PRO-EAST: PROMOTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE EUR-ACE STANDARDS IN RUSSIA

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Russian Association for Engineering Education,
Cooperation in quality assurance to develop common criteria and methodologies is a key dimension of the Bologna process that the Russian Federation joined in September 2003.
The participation of RAEE in the EUR-ACE project and in the ENAEE activity as a full member has been an important step towards harmonization of the Russian national system for quality assurance in engineering education with the common European system of quality assurance being created within the context of the Bologna process.
The PRO-EAST project (2007) was realized as a complementary measure to the EUR-ACE project (2004–2006) aimed to elaboration of European system for accreditation of engineering programmes within the Bologna Process and the European Qualification Framework.
The main objective of the PRO-EAST project was the promotion and implementation of the EUR-ACE Standards in the Russian Federation for accrediting engineering programmes in Russian HEIs and awarding the "EUR-ACE Label" to accredited programmes.

The PRO-EAST project agenda included five stages.
Stage 1: Dissemination Seminar for representatives of Russian HEIs in Moscow, March 27-28, 2007 (more than 150 participants from 60 Russian HEIs.)

The programme of the Seminar included a Workshop for the RAEE Accreditation Centre experts.

As a result of this stage, the candidate programmes for EURACE accreditation were identified.
Stage 2: Training of Russian HEIs academic staff and preparation of self-evaluation reports.

Training visits at TPU, (06 -10 / 06 / 07 by Dr. Wasser, ASIIIN) and at USPTU (26 – 28 / 06 / 07 by Prof. Freeston, EC UK) were organized for presenting EUR-ACE Standards and advising academic staff (about 50 faculties) on preparation of self study reports.
Stage 3: Workshop for RAEE experts was organized in Rome, Italy, May 9 - 11, 2007.

There was a broad discussion of EUR-ACE Standards and Procedures, a sharing of experience of more of 20 experts in engineering programme accreditation and quality assurance from SEFI, FEANI, EC UK, CoPI, ASIIN and RAEE.
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**Stage 4: Accreditation visits to Russian HEIs.** The evaluations have been run by the panel included the peers from the RAEE and from European partners of the project. The representatives of the European agencies observed how the requirements of the EUR-ACE Framework Standards were incorporated into the RAEE accreditation criteria and implemented in the accreditation process.
**Stage 5:** The project was concluded with the final Dissemination Seminar, held in Moscow, November 20-22, 2007, within the Annual Forum “Quality Assurance of Professional Education” run by the Russian Ministry of Science and Education. The results of the PRO-EAST project were presented to about 280 participants and broadcasted to all Russian regions.
The PRO-EAST project contributed to the implementation of the EUR-ACE Standards in the Russian Federation through their dissemination to the broad engineering community and pilot awarding the EUR-ACE Labels to accredited programmes.

The EUR-ACE Labels are now awarded to 11 engineering programmes accredited by the RAEE Accreditation Centre.
The effective system of “EUR-ACE Label”, accepted in EHEA, will significantly contribute to the objectives of the Bologna process and facilitate the recognition of engineering graduates qualifications throughout Europe.
The RAEE participation in the EUR-ACE project and its follow-ups is an important step towards harmonization of Russian Higher Education and national system of accreditation in engineering education with the common European system of quality assurance being created within the context of the Bologna process.
THANK YOU