

UPDATE

**Higher Education Reform Progress Report
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

Field	Proposal	2016 State of Play	2017 State of Play	2018 State of Play
<p>Qualification and Competences (NQF/EQF)</p>	<p>Progress towards establishing a NQF: progress of Inter-sectorial Commissions?</p>	<p>Standards of qualifications and occupations in HE have been developed for selected number of disciplines.</p> <p>21 trainers for development of use of the standards of qualifications and occupations have been trained.</p> <p>Preparations for the self-certification and referencing process are ongoing.</p> <p>Preparations for establishment of the new Inter-sectorial commission for NQF are ongoing</p> <p>General Assembly of RS adopted the Conclusion for the Government of Republic of Srpska to adopt and implement the Qualification Framework.</p> <p>CCNURCA TEMPUS project aimed to redesign study programmes of nursing according to the Directive EC 2005/36 was successfully</p>	<p>Detailed learning outcomes for 18 qualifications of 3 cycles across 6 sectors (Social sciences, Biomedicine and health, Natural sciences, Biotechnical sciences, Technical sciences, Humanities) have been developed and piloted at 6 public universities in BiH.</p> <p>A working version of a self-certification report has been developed that would be used in the referencing process.</p> <p>Activities on drafting a referencing report for LLL that include self-certification part are ongoing. Preparations for establishment of the new Inter-sectorial commission for NQF are ongoing. In the meantime, on a temporary basis, its role is resumed by different WGs and SBs within the projects dealing with development and implementation of the elements of the QF BiH.</p> <p>BHQFHE TEMPUS project completed.</p>	<p>Relevant developments in 2018 are related to VET and adult education, and these include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 22 Standards of qualifications and occupations in VET have been developed for 8 sectors (Health; Textile and lather; Hospitality and tourism; Agriculture and food processing; Forestry and wood processing; Geodesy and construction; Mechanical engineering and metal processing; Economics, law, administration and trade) – levels 2-5 of QF in Bosnia and Herzegovina. - The ECVET system has been developed and piloted for qualification levels in VET (2-5). - 30 trainers about enhancement VET qualifications have been trained. <p style="text-align: center;">***</p> <p>ICT Auxiliary Tool for QF in Bosnia and Herzegovina for Access to Web Portals has been</p>

	<p>finished.</p> <p>BHQFHE TEMPUS project aimed to develop QF for BiH is still ongoing.</p>	<p>New Erasmus+ project “Qualifications Framework as Platform for the development of learning outcomes based curriculum – QFP” has started on 15 October 2016 and shall run until 14 October 2017 – Coordinator: University of Limerick, Ireland – 15 partners from BiH</p>	<p>developed.</p> <p>Final Activities on drafting a referencing report for LLL that includes self-certification is ongoing.</p> <p>Establishment of the new Intersectoral commission is in process. In the meantime, on a temporary basis, its role is resumed by different WGs and SBs within the projects dealing with development and implementation of the elements of the QF in BiH.</p>
<p>Appoint a committee composed of different ministries (education and labour sector), agencies and employers to improve development of NQF</p>	<p>As of 2016 BiH has joined the EQF AG as a full member.</p>		

	Develop the main guidelines for development of HE based on the VET framework			
<p>Quality Assurance</p> <p><u>Agency for Higher Education and Quality Assurance of Bosnia and Herzegovina (HEA BiH) has not supplied its contribution to the State of Play in the Report for 2018.</u></p>	Take further steps in introducing a national QA system: appropriate legal frameworks at level of entities and cantons	HEA is in a process of a revision of some of the legal documents related to the accreditation process within its competences	<p>HEABiH prepared a revision of some of the legal documents (i.g. Decision on norms for determining minimal standards in higher education in Bosnia and Herzegovina) related to the accreditation process within its competences and aligned them with revised ESG. It past process of public consultation and it not yet adopted by Steering board of Agency.</p> <p>HEAARS improved its procedures, rulebooks and forms according to lessons learned during the first cycle of accreditation and according to recommendations given by ENQA panel of experts who had visit HEAARS in middle of February 2017.</p>	<p>Higher Education Accreditation Agency of Republika Srpska (HEAARS) prepared the second cycle of accreditation including the development of the study programs review within the process of re-accreditation of institutions.</p> <p>HEAARS Steering Board adopted Plan for implementing recommendations of ENQA panel of experts in order to achieve full compliance with European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ESG).</p>
	Apply results from Tempus project: e.g. key performance	Fulfilment of the SHEQA TEMPUS project (implementing strategic management in HEIs) and implementation of the results of the	HEAARS implemented results of BIHTEK project by establishing benchmarking as an important quality assurance method in HEAARS	HEAARS is in a process of further development and implementation of STINT (Strengthening the

