

Valentin Pugach<sup>1</sup>  
Elena Syrtsova  
Olga Tokmakova

## ONLINE MODEL OF EDUCATION QUALITY ASSURANCE EQUASP IMPLEMENTATION: EXPERIENCE OF VYATKA STATE UNIVERSITY

**Article info:**

Received 22.04.2015  
Accepted 21.07.2015

UDC – 332.05

**Abstract:** *The article is devoted to the problem of assessing the quality of higher education. In the Russian Federation recently quality assessment of educational services provided by state-accredited universities is carried out by the state represented by the Ministry of education and science. State universities have simulated internal systems education quality assessment in accordance with the methodology proposed by the Ministry of education and science. Currently more attention is paid to the independent assessment of education quality which is the basis of professional public accreditation.*

*The project “EQUASP” financed within the framework of the TEMPUS programme is directed to the problem of implementing the methodology of the online model of independent higher education quality assessment in the practice of Russian universities. The proposed model for assessing the quality of education is based on usage of 5 standards.*

*The authors have done a comparative analysis of the model of higher education quality assessment existing in Vyatka State University and the model of education quality assessing offered by European universities-participants of the project EQUASP. The authors have presented the main results of investigation of this problem and some suggestions for improving the model of education quality assessment used by Vyatka State University.*

**Keywords:** *professional education, quality assessment of higher professional education, EQUASP model of education quality assessment, criteria for assessing the quality of higher professional education*

### 1. Introduction

Russian universities always pay enough

attention to the problem of quality of education. Lately there have been many publications about improving the quality of education and the need to introduce objective evaluations of this quality. However, the assessment of education quality is often considered very simplistic.

---

<sup>1</sup> Corresponding author: Valentin Pugach  
email: [rector@vyatsu.ru](mailto:rector@vyatsu.ru)

They mainly say only about assessing of students' individual achievements and the procedures of licensing, certification and accreditation of educational institutions. Meanwhile, the problem of education quality assessment is much deeper and more serious (Pugach *et al.*, 2015).

The need of education quality assessment in higher educational institutions has increased significantly in conditions of tightening competition among universities on national and international levels, of increasing demands for transparency and information openness of their activities. In particular it applies to public universities which receive funding from the state budget. The most important component of the evaluation is assessing the quality of education. According to article 11 of the universal declaration of UNESCO on higher education, the quality of higher education is a multidimensional concept, which should include all of its functions and activities: teaching and learning, research of scholars and postgraduates, staff, students, buildings, departments, equipment, services to the society and academic environment.

The quality of education is correspondence of education (as a result, as a process, as a social system) with diverse needs, interests of personality, society, state.

The quality of education is a set of consumer properties of educational services, providing the ability to meet the complex requirements to the comprehensive development of learner's personality. The main factors determining the quality of education are:

- pedagogical staff;
- training and methodological support;
- material and technical base;
- intellectual capacity of the institution;
- students and graduates (Shmyreva *et al.*, 2002).

The quality of education is an integral feature of the educational process and its results, expressing the measure of their

compliance with common society's ideas about what should be an educational process and what purposes it should serve. The quality of modern education is determined by the factors contributing to its social efficiency such as: the content, including the best achievements of spiritual culture and experience in a particular field of activity; high competence of teachers; innovative pedagogical technologies and material and technical base corresponding with them; humanistic orientation; entire satisfaction of people's need in knowledge.

In academician A. M. Novikov's opinion education quality evaluation (grading system) should be subdivided into education quality evaluation by the external environment (i.e. assessment of educational services consumers) and internal assessments of quality in the education system (Novikov and Novikov, 2014).

The internal assessment of education quality an educational organization accomplishes itself. A structural unit which is responsible for implementation of the study program prepares reports on the examination of education quality.

The external evaluation of education quality is carried out by:

- the state through the procedure of state accreditation of study programs;
- professional community through the procedure of professional public accreditation of study programs;
- enterprise customers through participation in professional public accreditation of study programs.

In the Russian Federation until recently assessment of quality of educational services which are provided by state-accredited universities has been accomplished by the state represented by the Ministry of education and science. State universities have modeled the internal system of education quality assessment in accordance with the methodology proposed by the Ministry of education and science. Currently

more attention is paid to the independent assessment of education quality which is the basis of public accreditation.

