

SUMY STATE UNIVERSITY'S POLICY FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE OF HIGHER EDUCATION ACCORDING TO THE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN THE EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION AREA (ESG 2015)

The main goal of Sumy State University (hereinafter referred to as «SumDU») is to train highly skilled, competitive graduates by combining the general and professional competencies in accordance with the existing and prospective needs of the society, the labor market and a personality.

SumDU consistently implements the model of the university, which is an active participant of the global educational and scientific area that envisages the harmonization of the educational and research activities, an active international cooperation, the generation and transfer of knowledge into business, the public services sector, the realization of the social mission through sports, culture, socially significant projects, which are defined in the basic normative document «Strategic development plan of Sumy State University for 2020-2026» (hereinafter referred to as «the Plan»). At the same time, the organization of the educational process at the university includes the following:

- the realization of the academic and humanistic functions of education aimed at the development of a personality, creative thinking skills, solving of the searching and problematic tasks, independent obtaining of new knowledge, being professionally mobile and competent;
- the priority of the fundamental component of the content of the educational process;
- educational disciplines orientation both on the provision of the universal and professional knowledge and on the formation of a common culture;
- ensuring of the interdisciplinary and complex training, its harmonization with the labor market.

Quality assurance system of the educational activity and quality of higher education of Sumy State University (hereinafter referred to as «internal quality assurance system, quality system») regulates the implementation of the procedures for ensuring the education quality assurance in accordance with the established principles.

The functioning of the internal quality assurance system is based on the principles of the Law of Ukraine «On Higher Education» and corresponds to the main goals and tasks specified in the University Statute and in the Plan.

At the same time the quality assurance system of SumDU operates in accordance with the procedures and criteria of the quality assurance in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), which are generally accepted within the Bologna Process and are defined

in the «Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area» (ESG 2015) and in other documents of European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), European University Association (EUA), European Association of Institutions in Higher Education (EURASHE) and European Student Information Bureau (ESIB).

The internal quality assurance system of SumDU also considers the orientation of the main indicators of generally accepted international and national rankings (QS WUR, Webometrics, U-Multirank and others) and the requirements of the national system of the external quality assurance of the educational activity and the quality of higher education in Ukraine. The quality assurance system is also oriented on the realization of the needs and rights the educational process participants. In accordance with the contemporary European practices, the internal quality assurance system of the university is based on the principles of publicity (transparency), academic integrity, competitiveness, flexibility and adaptability, and integrity.

The principle of publicity (transparency) is to provide all stakeholders of the educational process and community with the comprehensive information about SumDU activity, the structure and volume of the educational and professional training of the specialists, including the proposed programs and selection criteria for them, the expected outcomes of these programs, the qualifications provided, the quantitative and qualitative characteristics of the teaching staff, the training and evaluation procedures, etc.

According to **the principle of academic integrity**, the internal quality assurance system of SumDU stipulates the observance of the norms of academic ethics, corporate rules and value orientations, specified in the Code of Corporate Culture of SumDU, by all the participants of the educational process.

In the quality assurance system, **the competitiveness principle** is realized through the assessment of the potential and work level of the institutes, faculties, departments of SumDU in order to motivate the structural units to improve the quality of work in the main activities.

The principle of flexibility and adaptability is one of the priority principle of the internal quality assurance system of SumDU which envisages the possibility of dynamic and timely changes of the teaching and methodological basis, learning technologies in accordance with the world trends in the development of education and science, as well as adaptation to the needs of the modern labor market.

The principle of integrity of the internal quality assurance system is intended to ensure the combination of the educational, research and innovative components in the educational process as well as the consideration of the interdisciplinarity in the content and structure of the educational courses.

The quality assurance policy of SumDU is aimed at the «continuous

improvement» of the level of higher education and educational activity and is realized through the implementation of the appropriate measures and a wide range of internal procedures at all institutional levels of the university, namely:

- implementation of the concept of «student-centered» learning (ESG 1.3);
- application of the effective mechanisms for the design and approval of educational programmes (ESG 1.2);
- monitoring and periodic review of the educational programmes (ESG 1.9);
- assessment of the students of the university (ESG 1.3);
- human resources supply, assessment and advanced training or teaching staff (ESG 1.5);
- availability of the resources for the organization of the educational process (ESG 1.6);
- effective system for preventing and detecting of academic plagiarism in the research papers of staff and students of higher education institutions (ESG 1.1);
- use of information systems for effective management of educational process (ESG 1.7);
- public availability of information about educational programmes, higher education degrees and qualifications (ESG 1.8);
- implementation of clear mechanisms and procedure of admissions to the studies, recognition of learning and received qualifications (ESG 1.4);
- implementation of the performance analysis through ratings, internal and external audits (ESG 1.10);
- organizational support of documentation processing (ESG 1.7);
- compliance of the internal quality assurance system with the requirements of the external quality assurance system for higher education and educational activities (ESG 1.10).

Quality assurance of higher education and educational activities at SumDU is a continuous process. The performance of the internal quality assurance system is periodically evaluated in accordance with the criteria set by the active legislation order, the national and the university normative base.