



HIGHER EDUCATION IN KOSOVA - PRIORITIES AND CHALLENGES

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Higher Education Strategy 2005-2015

Vision:

KOSOVO– Open and democratic society **integrated in the European Higher Education Area**, where knowledge and research are base for a sustainable cultural, social and economic development.

Mission:

Development of an effective higher education system contributing to the welfare of the Kosovar society by offering a high quality education and research, with equal opportunities for all, in accordance to the values of liberty, democracy and diversity.

Higher Education - Kosovo context

- Unemployment: 40%
 - Population under 25 years of age: >50%
 - Decrease of the quality of education in the last decade of the 20th century
 - Brain-drain
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- Strong academic orientation
 - Stay away from business mentality- Relevance of study programs to labor market needs
 - Misbalance between offer and demand

Main goal for the Higher Education in Kosova

- HE reform the modernization and integration of the HE system within EHEA

Need for changes related to the:

- strengthening of human resources,
- accomplishment of the HE education system in providing young people with the key competencies demanded in the labour market, and
- encouraging of a new attitude towards teaching and learning processes



Focus:

- Quality Assurance
- Legislation, management and coordination
- Diversity in higher education sector
- Internationalization of Higher Education
- Autonomy of HEI
- Improving the material position of academic staff
- Increase of participation in HE
- Promotion and development of science, technology and innovation

Education in Kosova – top priority

- Utilize human resources and scientific achievements in the development of the society
 - Reduction of unemployment
 - Increase mobility of the work force
 - Skills that correspond with labor market needs
 - Increased capacity to participate in international and regional academic exchange
 - programs
 - Creation of a general culture for life long learning
- Need for people with vision, knowledge and motivated for change
 - Need for financial resources

Quality Assurance

- Quality Assurance Offices
- Accreditation
- 2008 BAC
- 2009 KAA
- In 2008-31 HEI
- Quality, diversity and clarity
- Relevance of study programs to labor market needs (Higher professional schools)

Higher Education and Research

- NRC
- National program for research
- Research fund
- Projects - human capacity building in research

Higher Education and Industry

- CITT
- Cooperation with other institutions - internships

Stable funding

- Incomes
- Financial formula
- Building capacity for financial management

Infrastructure

- Physical premises – buildings
- Student accommodation

- **Internationalization (K-CIRT)**
- **Regional cooperation**
- **Academic recognition (NARIC)**

- **Increased autonomy of HEI**
- **Review of the Law on Higher Education**

Why a new Law on Higher Education?

- Independence for the Republic of Kosovo, February 2008
- Development of the European Higher Education Area
- Pluralistic and increasingly mature nature of Kosovo's HE landscape in 2010 – more public Universities alongside a fully-licensed yet diverse private sector
- Establishment and full operation of the Kosovo Accreditation Agency

The major changes

- A stronger focus on European concepts and instruments, both in relation to student mobility, curriculum design and quality assurance
- Provision for the development of new Universities, University Colleges and other institutions
- Parity of treatment for the public and private sectors within an inclusive framework
- Devolution of powers to HE institutions within a strong framework of public accountability

Main principles of the new Law on HE

- **Academic freedom,**
- **Equality under the law** of all providers of higher education;
- **Equal opportunities** for all students and staff in higher education institutions;
- **Diversity and quality** in programmes of study and in support for learning;
- **Creativity, innovation and entrepreneurship** as key objectives of higher education providers and programmes alike;
- A **European and international focus** in all areas of higher education, providing for student and staff mobility and comparability of standards in awards and qualifications;
- A commitment to **research and scholarship** to support teaching and learning and to extend the boundaries of knowledge and understanding within Kosovo and the wider world;
- Active **engagement of students,** both individually and collectively, in the life of their institution and in their own learning;



This draft Law on Higher Education will facilitate:

- the development of new, legitimate and accountable provision of HE by robust and dynamic institutions, and
- operating fully within the protocols of the European Higher Education Area

Higher Education in the Republic of Kosova - status 2010

University of Prishtina

- 40,000 students ,
- 1556 academic staff.

The University of Mitrovica

- 9000 students
- 688 academic staff

14 private providers of HE

- 21,000 students
- American University of Kosova
- 7 Colleges
- 3 Institutes
- 3 Higher Professional Schools

The University of Prizren

Actualities in HE in Kosova

Increase of the participation in HE

- Establishment of UPZ
- Addresses the need for increased participation of youth in higher education and dispersed educational development throughout Kosovo.
- Study programs harmonized with the requirements of the labor market and comparable to programs offered in Western institutions of higher education.
- Character of the UPz - multiethnic, multilingual and multicultural.
- Study programs - attractive and interdisciplinary, developed in close cooperation with international partners having in focus economics, law, social sciences and technology.

Strategic objective 2010 – 2015:

Quality higher education and research supporting social and economic development

Goals

1. Drafting of bylaws and harmonization of statutes of HEIs to the reviewed Law on Higher Education
2. Until 2015 participation in HE of the 18-25 age group has reached 35%
3. There is continuous support and equal opportunities for inclusion in HE for all groups: ethnic, gender, age, religion, special needs and other social groups.
4. Study programmes are in line with the labor market needs
5. There is increased budget and improved efficiency in execution of the budget (in line with the reviewed law)

Goals

6. Capacities are built for generation of additional resources in HEIs through research projects, consultancy services, infrastructure, etc.
7. There is continued improvement of quality in teaching and scientific research
8. There is institutional support and promotion in place for scientific research, innovation , technology transfers and entrepreneurship
9. Increased internationalization of higher education and research
10. Increased space and modernization of environment for studies and scientific research work

Thank you!