

UPDATE

**Progress Report on Higher Education Reform
THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA**

| Field | Proposal | 2016 State of Play | 2017 State of Play | 2018 State of Play |
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| <p>Managing resources & reforms in HE</p> | <p>Implement Dubrovnik recommendations (monitoring through quarterly reports from HEIs)</p> | <p>The Ministry of Education and Science provides different types of scholarships for students of first and second cycle.</p> <p>The project ‘Translation of 1000 books and textbooks used at top universities of the USA and the UK and at the most renowned ones from France and Germany in the field of law’ will continue in the period 2017-2019. Total of 200 additional books will be translated, with dynamics of 50 titles per year.</p> <p>The investment in HE infrastructure continues in the period 2015-2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reconstruction and adaptation of a building in Ohrid provides modern premises for functioning of the University for Information Sciences and Technologies. For this purpose around 618,000 EUR were used from the National Budget. Currently, around 59,000 EUR | <p>Entrepreneurship and Innovation are part of the HE study programs.</p> <p>In late 2016 Ministry of Local Self-government with support of GIZ in Macedonia has developed Regional Innovation Strategies for all 8 planning regions. Within the recommendations and Action Plan there are number of measures which are focused on Higher Education (developing Entrepreneurial HUBs for students; increasing triple helix activities, etc.). This is a good example how recommendations from National Entrepreneurial Learning Strategy and National Innovation Strategy are implemented on the Mezo level (8th planning regions).</p> <p>The Ministry actively participates in the work of the General Assembly of the EQAR.</p> <p>The main activities of CEEPUS are related to university networks, operating joint programs ideally leading to Joint Degrees, especially Joint Doctoral Programs. CEEPUS covers</p> | <p>The new Law on Higher Education has been adopted and entered into force.</p> <p>The Ministry continuously participates in the work of the General Assembly of the EQAR.</p> <p>The main activities of CEEPUS are related to university networks, operating joint programs ideally leading to Joint Degrees, especially Joint Doctoral Programs. CEEPUS covers mobility grants for students and teachers in this framework. CEEPUS III entered into force on May 1, 2011 for a period of 7 years. Following that, CEEPUS III will be renewed automatically for another 7 years.</p> <p>These scholarships are awarded to students on an annual basis: a) First group – 1.500 scholarships for students of social categories -3300</p> |