A number of European experts note the need for using the procedures of external evaluation of educational products quality development. In particular, Professor A. Squarzoni in his scientific writings (Stefani and Squarzoni, 2005; Squarzoni *et al.* 2007; Squarzoni, 2008; Squarzoni, 2009) reveals the peculiarities of study programs accreditation in Italy. The researcher proposes to base the process of study programs development and realization on usage of 5 quality standards. These standards form the basis of online model of education quality assessment EQUASP.

## 2. Problem Statement

Recognizing the high importance of improving the education quality, the need to improve the internal system of education quality assessment, search and involvement of independent experts in the procedure of external evaluation of education quality Vyatka State University is participating in the project EQUASP TEMPUS Project (543727-TEMPUS-1-2013-1-IT-TEMPUS-SMGR (2011-2503/001-001)) since 2013.

VyatSU project team had the following objectives:

- 1) to study VyatSU existing model of study programs quality assessment and to define the role and place in this system of online model of quality assurance of study programs offered by the project EQUASP;
- 2) determine the direction of changes in the existing model for applying the proposed TEMPUS EQUASP standards;
- 3) form the readiness of VyatSU staff to use methodology and procedures of definition, gathering, processing and presentation of information and statistical data to assess the quality

of educational programs management offered by EQUASP;

- 4) undertake the first stage of the experiment on implementing online model of education quality assurance based on the application of EQUASP standards A and B within development of the master program "Russian as a foreign language" by the order of Tianjin Foreign Studies University (China).

## 3. Description of Investigation

To solve the first object we reviewed VyatSU existing model of education quality assessment.

The model includes several components:

- self-examination of higher education organization (Министерство Образования и Науки Российской Федерации, 2013);
- state accreditation of study programs;
- independent evaluation of education quality in an educational organization.

During the process of self-examination Vyatka State University evaluates educational activities, the management system of the University, the content and quality of students training, the educational process, the employability of graduates, the quality of personnel, teaching, library and information management, logistics, functioning of the internal system of education quality assessment, and also analyzes VyatSU achievement of key performance indicators.

State accreditation is applied to study programs realized in accordance with Federal State Educational Standards by organizations which are allowed to fulfill educational activity (Government of the Russian Federation, 2013).

State accreditation is the result of accreditation expert examination, the main

object of which is to establish whether the content and quality of students training in the organization fulfilled educational activity of study programs claimed for state accreditation corresponds to Federal State Educational Standards.

During the process of accreditation expert examination all aspects of study program implementation are verified: fully availability of teaching materials, teaching staff correspondence with state requirements, availability of necessary equipment and others. Experts check up a significant number of documents: study programs, educational and methodical materials of each discipline, staffing, timetable, examination and test statements and other documents. Accreditation expert examination for higher education institution is a really difficult challenge because universities have to keep up to date a huge amount of information for several years of each program implementation.

Another component of the model of education quality assessment is independent evaluation of education quality in an educational organization. In accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation (The ministry of education and science of the Russian Federation, 2013) independent assessment of education quality is the evaluation procedure which is applied to educational institutions and implemented study programs in order to determine compliance of education to:

- the needs of individuals - consumers of educational services (including parents of minors being involved in pre-school, general and additional education of children and other programs, and adults enrolled in appropriate study programs) in assistance them in choice of educational organizations, study programs appropriate to individual capability of students, as well as determination of the level of learning outcomes of study programs;

- the needs of legal entities (including the educational organization) in determining the quality of study programs and necessary adjustments of these programs according to the results of the expert examination;
- founder, public associations, etc. in terms of rankings, other estimation procedures for subsequent development and implementation of complex of measures aimed at improving the competitiveness of organizations fulfilled educational activity, as well as to improve the quality of implemented study programs.

Independent assessment of education quality is carried out on the initiative of legal entities or individuals by involving organizations which have experience in this activity and use valid tools for the assessment procedures. However, the educational institution has the right to choose the organization (public, social, professional, autonomous, non-profit, non-governmental organization) which will facilitate obtaining of independent assessment.

Independent evaluation of education quality may be carried out in the form of ratings (rankings), other evaluation procedures for educational organizations of all types and study programs, including using the methodology and the results of international comparative investigations in education.

An independent evaluation of education quality can be applied to:

- study programs of an educational institution;
- conditions of realization of the educational process, the websites of educational organizations, etc.;
- educational outcomes.