<p>indicators, strategic management of HEIs.</p>	<p>projects. Results of CCNURCA TEMPUS project implemented in the Entity of Republika Srpska.</p>	<p>rulebooks and procedures. HEAARS is also in a process of implementing of lessons learned from ongoing STINT project from ERASMUS + program.</p>	<p>Internationalization at Higher Education in BiH) project.</p>
<p>Clarify division of responsibilities in the accreditation procedures, including accreditation funding</p>	<p>Roles and responsibilities of different participants in the external quality assurance procedures are clear but there is an area for improvement.</p>	<p>Prepared, but not yet adopted Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance B&H act Decision on norms for determining minimal standards in higher education in Bosnia and Herzegovina clearly defined roles and responsibilities of different participants in the external quality assurance process HEIs and SPs and improvement that process.</p> <p>This area still has a lot of place for improvement since there is numerous misunderstandings of jurisdictions and responsibilities of different bodies in quality assurance in higher education systems in BiH. HEAARS considers that a way for improvement is in an intensive cooperation and involvement of all stakeholders into the process of development of important documents such as criteria for accreditation, minimal standards in higher education etc. but also in defining agreements on mutual</p>	<p>When it comes to higher education system of Republika Srpska, responsibilities and roles of different participants are completely clear and defined. HEAARS have established high level of cooperation between all stakeholders in the process of accreditation. However, after thorough analysis of the first cycle of accreditation process it was perceived that biggest bureaucratic obstacle is relation with Agency on BiH level. All other activities in different processes of accreditation combined took less time than simple administrative activities of this Agency such as appointment of the panel based on the proposal of jurisdictional authorities or updating the Register of accredited institutions. It is clear that this is a result of fact that BiH Agency refused to sign the agreement of</p>

			understanding in processes where more than one institution is involved.	cooperation which would define mutual responsibilities and deadlines for different activities.
	Further develop QA mechanisms: have all HEIs enter the QA process, finish defining learning outcomes, institutional and programme accreditation?	<p>19 higher education institutions that are registered in the National Register of Accredited Higher Education Institutions of BiH, whilst 12 HEIs are in procedure of accreditation. Since the criteria for accreditation, inter alia, relate to the introduction and implementation of QA procedures accredited higher education institutions have fully or substantially met these requirements</p> <p>In the Entity of the Republika Srpska (RS) - 12 HEIs have successfully finished the process of accreditation, many others are expected do this procedure.</p>	<p>The Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance B&H (HEA BiH) submitted application for full membership in the European Association for Quality Assurance (ENQA) at the beginning of 2016.</p> <p>As a part of an external evaluation, the Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality from 8th to 10th May 2017. The ENQA Board will adopt a final decision on full membership in ENQA 13th September 2017.</p> <p>Considering that in May 2015 a revised ESG were adopted, the Agency in order to improve and simplify the criteria for accreditation of HEIs in BiH aligned them with revised ESG (2015) and published in Official Gazette of BiH No. 96/16 in December 2016.</p> <p>Due to the revision of the ESG, Criteria for accreditation of study programmes of I and II cycle of studies were also revised, went through a public consultation procedure and published in the Official Gazette of BiH No 47/17. Process of accreditation of SP not yet started.</p>	<p>HEAARS accredited 14 higher education institutions so far and several other institutions are preparing for the accreditation application. More than 90% of students are enrolled at the accredited institutions.</p> <p>HEAARS developed a plan for accreditation of study programs which should be realized by external audits of study programs within the procedure of accreditation of institution.</p> <p>Five HEI's among which both public universities already applied numerous study programs for external audit as a previous step in a process of re-accreditation.</p>