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| | | <p>are being invested for provision of contemporary installations and for connection of the reconstructed building to the infrastructural networks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In November 2015 activities for construction of new buildings for the Faculty of Physical Education (around 7,040,000 EUR from the National Budget) and for the Faculty for Information Sciences and Computer Engineering (around 12,760,000 EUR from the National Budget) of the University 'Ss. Cyril and Methodius' – Skopje has started. • In accordance with the 2015 Programme for development of student standard, the following activities were implemented: <p>The reconstruction of the student dormitory 'GoceDelchev' in Skopje that started in 2014 was finalised in August 2015 (around 1,353,000 EUR investment from</p> | <p>mobility grants for students and teachers in this framework. CEEPUS III has entered into force on May 1, 2011 for a period of 7 years. Following that, CEEPUS III will be renewed automatically for another 7 years.</p> <p>The data for the Higher Education Sector are as follows:</p> <p>Total agreements for both faculties are as follows: (Faculty of Computer Science and Engineering and The Faculty of Physical Education, Sport and Health) = <u>1 244 126 941</u>Denars</p> <p>A total realization for both objects for the period from 15th of December 2015 till June 2017 amounts to 129.611.316 Denars which is 10% of the realization for both objects and the deadline for finalizing the construction is end of the year 2018.</p> <p>These scholarships are awarded to students on annual level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a) First group – 1.500 scholarships for students of social categories -3300 Denars | <p>Denars</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Second Group - 630 scholarships (590 scholarships for students in the first cycle at public universities and 40 scholarships in the first cycle at private universities) for students who achieved high success, 105 for students in the first cycle at public universities, for students with average grade of 9, 00 (IT studies) c) Third group – 650 scholarships for students in the first cycle at public state universities for students who study natural sciences, technical-technological, bio-technical, and medical science and who have achieved at least average grade of 7,00. d) Scholarships for math, chemistry and physics e) Scholarships for Metallurgic faculty f) Scholarships for students-children of members of the National Army who have passed away g) Students – children of members of the Army in accordance with the Law |
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| | | <p>the National Budget). Additional 93,000 EUR were invested for interior design and furniture. Students started using the reconstructed part of the dormitory in November 2015.</p> <p>The preparation of the technical documentation for reconstruction of block A and block C, the canteen and for renovation of the parterre of the student dormitory was prepared. The reconstruction of the block A is in progress (investment from the National Budget of around 1,450,000 EUR).</p> <p>Public call was announced for purchasing equipment (replacement of the complete inventory) in all student dormitories. The investment amounts to 1,500,000 EUR.</p> <p>The public call was completed and the company was selected which will replace the old elevators in the student dormitories with new ones. The investment amounts approximately to 245,000 EUR.</p> | <p>b) Second Group- 4400 Denars - 630 scholarships (590 scholarships for students in the first cycle at public universities and 40 scholarships in the first cycle at private universities) for students who achieved high success, for the students at technical faculties and medical studies who achieved average score from the first to the current study year of at least 8.50 and for the students at the faculties of social and humanitarian sciences and art faculties have to have scored at least average grade 9.</p> <p>- 125 scholarships (105 for students at the first cycle at public universities and 20 scholarships for students in private universities, for students with average grade of 9, 00 (IT studies - 6050Denars.</p> <p>c) Third group – 530 scholarships (500 scholarships for students in the first cycle at public state universities and 30 scholarships for students in the first cycle at private universities), for students who study natural sciences, technical-technological, bio-technical, and medical science and the student have to have</p> | |
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| | <p>Public call was announced for construction of two new modern student dormitories.</p> <p>As part of the economic measures of the Government, public call for students who have enrolled third or fourth year of first cycle studies for the first cycle until November 2014 (academic year 2014/15) was announced. Students of two categories:</p> <p>from families with total monthly income up to 500 eur and students with special needs had the right to apply for vouchers for buying tablets. Out of 7.200 applicants, 4.570 students were awarded vouchers amounting 8.000 MKD (approximately 130 EUR) each. The applicants who did not fall in the above mentioned categories mentioned did not receive vouchers.</p> | <p>achieved at least average grade of 7,00 - 3300 Denars - 105 scholarships (70 for students of Macedonian nationality at public and private universities), who have achieved 7,00 and are studying at one of the following groups: (300 Euros a month)</p> <p>20 scholarships for chemistry, 20 scholarships for physics, 30 scholarships for maths, (35 scholarships for minority groups students at private and public universities with average grade of 7,00 (300 Euros a month) 10 scholarships for chemistry 10 scholarships for physics, 15 scholarships for math.</p> <p>For reconstruction- there is a new equipment for 10 student halls in the cost of 100 000 000 Denars. (5500 students were granted place in the dormitories).</p> | |
| <p>Modify the regulatory framework and funding for innovation activities</p> | <p>Out of 78 applicants, 16 beneficiaries have been awarded funding in total of 458.700 euro. One project with duration of 6 months has been completed. The other 15 projects are in the fourth quarter of implementation. The National Fund for Innovations and Technological Development is</p> | <p>During the period 2015-2016 three open calls have been announced.</p> <p>A total of 37 projects have been granted to SMEs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30 projects under the Instrument for support Co-financing Grants for Newly Established Companies: Start- | <p>FITD completed the fourth call for sub-project proposals for the instruments, mini-grants for start-ups and spin-offs, and matching grants for commercialization of innovations. A total of 15 companies (8 start-ups and 7 established enterprises for commercialization), were</p> |

