

# 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

(September 23–27, 2019)

1. Name and Function of the Expert:

Full name of expert

Mr. Audrius Lopata, Lithuania

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 (Information Technology 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:**

<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> of September 2019	10:00-11:00 Meeting with RTA Ms. Elizaveta Bydanova and Ms. Vusala Gurbanova, Component Leader I, Senior Advisor at Higher Education Department, Ministry of Education. 11:00 – 13:00 Deskwork. 13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH 14:00-16:00 Meeting with Working Group on Information Technology.
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> of September 2019	10:00-12:00 Meeting with Working Group on Ecology and relevant employers. 13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH 14:00-16:00 Meeting with Working Group on Geography and relevant employers.
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> of September 2019	10:00 – 13:00 Deskwork. 13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH 14:00-17:00 Visit to Azerbaijan Technical University
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> of September 2019	10:00-11:30 Meeting with RTA to discuss preliminary conclusions 13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH 14:00-17:00
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> of September 2019	10:00-12:00 Meeting with MoE Higher Education Department to debrief about the results of the mission 13:00 – 14:00 LUNCH 14:00-17:00 Report writing

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

1. Classification of Bachelor and Master level programs in Azerbaijan
2. Standards of higher education of Bachelor level in Biology, Ecology, Geography and other branches of education
3. Standards of higher education of Bachelor level in Physics, Foreign language teacher elaborated within the TWINNING project
4. Information about Universities offering education in Ecology in Azerbaijan
5. Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers “On the approval of the ‘National Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning of the Republic of Azerbaijan”
6. Standards of higher education of Master level

#### **5. Achievement of the Expected Results**

The main task was to 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. During this mission the latest version of State standard of higher education of Bachelor level (Specialty cipher and name: 050655 – Information technologies) was improved by major changes as follows:

1. State’s standard’s document was reviewed and major corrections were made including:
  - a. the updated list of compulsory subjects was provided (see Annex 1);
  - b. the list of elective subjects was provided (see Annex 1);
  - c. the list of general and professional competencies was improved (see Annex 1);
  - d. the list of learning outcomes was created (see Annex 1);
  - e. subjects and general competencies matrix was proposed (see Annex 1);
  - f. subjects and professional competencies relation matrix was proposed (see Annex 1);
  - g. Study programme content of two types was proposed

Planned actions were achieved.

#### **6. Unexpected Results**

Unexpected results were not identified during the mission.

#### **7. Issues Left Open After the Mission**

*None*

## **8. Recommendations and conclusions (including recommendation for future missions)**

Update the latest version of State standard of higher education of bachelor level (Specialty cipher and name: 050655 – Information technologies) by the changes listed below:

8.1 During Monday's 23<sup>rd</sup> of September 2019 meeting where stated that the general competencies should be the same for all State standards of higher education of bachelor level regardless of the specifics of the field of study. So general competencies of this particular standard should be unified with general competencies listed in other State standards.

8.2 I suggest decrease the number of ECTS for MPS - B01 Mathematics from 16 to 10, because 10 ECTS is enough for theoretical background for Informational technologies study program.

8.4 I suggest Compulsory teach "User requirements Engineering" course instead "Physics", because it covers one of the essential stages of software development lifecycle like design, development and quality assurance stages.

8.5 Learning outcomes are presented in very detailed manner (that's good), but it is hard to relate them with particular subjects in relations matrix. I suggest combine them to at most 10 units for every module (Humanities, Professional subjects and Internship). It will help to understand the relations among outcomes and subjects more easily.

8.6. I propose two different types of study programmes: modules based as well as subjects based (see Annex 1)

8.7 I Suggest include Bachelor Project as compulsory 15 credits subject including final project defense procedure.

The mission well organized, all the planned activities were performed according the schedule. Major of necessary documents were provided in advance. I had the opportunity to visit Azerbaijan Technical University (on Wednesday) and Azerbaijan State Oil and Industry University (Thursday) these visits helped to understand the infrastructure and resources necessary for implementation of State standard of higher education more clearly.

## **9. Acknowledgments (if any)**

Many thanks to Resident Twinning Advisor Lisa Bydanova and her Team for inviting me to participate in a well-organized mission and I wish her every success in her ongoing work.

## **Annexes**

Annex 1- Improved and updated document version of State standard of higher education of Bachelor level (Specialty cipher and name: 050655 – Information technologies)

Annex 2 Sample of Self Evaluation Report document of Business Informatics study programme (Bachelor level)

Annex 3 Sample of Self Evaluation Report document of Business Informatics study programme (Bachelor level)

Annex 4 Brief description of Informatics study programme (Bachelor level)

Annex 5 Brief description of Informatics Engineering study programme (Bachelor level)

Annex 6 Brief description Information systems and cybersecurity study programme (Bachelor level)

Annex 7 Brief description of Information Systems study programme (Bachelor level)

More information about the samples of IT based study programmes You will find using link below:

<https://admissions.ktu.edu/programmes/b/?l=undefined&st=undefined>