

UPDATE

Higher Education Reform Progress Report

SERBIA

Field	Proposal	2016 State of play	2017 State of play	2018 State of play
Managing resources & reforms in HE	Develop an Action Plan to accompany the Education Strategy 2020	the implementation of the action plan has been continued. A registry of all the teaching staff from the public HEIs has been created. The public institutions are asked to present more clearly their additional financial income. Transparency of financial data has been increased.	A revision of the Action Plan has been done in the domain of higher education and NQF, based on the Strategy for Education Development in Serbia 2020. A monitoring mechanism has been established and information is currently being collected by faculties and coordinators of TEMPUS and ERASMUS projects on the implementation of measures, as project activities, in the Action Plan of the Strategy.	The Law on Higher Education which was adopted in the fourth quarter of 2017 was implemented. The Law on the National Qualifications Framework was adopted in the first quarter of 2018.
	Offer study programmes in foreign languages, thus increasing international appeal	The increase of the programmes that can be taught in a foreign language has been continued. According to the data of the Commission for Accreditation and Quality Control 20 study programme are taught only in English, 226 in both Serbian and another language and about 300 programmes can offer some course in English.	An increase in the number of study programmes in English and 32 new study programmes at state universities within the framework of the IT Development Strategy.	There is a stable number of accredited study programmes carried out in the Serbian and English languages at all study levels and study programmes in the domain of IT studies.
Qualification and Competences (NQF/EQF)	Develop a National Qualifications Framework	The Council for Vocational Education and Adult Education, as well as the National Council for Higher Education decided on the number and qualification level descriptions and the manner of categorizing old and	The development of the NQF has been significantly accelerated in 2017. The formation of an inter-ministerial working group (IMWG) is in progress, and its function will be to manage the development and	The Law on National Qualifications Framework has been adopted ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia", No 27/18).

		<p>current qualifications according to the NQF. The representative of the Republic of Serbia actively participates in the work of the European Qualifications Framework Advisory Group (EQF AG). The draft law on NQF is being prepared by the expert team of the Ministry. For the purposes of the law, the analysis of the institutional and financial framework for the implementation of NQF has been created. The preparation of the report on referencing NQF has started.</p>	<p>implementation of the NQF at national level (the IMWG consists of 20 social partners at strategic and operational levels). The Ministry proposed ISCED (International Standard Classification of Education) as a classification standard for qualifications, which was accepted by the Council for Vocational Education and Adult Education, National Council for Higher Education, Institute for the Improvement of Education and Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Serbia, and made a decision on the implementation of the international standard classification of education ISCED-F 2013 for the classification of qualifications in the NQF. The following activities are underway: finalisation of the draft NQF, adoption of the Law on NQF, preparation of draft report on connecting the NQF with the EQF and preparation of an additional report on self-assessment of the NQF in the field of higher education in relation to the Qualifications Frameworks in the European Higher Education Area (QF-EHEA). A list of qualifications in the Republic of Serbia has been created and a qualification database established (by July, 120 qualifications were entered into the database). An NQF website has been launched.</p>	
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	<p>Reform initial teacher training provided in HEI</p>	<p>This topic is explained in detail in the teacher training report.</p>	<p>This topic is explained in detail in the Teacher Training Report.</p>	<p>This topic has been elaborated on in the Teacher training report.</p>
	<p>Increase Lifelong Learning (LLL)</p>		<p>LLL courses regularly take place at a large number of higher education institutions in LLL centres. It is mandatory for some professions to participate in these courses.</p>	<p>In addition to lifelong learning courses, the Law on Higher Education ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Serbia" No. 88/17 and 27/18 - other law) stipulates that higher education institutions may carry out short study programmes of 30-60 ECTS in order to provide training to persons who have completed higher education and thus give them an opportunity to find employment. Short study programmes have a clearly defined structure, purpose and learning outcomes. Upon completion, a certificate of the completed short study programme and acquired competencies is issued. It is expected that higher education institutions create and start to carry out short study programmes within the domains of teacher training, entrepreneurship and work organization, IT, digitalization, bioengineering, environment protection).</p>

Linking HE to the labour market	Re-introduce applied studies in HE in accordance with the economy and to respond to labour market needs	The National Council for HE adopted new principles on how the enrolment policy would be implemented in the future. One of the principles is the relevance of HE, e.g. its link with the labour market. These principles will be discussed at the level of HEIs in autumn.	Introducing of entrepreneurship modules or content in study programmes. Implementation of entrepreneurial programs of informal education at faculties. Encouraging the establishment of student start-ups through competitions for the best student idea, Entrepreneurship Caravan and similar initiatives.	The introduction of entrepreneurship modules and components into accredited study programmes is still ongoing.
	Increase cooperation with business	This kind of cooperation has been sustained.	The NQF and the new Law on the NQF are currently being drafted with the aim to connect HE with the labour market. This is described in the NQF section. Furthermore, the Draft Law on Higher Education stipulates that HEIs establish employers' councils, which will be involved in developing and adopting new study programmes and innovating the existing ones.	

