

UPDATE

**Higher Education Reform Progress Report**

**KOSOVO\***

---

<sup>1</sup>\* This designation is without prejudice to positions on status, and is in line with UNSCR 1244 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo Declaration of Independence.

Field	Proposal	2016 State of play	2017 State of play	2018 State of play
HE links to the labour market	Develop policies for public-private partnerships	The electronic platform has been developed for the Higher Education Management Information System. The Administrative Instruction has been drafted and it is in the process of being approved by the minister.	<p>The Administrative instruction is approved.</p> <p>The electronic platform has been successfully piloted for the academic year 2016/2017. HEI administration has been trained and therefore all Higher Education Institutions have completed the requested data (filled data on the system for students, administrative and academic staff) on the online platform.</p> <p>A new law on regulated professions has been approved. We are on the phase of establishing the agency.</p>	<p>Management System uploaded data from all Higher Education Institutions.</p> <p>Completed draft paper “Concept Document on Feasibility for Public Universities in Kosovo” for foundation creating university profiles.</p>
	Include business/industry in HEI councils/boards; cooperation in internships		HEI have established industrial boards.	<p>All public HEI's developed regulations for industrial boards.</p> <p>HEI's are at different implementation phases.</p>
	Review study		Kosovo Accreditation Agency	Kosovo Accreditation Agency

	programs and curricula in compliance with labour market needs		through re-accreditation process has specified requirements related to study programs and curricula in compliance with labour market needs.	through New Administrative Instruction for Accreditation of Higher Education Institutions in Kosovo No. 9/2017, and New Standards and Guidelines of KAA has specified requirements related to study programs and curricula in compliance with labour market needs. Also, requirements are based on National Qualification Framework of Kosovo. HEI's are required to develop learning outcomes during the design of all study programmes and curricula.
	Define the HE framework on the dual system, respectively focusing more on studies in applied sciences		In the Education Strategy 2017-2021 MEST objective is to support HEI in profiling.	Developed concept paper (stated above).
	Develop indicators and (metric) measures in monitoring the approximation of education system			Developed MOU, between stakeholders and ministers, to implement and integrate metrics specific to agricultural sector.

	and labour market needs			
<b>White paper for Higher Education</b>	Develop schemes to provide incentives for businesses to recruit graduates (e.g. reduction of taxes, etc.)			Developed university career centre (University of Prishtina).  Implemented business-student online platform for employment.
<b>Rector's conference</b>		The Decision on the Establishment of Rectors' Conference has been issued. The first conference will be held at the end of June.	The Rectors' Conference is established.	The Rector's Conference meets regularly to discuss issues, such as unifying policies on staff recruitment, student enrolment, the need for higher education institution profiling, challenges of accreditation process, budgeting, research infrastructure etc.
<b>Establishment of an Institute for Research and Development in Education</b>		Institute for Research and Development in Education in the Faculty of Education has been established in order to provide training programs for pre service teachers and teachers' trainings based on new Kosovo curriculum framework.	The Institute for Research and Development in Education is functioning with limited capacities due to the budgetary limitation.	The Institute for Research and Development in Education is functioning with limited capacities due to budgetary limitations. There are some good initiatives for collaboration with international partners (Agreement with GIZ, Unicef, Indiana University etc.), as well as applying for grants.

<b>Managing resources &amp; reforms in HE</b>	Apply transparent and competitive recruitment of academic and research staff, and merit-based promotions	In the HE Law which is expected to be on the Agenda in June, there are described all criteria for the advancement and recruitment of academic staff.	The Law on Higher Education is still in process because of political issues that are happening in Kosovo.	Established a working group.  Working group created initial draft for public viewing (review in process).  Recruitment statues implemented at university level.
	More financial and managerial autonomy but also accountability of HEIs	We are at the final year of implementing the TEMPUS project for drafting the White Paper for Higher Education Institutions Financing Formula System. On 3-4 November will be organized the last Conference on Financing Model for HE in Kosovo.	The conference has been organised. The output of the conference was delivery of the white paper.  The recommendation of the conference was the adaption of white paper to drafting Administrative Instruction.  The HE Law is still in process therefore the administrative instruction is linked to it.	Revision of HE Law
	Develop financial management reforms for the modernization of HE/research and the labour market		Through Kosovo Education System Improvement Project (ESIP) MEST has addressed the issue and a study on higher education autonomy and financial management is being done by expert.	Revision of HE Law

