

Support to strengthening the higher education system in Azerbaijan



Twinning project ENI/2018/395-401

Mission Report

Short-Term Mission on Activity 2.3 Hold training workshops on innovative teaching, learning and assessment methods, including the allocation of credits based on learning outcomes and student workload in order to ensure that student-centred curricula are also implemented in practice

(February 17 –21, 2020)

1. Name and Function of the Expert:

Full name of expert

Mr. Linas Leonas, Lithuania

Signature

Ms. Tatjana Volkova, Latvia

Signature



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2. Objective and Tasks of the Mission:

The mission is carried out within the framework of:

COMPONENT 2: PILOT STUDY PROGRAMME IN PRIORITY AREAS ARE IMPROVED TO BE MORE STUDENT-CENTRED

Activity 2.3 Hold training workshops on innovative teaching, learning and assessment methods, including the allocation of credits based on learning outcomes and student workload in order to ensure that student-centred curricula are also implemented in practice

Benchmarks for this activity are:

- 4 trainings (with 100 participants) and training materials on student-centred approaches for teaching, learning and assessment delivered;
- Suggestions for content and organisation of further training workshops



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3. Time schedule of mission:

Date and Time	Activity
17 th of February 2020 Monday 9:30 – 16:00	Preparation for the workshop, e.g. content, training schedule, materials to be delivered. Meeting with representatives of project regarding training expectations.
18 th of February 2020 Tuesday 9:30 – 16:00	Workshop on competence-based education and student-centred learning.
19 th of February 2020 Wednesday 9:30 – 16:00	Workshop on innovative teaching and learning approaches, student-centred learning elements and principles.
20 th of February 2020 Thursday 9:30 – 16:00	Workshop on learning outcomes design and assessment.
21 st of February 2020 Friday 10:00 – 16:00	Reflection and feedback on workshop results and preparation of mission report.

4. Relevant Background Information/State of Affairs regarding the mission

The experts been asked to deliver interactive and practical training related to the competence-based education, student centred learning, learning outcomes based teaching and learning approach and teaching and learning assessment.

The Twinning project office employees provided the relevant documents of previous missions.

Another three-day training with the same topic was carried out under the Activity 2.3 the previous week, on 11-13 February 2020. The trainings were attended by a total of 32 participants.

5. Achievement of the Expected Results

Planned results of workshops have been achieved as expected. Notices on process of training:

- High level of engagement among all age groups;
- There is a positive notion to deepen understanding and application of competence-based education, student's centred education, LO approach and LO assessment;
- Willingness to share acquired experience with colleagues and apply in practise;
- Some elements of innovative T&L approaches are already applied, e.g. interactives teaching methods, some problems-based teaching, cases studies, etc.;
- There is a certain level of awareness about NQF in Azerbaijan;
- The international experience been acquired by some participants either through international visits or developing joint programs;

6. Unexpected Results

Not applicable

7. Issues Left Open After the Mission



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Not applicable.

8. Recommendations (including recommendation for future missions)

1. To consider regular trainings of HEIs administration and academic staff, e.g. on latest development in higher education, including application of competence-based education (CBE) and student's centred learning (SCL) elements;
2. To encourage HEIs to foster application of CBE, SCL, innovative T&L approaches, T&L assessment based on LOs and all related elements, e.g. by organizing training, seminars, awareness raising activities, events, etc. for administrative and academic staff, as well by providing financial and expertise support for HEIs;
3. To encourage share the best experiences of innovative T&L application of CBE and SCL approaches among HEIs in Azerbaijan;
4. In the accreditation procedures both at institutional and study program levels competence-based education (CBE) and SCL elements' assessment has to be included;
For example, for SCL assessment on SP level the following criteria could be included: LO defined, ECTS used for curricula delivery and development, ECTS recognition from study periods abroad, innovative T&L approaches applied, LO assessment methods, student's involvement in governance structures, student friendly environment and infrastructure, etc.;
5. To consider moving away from centralized standards for specializations towards providing autonomy to HEIs to design the program LOs and content for delivering necessary competencies predefined by NQF after study program or field accreditation is introduced;
6. To stimulate internal and external student mobility. HEIs should develop the mechanisms for recognition of these study periods by HEIs based on ECTS and LOs;
7. To stimulate staff mobility of both administrative and academic staff to share best practices in T&L, needed also for development of internationalization capacity;
8. To ensure involvement of external representatives of social partners in advisory bodies both on program and faculty levels to decrease the gap between competencies delivered in the HEIs and the fast-moving expected competencies in the work of world currently and in the future;
9. Encourage HEIs to reorganise and adapt infrastructure to more student centred and interactivity and student engagement-oriented activities to enable application of innovative T&L approaches and LOs assessment. Stimulate introduction of modern teaching and learning technologies, i.e. latest digital solutions, f.e. interactive boards, as well providing universal access to Wi-Fi, sufficient ICT equipment. The HEIs have to assure that T&L supplies for interactive T&L activities both for contact and independent students' activities be in place.

9. Acknowledgments (if any)

Best acknowledgements to the Twinning office and representatives of Ministry of Education for the dedicated support for preparation and delivering the workshop. Special thanks to Azad Akhundov, Senior advisor of Ministry of Education, Department of Research, Higher Education, Secondary Professional Education for fruitful discussions, Lysa Bydanova for her engagement and professionalism, Tarlan Arzumanov, Aytaj Atakishiyeva for continued organizational support and translators, who helped with workshop delivery, creating the best experience for participants.



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Annexes (workshop outline, PPP and handouts)



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