			<p>Until the 7th August 2017 enrolled 27 HEIs in the State Register of accredited HEIs in BiH (20 universities and 7 colleges), while the enrollment of 5 HEIs is still in the procedure.</p> <p>In the Entity Republika Srpska beside 12 accredited HEIs, two are in a process of issuing decisions on accreditation. The plan on accreditation of study programs was made during 2016 and two public universities are in a process of preparing for accreditation of study programs with support of Higher Education Accreditation Agency of Republika Srpska (HEAARS).</p>	
<p>Managing resources & reforms in HE</p>	<p>Integration of universities</p>	<p><u>University of Sarajevo</u> is intensively engaged in functional integration, which is a topic that is discussed and the thematic sessions of the Senate and representatives of Government of the Sarajevo Canton. A key focus is on financing.</p> <p><u>“Džemal Bijedić” University of Mostar</u>: New Statute was adopted and there is a model of integration being implemented at certain pace and is legally integrated institution registered as such with the</p>	<p>The same as in 2016 with the following remark: A new proposal of the Law on Higher Education is drafted in the Sarajevo Canton and a public hearing is ongoing, but is not acceptable for the University of Sarajevo.</p>	

		<p>competent court.</p> <p><u>University of Mostar</u>: is still organized as an association of faculties with absolute academic and partial financial autonomy. The first step towards integration was done by the adoption of the new Statute and basic documents are under development in order to define the relations of the University and organizational units.</p> <p>Only 5 public universities are integrated in BH, out of which 3 in the entity of the Federation of BiH and 2 in the Entity of Republika Srpska.</p>		
	<p>Promote the autonomy of HEIs (financial and HR)</p>	<p>Strategic Directions of HE Development in Entity of Federation of BiH 2012-2022</p> <p>Recommendations within the Tempus FINHED project</p>	<p>Priorities for 2016 – 2026 Higher Education</p> <p>Development in BiH, adopted by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina.</p> <p>Strategic Directions of HE Development in Entity of Federation of BiH 2012-2022</p>	<p>The same as in 2017</p>

	Improve efficiency of HE funding	The HEI determines the amount of tuition fees paid by students who co-finance or self-finance their education by a linear model depending on their place in the ranking and in accordance with the act of an HEI.	<p>Priorities for 2016 – 2026 Higher Education Development in BiH adopted by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina.</p> <p>Strategic Directions of HE Development in the Federation of BiH 2012-2022</p>	The same as in 2017
	Develop transparent, standard and systematic procedures in appointing academic staff, evaluating thesis, projects etc.	N/a	Program to prevent corruption in HES in the Entity Federation of BiH - transparency, legality and compliance with procedures for better HE	The same as in 2017
Legal Framework	Improve the national legal framework for HE, introducing proper QA policies and relevant bi-laws		<p>Priorities for 2016 – 2026 Higher Education Development in BiH, adopted by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina.</p> <p>The Entity Republika Srpska fully implemented the process of establishing all the necessary legal framework for successful implementation of quality assurance policies.</p>	

