

New phase in the assessment of internationalization: an audit with certification

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Background

The Campus Hungary audit project demonstrated that the methodological toolkit is suitable for a certification procedure.

According to the questionnaire there are institutions which are willing and able to participate in an audit with an internationalization certificate to be issued.

The procedure can serve for measuring the degree of internationalization by certain key indicators.

Concept of a two-phase assessment of the Hungarian institutions.

Methodology: a proposal

The institutions are assessed by the self-assessment report, qualitative and quantitative indicators and an expert team visit.

Criterion weights indicate the priorities of the experts and assure a balanced measurement.

The individual expert evaluations are integrated in a group decision with a consensus.

The institutions will be assigned to one of the quality classes in accordance with the weighted sum of their quality points.

Novelties

The basis is the audit with recommendations for improvement the internationalization activities of the institution. Two key changes:

- key indicators have to be provided,
- an assessment scale will be applied.

Key indicators:

- absolute and derivative data: an Excel table should be given
- relative measures eliminating the size-effect; distributions in order to analyze the composition

Minimum criteria: see the next 6 pages

Institutional engagement

- The institution has a long term internationalization plan / strategy approved by the Senate (as part of the Institutional Development Plan or separately)
- The institution has a position in the top management for international affairs
- There is a committee responsible for the implementation of the internationalization plan / strategy

Data: supporting documents

Quality assurance, feedback from the stakeholders

- Internationalization is a separate, independent module in the quality assurance system
- Student and staff evaluations about internationalization issues are collected and analyzed systematically

Data: supporting documents

Resources for internationalization purposes

- The budget has ear-marked funds for internationalization activities
- The institution has a unit responsible for internationalization affairs
- The institution has an international office responsible for the programs / courses taught in foreign languages and providing services for the incoming and outgoing students and staff
- There is a webpage in English
- The institution has international research projects, and visiting and / or permanent scholars from abroad
- The institution supports study trips and conference participation

Data: internationalization budget; number of foreign staff and visiting researchers; their participation in the programmes taught in foreign languages

Internationalization of the study programmes

- There are study programs (bachelor and / or master) fully or partly in foreign languages
- The Hungarian curriculum contains required materials in foreign languages
- The institution has an Erasmus Charter
- The institution has exchange agreements to support student and staff mobility

Data: number of degree programs in foreign languages; details of the programs (level, languages, number of Hungarian and international students); number of outgoing students (level, country); number of agreements with some details; number of outgoing staff for teaching abroad

Research

- Services for the incoming and outgoing students
- Services for the incoming and outgoing staff and researchers
- Regulated credit recognition
- Infrastructure for the international students and staff

Data: international projects (type, participation; funding; results); international conferences, workshops organized by the institutions; international publications

Support

- Services for the incoming and outgoing students
- Services for the incoming and outgoing staff and researchers
- Regulated credit recognition
- Infrastructure for the international students and staff

Data: information about the services and infrastructure

Weighting

Institutional engagement: 15

Quality assurance, feedback from the stakeholders: 10

Resources for internationalization purposes: 15

Internationalization of the study programmes: 25

Research: 25

Supporting internationalization: 10

Expert scores and the assessment procedure

Each expert gives an evaluation as to every criterion with a justification of 10-12 lines:

- the institution is on a development track according to the given criterion and its performance is good (1)
- the performance of the institution is excellent according to the given criterion (2)

The independent evaluations will be sent to the Tempus coordinator of the assessment.

Labelling

The final evaluation will be done in a consolidation meeting where the experts decide on each criterion giving 1 or 2 points. If the weighted sum of the final scores is:

- 100-150 points: **good** in internationalization – **silver label**
- 151-200 points: **excellent** in internationalization – **gold label**

Balancing priorities:

silver label: even if all dimensions have a score 1 – the entrance criteria would make it reasonable,

gold label: if and only if excellent in at least 4 dimensions, at least one of them should be teaching or research.

Application areas

Advantage in accessing certain funds

Entrance criteria or additional points in certain tender evaluations

Promotion tool for the institutions

Comparable to other measures of internationalization (benchmarking)

The certification can be offered by Tempus Foundation abroad

Group discussion IV: Audit with certification

- a) Is there a demand for the internationalization audit with certification / label? Who are the target groups? What could be the entrance requirements?
- b) What should be the main differences between the two types of audit?
- c) How to interpret the degree of institutional internationalization? Is it worth to use more than one label (good and excellent according to the proposal)?
- d) Dilemmas of the assessment: absolute vs. relative evaluation – considering a significant move from the status quo; comparison to the mission statement; benchmarking.
- e) Is an assessment report necessary? What could be the award period? Is there a need for periodical monitoring?
- f) Is there any institution or system level risk to be considered? How can the downsides be eliminated?

Group focus

- GREEN** Alternate goals of the audit phases. Possibility of building the two phases to each other. Feasibility.
- RED** What could be the differences in the methodology of the two types of audit?
- BLUE** Absolute vs. relative assessment. Key areas of assessment depending on the type of audit.
- YELLOW** Qualification scales, final assessment, application areas.