As a participant of the procedure of independent evaluation of education quality Vyatka State University collects information on activity indicators, prepares public reports

and makes them available in the official electronic resources of the university in the Internet. The university annually provides open access in the Internet report about the results of self-examination. Action plans of improving the quality of VyatSU work is developed according to the results of independent evaluation of education quality. The results of independent evaluation of education quality are used by the university in order to solve the tasks outlined in basic study programs. The university provides openness and access to comprehensive information on implementation of independent evaluation of education quality at all its stages. Besides Vyatka State University also participates in national comparative monitoring studies.

In accordance with the legislation of the Russian Federation in the field of education (Pugach *et al.*, 2015) organizations and individual experts carrying out procedures of independent evaluation of education quality must:

- form a list of indicators of educational organizations activity proposed for evaluation, proposals for the periodicity, mechanisms for obtaining information;
- develop a procedure of assessment, control and measuring tools, techniques and other tools with the help of which independent evaluation of education quality is organized;
- analyze the findings of assessment procedures and form recommendations for the further development of educational organizations, municipal and regional education systems;
- develop methodology and fulfill rating of educational institutions and other assessment procedures;
- accomplish assessment of education quality by request of educational organizations (it is a systematic, independent and documented process, expert examination of the

quality of organization's educational activity, its units' activity, implemented study programs on the basis of submissions and assessment of conformity between actual condition of these objects and defined and agreed evaluation criteria;

- participate in the work of public councils to discuss the overall development strategy of independent quality assessment in the region, assessment results;
- participate in or develop electronic environment to organize evaluation procedures used with the aim of improving the efficiency and transparency of these procedures;
- participate (as agreed) in the procedure of state accreditation of educational activity;
- prepare analytical reports based on assessment procedures and results.

The existing model of education quality assessment is quite complex and multifaceted. Its operation involves regular collecting and processing of information about the condition of educational system, monitoring activity of organization by numerous qualitative characteristics. In our opinion implementing online model of education quality assessment EQUASP may serve as an integrating element of the system of quality assessment in higher education because it will help educational organization in processing and storage of massive data on processes of study programs realization, resources used for this purpose, results of activity of all subjects of educational process.

The main aim of EQUASP project is to promote the improvement of the quality of technological study programs through the adoption of internal quality assurance systems focused on the definition of learning outcomes and the definition and implementation of an online documentation

and monitoring system of the quality of study programs consistent with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG).

The tasks of EQUASP project are:

- to promote the design of student-centred technological study programs, focused on the definition of learning outcomes consistent with the needs of the interested parties;
- to bring the internal Quality Assurance (iQA) process of study programs in Russian Universities (RUU) into line with the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG) for QA.;
- to enhance quality of study programs in the Russian Federation and to increase their transparency and comparability, in order to allow all the interested parties to formulate an informed assessment of the educational process offered by study programs and to enhance mutual trust in the quality of study programs;
- to promote modernisation of higher education through an on-line documentation and monitoring system of study programs quality;
- to obtain recognition by the competent national authorities of the iQA system and of the on-line documentation and monitoring system as adequate systems for the QA of study programs, in order to guarantee their dissemination among all the universities of the Russian Federation and their sustainability.

During 2014 European and Russian participants of the consortium were working on improving standards proposed for implementation in the partner universities. This process was necessary due to significant differences in the educational legislation of different countries.

VyatSU project group analyzed the content of 5 proposed standards for assessing the quality of study programs management.

### **3.1. Standard A “Needs and Objectives” (educational needs of the labour market and other stakeholders, educational objectives, learning outcomes)**

VyatSU documentation system includes the following documents to ensure compliance with EQUASP standard A:

- Regulations of educational programs of bachelor, specialist, master degree and training of higher qualification personnel (approved by VyatSU rector’s order № 79 dated 11.03.2014);
- Regulations of the Board of Trustees of the University;
- Statistical report on requests in the Internet;
- Statistical report on the demand for the study program among the school and college graduates;
- Statistical report on the demand for the study program in the labour market (taking into account information on the websites of the employment centers);
- Statistical report on the number of citizens’ requests during the University admission, educational exhibitions and job fairs;
- Study program. Section "Brief description of the study program";
- Study program. Section "Characteristics of professional activity of graduates";
- Study program. Section "Requirements to the learning outcomes";
- Study program. Section “Brief characteristics of specialization”, specifying a form of clearly formulated general cultural and professional competences;

- Working schedule of the Board of Trustees of the University.

