Bosnia and Herzegovina Qualifications Framework for Higher Education BHQFHE
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Description of the project: “Bosnia and Herzegovina Qualifications Framework for Higher Education – BHQFHE”

European Commission finances TEMPUS project “Bosnia and Herzegovina Qualifications Framework for Higher Education – BHQFHE” in the amount of 1,1 million Euros. This project is starting on 1 December 2013 and runs until 30 November 2016 and its main objective is to support the structural reform of higher education system in B&H, supporting the development of the B&H Qualifications for Higher Education in line with national priorities, and its implementation at different institutional levels. The project provides models for full formal implementation of the BHQFHE at institutional levels, based on all criteria and procedures of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning (EQF) and the European Qualification Framework Area (QF-EHEA).

This project supports creating of institutional capacities for continued development and modernization of BHQFHE and enables creating the BHQFHE model and developing statements at sectorial level.

Glossary

For a better understanding of the content and concept of performance of BHQFHE project, as well as his reform contribution to the system of higher education qualifications in BiH, it is necessary to first gain acquaintance with next basic categories and professional terminology that we take from the “Basis of Qualifications Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina “(Official Gazette no. 31/2011) as follows:

European Qualifications Framework (EQF) means an instrument for the classification of levels of qualifications designed to act as a means of recognition and understanding of different national qualifications frameworks.
National Qualifications Framework (NQF) means an instrument for the classification of qualifications acquired in a certain country, which provides for transparency, access, progression, acquiring and quality of qualifications.

Qualifications framework in BiH means an instrument for the classification of qualifications acquired in the Bosnia and Herzegovina, which provides the basis for transparency, access, progression, acquiring and quality of qualifications. Bosnia and Herzegovina Qualifications Framework for Higher education (BHQFHE) is integrated into Basis of Qualifications Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina (reference levels 6, 7, and 8).

Qualifications Framework for the European Higher Education Area means a document adopted by the Conference of European Education Ministers in Bergen in 2005 which defines generic descriptors for each of the three higher education cycles applied in all countries signatories to the Bologna Process.

Qualification means a formal outcome of an assessment and validation process which is obtained when a competent body determines that an individual has achieved learning outcomes to given standards.

Learning outcomes means a statement of what a learner/student knows, understands and is able to do on completion of a learning process, which are defined in terms of knowledge, skills and competence.

International Standard Classification of Education (ISCED) means an international standard classification of education.

Knowledge means the outcome of the assimilation of information through learning process. Knowledge is the body of facts, principles, theories and practices that is related to a field of work or study. In the context of the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning, knowledge is described as theoretical and/or factual.

Skills means the ability to apply knowledge and use know-how to complete certain tasks and solve problems. In the context of the European Qualifications Framework, skills are described as cognitive (involving the use of logical, intuitive and creative thinking) or practical (involving manual dexterity and the use of methods, materials, tools and instruments) and social skills (communication and co-operation skills, emotional intelligence, etc).
**Competence** means the ability to use knowledge, skills and personal, social and methodological abilities, in work or study situations and in professional and personal development. In the context of the European Qualifications Framework, competence is described in terms of responsibility and autonomy.

**Lifelong learning** denotes integration of formal, non-formal and informal learning, with the aim of creating possibilities for permanent improvement of the quality of life.

**Formal education** means learning directed by teachers or instructors in educational institutions as per curricula prescribed by responsible educational authorities.

**Non-formal education** means an organised process of learning and education directed at professional development, specialisation and enhancement of the knowledge, skills and abilities, in accordance with specialised programmes organised at educational intuitions (regular schools, education centre, companies, agencies, etc).

**Informal learning** means an unplanned learning and gaining of knowledge through everyday activities.

**Inclusive education** means the right to education of every person during their entire life, in particular, the right of children with developmental disabilities to be involved in regular instructions and the right of gifted children to a maximum development of their potential.

