

Support to strengthening the higher education system in Azerbaijan



Twinning project ENI/2018/395-401

Mission Report

Short-Term Mission on Activity 2.2 Develop a methodological compendium on how learning outcomes are identified and designed, which will guide people responsible for development and review of programme in implementing a student-centred approach

(April 1 – 5, 2019)

1. Name and Function of the Expert:

Full name of expert

Mrs. Inga Juknyte-Petreikienė

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 2.2 Develop a methodological compendium on how learning outcomes are identified and designed, which will guide people responsible for development and review of programme in implementing a student-centred approach

Benchmarks for this activity are:

- A methodological compendium on identifying and defining learning outcomes that includes a check-list for designing learning outcomes



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3. Time schedule of mission:

Date and Time	Activity
1 st of April 2019 Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- A meeting with Mr. Azad Akhundov, Component II Leader and Twinning team in Ministry of Education. Preparation for workshops at HEIs- A workshop with academic staff representing study programmes in Biology, Geography and Ecology from Baku State University (BSU) and Sumgait State University (SSU) in BSU.
2 nd of April 2019 Tuesday	A workshop with academic staff representing study programmes in Informatics teacher, Math teacher and Chemistry teacher from Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University (ASPU) and Sumgait State University in ASPU.
3 rd of April 2019 Wednesday	A workshop with academic staff representing study programmes in Electrical Energy Engineering, Computer Engineering and Information Technologies from Azerbaijan Oil and Industry University (ASOIU) and Azerbaijan Technical University (AzTU) in ASOIU.
4 th of April 2019 Thursday	A workshop with academic staff representing study programmes in Chemical Engineering and Physics from Baku State University and Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University in BSU.
5 th of April 2019 Friday	Report writing

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

Under the Activity 1.5 the following State Standards of Study Programme for Educational Sciences, Natural Sciences and Technical and Technological Sciences were revised taking into account the competence-based approach:

- Educational Sciences: Foreign Language Teacher, Math Teacher, Informatics Teacher, Primary School Teacher, Physics Teacher, Chemistry Teacher;
- Natural Sciences: Biology, Ecology, Geography, Computer Science, Physics;
- Technical and Technological Sciences: Computer Engineering, Electrical Energy Engineering, Information Technologies, Oil and Gas Engineering, Chemical Engineering.

Following the new suggested format of State Standards of Study Programme, the experts based on the experience of Lithuania, France and Tuning project resources developed general and professional competences.

Under the Activity 1.5 it was agreed with the representatives of the Ministry of Education that the learning outcomes of each study programme will be developed by the national working groups representing academics from different universities.

5. Achievement of the Expected Results

Three workshops (in total 9 hours) with academic staff representing study programmes in Informatics teacher, Math teacher and Chemistry teacher from Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University and from Sumgait State University, academic staff representing study programmes in Electrical Energy Engineering, Computer Engineering and Information Technologies from Azerbaijan Oil and Industry



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University and from Azerbaijan Technical University; and academic staff representing study programmes in Chemical Engineering and Physics from Baku State University and from Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University were held on learning outcomes and student - centred approach to teaching, learning and assessment in higher education.

With the representatives of academic staff from Baku State University (BSU), Sumgait State University (SSU), Azerbaijan Oil and Industry University (ASOIU) and Azerbaijan Technical University (AzTU) the key concepts of Learning Outcomes, Competence and Qualification were discussed, the importance of correspondence of Learning Outcomes to the levels of Azerbaijanian Qualification Framework was emphasised, the methodology on how to write the learning outcomes and examples were presented; the parameters of student-centred learning, teaching and assessment were highlighted (Annexe 1). The current practice of Lithuanian and Azerbaijan HEIs in implementing student-centred approach was disputed.

The representatives of academic staff from Baku State University (BSU), Sumgait State University (SSU), Azerbaijan Oil and Industry University (ASOIU) and Azerbaijan Technical University (AzTU) were asked to assemble the national working groups and develop the learning outcomes of each study programme they represent. The drafted learning outcomes of each study programme will be contribution to the revision of State Standards of Study Programmes for Educational Sciences, Natural Sciences, Technical and Technological Sciences.

A methodological compendium on identifying and defining learning outcomes (Annex 2) was drafted afterwards. The aim of this methodological compendium is to provide support for stakeholders of Azerbaijanian universities, especially teaching staff, and facilitate the transition from teacher-centred to student-centred approach in Azerbaijanian higher education. A methodological compendium consists of the following sections:

- What is student-centred teaching, learning and assessment approach?
- What are the learning outcomes?
- How to identify the learning outcomes?
- How to write the learning outcomes?
- How are Learning Outcomes linked to Teaching and Assessment?
- Annexes

6. Unexpected Results

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7. Issues Left Open After the Mission

The annex 5 of the Compendium on the Examples of Competences and Learning Outcomes should be updated after the assembled national working groups will draft and discuss the learning outcomes of each study programme with relevant experts from EU project partners. The annex 5 of the Compendium on the Examples of Competences and Learning Outcomes will serve as a guideline for Azerbaijanian academic community of other study programmes within and beyond the current Twining project.

8. Recommendations (including recommendation for future missions)



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It is strongly recommended to agree on the deadline when the drafts of Learning outcomes of the programmes should be accomplished by national working groups.

In future missions' workshops at universities on how to (re-)design, develop, implement, evaluate and enhance quality of the 1st and 2nd cycle degree programmes should have longer sessions in order to have a sufficient time to perform practical activities with representatives of Azerbaijanian universities. It is recommended to invite the same people to ensure the continuation of activities and deeper development of capacities of academic community representatives.

The main challenge is competence-based curricula implementation in practice. In order to reach the real change in higher education, support must be provided to help HEIs' communities to achieve transition to competence-based higher education standards. Therefore, in order to strengthen the impact and sustainability of the project for further development and real implementation of competence-based higher education in Azerbaijan it is strongly recommended to establish within universities Support centres for development of academic capacities to implement and maintain student-centred approach.

9. Acknowledgments (if any)

The expert expresses her gratitude to the representative of Ministry of Education Mr. Azad Akhundov, Component II Leader and Twinning team for preparation for workshops at HEIs.

Annexes

Annex 1. Power point presentation on Learning Outcomes or Student- Centred Approach to teaching, learning and assessment in HE

Annex 2. A methodological compendium on identifying and defining learning outcomes



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