



Erasmus+

Kosovo Erasmus+ Office

Process of reform and transformation of HE in Kosovo*

Belgrade, 24-25 September 2015

Lazic Goran

Statistical data

- Unemployment: around 40% out of 2 mil.
- Population under 25 years > 50%
- Each year about 25.000 students complete secondary education
- About 20.000 intends to continue their education in HEIs each year

HEIs Background

- UP was the first HEI in Kosovo established in 1959.
- The HE system operates through public(universities) and private higher education institutions (colleges, institutes, higher professional schools).
 - 7 Public universities, and around 30 private colleges
 - More than 400 Study programs, over 100,000 students are currently enrolled
 - Education is delivered in five languages: Albanian, Serbian, Bosnian, Turkish and English
- Kosovo HE system has received an extensive international support and expertise

Major Changes, Reforms and Development Trends

- Education system in Kosovo went through changes and developments since June 1999
- Although Higher Education experienced essential reforms, there are pro et contra arguments whether substantial or superficial reforms took place after 1999
- The reform process is underway, but it will take more time until it delivers a quality product, i.e. skillful and competitive students for the open market and an environment which is free of disagreements of the past and where peace building reconciliation are deeply rooted in the society.

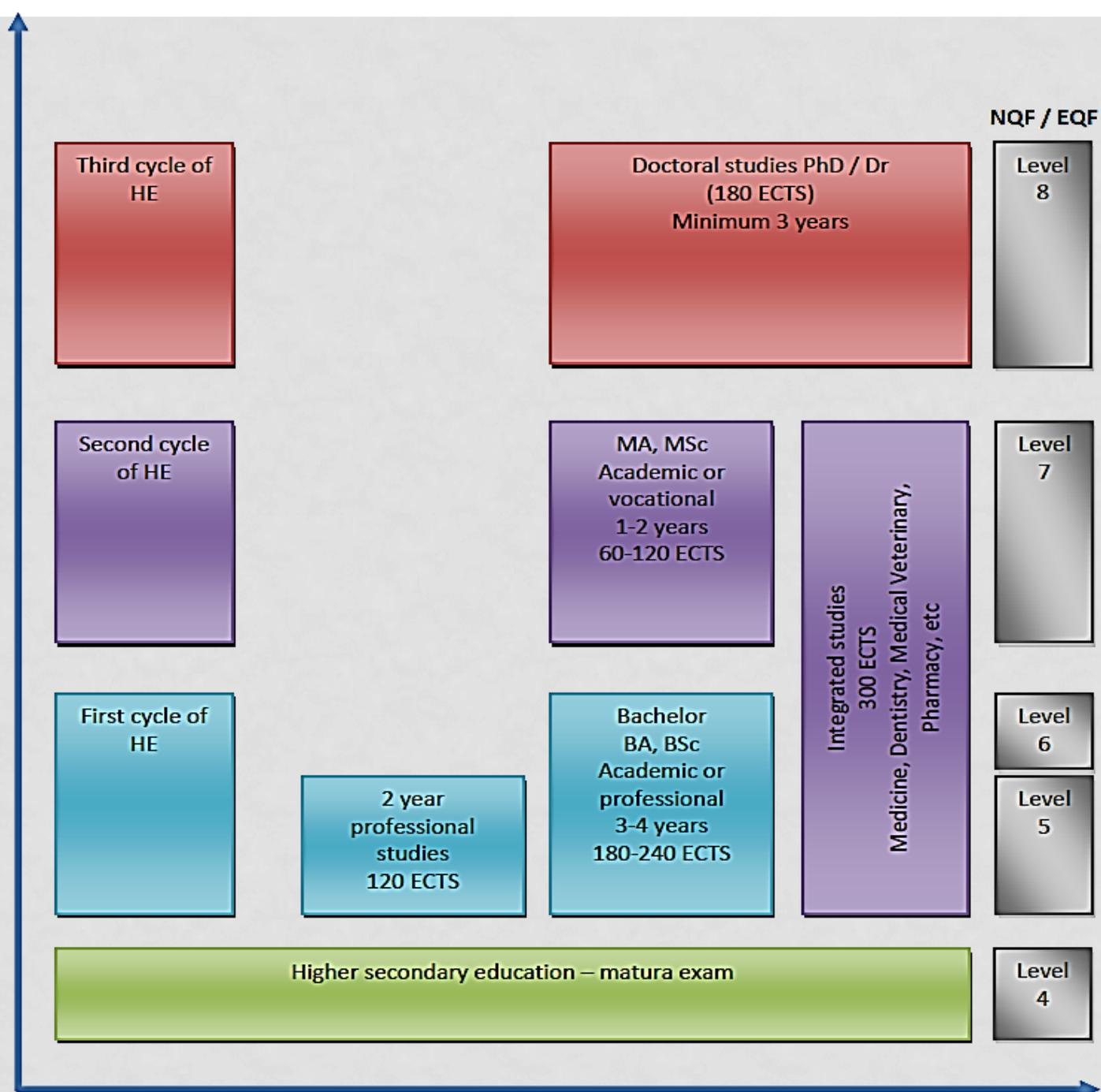
Introduction of Bologna reform

- The University of Pristina adopted voluntarily the Bologna Declaration in 2001, making it one of the first universities in Europe to start with the reforms for entering the EHEA.
- In the spirit of the Bologna Declaration a new Law on Higher Education was drafted in 2002 and adopted in 2003, which was revised again in 2011.
- As a result of implementation of these reforms in higher education in Kosovo today all institutions of higher education implement the ECTS credit system, curriculum reform, three cycle degree system, student and staff mobility, diploma supplement and decent quality assurance system.

Legal and Policy Framework

- Law no. 04/L-037 for Higher Education in the 2011
- Law no. 04/L-135 on Scientific Research (2013);
- Law no. 03/L-060 on National Qualifications (2008);
- Kosovo Education Strategic Plan 2011-2016;
- Higher Education Strategy 2005-2015;
- National Qualifications Framework (2011);
- National Research Program (2010-2015);
- National Innovations Strategy 2015-2020 (draft);
- Career Guidance Strategy (draft);

HE System in Kosovo



HE System in Kosovo – HE Law (2011)

- First cycle – three (3) to four (4) years of studies by which the student reaches 180, respectively 240 ECTS => Bachelor Diploma.
