

Practice and legislative recognition of the Quality triangle in the education sector of the Republic of Belarus

Case law from Belarus

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In Belarus the knowledge triangle comprises three main components: education (institutions of higher education), innovation (enterprises of the state sector and private enterprises) and research (organizations of the National Science Academy, scientific and research subdivisions at the educational institutions).

Nowadays the Republic of Belarus has the potential to develop the knowledge triangle. There is modern legal background both in the sector of scientific, scientific and technical, innovative activities and the sector of small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as high level of education among the staff and new directions of education, etc.

In 2002 Belarus joined the Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications. More than 150 standard regulations were adopted in the sphere of scientific, scientific and technical, innovative activities at the level of Presidential Laws, Enactments and Decrees, Government regulations, such as: Code of the Republic of Belarus about education (2011); Law of the Republic of Belarus “About State innovation politics and innovation activities in the Republic of Belarus” (2012); Decree of the President of the Republic of Belarus “About High Technologies Park” (2005); State Innovation development program for 2016 – 2020, etc.

In 2016 Belarus used to take the 26th place in the education index that consists of 188 countries (according to UN). We have good results in the UN rate “Global innovation index – 2016” in several major marker groups: creation of knowledge – 41st place, knowledge impact – 42nd, creative services’ export as a percentage of total export – 57th, etc.

Unfortunately, Belarus took the 79th place (from 128 countries) in a corresponding UN rate. In 2015 our country was the 53rd. Crisis of 2009 was followed by the decrease in economic growth in Belarus that resulted in reduction of expenses for scientific-research and research and development work.

It should be mentioned that the Republic of Belarus has good experience in realization of the effective mechanism of research and development **commercializing** through the creation of new innovative enterprises and manufactures. The technoparks in Belarus became one of the leading subjects of innovation infrastructure. There are 12 scientific-technological parks, 60 research and technology centers, 100 innovation centers, 455 innovation-active enterprises, Belarusian innovation fund and Belarus High Technologies Park.

9 **business-incubators** function in Belarus nowadays. One of the purposes for such a form of individual entrepreneurship is research and development commercialization, knowledge and technologies transfer, region- and nation-wide competitive tension.

At the present time there is a tendency for university inclusion into *innovative industrial clusters*, producing both new knowledge and new technologies. Their main peculiarity is manufacturing enterprises' integration with higher education establishments and scientific and research institutions within the frame of a particular territorial unit (for example, High Technologies Park).

At present the knowledge triangle in Belarus exists in the form of university cooperation *agreements* with scientific and research institutions. Also it is based on the contracts of universities with industrial companies providing academic services, and the *contracts* for cooperation in training of higher education professionals.

In accordance with these contracts University professors promote innovation into industry and fulfill training of higher education professionals.

Connection with scientific and research institutions is provided on the basis of involving high-qualified research staff members of the institutions in the performance of teaching at the universities, along with placing at their disposal high-technology research equipment.

One more step towards cooperation of education and industry is organization of universities' department branches at the enterprises and institutions that can bring in line educational and industrial processes.

Another important direction for universities and enterprises' cooperation is holding practice-oriented contests and competitions in order to provide support for talented students.

Still, it must be confessed that the knowledge triangle concept in the Republic of Belarus is at the primary stage.

Certain circumstances impeding development of interconnection between education, industry and innovation are the following:

- Lack of government and relevant funds' financing;
- Inadequacy of legislature in the scientific and academic sectors and their interconnection with industry;
- Irrelevant motivation of higher-education teaching personnel and enterprises and institutions' staff;
- Misreading among the leaders on various levels of importance of integration process, including knowledge, innovation and education;
- Decrease in the research staff capacities through the outflow of the most active and talented staff to industries with higher salary, etc.

These problems can be solved by means of development of statutory regulations both at the national and local levels.