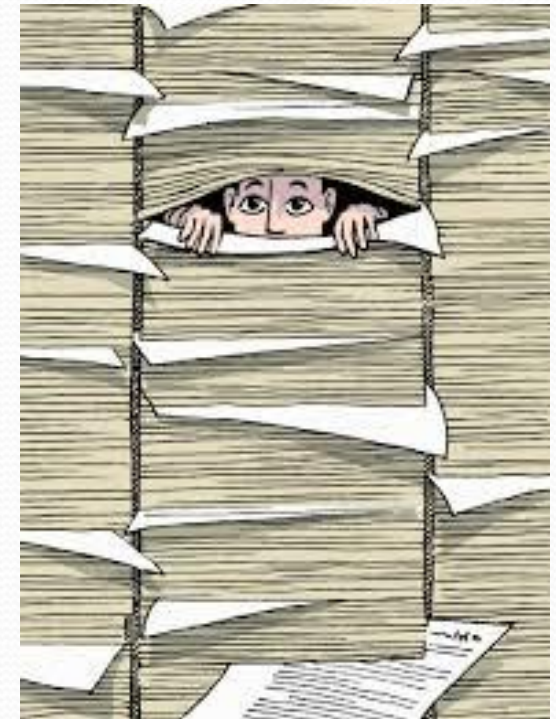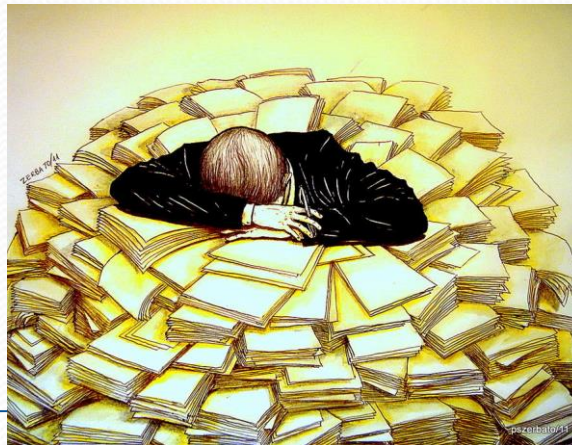➢ Joining European Higher Education Area – 2010;

Development of Quality Assurance System:

- Internal Quality Assurance – Obligatory;
- Institutional Accreditation – 2006-2010;
- Authorization (Institutional Accreditation + Licensing) and Program Accreditation – 2010-2017;
- Revised Authorization and Accreditation (ESG 2015) – 2018- till present;
- Involvement of International Experts – since 2018;
- Membership of ENQA – 2019;
- Recognition by WFME – 2019;
- Registration in EQAR – 2019.

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Do we need Quality Assurance?

➢ Do we need quality assurance while we have labour market regulating the quality of services including educational ones?

➢ Do we need paper work,

bureaucracy and additional expenses?

➢ Is there any

real benefit?

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Impact of Quality Assurance System – 1

➤ Reduced Number of HEIs:

2004 – 300 HEIs

2006 – 43 HEIs

2010 – 64 HEIs

2017 – 75 HEIs

2019 – 63 HEIs (8 Patriarchate HEIs)

➤ Reduced Number of Study Programs:

2010 – 2017: accreditation success rate 90%

2018 – approx. 300 programs closed (after authorization);

2018 – 52 accredited, 78 with progress report, 41 conditional, 29 refused.

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Impact of Quality Assurance - 2:

➢ Corruption eliminated;

➢ Teaching and research environment substantially improved;

➢ Improved, modernized and more inclusive infrastructure;

➢ Libraries enriched;

➢ Curricula and Syllabi modernized (Key concepts: student centeredness, flexibility, mobility, learning outcomes, connections with labour market etc.);

➢ Increased demand on qualified staff;

➢ Increased funding on research in private HEIs;

➢ Improved communication with external stakeholders;

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Impact of Quality Assurance - 3:

➤ International collaboration strengthened;

➤ International benchmarking introduced;

➤ Trust increased;

➤ Recognition of degrees/diplomas facilitated;

➤ Competitiveness of Georgian HEIs increased (joint programs, international students, incoming EU students etc.);

➤ Students rights to get high quality education better protected;

➤ First signs of **quality culture** appaired.

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Challenges of Quality Assurance:

➤ Political instability;

➤ Political will – pressure of elections;

➤ Pressure from educational business sector;

➤ Conflict of interest;

➤ Inconsistent decisions by Authorization and Accreditation Councils (changing of experts' assessments);

➤ Lack of of highly qualified and unbiased experts;

Real Benefits:

- **In order to meet the standards HEIs are obliged:**
  - ✓ To improve infrastructure;
  - ✓ To hire staff with higher qualifications;
  - ✓ To modernize the content and methodology;
  - ✓ To improve student services;
  - ✓ Etc.

- **The main result/impact - Improved teaching and learning environment**

- **Quality Assurance for:** happier students, more qualified and successful graduates, more competitive society;

Before Accreditation:

After Accreditation:

Before Accreditation:

After Accreditation:

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