On the Role of Professional Organizations in the Further Development Process of Study Programs

Michael Mayer, Florian Thiery, Julius Fintzen, Monika Przybilla and Katrin Heß (Germany)

Key words: Curricula; Education; Qualifications Frameworks; Educational Accreditation; Professional Organizations

SUMMARY

The further development of study courses is mainly driven by study courses themselves (e.g., curriculum), faculties (e.g., administrational processes), university administration (e.g., evaluation, quality management), and government organisations (e.g., educational accreditation), meeting the dynamic and globalised demands of society, research community, and employment market. Within the German system of higher education, external perspectives (e.g., independent experts) are explicitly considered during the quality assurance process of educational accreditation each 5-7 years, especially. In this frame, study courses mandate experts to generate valuable feedback on federal state dependent and university-specific quality measures. Within the state-wide process of educational accreditation, various experts are encouraged to give feedback based on their individual professional knowledge and experiences.

The paper is focusing on a very recent additional tool which involves professional organizations in the process of the further development of study courses. In the project DVWkon²GEOS, the multi-perspective Working Group 1 “Profession” of the German Association of Surveying (DVW) and the conference of geodesy students of German-speaking universities (KonGeoS) are cooperating in order to establish an independent and more standardized process perspective. Hereby, DVW working group members are analysing the qualification aims and the design of the curriculum of geodesy study courses – listed in the study course module catalogue – with respect to the discipline-specific qualification framework Geodesy and Geoinformation (FQR_GG), representing an external perspective. FQR_GG is developed based on the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) and the German Qualifications Framework (DQR). In addition, KonGeoS is coordinating the FQR_GG-based analysis of study courses carried out by very recent alumni, representing an internal perspective. In combination, DVWkon²GEOS thus has the potential to contribute additional external and internal perspectives to the process of further development of...
study courses.

Within the paper, a detailed description of the process consisting of online and workshop elements as well as most recent experiences are presented. During the FIG2020 meeting, the geodetic community is invited to give feedback to the project.