			<p>The RS National Assembly adopted the Education Development Strategy of the Republika Srpska 2016- 2021 which sets five objectives for HE in the Republika Srpska, as follows:</p> <p>Strategic Objective 1. Improving the organisational structure and the quality of higher education;</p> <p>Strategic Objective 2. Scientific-research oriented higher education and linking higher education with the labour market;</p> <p>Strategic Objective 3 Modernising study programmes for initial training of preschool teachers, teachers and expert associates;</p> <p>Strategic objective 4. Internationalisation of higher education;</p> <p>Strategic Objective 5. Improving student standard.</p>	
	Secure implementation of the Higher Education Law, policies and		RSHEAA have developed the software for monitoring of the follow-up activities of accredited HEIs in order to monitor the process of fulfilment of the recommendations	Besides established procedure for monitoring of follow-up activities, HEAARS have changed Rulebook on accreditation in order to provide

	recommendation from Agencies by all HEIs		given by panel of experts in reports.	supervising visit for HEI's between two accreditation cycles which is supposed to ensure that HEI has implemented the recommendations in a proper manner.
	Revise and improve licensing and accreditation laws for Quality Assurance			Based on the recommendations of the ENQA panel of experts regarding appeal and complaint procedures in the process of accreditation, HEAARS proposed changes to the Law on Higher Education of Republika Srpska to Ministry of Education and Culture, and these changes were adopted by National Assembly of Republika Srpska.
Research	Define clear criteria and transparent procedures for selection of research projects and for QA procedures in research	<p>A call for financing / co-financing scientific research and research and development projects in the Entity of Federation of BiH will be published in 2016 too.</p> <p>New Council for Science (at the level of Entity of Federation of BiH) was appointed in 2016.</p>	<p>A call for financing / co-financing scientific research and research and development projects in the Entity Federation of BiH is published in 2017 too.</p> <p>The Council for Science in the Entity Federation of BiH is continued to be financed by the Entity Federal Ministry of Education and Science in 2017 too.</p>	<p>A call for financing / co-financing scientific research, and research and development projects in the Entity Federation of BiH was published in 2018.</p> <p>The Council for Science in the Entity Federation of BiH is continued to be financed by the Entity Federal Ministry of Education and Science in 2018 too.</p>

	<p>Establish a joint register of scientific institutions; expand the time for implementation of research projects to 3 years</p>	<p>The Register was established in the Entity of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina: http://registar.nub.ba/</p> <p>Ministry of Education and Science of the Entity of Federation of BiH is carrying out the approval procedures of entry into the database and bears annual maintenance costs of hardware and software. Currently, 2,092 research scientists and 128 research institutions are entered in the database. As there is no legal requirement for registration, one of the criteria for application for grants in the field of science is the entry of researchers and institutions in the Register.</p>	<p>At the level of the Entity Federation of BiH: the same as in 2016, currently 2,995 research scientists and 198 research institutions are entered in the database.</p>	<p>At the level of the Entity Federation of BiH: the same as in 2016-2017, currently 3.151 research scientists and 233 research institutions are entered in the database.</p>
	<p>Improve the quality of research; increase training of researchers; promote participation in EU research projects; increase investment</p>	<p>Ministry of Education and Sports of the Federation of BiH completed the calls under bilateral agreements on scientific and technological cooperation with the Republic of Slovenia and the Republic of Montenegro. Bilateral agreement on scientific and technological cooperation between BH and the Republic of</p>	<p>The same at the level of the Entity Federation of BiH as in 2016.</p>	

		Turkey was signed.		
	Develop state-wide procedures for monitoring research; Establish group at national level to monitor QA processes and support to doctoral studies			
Linking HE to the labour market	<p>Improve the relevance of HE by cooperating with businesses.</p> <p>Develop efficient internship agreements between universities and companies.</p>	<p>There is support to and co-financing of public HEIs projects for linking HE to the labor market in 2016 in the Entity of the Federation of BiH.</p> <p>In the Entity of the Republika Srpska implementation of professional study programmes is supported through a draft of the Law on Higher Education. More hours of student's practice anticipated in it. Practical work as a part of professional study programmes is now obligatory.</p>	-Priorities for 2016 – 2026 Higher Education Development in BiH, adopted by the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina.	<p>All competent education authorities and other relevant actors continued further implementation of Priorities for 2016 – 2026 Higher Education Development in BiH and the Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina follow its implementation.</p> <p>Following the adoption of the new Law on HE in Sarajevo Canton, the University of Sarajevo has taken the necessary steps to adopt and continually adapt curricula so that the learning outcomes are defined and aligned with the qualification levels detailed in the Decision on the Approval of the Baseline of the Qualifications Framework in</p>