**3.2. Standard B “Educational process” (design and planning of the educational process, admission, recognition, progression and attestation, realization of the educational process)**

VyatSU documentation system includes the following documents to ensure compliance with EQUASP standard B:

- Academic mobility regulation;
- Annual self-inspection of study programs on the basis of the order of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation N 462 dated 14 June 2013;
- Classes Schedules;
- Competences matrix;
- Employer review for the study program;
- Exams Schedules;
- Locally created information service “Study Session”;
- Rector’s order for checking the students’ the final works/thesis for plagiarism;
- Rector’s order № 385 with the Annex “Regulations of the learners’ residual knowledge testing in FGEI HPE «Vyatka State University” dated 25.08.2014;
- Regulations of Assessment tools fund for identifying the level of competences formation for students and graduates of «Vyatka State University” for compliance with National (Federal) Education Standards of higher professional education (approved by rector’s order № 376 date 19.08.14);
- Regulations of course works (projects);
- Regulations of current control of students’ progress and interim attestation of VyatSU students

(approved by VyatSU rector’s order № 359 dated 07.08.2013);

- Regulations of educational programs of bachelor, specialist, master degree and training of higher qualification personnel (approved by VyatSU rector’s order № 79 dated 11.03.2014);
- Regulations of students transference to accelerating learning by study programs of higher education under the agreements for full-time and part-time forms of education;
- Regulations of the state final certification of study programs’ graduates (approved by VyatSU rector’s order № 432 dated 16.10.2012);
- Regulations of the teaching materials for course units of educational programs of higher professional education according to National (Federal) Education Standards in VyatSU (approved by VyatSU rector’s order № 5 dated 19.01.2012 and № 373 dated 14.09.2012);
- Regulations of VyatSU relations termination with students (approved by rector’s order #No.371 dated 23.08.2013 and corrected version No.368 dated 08.08.2014);
- Regulations of VyatSU relations termination with students (approved by rector’s order #No.371 dated 23.08.2013 and corrected version No.368 dated 08.08.2014);
- Regulations of VyatSU students’ transition and recognition (approved by rector’s order No.380 dated 29.08.2013);
- Rules (approved annually) for student admission;
- Rules for foreign citizens admission to the University;
- Scheduled inspection/audit plan of the Department;

- Scheduled inspection/audit plan of the Faculty;
- Study program. Section “Calendar and timetable of the course units”;
- Study program. Section “Curriculum”;
- Study program. Section “Program of the state final certification”;
- Study program. Section “Working programs of course units”;
- University’s policy concerning disabled students and students with disabilities.

### 3.3. Standard C “Resources” (teaching staff, facilities and support staff, student support services, partnerships, financial resources)

Information about teaching staff is available on VyatSU official website.

Qualification requirements for teaching staff are approved by the Ministry of Healthcare and Social Development of the Russian Federation No.1n dated 22.01.2011. Selection is based on the following criteria: education; work experience in an educational institution; work experience in professional area/specialization; academic degree; academic qualification.

Information about educational support staff (technicians, assistants, etc) is available in HR Department without open access.

Information about university facilities is available in a local information database. Annually updated information by the Studying Department includes: location (academic building); university department (structure) the facility belongs to; type and purpose (a classroom, a laboratory, a computer class, laboratory assistants, etc.); room number; total number of seats; work places; availability of web connection; total area; supply of audio-visual equipment; staff responsible for the audience condition with contacts.

Information about the library is available on the official website. The library has its own electronic system of book supply.

VyatSU provides the study process by equipped lecture and study rooms, facilities for practical classes, and also facilities for sports and physical training lessons.

Special offices helps students to organize their study and life at the university: Dean’s office, the Department for student admission and orientation, the Tutoring and Education Department, the Methodical Department, the Department for international communication, Regional centre for employment assistance to graduates as a part of Education Work and International Communication Division.

### 3.4. Standard D “Monitoring and Results” (entrance students, students’ learning, students’ progression in their studies, students’ opinion on the educational process, graduates’ placement, employed graduates’ and employers’ opinion on the graduates’ education)

VyatSU documentation system includes the following documents to ensure compliance with EQUASP standard D:

- Rules (approved annually) for student admission;
- The average score of the Unified State Examination;
- Regulations of Assessment tools fund for identifying the level of competences formation for students and graduates of «Vyatka State University” for compliance with National (Federal) Education Standards of higher professional education (approved by rector’s order № 376 date 19.08.14).

