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LEBANON HIGHER EDUCATION STRUCTURE

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Abstract. Lebanon is among the small Arabian countries at East coast of the Mediterranean. Despite economic troubles, refugees problems and the series of war conflicts the state supports and develops its system of higher education that became the most huge in the region. Low degree of governmental influence and the absence of national wide system of quality assurance that are indicated in this paper as the main problems of the local university system.

Key words: Lebanon, quality assurance, higher education.

Аннотация. Ливан, расположенный на восточном побережье Средиземного моря, относится к малым арабским странам. Несмотря на экономические трудности, проблемы с беженцами, военными конфликтами государство поддерживает и стремится к развитию системы высшего образования, которая стала одной из самых сильных в регионе. Проведенное исследование местной университетской системы выявило две ее

важнейшие проблемы: низкий уровень влияния государства и отсутствие национальной системы обеспечения качества.

Ключевые слова: Ливан, обеспечение качества, высшее образование.

Lebanon is one of the small Arab countries at East coast of the Mediterranean. Its population is estimated to over 6 million. Number of Syrian is about 1.2 million and continues to rise. Tens year 450 thousand of Palestinians are living here. The refugees generate a number of problems in economic and politic including decrease of the GDP growth under tremendous public debt that is about 150% of GDP.

Despite these obstacles the Lebanon system of higher education is the hugest in the region. The Constitution of the country declares (article 10) the importance of education and gives some general principles of regulation in the sphere. The last is based on ensuring the freedom and the right for education for everybody as well as equality, accessibility, and the opportunities requirements of education for everyone. This base is wider than the constitutional rights in Belarus.

Under these principals there are 32 universities, 7 university colleges and 3 colleges for religious studies are operate in Lebanon. They run about 160 programs for 3-stage system of higher education that lead to bachelor, master and Ph.D. degrees. Duration of bachelor studies is 3 years, master degree demands 2 years more. A research based Ph.D. degree could be acquired after 3 years classing and research at least and it requires the publication of a dissertation.

There are some exceptions for complete professional diplomas. Teaching diploma requires 4 years of the first stage studies, while degree in engineering takes 4 or 5 years as well as bachelor diploma in physiotherapy. A degree in dentistry and pharmacy take 5 or 6 years. Finally, the longest period of study will be spent in universities by medical students.

Private sector dominates in the Lebanese higher education system. There are 31 private universities and the only public one that is the State Lebanese University. But the last is the hugest establishment that enrolls 1/3 of all the students. Among the other we could outline as big establishments Lebanese International University (enrolls about 9% of total), Beirut Arab University (6%) and Univerite Saint-Joseph (5%). One can see that the situation is very different to Belarusian system where the share of private universities is rather epsilon squared.

The most popular in Lebanon is studies in economics, statistics, accounting, and business (27% of the total number of students of the first stage), then run literature and humanities (15%). About 12% of students choose engineering and 9% prefer natural sciences.

The gender ratio in the Lebanese universities is 54%/46% in favor of female students that is extremely high for the region but it is similar to the Belarusian proportion.

In spite of high study cost there are about 14% of alien students that is also high indicator of good prestige of Lebanese Universities.

Financing of the system is provided from governmental source (mainly for the State Lebanese University where studies are almost free of charge), private and international funds, and tuition fees. The last for the first stage varied from \$14,000 to over \$50,000. The state support could be considered as too weak.

The governance of the higher education system is in responsibility of the Ministry of Education and Higher Education of Lebanon. But the only State Lebanese University is directly accredited by the Lebanese Government while private university could ask for accreditation and licensing from the Ministry. The same time a good number of them are accredited by foreign entities.

Weak governance has some negative consequences. First of all it concerns the model of higher education that is not a unit but falls to pieces of the Egyptian-Arab mode, or French, American, Canadian and German models with different educational ideas, concepts and learning outcomes. These originate the problem in student mobility and qualification recognition.

FEATURES OF TRAINING STUDENTS TOWARDS INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION

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Аннотация. В данной статье рассматривается вопрос о том, в чем трудность обучения межкультурной коммуникации в