

Support to strengthening the higher education system in Azerbaijan



Twinning project ENI/2018/395-401

Mission Report

Short-Term Mission on Activity 1.5. Provide recommendations for improvement of education standards for qualification for programmes in the priority areas (incl. legislative arrangements) with a view to describing achievements based on competences and skills, considering the AzQF

(October 7 - 11, 2019)

1. Name and Function of the Expert:

Full name of expert

Ms. Ineta Helmane, Latvia

Signature



2. Objective and Tasks of the Mission:

The mission is carried out within the framework of:

COMPONENT 1: SELECTED NATIONAL EDUCATION STANDARDS ARE ALIGNED TO INCLUDE A COMPETENCE-BASED FOCUS

Activity 1.5. Provide recommendations for improvement of education standards for qualification for programmes in the priority areas (incl. legislative arrangements) with a view to describing achievements based on competences and skills, considering the AzQF

Benchmarks for this activity are:

- **State standards for selected study programmes (Primary school teacher state standard) are revised**, with a view to describing achievements based on competences and learning outcomes, considering AzQF;
- **Other relevant documents/ methodology materials are prepared.**

3. Time schedule of the mission:

Date and Time	Activity
Monday 7 th of October 2019	Meeting with RTA Ms. Elizaveta Bydanova and Ms. Vusala Gurbanova, Component Leader I, Senior Advisor at Higher Education Department, Ministry of Education
Tuesday 8 th of October 2019	Meeting with Working Group on Primary School Teacher. (See the Annex for the list of participants)
Wednesday 9 th of October 2019	Deskwork. Working on a new standard for the study programme of Primary school teacher.
Thursday 10 th of October 2019	A visit to Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University to meet with academic staff from relevant chairs to learn their views and suggestions regarding the state standard for the study programmes in Primary School Teacher.
Friday 11 th of October 2019	Report writing Meeting with RTA Ms. Elizaveta Bydanova and staff of the MoE Higher Education Department to debrief about the results of the mission (Ms. Vusala Gurbanova, CL I and Mr. Yashar Omarov, RTA Counterpart)

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

1. CLASSIFICATION of master level specialties (programmes) of higher education
2. CLASSIFICATION of bachelor level (main (basic) medical education) specialties (programmes) of higher education
3. A methodological compendium on identifying and defining learning outcomes
4. Twinning Project SUPPORT TO STRENGTHENING THE HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM IN AZERBAIJAN ENI/2018/395-401 2018-2020 BRIEF INTRODUCTION INTO MAIN STAKEHOLDERS
5. Standards of higher education of Bachelor level in Physics, Ecology, Foreign language teacher elaborated within the TWINNING project
6. Standards of higher education of Bachelor level for Informatics teacher and Ecology.
7. Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers "On the approval of the 'National Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning of the Republic of Azerbaijan'"
8. STE Welcome Package. AZERBAIJAN

5. Achievement of the Expected Results

Planned action was achieved. Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University was visited and views on State standard of Primary school Teacher programme were discussed with professionals from local universities and recommendations were received.

At the Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan a meeting with Working Group on Primary school Teacher and relevant employers was organized and opinion on existing standard of Bachelor level for Primary school teacher was obtained.

6. Unexpected Results

No unexpected results were obtained during the mission.

7. Issues Left Open After the Mission

8. Recommendations (including recommendation for future missions)

It is recommended:

To introduce online learning management systems at all universities. This would foster availability of learning materials for students, solutions for insufficient internet access and provide a database of student achievement.

To split subjects in smaller amount of ECTS which allows to have a wider range of different subjects, and subject content area can be distributed along the study programme so some important issues are repeated during 4 years of studying giving students an opportunity to strengthen and complement the relevant knowledge and skills.

To split internship in parts among study semesters and divided in observational and teaching parts where the absolute majority of time is devoted to actual teaching at school. Find an opportunity to organize the internship of prospective teachers in the school gradually. Starting

with the 2nd study year, the prospective teachers go on observing internship, during the 3rd study year they conduct lessons, in the 4th study year the internship is connected with the qualification acquisition conditions.

To add teaching/learning methodology or didactics as part of all primary school subjects' courses so students would not only learn a content of the course but also learn how to deliver that content to their pupils in future professional life. Revise theoretical proportion of study course and fulfill more practical content in study courses. For instance, there should be revised content of mathematics study courses and content for this specific study courses should be minimized. To reduce number of theoretical courses of mathematics

To use all study courses to develop students' skill of learning to learn, self-directed teaching/learning process should be organized.

To form a local team of professionals who simultaneously master teaching/learning in primary school have an international experience in higher education in foreign countries to prepare the most suitable and updated version for standard of primary school teacher study programme.

To take the competencies of specialty (teacher profession) as basis when preparing the standard of a study programme.

To compose the study programme in a way that it covers the content of primary education's curriculum in a more in-depth way. New programme should be connected and based in school curricula. School curricula should be revised to and textbooks as well.

9. Acknowledgments

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Annexes

Teacher education systems in the European Union are compiled on the European Commission platform - *Eurydice*:

<https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/nationalpolicies/eurydice/content/bachelor>.

Estonia – Tallinn University <https://www.tlu.ee/en/bachelors-studies>

Lithuania- Šiauliai universitetas

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Self directed learning

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