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| | | <p>continually monitoring the project implementation. Information on the co-financed projects can be found on the following link: http://www.fitr.mk/close-calls/previously-funded-projects-for-co-financing-grants-for-start-up-spin-off-companies-and-innovations/?lang=en.</p> <p>The second call under the instruments I (Co-financed Grants for Newly Established Enterprises 'Start-up' and 'Spin-off'), II (Co-Financed Grants and Conditional Loans for Commercialization of Innovations) and III (Co-Financed Grants for Technology Transfer) has been announced in September 2015 with a total budget of 1.300.000 euro for all three instruments. A total 17 new beneficiaries have been awarded funding under the second call (10 under the first instrument and 7 under the second instrument) in total of 868,314 EUR.</p> <p>So far, the Fund has supported projects in the following industries: ICT, mechanical engineering, electro engineering, agriculture, mineral production, creative industries, construction, etc.</p> <p>Through the granted projects so</p> | <p>up and Spin-off</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •7 projects under the Instrument for support – Co-financing Grants and Conditional Loans for Commercialization of Innovations. <p>Nineteen (19) of the granted projects have been successfully implemented; 6 projects are pending approval of their Final Report by the Fund; 11 projects are in implementation and 1 project has been terminated upon beneficiary's request.</p> <p>The fourth open call for awarding funds has been closed in May 2017 and the evaluation procedure for awarding funds is ongoing. The final decision for awarding funds should be taken by the end of July 2017. The budget allocated under the fourth public call is 1.450.00, 00 euro.</p> <p>During the three-year period there was an audit of the rulebooks for the management of the funds and for the instruments for support "Co-financing Grants for Newly Established Enterprises: start-up and spin-off" and Co-financing Grants and Conditional Loans for Commercialization of Innovations" based on the lessons learned from</p> | <p>supported with a total of EUR 803.908. The allocated funding for the call was EUR 1,450,000.</p> <p>The Fund appointed a new Investment Review Committee and new Managing Board. The rulebooks of the instruments for technology extension and accelerators were completed and approved by the World Bank team and the Government of the RM. The open calls for the instruments for technology extension and accelerators were launched on 29th of May, 2018.</p> <p>A new call for mini grants for start-ups and spin-offs and matching grants for commercialization of innovation will be launched within the next months. The timing of the calls is planned in such a way to accommodate other funding calls for instruments funded by the Government.</p> |
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| | | <p>far a total of €449.213 private funding has been mobilized for R&D and commercialization of innovations by the SME beneficiaries.</p> | <p>the implementation of the grant-schemes.</p> <p>The rulebooks for the instruments for support “Co-financing Grants for Technology Extension” and “Co-financing Grants for Establishment, Operations and Investment of Business-Technology Accelerator” are currently in final phase of revision in close consultation with the WB.</p> | |
| | <p>Strengthen the managerial capacities in universities; Implement an IT-supported administration system</p> | <p>In the framework of the SKILLS project supported by the World Bank activities are in progress for establishment of and Electronic Management Information System (EMIS).</p> | <p>In the framework of the SKILLS project supported by the World Bank activities are in progress for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development and establishment of Higher Education Management Information System (HEMIS), central data base for the needs of MoES which will be connected with the MIS of the universities. <p>The project so far provided technical assistance in the design of an integrated EMIS for student affairs, academic programs, human resources management, budgeting and financial management, and infrastructure management. The design also includes a module for common admission system at higher education institutions, if the MOES decides to peruse with this initiative.</p> <p>The managerial capacities in universities should be strengthen</p> | <p>So far, the project provided technical assistance in the design of an integrated EMIS for student affairs, academic programs, human resources management, budgeting and financial management, and infrastructure management. Results from the assessment of the HEI information systems indicates that majority of HEIs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - have information systems that mainly keep basic student data (student records), - don't have historical data, - IS are not developed in a way to support collection of data related to other areas necessary for the central database, as designed, - some of the HEIs do not |