<p>Increasing of transparency in HE</p>		<p>Bigger universities have started to develop catalogues of courses in order to prepare for their future Erasmus Charter for HE application.</p>	<p>Introduction of the Unified Information System of Education and Science, with newly established registers:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accredited HEIs 2. Employees and researchers 3. Accredited study programmes <p>A database of companies and institutions for student internships has been established (3300 companies/institutions). An analysis has been made and a report on the organization of student practice at faculties in Serbia prepared. Continuous monitoring of the number of employees and HEIs' own revenues The Law on Higher Education has been drafted. The Law on Professions of Special Interest for the Republic of Serbia and the conditions for their practice have been drafted. Preparation of a new model of financing higher education is in progress (draft law).</p> <p>Intensified activities of university ranking in the prestigious world rankings: 4 Serbian universities in the Shanghai Ranking – the Universities of Belgrade, Novi Sad, Kragujevac, and Niš. The science section of the Unique Information System in Education has been established and integrated into DOSITEJ, a register of researchers,</p>	<p>The Register of Researchers in Serbia has been established within the information system in the domain of education "Dositej". In accordance with the Law on Higher Education, a national body for accreditation and quality assurance in higher education has been established. This is a legal entity and a managing and an expert body (Commission for Accreditation and Quality Assurance) financed through revenues from accreditation and external quality assurance.</p>
<p>Preparations for more massive student mobility</p>				

			<p>and an IT support network for data collection from HEI and Scientific Research Organizations (NIO) have been created.</p> <p>The Unique Information System in Education (JISP) for continuous monitoring and evaluation of scientific results has been developed, by researcher, institution, university, and at the level of whole Serbia.</p> <p>Preparation of a new modul within the Unique Information System in Education for a new call for proposals in science</p> <p>Preparation of a new module for open data in science and higher education.</p>	
Quality Assurance	Evaluate the effects of Quality Assurance application procedures, before the second cycle of accreditation starts.		<p>Beginning of the third round of accreditation.</p> <p>Preparation of a report on CAQA (Commission for Accreditation and Quality Assurance) self-assessment and preparatory actions aiming to renew the membership in the ENQA.</p> <p>The draft Law on Higher Education (2017) provides for the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The establishment of the National Accreditation Body 2. New accreditation procedures of HEIs 3 A new method of adopting standards for accreditation 4. Connecting with the new 	The National Accreditation Body is currently being established in accordance with the new Law. More work will be done in the upcoming period with a goal to achieve greater transparency in the accreditation process.

	Comprehensive draft law on NQF and an overall qualification system for all levels of formal education (including short cycle qualifications)	The work on NQF is on-going as explained above.	Creation of a comprehensive Law on the NQF and a system of qualifications for all levels of formal education is in progress. More details are given above.	
	Create a framework for non-formal and informal learning and recognition of prior learning; Work on sectoral qualification frameworks	The work on NQF is on-going as explained above.	Creation of the NQF which defines a framework for non-formal and informal learning, and recognition of prior learning, as well as sectoral qualifications frameworks is ongoing.	
Research	Increase the quality and the relevance of PhD programmes		Adoption of draft laws and bylaws. Adoption of a strategic partnership agreement between national and foreign universities. Developing a model for the establishment and operation of "PhD schools". Motivating foreign students to enrol in "PhD schools". Regular updating of NaRDuS (National Repository of Dissertations in Serbia)	
	Restructure PhD studies and establish PhD schools that are at the level of universities, not	First joint PhD school in mathematics has been founded by the biggest public universities.	Adoption of draft laws and bylaws; Adoption of a strategic partnership agreement between national and foreign universities; Developing a model for the	

faculties or departments.		establishment and operation of "PhD schools". Motivating foreign students to enroll in "PhD schools".	
Create centres of excellence selecting fields in which Serbia has some expertise; Establish an office that can assist HEIs and researchers in preparation of Horizon 2020 proposals		Centers of excellence are being established in line with the Rulebook on the Science Sector. The International Cooperation Sector encourages and monitors the participation of researchers in the HORIZON 2020 programme.	In the science sector, a total of 16 centers of excellence have been established within institutes and faculties. Researchers are continually provided with support in the form of thematic information days, consultations, and workshops for the preparation of project proposals by nominated national contact persons.
Support of knowledge transfer by devising grant schemes such as Proof-of-Concept initiative, helping researchers validate their ideas and inventions from lab to marketable innovation		A draft of the Proof-of-Concept programme on the structural ERASMUS IF4TM programme . It is due to be piloted in 2017/2018, and, subsequently introduced in regular programmes of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development for financing science and technology transfer. Strengthening TTC centres at universities.	
Invest more in research with good infrastructure and overall environment to attract talented researchers back to		Rules, forms, mechanisms and procedures of the integration of research capacities have been established A critical mass of researchers in priority fields has been reached;	In the science sector: 1. A call has been issued for participation of talented young researchers – PhD students in scientific research projects to be carried out in the current research

	Serbia and support brain-gain.		<p>An increase in the number of accredited centres of excellence in priority fields; Concrete and applicable measures for furthering scientific excellence have been defined; An increase in the number of researchers (16500 compared to the previous 12000); An improved ranking of Serbian universities; The science sector promotes the development of scientific staff.</p>	<p>cycle</p> <p>2. A call has been issued for the inclusion of researchers – repatriates in projects that are being implemented in the current research cycle</p> <p>- Professional development of scientific staff is stimulated through 18 programme activities.</p>
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