

BEHIND THE SCENE

Competence Development and University Curricula



On 18 May the international seminar “Competence Development and University Curricula” was held at Belarusian State Pedagogical University (BSPU) in Minsk.

The goal of the seminar was to discuss the mechanisms of competence shaping and development in the framework of the university curricula in the Bologna process context. The seminar discussions made special emphasis on development of system of continuous pedagogical education for sustainable development, the role of higher education in improving employability and the learning outcomes development process. It was important that seminar allowed to review pedagogical methodology in Belarus and triggered discussion on its renewal.

Opening the seminar Minister of Education Dr. Mikhail Zhuravkov underlined importance of international cooperation for the development of higher education in Belarus fostering academic mobility of students and teaching staff.

In his speech BSPU rector Dr. Alexander Zhuk recalled Belarusian experience and development program of pedagogical education for sustainability 2020. The keynote speaker prof. Jose Gines Mora, University college of London, presented results of research related to the role of universities in students employment. Prof. Mora underlined importance of ideological changes towards competence not only by students but professors as well. The panel session ended by presentations of international

speakers from University of Byalostok (Anna Rybak) and University of Turku (Eila Lindfors) with practical results of competence approach in teacher training.

The second part of the seminar was dedicated to challenges and processes of teaching in Belarusian universities. The panel discussion included Alexander Rytov from Belarus State University, Sergey Pershun from Polotsk State University, Irina Shestitko from BSPU, Valentina Simkhovich from Belarus State University of Economics, Alexey Khomich from Brest State University and Igor Titovich from Republican Institute of Higher Education. The discussions covered prospects for higher education of Belarus in the context of the Bologna process, experience of the implementation European master and double degree master programmes in Belarus, university's experience in reforming/adapting the curricula to the Bologna standards for teaching new competences, including previous Tempus projects.

The final part of the seminar included presentations about recent and planned educational projects as Olga Semenova from UNECON told about English teacher training program in framework of EuroFaculty Pskov project and Adela Garcia-Aracil from TU Valencia informed about content of the new project on methodology reform of education in Belarus.

The discussions may be continued at International NordFo Conference in Rauma, Finland on September 28-30.