



HERE SEMINAR – ALBANIA

"Referencing Albanian Qualification Framework to the European Qualification Framework (EQF) and self-referencing to Qualification Framework of EHEA (QF-EHEA)"

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Date: 17.09. 2021;

Time: 09.30 - 14.30

Host institution:

Polytechnic University of Tirana;

The most important topics, presented in the seminar:

- Descriptors of AQF levels and LOs,
- Quality Assurance,
- Fulfillment of 10 referencing criteria with EQF and 7 self-certification criteria with QF-EHEA, identifying the problems and their solutions for each of the 17 criteria mentioned above.
- Involvement of all factors related to AQF and capacity building and relevant sustainability structures in AQF issues.
- The impact of AQF requirements on the design, development and review of study programs offered by HEIs, with the aim of their continuous improvement based on LOs, in accordance with labor market requirements and national and European Quality Assurance Standards.
- The impact of AQF requirements on the development of prior learning recognition mechanisms in VET.
- Presentation of the draft reference report of AQF with EQF and self-certification with QF-EHEA

At the end of the seminar, some conclusions were reached.

1. The Albanian Qualification Framework (AQF) is an important instrument that ensures a better communication between the various subsystems of education, general education, vocational education and training and higher education, as well as HEIs and the labor market; gives a classification of certificates and diplomas issued by HEIs contributing to their recognition; as well as creates conditions for undertaking continuous reforms of the Study Programs that HEIs offer.



2. Reference of AQF with EQF and self-certification with QF-EHEA, will help the process of mobility of students and researchers both within the country and abroad. In this way, an obligation of the country is fulfilled within the Bologna Process.
3. Fulfillment of 10 criteria for referencing the AQF with EQF and 7 self-certification criteria with QF-EHEA, is not only a realization of Albania's obligation as a country of EHEA, but increases academic and administrative transparency in all activities of HEIs, creating conditions for a higher preparation of students, and positively affects the significant improvements of the internal and external Quality Assurance System in Albania. The improvement of DCM 109/2017 regarding the organization and functioning of ASCAL and the Accreditation Board, is a measure that is expected to contribute even more to the efficiency and effectiveness of HEIs.
4. To MES, it is recommended that in the process of preparing the Quality Code, to strengthen the standards for active involvement of students, businesses & relevant institutions in the quality assurance process as well as in the review and reform of study programs.
5. Despite the fact that the study programs of the second cycle "Master of Science" and "Professional Master" belong to the same level of the AQF (level 7), in practice they do not manifest the same academic value. Therefore, it is recommended to undertake some activities that will lead to the improvement of the quality of "Professional Master" programs. These activities, without limitation, would include: improvements of bylaws, improvement of professional and employment standards, as well as capacity building and reform of these programs themselves, guaranteeing a stronger business participation of Professional relevant Institutions&Companies.
6. Taken into account its importance, significant improvements in the formulation and application of LOs in the process of drafting, reviewing and evaluating Study Programs, are recommended. Drafting, reviewing and completing LOs by sub-sectors is an important process that should be undertaken as soon as possible.
7. An important contribution towards the reform is expected to be given by the process of codification of the Study Programs, for which the relevant by-law is needed. It is also necessary to determine in the relevant bylaws the requirement of Article 86 of Law No. 80/2015, point 2 (2. Study programs, offered in the same field of study), (DCM 41/2018 "On the elements of programs of study offered by higher education institutions").
8. To consolidate the procedures for the inclusion of lifelong learning qualifications in the AQF, for all education subsystems.
9. To Ensure continuity and support of MES for the national coordinator, the group of experts and sectoral groups, guaranteeing a transparency of their activity, also.