INFORMATICS PEER REVIEW OF INFORMATICS STUDY PROGRAMMES
IN LITHUANIA   NOV/DEC 2006

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GENERAL COMMENTS OF EXPERTS

1.   A most serious problem exists with regard to staffing informatics
        departments. The continuing failure to attract well qualified young
        informatics researchers and junior staff has very damaging consequences.
        A major reason for this failure is the gap between informatics salaries in
        academia and those in industry. For example, an informatics
        baccalaureate's first job in business may have a higher salary than a full
        professor of informatics at university. This problem requires analysis and
        appropriate action as a matter of urgency.

2.   A serious problem exists in relation to library stocks in informatics. These
        are generally poor, both in quantity and in the range of texts.
        Recommended references for the informatics courses are not always
        present. Journal availability is limited. This should be corrected.

3.   The courses in the universities include a high content of classical
        mathematics, while generally neglecting important topics in discrete
        mathematics, computer science and software engineering. The theoretical
        basis of informatics in automata theory, formal languages and
        mathematical logic is not present in any depth. Software engineering is
        given very limited treatment. While it may be possible to justify such
        choices in an individual course, a broader treatment of informatics is
        needed in the Lithuanian system as a whole, and informatics departments
        should be encouraged to achieve this.

4.   Organised interaction between informatics departments and industry tends
        to be lacking. Such organised interaction can be very valuable in ensuring
        mutual understanding, providing information on current professional
        practices and industry requirements, and as a channel for applied research
        ideas and other suggestions. Informatics departments should be
        encouraged to set up industry advisory panels with regular meetings.

5.   We are grateful to the Lithuanian Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher
        Education for the professional way in which our visit was organised and
        managed, at to all we met for their courtesy and co-operation.

Signed on behalf of the Experts:

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        Prof. Michael Ryan (Head of Experts Group)