				<p>Bosnia and Herzegovina.</p> <p>At the University of Tuzla, evaluation of the study programs is carried out over a period of four years, after which they are renewed. In all organizational units of the University of Tuzla, curricula are continually being updated, names of study programs are changing, names with similar names in the developed countries are adjusted, and adapted to the demands of the labor market.</p> <p>The University of Zenica regularly updates the curricula in accordance with the legal provisions and the Statute of the UNZE. The Procedure for reviewing and innovating the study programs has been adopted and the curricula have been innovated in each organizational unit. The UNZE components have excellent connections to the business environment and facilities. The business premises of the Zenica-Doboj Canton are additional laboratories for teaching (especially practical exercises) students of all faculties, with revival of summer practice for</p>
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				<p>students of higher studies in order to achieve better learning outcomes and competencies. The study programs at the University of Mostar are based on outcomes and competences and are regularly revised and harmonized at all levels, following the standards of qualifications, laws on regulated professions, etc. Representatives of the labor market also participate in quality assurance, and public hearings are organized to initiate new study programs.</p> <p>The study programs at the "Džemal Bijedić" University of Mostar are relatively well structured, in line with the reform requirements. The programs are constantly changing, improving and supplementing in accordance with the established procedures. Modifications and additions to the study programs are carried out according to the adopted Procedure for amending the study programs, through consultations with stakeholders until adoption.</p> <p>In developing a new development strategy, the University of Bihać has consulted a number of</p>
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				<p>interested parties including the employers' association and the Chamber of Commerce of Una-Sana Canton, and representatives of employers and former students are involved in the modifications of each study program.</p> <p>HEAARS organised several seminars and trainings with the Chamber of Commerce for representatives of higher education and work field in order to improve mutual cooperation between them. For the same reason, representatives of the work field are appointed in every panel for accreditation of HEI's and also in different work groups and bodies of HEAARS.</p>
	<p>Integrate HEIs and promote active cooperation between the public and private sector</p>	<p>In the Entity of the Republika Srpska cooperation between public and private sector is on-going through the Rector's Conference of RS and also planned for the process of development of QF.</p>		

	<p>Enhance links between HEIs and research; Improve the quality of teaching and research</p>			
	<p>Establish alumni organisations/centres and track graduates.</p>	<p>Alumni association/s have been established in many HEIs as follows in the Entity of Federation of BiH:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alumni Center has been established at the University of Tuzla - DB University of Mostar: alumni associations exist at three organizational units - University of Mostar: Alumni Associations of Students exist or are under the establishment phase - University of Zenica (UNZE): has started activities on the establishment of alumni network, and then also the Association of Alumni at the University and organizational units' level University of Sarajevo: the majority of faculties have established alumni associations <p>In the Entity of Republika Srpska</p>	<p>The process of establishment of Alumni associations has continued in the HEIs in the Entity Federation of BiH in 2017 too.</p>	<p>The process of establishment of Alumni associations has continued in the HEIs in the Entity Federation of BiH in 2018 too. University of Sarajevo launched an alumni platform on the social network LinkedIn with the aim of effectively presenting its members' professional abilities, and more efficiently connecting employers with employees. A large number of its graduates have been registered.</p>

		<p>the situation is not satisfying. Exceptions are some private HEI. Strategy of development of education for 2016-2020, promotes the establishing of institutional mechanisms at HEI for tracking graduates.</p>		
<p>Proposal of FMES</p>	<p>Establish summer schools for pre-university education for foreign students ensuring a visa-free regime</p>		<p>On 27 April 2017, At the proposal of the Entity Federal Ministry of Education and Science, the Government of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina adopted the Decision on the Establishment of the Foundation for Student Teachers Mobility in the Federation of BiH as a concrete step in the implementation of one of the priorities of the Strategic Directions of HE Development in the Federation of BiH 2012-2022. This Foundation will also be in charge for summer schools.</p>	