	Modernise studies (curricula, methodology, digital learning platforms etc.) and improve infrastructure, laboratories, etc.			Digitalization conference held at MEST/HERE.  Implementation of E-Lab (UP, Fac. of Medicine).  Staff participation in curriculum development conferences.
	Establish an alumni networks and track graduates	The Students' Union has been established, in the process of its activities will be taken into consideration the Alumni as well. The Students' Union has been established in partnership with TEMPUS project.	Higher Education Institutions (5 public + 1 private) are at the final year of implementing ERASMUS + project "Entrepreneurial Universities for Industry Alliances- EUFORIA". The career software is developed which has the component of alumni as well.	With the support of Transformations Leadership Program Alumni of University of Pristina is being developed. The decision has been taken and they are on the consolidation phase.
	Develop a legal framework for managing human resources in HE sector	The Law on Higher Education has passed from the Government and it is in the Kosovo Assembly. In June, the Law is expected to be listed on Agenda.	The Law on Higher Education is still in process because of political issues that are happening in Kosovo.	The draft law on Higher Education is in public consultation.  HEI's are based on their statute and internal regulations for staff recruitment.
	Increase transparency in practices	The Articles within the HE Law which regulates the academic advancement, research, and teaching is welcomed by all		MEST and Higher Education Institutions are actively involved

		relevant factors.		on the EU project ETINED (Platform on Ethics Transparency and Integrity in Education). Through this project stakeholders are being trained and are participating in conferences, study visits etc. As a result of this project, University of Gjilan “Kadri Zeka” and University of Peja “Haxhi Zeka” have become members of European Network for Academic Integrity –ENAI.
<b>Research</b>	Initiate and design new PhD programmes /curricula (focus on joint PhD / partnerships with other HEIs)		During 2017 five (5) PhD programmes have been accredited (Law, general medicine and dentistry). Three of them new study programmes.	
	Support academics and researchers in approaching potential projects	The Ministry supports and grants the research projects for the academic staff. The preparations are being done for the Conference on the criteria to gain the grant and the transparency for the selection of the projects. The Faculty of Education established the Institute for	In 2016 MEST has approved administrative instruction for supporting academic staff with small research projects (up to 10000 euro). During 2017 so far are granted 5 projects.  Beneficiaries of the research grants	Advanced participation in international research schemes.  Capacity building workshops (Erasmus+, Horizon 2020, etc.).  Increased mobility through program participation (Fulbright, CEEPUS, etc.).

		<p>Research and Development in Education to support the education development.</p>	<p>are obliged to present the research outputs on the Kosovo annual Science Conference.</p> <p>Through HERAS (project founded by Austrian Development Cooperation and MEST) are supported 10 research projects (up to 15.000 euro. In total 150.000 euro are allocated to support this activity.). An added value of the proposal is having an regional partner in the project which promotes the regional cooperation.</p> <p>In 2016 MEST has approved administrative instruction for supporting researchers for short term mobility. During 2017 50 short term mobility have been granted for participating in international conferences, 6 of them were for scientific work (up to 3 month support for research activities).</p>	<p>Continued support of previous programs (HERAS, academic conferences, trainings, etc.).</p> <p>In 2018, MEST continues to support numerous short term mobility programs.</p> <p>In 2018, MEST continues to support numerous small research grants for researchers to publish their scientific work in international scientific journals.</p> <p>MEST supports students in PhD studies (annual activity). Higher Education Department and Department for Science and Technology within MEST are actively participating in RCC activities on the mobility of researcher's component.</p>
	<p>Provide incentives to academic staff to engage in research and recognize research activities as part of regular duties</p>		<p>The Transformational Leadership Program – Scholarships and Partnerships (funded by USAID and MEST), is helping University of Prishtina (Rector's Office) in designing Job Descriptions for</p>	<p>See above</p>



			<p>Dean's and Vice Deans, Vice Rectors, and in the future for teaching staff so that it includes research as part of their duties.</p> <p>In addition, through TLP-SP exchange program with US University Partners, 13 joint research projects have been initiated between University of Prishtina staff and university partners in the United States: seven of them are in the area of education (using ICT in education, early childhood education etc.), five of them are in the area of environmental engineering (air pollution, water pollution etc.), and one is in agriculture (Kosovo dairy farms).</p>	
	Promote research results that are useful to industry to develop business practices		The Rectors' Conference is established.	<p>Hosted Science Conference Week.</p> <p>Beneficiaries of the research grants from MEST are obliged to present the research outputs at the Kosovo annual Science Conference.</p> <p>At this year's conference there were 107 presentations in seven</p>

				areas.
<b>Qualification and Competences (NQF/EQF)</b>	Vertical linkage and harmonization of HE levels in NQF in learning outcomes, generic skills/competences			With the Administrative Instructions for Higher Education Institutions, Article 26 for Quality standards for study programs, HEI's are required to define expected learning outcomes at the program and subject level which are aligned with the descriptors of the National Qualifications Framework level. These requirements are also in line with the new KAA's standards and guidance.
	Develop learning outcomes during the design of all study programmes and curricula			With the Administrative Instructions for Higher Education Institutions, Article 26 for Quality standards for study programs, HEI's are required to define expected learning outcomes at the program and subject level which are aligned with the descriptors of the National Qualifications Framework level. These requirements are also in line with the new KAA's standards and guidance.

	<p>Recognition of foreign qualifications and degrees.</p>	<p>Procedures have been facilitated by the Department of Higher Education and are being implemented by the NARIC centre based on the criteria applied in most EU countries.</p>	<p>Procedures have been further facilitated by implementing new administrative instruction which was revised during 2016 and implemented. The criteria applied are those applied in most EU countries.</p>	<p>Fully implemented regulation in line with Lisbon Recognition Convention.</p> <p>Recognition Division (MEST) actively participates in RCC activities on the mobility component (in regards to recognition of academic qualification and mobility of professionals).</p>
--	---	---	--	---