

Formative Effects of Global Reality on Teacher Education and Quality Assurance Studies in Turkiye

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About EPDAD

What is EPDAD?

- The Association for the Evaluation and Accreditation of Teacher Education Programs, whose short name is EPDAD, was established in 2012 in Istanbul in Türkiye.
- It is a non-governmental organization. It does not get any financial support from the state. It consists of the fees it receives from accreditation activities, which it makes about 90% of its income.
- All administrators and evaluators are volunteers. As of today, there are 375 evaluators trained. The total number of employees, including student representatives, is over 500.

Official Status and Authority

- As a non-governmental organization, it has been approved by the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Türkiye.
- It has been registered as a quality agency by the Republic of Türkiye Higher Education Quality Board (YÖKAK). It is evaluated by YÖKAK with a report and a site visit.
- It is a full member of the Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education, whose short name is CEENQA.

Accreditation Performance

- EPDAD has been accrediting for four years.
- It accredits teacher education programs.
- It is the only authorized agency in this field in Türkiye.
- To date, it has accredited 175 programs; 125 of them were accredited for the first time. 22% of teacher education programs in Türkiye are accredited by EPDAD.

Continuous Improvement

EPDAD carries out continuous development and improvement activities. Epdand is also evaluated by external evaluators.



Globalization, Bologna Process, Quality Assurance

New globalization process...

- After the Cold War, a new globalization process took place. In this process, political, cultural, economic, etc. interaction between people has increased.
- The economic common market emerged. Economic competition in this market has also increased.
- Countries started to establish regional unions in order not to be crushed and destroyed in this competition. The Bologna Process was launched to ensure quality assurance in higher education in Europe.

The European Higher Education Area [EHEA]

- The aim is to raise a generation with common competences in the European Higher Education Area [EHEA] to be established. Thus, it was to increase Europe's global competitiveness.
- In the Bologna Process agreements, each country has committed to abide by the common competences framework to be determined.
- Today, every country in the European higher education area has established a national quality assurance system. Türkiye is one of these countries.

The quality assurance system in Türkiye

- Today, there is a developed quality assurance system under the roof of the **Higher Education Quality Council (YÖKAK)**.
- 20 agencies registered by YÖKAK.
- YÖKAK carries out institutional (university general) external evaluation and accreditation. Agencies, on the other hand, carry out program accreditation.

Foreign nationals studying at universities

- Having increased the number of foreign nationals studying at universities to 178,000 with a record increase from 48,000 in the last 5 years, Türkiye has started to be among the countries that host the most international students.
- Three factors were effective in this:
 - **Diploma equivalency**
 - **credit transfer system and diploma supplement**
 - **quality assurance and accreditation.**

Pandemic as a Global Reality

Pandemic and Education

Education has emerged from this crisis by using technology.

The school population, whose contact with each other is prohibited, carried out their teaching-teaching processes in a **virtual environment**.

Pandemic and Teacher Education

- In this process, together with students, teachers also discovered technology and started to use it.
- Concepts such as distance education and co-education have come to the fore.
- These developments have also shaped teacher training.

Pandemic and Teacher Education

- The use of technology in teacher education programs has increased.
- Technology knowledge and experience of teachers increased.
- It has been announced by YÖK that 40% of the courses in universities can be done through distance education.
- This training saved time, space and money.

Measures taken by YÖK and YÖKAK

- The Council of Higher Education (YÖK) is responsible for the management of Higher Education in Türkiye. Quality Assurance works are carried out by the Higher Education Quality Board (YÖKAK).
- YÖK has announced that educational institutions will be able to conduct distance education and coeducation during the pandemic. But he wanted the training to be done in this process to be as effective as face-to-face.
- YÖKAK also issued an instruction regarding the measures to be taken.

YÖKAK

- In this context, Quality Assurance Criteria and Evaluation Guide in Distance Education - 2020 has been published.
- In this guide, the criteria to be sought in institutions during the pandemic period were included



Global Perspective on Continuous Development and Improvement

- As a quality assurance organization, EPDAD is in the process of continuous development and improvement. In the new term, we have established a Distance Education Commission to carry out these studies.
- Through this commission, we tried to identify the problems that arise in the pandemic conditions and their solutions. While doing this, we examined what all the quality organizations we could reach were doing.

Globalisation and Internalization

External Partners, memberships etc.

1. EPDAD is a full member of **the Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education**. This membership allows EPDAD to share knowledge and experience with around 40 quality agencies of different countries.
2. EPDAD has cooperation agreements with national/international quality organizations of Kazakhstan, Hungary, Bosnia - Serb Region, Georgia and Azerbaijan. Joint studies are carried out / will be carried out with these organizations.
3. It is included in the EPDAD CEENQA's evaluator program.

Internationalization I: External Consultants

EPDAD has external experts. These are Prof. Dr. Ivan Leban (Croatia)
Prof. Dr. Barbara Brithingam (USA)

These consultants examine the activities of EPDAD and report on its strengths and open to improvement



Thank you for attention!