**Focus and reform contribution od BHQFHE**

Special emphasis in the BHQFHE project has been placed on capacity building through training and teaching especially a personnel in the BiH state universities, but in the other partner institutions, such as professional associations, various vocational agencies, competence centers, foundations and the competent ministries, and for the creation and recording of learning outcomes and check of the acquired learning outcomes in accordance with the adopted descriptors and reference levels 6, 7, and 8 from the above “The basis of Qualifications Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina”, and for the development of new and modernization and improvement of existing study programs.
Concept and methodology of BHQFHE

Access to higher education qualifications in BHQFHE project is in accordance with the Framework Law in higher education in Bosnia and Herzegovina (B&H Official Gazette, no. 59/07) with which the following areas of scientific areas are determined: natural sciences, technical sciences, biomedicine and health, biotechnical sciences and social sciences and humanities. Some study programs within these scientific groups are perceived as sectors. For six selected sectors and corresponding programs of study, three standards of qualifications within the project will be developed: bachelor, master and PhD. These developed qualification standards should serve as a recommendation for the modernization of existing and development of new curricula and qualifications based on learning outcomes and labor market needs.

BHQFHE consortium

This project is implemented by the following partners (total 21):

EU Universities (total 5):
- University of Paderborn (Germany), BHQFHE project coordinator
- University of Split (Croatia)
- The University of Northampton (United Kingdom)
- University of Limerick (Ireland)
- University of Lleida (Spain)

Universities in B&H (total 6):
- University of Zenica
- University of Bihać
- University of East Sarajevo
- University of Tuzla
- University of Mostar - „Džemal Bijedić“
- University of Mostar

Professional associations, agencies, competence centers and fondations from B&H and EU (total6):
- Association of Employers FBiH
- Agency for development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance
- Labour and Employment Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Central and Eastern European network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education
- Centre for Information and Recognition of Qualifications in Higher
Education

- Foundation for Higher Education – World University Service BiH

Ministries from B&H and EU (total 4):
- Ministry of Education and Culture RS
- Ministry of Education, Science and Youth of Sarajevo Canton
- Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the West Herzegovina Canton
- The Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of the Croatia

All project partners dispose of the necessary institutional capacities, and their project teams and selected professional groups also provided with the necessary knowledge, skills and competencies for successful implementation of BHQFHE project. Single view of all the partners, their profile and role in the realization of this project will be presented below.

Activities of BHQFHE

Review of the most important so far implemented activities in the framework of the BHQFHE project:

- Kick-off and project coordination meetings in Paderborn, analysis of scheduled tasks and planned budget and explanation of the financial and business concept called “orchestral management” for their successful realization;
- analysis of existing practice and the results achieved in the development of Higher Education qualifications framework in BiH;
- creating a specialist glossary for practical purposes of the BHQFHE project;
- defining the criteria for selection and a choice of six expert groups for the production of eighteen qualifications standards from all three cycle of higher education;
- concept development and production of five types of questionnaires for research and analysis of the needs of the labour market and assessing the compliance of the study programs with the identified needs of the students, universities, employers, institutions, agencies, social partners ect.;
- sending, collection and analysis of responses received by different target groups, the questionnaire for research and analysis of Higher Education needs of labor market;
- collection and analysis of the best EU practice in the field of development of Higher Education qualifications framework (analysis
of Croatian, German, English, Spanish, Irish and other regional and European practice);

- development of concept for training and certification of the achieved results of elected members of the expert group for the development of Higher Education qualifications frameworks;
- the choice of sector and the development of sectoral standards in selected sectors;
- execution of five cycles of several days of training by the members of the expert groups in the printing of learning outcomes in selected sectors, i.e. programs of studying (confirmation of accomplished learning success through the award of a certificate issued by the University of Paderborn, University of Split, University of Northampton, University of Limerick);
- preparation for the development of guidelines for the development of learning outcomes;
- Preparation for the development of instruction on developing higher education qualifications in BiH;
- project-coaching with representatives of Ministry of Civil Affairs and the Council of Europe (Main objective: a joint analysis of the planned project structure, the process of implementation, and achieved and expected results that are analogous or complementary projects in the field of development of the qualifications framework in BiH (Workshop at the University of East Sarajevo);
- execution and analysis of a particular case of development study program using the example of the University of Zenica (Workshop at the University of Bihac);
- needs analysis, collection of offers and selection of the optimal suppliers for procurement of equipment and the establishment of the so-called “The expert unit” at the state universities in BiH, and for the modernization of existing and development of new study programs and higher education offer, also after completion of BHQFHE project, based on learning outcomes defined according to the needs of the user learning, the labor market, employers and social partners (coordinator and project teams);
By the end of the realization of the BHQFHE project it’s planned to realize the following activities:

