June 21, 2011 (Tuesday) 55th EOQ Congress

CONCURRENT SESSIONS
KEMPINSKI HOTEL CORVINUS

Tuesday 13:30 – 17:30 Erzsébet tér 7-8, Budapest V.

SALON BANDINI/MARZIO

9.1. EDUCATION OF QUALITY – QUALITY OF EDUCATION I.

13:30 - 15:00

Co-Organizer: Óbuda University

Session Chair: Zoltán Koczor, Óbuda University, Hungary

13.30 Opening by Zoltán Pokorni, Chairman of the Education Committee of the Hungarian Parliament

Pokorni, Zoltán (Hungary)

Born in 1962; graduated at Eötvös Loránd University, Faculty of Humanities & Philosophy, Budapest as a Literature and History Teacher. At first he taught at a secondary school for seven years and in 1988 he became a foundation member of the Teachers' Democratic Union. In October 1993 he joined FIDESZ (Young Democrats' Association) where he was commissioned as Head of the Education Political Department. Beginning from 1994 he was Vice President of FIDESZ, Member of Parliament (MP) and Faction Director. Between 1998-2001 he was Minister of Education making acquisition of the first diploma exempt from school fees. Also in this period institutional integration of universities was completed; central state support of science was significantly extended and special loan conditions were established for students. For the time being, he serves as Mayor and MP of the 12th District of Budapest. Since 2010 he is President of the Educational, Scientific and Research Commission of the Hungarian Parliament.

Quality in Education

Zoltán Pokorni Chairman of the Education Committee of the Hungarian Parliament

e-mail: zoltan.pokorni@parlament.hu

Hungary wants to break a heavy economic situation and an upswing – as shown by a lot of examples – should be based upon accessible public and higher education and professional training of top quality. Despite all difficulties, from a decisive point of view we are today in an easier situation as twenty years ago because a range of figures, informations and facts are available regarding the educational systems of other countries, why they are successful and effective and how their relations are connected with the economic development.

We started not from the nothing: during the past decade and a half a great deal of initiatives have been done that could provide a firm basis when examining, how the education level should be raised in order to guarantee the excellent quality in a long run.

The three-level system of curricular regulation is given (even it needs renewal), the two-level final (maturity) examination working with standard requirements as to one of its elements (even if not every government has operated it very well not obligating nor encouraging students and higher education institutions to choose this exam) as well as the nationwide competence measuring program.

There are numerous elements in higher education destined for warranting the quality of training, e.g. accreditation, institutional quality management systems or just the career observation of the graduated students (even if their operation is often criticized).

There were also initiatives that could not complete themselves because of certain causes, but new programs can be developed based upon the accumulated knowledge, experience and lessons. Such an initiative was the Comenius 2000 Public Education Quality Development Program (where beginning from the evolution of the partner focused attitude through the development of the Total Quality Management system reaching the multiplicator level was aimed at); such an initiative is the institution and teacher evaluation system running today still occasionally and not standardized. Several experiments have been made to renew teacher training, to make this profession more attractive, to remunerate teachers on a performance basis and to elaborate a career model for them.

Even at divergent levels, readiness and test grades tools to develop training quality are already available.

Task of the government and education management is now to systematize the above mentioned elements in order to provide the necessary conditions and supportive environment for the realization. As regards the achievements of control, evaluation and quality management activities, they have to be connected with measures dedicated to the transformation, maintenance as well as professional and financing support of the institutional systems.