We use some locally created information services such as “Student”, “Study Session”, “Postgraduate”, “Employed graduates database”, provide personal access to private student’s area for “Students’Survey”. Annual



survey of graduates and employers is held at the university.

**3.5. Standard E “Management system” (policy and organization for quality assurance of study programs, management system of the study program, review, publicly availability of information)**

VyatSU has Policy for quality assurance. Self-inspection of study programs on the basis of the order of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation N 462 dated 14 June 2013 is held annually.

Today the University has no properly documented Regulations of the study program management. This process is currently based on the following principles:

- Level 1 – the Head of Department is in charge for conducting the study program (program development (design) and methodological support, teaching staff availability);
- Level 2 – the Dean (program approval and resourcing);
- Level 3 – pro-rector on educational and methodical work (regulatory support, coordination between study programs);
- Level 4 – the rector (general management of study programs development).

VyatSU’s study programs review are as follows:

- 1) annual self-inspection of study programs
- 2) annual review of the study programs at the Department according to Regulations of bachelor, specialist and master study programs implemented by «Vyatka State University» dated 28.02.2014.

Monitoring tools for study program review are locally created information services:

"iSURVEY", "iPUBLISHING", "Assessment tools funds", "Ratings", "Schedule details", "Work programs".

Study programs review results are presented in annual self-inspection reports of VyatSU.

Information on the VyatSU activities is presented on the official site in accordance with the regulations:

- Resolution of the Government of the Russian Federation №582 dated 10.07.2013 "On approval of the Rules of posting the information in the Internet and in the official website of the educational organization and updating information about educational organization";
- The order of Federal Education and Science Supervision Service of Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation No. 785 dated 29.05.2014 "Approval of requirements to the structure of the official website of the educational organization in information and telecommunications network "Internet" and a format for the presentation of information".

After analyzing EQUASP standards we made a comparative table of documents on study programs management used in Vyatka State University in accordance with Federal and local regulations and documents required in accordance with the standards EQUASP. This allowed us to conclude that the methodology for quality assessment of study programs applied by Vyatka State University and EQUASP are similar, packages of documents vary insignificantly. Thus, the implementation of standards EQUASP will not contradict the University model of education quality assessment, but it may assist in its improvement.

To solve the second problem we formulated strengths and weaknesses of VyatSU existing model of quality assurance of study programs. One of the first steps in improvement is identification and

assessment of weak spots and self-assessment (Nestic *et al.*, 2013).

### 3.6. Strong points of existing model of quality assurance of study programs used currently by VyatSU

1. Basic procedures of management system of the study programs are formalized and properly documented in official papers of 2 main levels:

- Federal legal regulations;
- locally created (in the University) normative documents.

2. There are a lot of locally created information systems used for storing and processing large amount of statistical information. The information systems of the University have different levels of access and meet safety standards for working with confidential information. Applied information resources allow obtaining various statistical reports on:

- educational process including cohort's admission, recognition and attestation;
- applicants - qualitatively and quantitatively;
- students progression;
- current learning results and final exams results;
- graduates' employment status, etc.

### 3.7. Weak points of existing model of quality assurance of study programs used currently in VyatSU

1. The procedure of interaction with employers on the development/ review of study programs is not regulated and not documented properly. At the moment it is a creative procedure when each study program developer (e.g. Department) arranges his communication with employers in individually developed way.

2. The lack of feedback from graduates/alumni can be observed so far. In most cases, the managing of study programs

ends up by final examinations of the graduates and their further employment. Only some Faculties have created Alumni Association and maintain long-term relationships with them, though this process is still occasional and incidental.

VyatSU project group elaborated some proposals to VyatSU Academic Council on improving the existing model for quality assurance of study programs for applying the proposed EQUASP standards and guidelines:

- 1) to start the experiment on the application of the proposed model for quality assurance of study programs;
- 2) to create a working group on improvement the procedure of interaction with employers on the development/ review of study programs;
- 3) to develop a system of feedback data collecting from study program graduates;
- 4) to develop a unified and properly documented system of interaction between the University and graduates/ alumni of study programs.