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| | | | <p>through the governance reforms of the universities which are necessary with the implementation of the new funding model of the HE.</p> <p>even have Information System/s and the entire volume of data is paper based or kept in excel files.</p> <p>In order to overcome those risks, and to have comprehensive and data rich Information Systems at the HEI level, supporting university management as well as enabling electronic transfer of data to the central database, the MoES initiates activity targeted toward:</p> <p>design and subsequent development/implementation of a comprehensive Education Management Information System (EMIS) for the accredited higher education institutions which should cover the identified areas essential for the governance of HEI as well as the MoES's Central database.</p> <p>The managerial capacities in universities should be strengthened through the governance reforms of the universities which are necessary with the implementation of the new</p> |
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| | | | funding model of the HE. |
| More transparency in therecruitment and management of staff, as well as drafting of financial reports | | All these aspects are covered within the SKILLS Project and reform options have been elaborated in the draft report “Design and Implementation of a Sustainable Funding Model for the Macedonian Tertiary Education System’ and with the Report “Modern Governance for the Macedonian universities: International trends and reform options” prepared by the international consultant. The report summarizes a range of approaches that the Government of Macedonia could decide upon in elaborating the new funding system accompanied with new governance of the universities. | The new Law on higher education stipulates the establishment of two new bodies (a National Council and an Agency for quality assurance) responsible for quality enhancement of higher education, as well as greater autonomy, and transparency of HEI's. The National Council will be responsible for suggesting the financing model and budget proposal based on measures and criteria for financing the HEIs. All the reform options proposed by the consultant shall be considered while developing legal framework for HE financing. The general condition for recruitment and election of academic staff has been determined in the new Law on higher education, while other specific conditions and requirements are determined within the HEI internal acts. |
| Establish special career centres and offices for student | | Such Career Centers are established at the Faculty of | The Career Centers are set up at other universities (FON University, Goce Delcev |

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| <p>affairs within HEIs.</p> | | <p>Mechanical Engineering and Faculty of Economy within the University Ss. Cyril and Methodius (public universities) and American College and South-East European University (private universities). The two largest public and two largest private HEIs in the country have career advising centers (open to students from all faculties/departments).</p> <p>All HEIs have offices for student affairs.</p> | <p>University, American College University, and Vision University). There is a new Law on Higher Education. In the Article 86 of the Law it is stipulated:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) The University sets up at least one career center. The Career Center has special evidence for former students, organizes conferences of career at each faculty/ university and other activities according to the statute of the university. (2) The activity of the Career Center is determined with the Act brought up by the Senate of the University in accordance with the Statute of the University. |
| <p>Improve communication and coordination among various national authorities; involve business and relevant stakeholders in reforms.</p> | <p>The HEIs have established boards of trust and cooperation with the public. Capacity building and strengthening of their role will be supported with the IPA Twinning project 'Developing Cooperation between HEI, Public Sector and Relevant Public Bodies' (planned to start</p> | <p>The Boards are established on each faculty and there are measures undertaken for developing efficiency of their functioning.</p> | <p>In the Article 122 of the Law it is stated: To achieve cooperation and trust with the public, chambers and other institutions and citizen's associations in the area of higher education and research and innovation or</p> |

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| | in June-July 2016). | | art. In order to assure transparency of the activity of public interest the faculty unit sets up a faculty board for cooperation and public trust, or Board of the Higher Education school for cooperation with the public. (2) the Boards of cooperation with the public have advisory roles and there are representatives of the business association in the area of the study programmes. |
| Redefine the modalities of the funding of HEIs to allow for private sector financing | Activities are in progress in the framework of the SKILLS project. | The draft report "Design and Implementation of a Sustainable Funding Model for the Macedonian Tertiary Education System" is prepared by the international consultant. The report summarizes a range of approaches that the Government of Macedonia could decide upon in elaborating the new funding system. After the careful review of 'pros" and "cons" of each funding reform options outlined in this report, the Government would also need to make a number of decisions that will determine how the detailed preparation of the new funding model moves forward. The decisions are related to the different possibilities in resource mobilization, resource allocation | With the new Law on Higher education there is a National Council for Higher Education and Research for quality assurance. It is in the competence of this National Council to propose Act for measurement and criteria for financing of higher education, brought up by the Government of the Republic of Macedonia. |

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| | | and governance reforms. | |
| <p>Develop strategic plans, based on strategic objectives of the universities; Improve support for participation in international projects</p> | <p>Activities in progress.</p> | <p>Preparation of the strategic plans is a key component of the process of implementing new funding and governance model of the universities elaborated by the international consultant. All institutions should elaborate a strategic plan at regular intervals to guide their development and transformation. This would include the definition and monitoring of key performance indicators and, in many cases, extensive reliance on benchmarking.</p> <p>Support for participation in international projects is envisioned and planned through the establishment of the National office for technology transfer.</p> <p>The successful work and implementation of the EU Programmes is under way.</p> | |