Decision Regarding the Assessment of the Informatics and Information Technology Study Programme Group

Estonian Information Technology College

05/02/2014

The Quality Assessment Council of the Estonian Higher Education Quality Agency decided to approve the assessment report by the Assessment Committee and to conduct the next quality assessment of the Informatics and Information Technology study programme group in the first and second cycles of higher education at the Estonian Information Technology College in seven years.

Assessment Committee

Ernst Wilhelm Mayr – Chair	Technical University of Munich, Professor (Germany)
Liz Bacon (Elisabeth Kabler)	The University of Greenwich, Professor (UK)
Stephen Anthony Brewster	University of Glasgow, Professor (UK)
Andres Kütt	Nordea Bank, BCIO Baltic Countries (Estonia)
Aleksandr Požidajev	Tallinn University of Technology, student (Estonia)
Albert Sangrá	Open University of Catalonia, eLearn Center, Professor (Spain)
Tanel Tammet	Tallinn University of Technology, Professor (Estonia)

The Committee's observations on the study programme group level

Strengths:

- *Students are highly motivated and happy with the study programmes due to a clear practical foundation of the study, strong relationships with the IT sector, and competent teaching staff.*
- *The extent to which practical work is interwoven into the study is highly appreciated by the students, staff, management and employers.*
- *Learning conditions and resources are excellent and up to date. Course material is continuously revised. The Study Information System functions*

well.

- *The Estonian Information Technology College has a good reputation among students, teachers and employer representatives.*
- *The teaching staff have developed a wide range of teaching methods which encourage students' self-development and are suitable for daytime, evening and distance learning.*
- *The relationship between students and teachers is good, and it is supported by an efficient use of educational technologies and a well-timed bi-directional flow of personal feedback.*
- *The Estonian Information Technology College has strong ties with the IT sector: the College has a clear focus on the needs of the market and employer representatives are committed to being involved in both the teaching and management of the College.*
- *The balance between full time teaching staff and practitioner lecturers is good and in accordance with the mission of the College, expectations of students and the needs of the labour market.*

Areas for improvement and recommendations:

- *The dropout rates are high. In order to reduce the dropout rates, the College needs to effectively monitor its students' academic progress.*
- *The College should apply stronger measures to prevent plagiarism and to deal with its consequences; among other things, to adjust teaching methods and to introduce relevant software solutions. Clear procedures need to be introduced for reporting and investigating cases with consistent punishments for similar offences.*
- *Several lecturers appear to be overworked during relatively long continuous periods of teaching.*
- *A more consistent teaching approach needs to be fostered. To ensure the consistency of student assessments, uniform rules regarding workload, assessment criteria, and balance between individual and group work must be established for the whole teaching staff.*
- *It is necessary to continue to invest in specific strengths such as an in-depth implementation of new educational technologies and the field of robotics.*
- *It would be worthwhile to use the willingness of industry contacts to involve students in developing actual real-life projects for real clients during their studies.*
- *In order to foster international mobility, students should be provided with a greater opportunity for participation in the Erasmus exchange programme.*

Further information: Assessment Report