- Second cycle – one (1) to two (2) years of studies after completion of the first level by which the students reaches 60, respectively 120 ECTS => Master Diploma.
- Third cycle – doctoral studies with academic and independent research scientific character.
- Any other post-secondary education in the levels 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning, for which credits may be given (ECTS).

Main regulatory authorities of HE sector

- Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST)

Sets the policy framework for higher education and oversees its implementation

- The Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA)

- Ensures the external quality assurance in HE in full accordance with ENQA Guidelines and Standards for QA – full member of ENQA since September 2014

- The National Qualifications Authority (NQA)

- Regulates the qualifications according to National Qualifications Framework and EQF

- The Kosovo ENIC Office

- Responsible for recognition of foreign diplomas and degrees in accordance with Lisbon Convention on Recognition

Quality Assurance System

- **External Quality Assurance**

- KAA ensures accreditation of HE institutions and study programs with decision from State Council for Quality Assurance based on recommendations from international experts;
- Ensures that study programs and curricula are developed based on learning outcomes;
- Monitor and control of quality at the accredited institutions and their study programs;
- Decisions are made publicly available;

- **Internal Quality Assurance**

- Every HEI in Kosovo has functional QA Offices and relevant procedures and instruments for ensuring internal quality assurance (involving academic and administrative staff as well as students)

International Cooperation in HE

- **Promoting partnerships and cooperation among HEIs**

- Participation in Erasmus + program;
- Bilateral agreements with different countries

- **Increasing mobility opportunities**

- Participation in CEEPUS Program;
- HEIs in Kosovo are partners of many Erasmus Mundus partnerships;
- Governmental funds for international mobility (scholarships for study abroad, research mobility and participation in international conferences and events);

Regional priorities for CBHE for WB

Teacher training and education science

Physical sciences

Engineering and engineering trades

Agriculture, forestry and fishery

Health

Transport services

Environmental protection

National priorities for Kosovo*

Teacher training and education science

Social and behavioral sciences

Life sciences, Physical sciences

**Computing, Engineering and engineering
trades**

Architecture and construction

Agriculture, forestry and fishery

Health

Social services

Thank you for your attention!