- Planning and procurement of professional literature needed for better implementation of the planned project objectives;
- completion of production and printing of the Guidelines for the production of qualification frameworks for higher education in BiH;
- production of 18 drafts on the sectoral qualification standards;
- development of the concept of organization, execution of discussion and analysis of the obtained results discussion on sectoral qualification standards;
- completion of the production and printing of 18 sectoral qualification standards;
- production of Guideline on writing Learning Outcomes (LO);
- training of members of the working group for the production of the Guideline on writing learning outcomes;
- the development concept for the implementation of BHQFHE at state universities in BiH;
- preparation and development of a model for the most effective implementation of BHQFHE;
- pilot performance of selected study programs;
- preparation and testing of quality assurance mechanisms and monitoring process and achieved project results;
- BHQFHE self-certification;
- establishment of self-certification panel for discussion;
- publication of a report on the self-certification;
- internal quality control and monitoring;
- the organization of the annual cycle of monitoring;
- development of measures for the dissemination of achieved results of BHQFHE project;
- organizing BHQFHE-public meeting “Open Days” in each partner university in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- development of the concept, preparation, organization and execution of international BHQFHE-conference for the presentation of the achieved results, their dissemination and collection of recommendations, with the aim of drafting and adoption a plan with the proposed catalog of measures for sustainable development of BHQFHE at partner universities in BiH
- production of the medium-term and final project report, organization of final meeting of BHQFHE and considering the possibility of further cooperation in the field of development of the Qualification Framework of BiH.
Target group and expected results of BHQFHE

This project is in its concept the so-called national measure for the higher education area of Bosnia and Herzegovina, whose successful realization is of particular importance, interest and particular benefit to the following target groups:

1. For students, early career doctoral students and post-doctoral researchers: Gaining, recognition, horizontal and vertical mobility and transfer of acquired partial or complete qualification profiles, allows unrestricted mobility in the region and in the EU; Knowledge on a multitude of educational and scientific-research paths in the country and abroad, which knowledge, skills and competence are in the focus of elected and identical study programs and provide colleagues from the European Union, in conjunction with the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), and so personally through education, perfecting and mobility can “break” the national and regional chains and acquire knowledge and professional experiences throughout the EU and the world, and therefore, on the basis of personal and professional continuous perfecting and learning, to become “the EU and world citizen”!

2. For employees and citizens: The clarity of higher education qualification profile, which is recognized on the local, regional and European labor market, further construction of individual personal profile through the recognition of the results of formal, informal and non-formal education, career planning, self-realization, affirmation and the use of newly acquired personal and professional competences not only as employees, but also as self-employed, entrepreneur, manager or professional consultant.

3. For businesses and employers: clear content of all three qualified higher education profiles (bachelor, master and PhD studies), clear competences that highly educated future employers know and can do, compliance of competencies, knowledge and skills with the needs of domestic, regional, European and international market labor, and with thus acquired the conditions for the development of domestic and international competitiveness and securing growth and development of “healthy sector” of small and big companies in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

4. For Higher Education Institutions: regulated education system modeled after the EU developed countries, increasing the attractiveness of studies for domestic and foreign students, internationalization and modernization of existing ones, and especially new study programs and their orientation to
measurable learning outcomes.

5. For the state of BiH: connection and certificate of membership in the European Higher Education Area (EHAE); acquisition of new membership in the European Common competencies, knowledge and skills; Internationalization and recognition of the national system of education; functionally linking the education system with other systems in BiH and the needs of the labor market, where so reformed higher education system becomes the main lever for the development of innovation, increase of regional and national competitiveness of state and private economic and service sector, and thus in this way achieves the micro, meso and macro level favorable environment for affluence of foreign investment and encourage the revival of domestic and regional investment activities, which all together generate greater employment and provides a self-sustainable socio-economic growth and development.
Brand-Profile-Mission Statement: “The University for the Information Society”

