Internationalization in HE & QA – Challenges in Israel

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Israeli HE System: Facts and Figures

- 67 HE Institutions (no ‘for profit’ HEIs):
  - 9 Universities
  - 58 Colleges (public & private)

- ~ 300,000 students

- 48% of each cohort enter HE institutions

- HE Budget - ~ 2% of the state budget
## The Council for Higher Education (CHE)

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<th>Foundation</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Main Responsibilities</th>
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<td>• According to the “Council for Higher Education Law - 1958”</td>
<td>• The sole body in the country in charge of HE issues</td>
<td>• Policy Maker; Budgeting; Planning; Accreditation; QA</td>
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General Internationalization Challenges

- Language (Hebrew) incl. cultural debate
- Security Concerns
- Different ‘Type’ of Students --- integration...
- Bureaucracy/State regulations e.g. Immigration
Research:

Fostering international research collaboration through foundations incentives:

- **Israeli Science Foundation (ISF):** funding doubled
- **Bi-national (with US) Science Foundation (BSF):** budget increased
- **German-Israeli Foundation (GIF):** budget increased
- **CERN:** just accepted as full member
- **SESAME:** funding approved
- Established new joint research with ”NSFC” in **China** and with “UGC” in **India**
- **Horizon 2020**
- **International research infrastructure (CERN, ESRF)**
Students:
- Providing financial resources such as scholarships (recent project with China & India: ~ 54 million $ for the next 5 years) – to & from Israel (post-doc)
- Encouraging HEIs (‘light’ accreditation procedure): a. to convert existing programs into E/allow a ‘path’ in E; b. to open JPs with non-Israeli HEIs;

Accreditation & QA processes:
- Operating the QA system with international evaluators/experts
- Approaching international experts in accreditation/planning considerations

- Initiating and encouraging active participation of HEIs in worldwide HE ‘marketing’ events
Students:

- ~ 3,500 intl. students (~1.5%)
- **Original citizenship**: (mostly) USA, Canada, European countries, South America countries, China, India.
- **Level of degree**: (mostly) advanced degrees
- **Disciplines**: Engineering; Economics; MBA; Medicine; Exact & Life Sciences; Humanities (Israel/Judaism studies); Governance and Political Sciences; Agriculture
- **Type of Programs**: Special International Programs; Existing Programs; Joint Programs

International research collaborations: e.g. ISF-NSFC, ISF-UGC

International evaluators/experts: Evaluating the quality of the various disciplines.
Questions about Intl. Programs: Policy; Accreditation & QA

- To what extent should we encourage international programs

- Very bad experience with ‘foreign branches’ 1998 amendment in the CHE Law

- Should we accredit/QA international programs differently: procedures, methods

- Adaptations to other Accred./QA processes and standards (e.g. ABET; NCFMEA - Medicine)

- Differences between countries when it comes to joint programs (e.g. scope, credits, LO methods)

- Cooperation between QA agencies vs.-v HEIs autonomous
THANK YOU

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LISTENING