We think that it will be a new vector of changes in the existing model.

To solve the third problem a workshop devoted to the application of methodologies and procedures of definition, gathering, processing and presentation of information and statistical data to assess the quality of study programs management offered by EQUASP was held. Quality management is the principle of management which emphasizes that customer requirements are met and every person in the organization is involved with the full commitment of the top management (Srinivas and Swamy, 2013).

The seminar was attended by 12 deans, 54 heads of departments, 14 representatives of the administration of Vyatka State University. During the seminar the results of the project group working were presented,

possibilities and prospects of improving the quality of study programs management were discussed. The workshop participants expressed interest in the possibility of introducing on-line quality evaluation model of study programs management.

To solve the fourth problem the first (preliminary) stage of experiment on implementing online model of education quality assurance based on the application of EQUASP standards was held. Master degree program «Russian as a foreign language» was chosen as a basis of the experiment. The customer of the program is Tianjin Foreign

Studies University (China).

### 3.8. Stages of the experiment

1. Preparatory stage (main aims: to develop study program in accordance with customer requirements; to pass state accreditation of the program; to form necessary conditions for the program realization; to organize admission process). Implementation period is April-August of 2015.

The results of the experiment first stage realization are presented in the Table 1.

**Table 1.** Results of the experiment in first stage of realization

№	Activities	Implementation period	Executors	Results
<b>Standard A</b>				
1	Meeting of Vyatka State University Board of Trustees	02.03.2015	University administration	Establishment of a working group for interaction with the customer and developing study program
2	Development of the study program curriculum	March 2015	Department of Russian as a foreign language, the representatives of the customer	Study program curriculum approved by VyatSU and the customer
3	Development of a competency matrix of program graduates	March 2015	Department of Russian as a foreign language, the representatives of the customer	Competency matrix of program graduates approved by VyatSU and the customer
4	Preparation of courses programs	April 2015	Department of Russian as a foreign language	Approved set of courses programs
5	Preparation of test and diagnostic materials, including materials for entrance examinations, interim and final attestation	May 2015	Department of Russian as a foreign language	Approved set of test and diagnostic materials
6	State accreditation of the study program	19-23.06.2015	University administration, faculty, department	The order of Rosobrnadzor № 1426 from 19.08.2015 "On passage of state accreditation of educational programs"
<b>Standard B</b>				
1	Admission to the University	July-August 2015	Faculty, admission office	The order of the rector of VyatSU on enrolment of citizens for training at the University Study groups formed
2	Preparation of schedule for 2015-2016 academic year	August 2015	Faculty, educational management office	Approved schedule

**Table 1.** (continued)

№	Activities	Implementation period	Executors	Results
<i>Standard B</i>				
1	Selection of teachers of the study program	March 2015	Department of Russian as a foreign language	Approved list of teachers on the program Approved academic load for 2015-2016 academic year
2	Ordering classrooms for educational process	August 2015	Department of Russian as a foreign language, educational management office	Approved schedule for the autumn semester indicating the classrooms
3	Preparation of educational literature sets for students	August 2015	Department of Russian as a foreign language, VyatSU scientific library	Educational literature sets for students
4	Booking places in the VyatSU dormitory for students admitted to the University	August 2015	Faculty, campus administration	Rooms in dormitory ready for students

2. Performing stage (main aims: program realization; monitoring of quality assurance of the study program; carrying out all forms of assessment; monitoring of educational results). Implementation period is September of 2015 – July of 2017.

3. Analytical stage (main aims: identification of positive and negative factors in the process of study program realization; improvement of the study program content and the conditions of its realization; generalization and dissemination of the experience). Implementation period is August-September of 2017.

Thus, the first (preparatory) stage of the experiment on the application of EQUASP standards is completed. Since September of 2015 Vyatka State University will begin the next stage of the experiment. Application of EQUASP standards at the first stage allowed:

- 1) to optimize the existing at VyatSU model of development and realization of study programs;
- 2) provide a clear sequence of work of University structural units and staff;
- 3) increase the speed of management decision making;
- 4) fix all structural units responsibility for execution their specific work in the complex mechanism of study

program development and realization;

- 5) simplify the structural units interaction procedures under the overall task;
- 6) substantially reduce the time of study program development and preparatory period from 12 months to 6 months.

