

ABSTRACT

of the dissertation thesis by Yermek Komekbayev
«Development of standards for double-diploma education and their
implementation into the quality management system of higher education in the
Republic of Kazakhstan»
submitted for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the educational
program 8D07501 – «Standardization and product quality management»

Relevance of the Research

The relevance of the dissertation research is driven by the increasing role of internationalization, digitalization, and internal quality assurance mechanisms within the higher education system of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Under contemporary conditions, joint and double-degree educational programs have become not only a form of international academic cooperation but also an instrument for enhancing the quality of personnel training, academic mobility, institutional attractiveness, and the competitiveness of universities.

At the same time, the development of double-degree education in the Republic of Kazakhstan is accompanied by a number of systemic problems related to the lack of a unified standardized approach to the design, implementation, monitoring, and quality assessment of such programs. In practice, this is reflected in differing approaches to the alignment of curricula, recognition of learning outcomes, credit transfer, distribution of responsibilities between partner universities, and the documentation of student support procedures. In this regard, the development of methodological guidelines and an organization standard in the field of double-degree education represents a relevant scientific and applied task that is significant for the improvement of the higher education quality management system of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Research Objective

The objective of the dissertation research is to develop methodological guidelines and a standard for the implementation of double-degree education programs for subsequent integration into the higher education institutions of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Research Tasks

To achieve the stated objective, the following tasks were identified and addressed in the dissertation:

1. Conduct an analysis of the current state of double-degree education in the Republic of Kazakhstan and abroad;
2. Identify the characteristics of double-degree programs that have the greatest impact on the quality of the educational process and the sustainability of their implementation;
3. Systematize national and foreign regulatory documents governing joint and double-degree educational programs, and identify on this basis requirements suitable for standardization;

4. Develop a model of measurable quality indicators, methodological guidelines, and a documented procedure for integrating the double-degree education standard into the quality management system of a higher education institution.

Object of Research

The object of research is the regulatory documents governing double-degree education programs in the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Subject of Research

The subject of research is the development of standards and methodological guidelines for the implementation of double-degree education programs and their integration into the quality management system of higher education institutions of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

Research Methods

The methodological framework of the dissertation research is based on a mixed-methods research design, combining qualitative and quantitative approaches. The study employed content analysis of regulatory legal acts and internal university documents, a systematic review of scientific literature and international practices, a comparative analysis of double-degree education models in Kazakhstan, Europe, and Asia, a secondary analysis of statistical data on the development of double-degree programs, expert surveys, ranking of quality indicators, as well as modeling of the process scheme and a system of measurable indicators.

The quantitative processing of materials was based on descriptive statistics methods, comparison of indicator dynamics, and expert validation of the proposed model. The methods used ensured a comprehensive study of the subject of research and the validity of the developed scientific and practical results.

Scientific Results within the Framework of Dissertation Requirements

In the first part, an analysis of the state and development trends of double-degree education in the Republic of Kazakhstan was conducted. The demand for and modern models of double-degree programs were examined, the dynamics of their expansion and the geography of international partnerships were investigated, and the primary organizational and managerial problems arising during their implementation were identified. It is substantiated that the quantitative growth of double-degree programs necessitates a transition to standardized approaches in the field of quality management.

In the second part, international experience of double-degree education within the framework of the Bologna system, European, and Asian practices was studied. The features of developing and implementing double-degree programs abroad, approaches to curriculum alignment, mutual recognition of learning outcomes, organization of academic mobility, and quality assurance were identified. A comparative analysis of Kazakhstani, European, and Asian models of double-degree education was conducted.

In the third part, current trends in the development of double-degree education were investigated in the context of the digital agenda, international and national regulatory and policy frameworks, as well as quality management mechanisms. The necessity of considering double-degree education as an independent object of the university's quality management system was substantiated.

In the fourth part, the research methodology is disclosed, the materials and methods used in the dissertation work are presented, and approaches to the standardization and quality assurance of double-degree educational programs are substantiated. The systematization of mechanisms for the design, implementation, monitoring, and improvement of double-degree programs from the perspectives of process management and standardization was conducted.

In the fifth part, the main applied results of the research are presented. A model of measurable quality indicators for double-degree education was developed, methodological guidelines for higher education institutions were prepared, and a procedure for integrating the developed approaches into the university's quality management system was proposed. Issues regarding the improvement of the regulatory framework were considered, the organization standard "Development and Implementation of Double-Degree Educational Programs" was developed, and an assessment of the economic effect of implementing double-degree programs was provided.

Scientific Novelty of the Research

The scientific novelty of the dissertation research lies in the fact that, for the first time within the Kazakhstani context, double-degree education is treated as an object of standardization, regulation, and process-based quality management. The study develops a model of measurable quality indicators for double-degree educational programs, substantiates their integration into the university's quality management system, and proposes a documented procedure for the support and performance evaluation of such programs.

Practical Value of the Dissertation Research

The practical value of the research is determined by the possibility of the direct application of the developed methodological guidelines, the model of measurable quality indicators, and the organization standard within the operations of higher education institutions in the Republic of Kazakhstan. The obtained results can be applied in the development of internal regulatory documents, the design and support of double-degree educational programs, the organization of credit transfer and learning outcome recognition procedures, the facilitation of academic mobility, and the improvement of the university's internal quality system.

The practical significance of the work is confirmed by the fact that internal regulatory documents governing the implementation of double-degree educational programs were prepared and implemented based on the research results, and proposals were developed to improve the existing practice of their regulatory support.

Personal Contribution of the Author

The personal contribution of the author consists of the independent formulation of the research objective and tasks, the formation of its methodological framework, the analysis of domestic and foreign experience in double-degree education, the systematization of the regulatory framework, the development of a model of measurable quality indicators, the preparation of methodological guidelines and the

organization standard, as well as participation in the implementation of the research results into the practice of higher education institutions.

The author independently substantiated the theoretical propositions of the research, performed a comparative analysis of international practices, proposed mechanisms for the standardization and internal quality assurance of double-degree programs, and provided an assessment of the applied and organizational effects of implementing the proposed solutions.

Approbation of the Research Results

The main results of the dissertation research were approved at national and international research-to-practice conferences, including the "Seifullin Readings-18" (Astana, 2022), "Seifullin Readings-19" (Astana, 2023), the conference on the transformation of the agro-industrial complex of Kazakhstan (Semey, 2018), and the international research-to-practice conference "Quality Management: Search and Solutions" (Texas, 2023). On the research topic, articles have been published in journals recommended by the Committee for Quality Assurance in the Sphere of Science and Higher Education of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, as well as publications indexed in the Scopus database.

Methodological guidelines based on the research results were sent to several universities in the Republic of Kazakhstan for potential approbation. At the L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University, internal regulatory documents were developed and implemented based on these guidelines, including the regulation on the implementation of joint educational programs and the organization standard for double-degree education.

Structure and Volume of the Dissertation

The dissertation consists of an introduction, five sections, a conclusion, a list of references, and appendices. The main text of the dissertation is presented on 119 pages of typewritten text, containing 22 figures and 23 tables. The list of references includes 105 entries. The work includes 7 appendices.