Research at the University of Paderborn (UPB) is interdisciplinary and transferable. The University of Paderborn is the University for the Information Society, covering a spectrum of disciplines across the humanities, business studies, natural sciences and engineering. Interdisciplinary work is essential in order to tackle complex research problems. For us, this includes the close collaboration between computer sciences and engineering, for example in the form of marketable engineering applications of computer science technologies. The fundamental research in the natural sciences supports these developments in the modern information society. Simultaneously, interdisciplinary science implies the study of cultural and economic developments in the information and knowledge society. These are the subject of our projects in the humanities, the social and business sciences, as well as our educational research and teacher education programs. Technology transfer and the close cooperation with business and societal partners form the final part of this chain, allowing the University of Paderborn to engage in the development of practical research applications. We focus on the following three research areas: Intelligent technical systems; Lightweight Design with Hybrid Systems and Optoelectronics and photonics.

Main data: Six faculties; 60 Degree Programs (Bachelor’s, Master’s, Doctoral Studies); 19,566 students; Staff 2,117 (January 2014).

Role and tasks in the BHQFHE project: Responsible for overall project coordination, financial management and project management. Support for the realization of all planned tasks and dissemination of project results in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

BHQFHE project team:
- Prof. Dr Wilhelm Schäfer, President of the University of Paderborn and BHQFHE project coordinator
- Prof. Dr. Peter F. E. Sloane, Department of Business and Social Education
- Jun.-Prof. Dr. Karl-Heinz Gerholz, Department of Business and Higher Education
- Ahmet Mehic, BHQFHE-project manager

Message about the importance of the BHQFHE project:

“University of Paderborn developed nearly twenty years very good and versatile co-operative relations with the countries of the Western Balkans. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, we implemented several projects with all state universities. In these projects, we have developed curricula for all three cycles in the field of ICT; perform training and preparation for the accreditation of these programs, and develop qualifications frameworks for education in the ICT sector. I am very happy that now our cooperation in BHQFHE-project extends on the overall higher education area. This project is relevant for not only universities, but also for students, doctoral students, all the citizens, employers, small and medium enterprises, institutions, and the whole education system and the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina. My university and all project partners are very interested that the project BHQFHE brings all target groups the best benefits”.

President of the University of Paderborn and BHQFHE-project coordinator,
Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Schäfer
Brand-Profile-Mission Statement: “Research, education and innovation for economy and society”.

The University of Split was officially established on 15 June 1974 when the units having already had an effect in their professional, research and teaching areas entered its structure. As a predominant scientific and teaching institution in the region, the University of Split has expanded during the course of the past decades to include sixteen units: eleven Faculties, one Academy of Arts and four University Departments. There are about 22,000 students enrolled in the University’s first, second and third cycle study programmes. The focus of the research work carried out by the University of Split is on scientific areas with reference to disciplines characterised by natural, cultural, historical, social, economic and other features of the region as a part of the Croatian Adriatic and the Mediterranean region as a whole. This involves the research and protection of art and construction heritage, philology, field crops, oceanography and fishing, Adriatic botany and zoology, island and coastal economy, Adriatic tourism, nautical science, naval architecture and a range of other specific disciplines, all of which distinguish the University of Split, not only in Croatia but also beyond its borders. Within the University of Split there is one Centre of excellence for science and technology integrating Mediterranean region, including one component related to advancement of education, which is a part of this project (stim.unist.hr).

Main data: Eleven Faculties, one Academy of Arts and four University Departments; more than 100 Study Programmes (within all three cycles); about 24,000 students; about 1,500 Staff.

Role and tasks in the BHQFHE project: The University of Split brings EU theoretical and practical expertise and supports development and implementation of qualifications framework in BiH, internal and external quality assurance, self-certification report, learning outcomes and study programmes implementation at country and institutional levels.

BHQFHE project team:
• Prof. Dr. Mile Dželalija, Centre of Excellence for Science and Technology (Head of the Education)
• Ana Ćosić, Head of International Relations Office
• Aleksandra Banić, International Relations Office

Message about the importance of the BHQFHE project:

“University of Split has a very intensive collaboration with universities and other wide spectrum of institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The collaborations range from curricula development, teaching and research activities to a set of professional activities and projects. This BHQFHE project is the first EU project where the University of Split collaborates with BiH institutions formally as an EU expert institution, bringing its expertise and experience to the higher education in BiH. Together with all project partners, the University of Split is very interested to bring valuable benefits to all universities, their students and society as a whole.”