#### 4. Conclusions

According to the results of the research we can say that an on-line quality evaluation model of study programs management EQUASP can become an integrating element of the system of education quality assessment because it:

- 1) is based on a similar methodology of quality assessment of study programs management;
- 2) requires introduction of a documenting system largely match that used in Vyatka State University;
- 3) will simplify the collection, storage and processing of a large number of statistical data on the processes associated with the implementation of study programs at the university (at the moment 266 study programs

are realized in VyatSU, so point is of great significance for the university);

- 4) will help to improve such processes as interaction with alumni and employers, graduates and students survey of education quality.

Currently the standards A, B and partly C are approved during the experiment at VyatSU because only the first (preparatory) stage of the experiment has been finished. Further the standards C, D and E will be applied within

realization of master degree study program "Russian as a foreign language" by the order of Tianjin Foreign Studies University (China).

Thus, implementation of online model of education quality assessment EQUASP based on application of the five standards is an essential experience for Vyatka State University and it will be applied in development and realization of all new University study programs.

## References:

- Government of the Russian Federation, (2013). *The decree of the Government of the Russian Federation No. 1039*. Moscow: Government of the Russian Federation.
- Nestic, S., Stefanovic, M., Djordjevic, A., Arsovski, S., & Stojanovic, S. (2013). An assessment and optimization of quality of strategy process. *International Journal for Quality Research*, 7(4), 465-477.
- Novikov, A., & Novikov, D. (2014). *How to assess the quality of education*. Anovikov.ru. Retrieved 4 July 2015, from [http://www.anovikov.ru/artikle/kacth\\_obr.htm](http://www.anovikov.ru/artikle/kacth_obr.htm)
- Pugach, V., Syrtsova, E., & Tokmakova, O. (2015). The problem of implementing online model of education quality assessment EQUASP in practice of Russian Universities. In 9. *International Quality Conference. Conference manual* (pp. 401-407). Kragujevac: Center for Quality, Faculty of Engineering, University of Kragujevac.
- Shmyreva, N.A., Gubanova, M.I., & Kretzan, Z.V. (2002). *Pedagogical system: the scientific basis, management, development prospects*. Kemerovo.
- Squarzoni, A. (2008). Il sistema di accreditamento EUR-ACE: standard, procedure e comportamenti attesi. In *Conferenza dei Presidi delle Facoltà di Ingegneria - L'ACCREDITAMENTO DEGLI STUDI DI INGEGNERIA. IL PROGETTO EUR-ACE-* (pp. 73-104). Fisciano - Salerno: Cooperativa Editrice Universitaria Salernitana.
- Squarzoni, A. (2009). CRUI Approach to Quality Assurance of Study Programmes. In *Quality Enhancement: Experiences, Challenges and Perspectives for Armenian Higher Education*. Yerevan, Armenia.
- Squarzoni, A. *et al.* (2007). Quality assurance of the study programmes in Italian universities 2003- 2007: development and perspectives of a common model based on the European standard and guidelines. In *The 2nd European Quality Assurance Forum*. Rome: E4-Group.
- Srinivas, R., & Swamy, D. (2013). QUALITY MANAGEMENT PRACTICES IN RURAL AND URBAN Smes – A COMPARATIVE STUDY. *International Journal For Quality Research*, 7(4), 479-492.
- Stefani, E., & Squarzoni, A. (2005). *La certificazione CRUI come strumento di quality assurance: una lettura italiana del modello europeo, La Qualità nello Spazio Europeo dell'Istruzione Superiore*. Presentation, Ascoli Piceno.

The ministry of education and science of the Russian Federation. (2013). *Методические рекомендации по проведению независимой системы оценки качества работы образовательных организаций*. Moscow: The ministry of education and science of the Russian Federation.

Министерство Образования и Науки Российской Федерации. (2013). Retrieved 5 June 2015, from <http://минобрнауки.рф/документы/4030>

---

**Valentina Pugach**

Vyatka State University,  
Russia  
[rector@vyatsu.ru](mailto:rector@vyatsu.ru)

**Elena Syrtsova**

Vyatka State University,  
Institute of continuing  
education for Russian and  
foreign citizens  
Russia  
[elenasyrtsova@list.ru](mailto:elenasyrtsova@list.ru)

**Olga Tokmakova**

Vyatka State University,  
Russia  
[o.tokmakova@gmail.com](mailto:o.tokmakova@gmail.com)

---