SOFTWARE SUPPORT TO MEASURING RESEARCH PERFORMANCE AT HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

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Abstract

Results of scientific research are important indicators of the performance, success and quality of higher education institutions. Higher education institutions, faced with growing competition on the educational services market, are forced to continually monitor their quality, the quality of teaching stuff and graduates. To fulfill some of the quality standards, these institutions have to ensure a sufficient number of qualified teaching stuff to achieve educational aims, establish and supervise academic rules and provide sustainability of their study programs. Higher education institutions should continuously monitor research work of their employees to achieve these aims. This is possible only if they have appropriate means for systematic data collection and evidence. Some of the data that should be collected are number of publications and category of publications, number and nature of projects in which higher education institutions are participating, the number of doctoral dissertations and master's theses, numbers of patents, technical solutions, prizes and awards. During internal evaluation, which is conducted annually, higher education institutions are obliged to collect, analyze and publish scientific production data, which is defined by the applicable standards and guidelines for quality assurance in higher education. At the Faculty of Electrical Engineering, University of East Sarajevo, a convenient software system has been developed and used for this purpose. This system allows for tracking research outputs and historical production trends at individual and institutional level, which allows performance monitoring at both individual and institutional levels. Based on review reports, which could be generated for specific groups of scientific research results, as well as summary reports, higher education institution can develop training teachers policy, providing them expert and scientific training. This is also one of the guidelines of standards in higher education. Development of a the software system for scientific research data evidence is primarily motivated by the lack of adequate and functional systems at the University level or at higher levels and strongly expressed need for the existence of a systematic data evidence at the individual and institutional level. Some of additional benefits provided by this system are also more efficient work of commission for the preparation of self-evaluation report, the ability to track scientific research outputs and introduction of appropriate measures to improve scientific research quality.

Keywords: *higher education, scientific research evidence, scientific research quality*