Students in QA
- Examples from Lebanon -

Students in focus:
Student as partners in higher education governance and quality assurance
Narxoz University, Almaty, Kazakhstan
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QA in the Lebanese HE

• Law governing the Lebanese HE (285/2014) mandates HEIs to engage in both internal and external QA processes and calls for the establishment of a national QA agency

• Since 2011, a draft law in the parliament for the establishment of a Lebanese QA agency for HE

• Lebanese HEIs undergo external evaluation and accreditation by International agencies
  – Both European and American

• Lack of national students Union
Students in QA in Lebanon

• ESG 2015
  – Standard 1.1 “Policy for QA”
    • departments, schools, faculties and other organisational units as well as those of institutional leadership, individual staff members and students to take on their responsibilities in quality assurance
  – Standard 2.4 “Peer-review experts”
    • External quality assurance should be carried out by groups of external experts that include (a) student member(s)

• Lebanese draft law on establishing a QA agency
  – Clause 13: Board of trustees to include 2 students
Students in QA in Lebanese HEIs

• In the HEIs
  – Students participate in the evaluation of courses
    • AUB, BAU, LAU, NDU, UOB, ...
    • Often online
    • Feedback to instructors
  – ... and programmes (exit surveys)
  – To my knowledge no evaluation of instructors
Students in QA in Lebanese HEIs

- Selected examples from HEIs
  - Focus group discussions to assess learning experiences [LAU]
    - Limited to graduating students
  - Students’ bodies collect information and share with their administration (autonomously or on demand) [UOB, LAU]
  - Special unit to support students involvement in QA processes [BAU]
    - Students QA Unit Association (SQAUA)
    - Disseminating the QA concept among students
    - Providing feedback about the impact of the process
  - National Survey for Student Engagement (NSSE) [LAU]
    - Assess efforts spent in learning
    - Assess how university deploys resources and organises activities
  - Alumni share information about preparedness for work [AUB, BAU, LAU, NDU, UOB, ...]
  - Feedback on the quality of the internships [AUB, BAU, LAU, NDU, UOB, ...]
Needs and Challenges

• Culture of student engagement = Process
  – Manage a process
    • Time constants
      – Students are meant to succeed and leave...
      – ... but will remain ambassadors forever
      – Seek graduating students to be on board for their experience
      – ... but those are to leave first even before getting the impact of their efforts
    • Balance between
      – partners and clients
      – review experts and source of information
      – Engagement and anonymous
      – perspectives
Needs and challenges

HEI

HE system

HEI

Exchange of Practices and pitfalls

mentoring

time

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Needs and Challenges

• Punctual needs:
  – Needs for
    • Training
    • Feedback about the impact

  – Challenges
    • Establishing a national system for QA
    • Structuring the students activities in general and the ones dedicated to QA in particular
Thank you