

ADMINISTRATIVE AND LEGAL ASPECTS OF ACCREDITATION IN THE AREAS OF HIGHER EDUCATION: INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

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The article investigates the accreditation of educational institutions in the United States. The author considered types of accreditation and standards to comply with educational institutions and programs, which have to be accredited.

Accreditation, accreditation board, higher education.

Accreditation as an integral part of higher education appeared in the United States and today is recognized as one of the principal means of determining and improving the quality of higher education. The purpose of this publication is to study the procedures for the accreditation of educational institutions in the United States.

Accreditation of educational institutions in the US was originated at the end of the XVIII century in reference to some authors. Thus, in one of the papers states (Selden WK, Porter HV, Accreditation: Its Purposes and Uses / COPA. Washington, USA, 1979. P, 1) that in 1787 the government of New York State undertakes the council of the government state of educational institutions to send their representatives in each college for inspection and the provision of reports to state legislative board.

Accreditation as a process of evaluating the quality of education by establishing postsecondary education accordance with specified standards was launched just in the USA. The idea belongs to the accreditation of higher education institutions. Specifically, at the end of the XIX century

chaos in the education system, which is a result of decentralization of high school and lack of serious limitations on the states reached such proportions that was necessary to streamline the system. On leading universities' and colleges' initiative in the 80-90 years of the last century in the United States "was created 6 regional voluntary associations, membership in which was stipulated by the presence of defined standards"

Until the mid XX century accreditation boards works independently and without any interdependence. In 1949 the first agency to coordinate accreditation activities were created. One of these was National Commission on Accrediting on. It takes the accreditation procedure, which was recognized and was used by the most accreditation agencies. The National Committee of regional accreditation agencies and other organizations were merged into regional commissions in the same 1949. It was done with the view to improving the policies and the procedures of accreditation. In 1969 the National Committee of regional accreditation agencies became Federation of Regional Accrediting Commissions of Higher Education. In 1975 the National Commission on Accrediting and Federation of Regional Accrediting Commissions of Higher Education had merged to form the Council on Postsecondary Accreditation.

In the US, accreditation of higher education institutions is conducted by accreditation boards, associations or agencies that are independent associations of regional or national scale, develop criteria and assess higher education institution in compliance to established criteria.

The analysis of accreditation of higher education institutions in the United States gives grounds to note that accreditation is a voluntary act; is performed by non-governmental organizations; is provided by educational institutions for a certain period of time and must be periodically updated; all costs for accreditation are carried out by institutions of higher education that are accredited; the basis of the accreditation process is the expert

assessment of the accordancy of institution activity to the established criteria.