Rector of the University of Split, Prof. Dr. Šimun Anđelinović
Brand-Profile-Mission Statement: After over 30 years as a Higher Education college
The University of Northampton was formed in 1999 and obtained full University status in 2005 with degree awarding powers for certificates, diploma and degrees at Bachelors, Masters and Doctoral level. It has proximately 15,000 students spread across its two campuses comprising six Schools: Arts, Science & Technology, Education, Health, Business and Social Sciences.

The University of Northampton is fully committed to delivering outstanding opportunities in education, and is nationally recognised for commitment to the economic, social and cultural success of the region. In 2013, in recognition for its commitment to developing the change-makers of tomorrow, the University of Northampton was designated the UK’s first and only Changemaker Campus - a designation which places it amongst only 30 such Universities across the world and highlights its unique achievement of providing a student experience that places social innovation and social enterprise at the centre of its operations. As a result of this Changemaker status award the University is regarded as the No1 UK University for social enterprise playing a major role on a global stage by leading the way in the social enterprise and social innovation fields.

Main Data: The University comprises of six Schools offering 359 distinctly named programmes: 141 Undergraduate (single hons) in addition to 49 Undergraduate (joint hons), 77 other undergraduate, 5 FE & NFQ, and 87 Post-Graduate degrees. It offers full time and part-time PhD and Professional Doctorate programmes in the School of Health and the Business School.

Role and task in the BHQFHE project: The University of Northampton as an EU-partner places significant emphasis on its mechanisms for QA and for course development and recognition. Because of this function it has acted as a consultant to HE developments relating to course structure, certification and evaluation in a wide range of international settings (including Poland, Vietnam, Hong Kong, India, Singapore, Kazakhstan and Kurdistan). The lead in this project is taken by the Northampton Business School which with a number of international partnerships both for programme delivery and joint research undertakings has provided its knowledge in the context of development and implementation of QF for HE. It hosted two study visits for the project from the project partners covering the facilitation of specialist presentations including from the UK Quality Assurance Agency.

BHQFHE project team:
• Dr Mairi Watson, PhD: Deputy Dean Development, Northampton Business School
• Professor Simon Burtonshaw-Gunn, PhD: Head of Division, Northampton Business School

Message about the importance of the BHQFHE project: “The development of this important Framework has provided opportunities for all partners involved to reflect on how each manages the systems and processes in achieving and demonstrating compliance with National Quality standards; to benchmark their own interpretation of this in practice and to better further better international cooperation and collaboration across Europe”.

Deputy Dean Development, Northampton Business School, Dr Mairi Watson
Brand-Profile-Mission Statement: The University of Limerick is a distinctive, pioneering and connected university that shapes the future through educating and empowering people to meet the real challenges of tomorrow. At a time of profound and rapid societal change and a significant evolution in the role of universities UL has delivered innovative teaching, created better learning experiences for our students, undertaken world-class research and made ever-stronger contributions to meeting Ireland’s needs. We can currently boast the best completion rates in the country and, even more importantly in these present times, UL has the best employment rates after graduation, a record of which we are very proud. UL also attracts a significant number of international students each year contributing to the internationalisation of our campus.

Role and tasks in the BHQFHE project: Through its knowledge of the issues that arise when implementing National Qualifications Frameworks the University of Limerick brings a wealth of theoretical and practical experience to the project. UL will assist in the capacity building process in BiH and will give access to subject specialists who have converted national policies at a discipline level. UL will contribute to developing and creating Guidelines for BHQFHE, drafting sectoral statements and will provide experts and trainers for the workshops.

BHQFHE project team:
- Professor. Dermot Coughlan, UL project coordinator
- Dr. Ann Ledwith, Expert group member
- Mr. Michael Hennessy, Expert group member

Message about the importance of the BHQFHE project: The project will assist in the integration of BiH further in to the European academic community. It will allow graduates of BiH institution to the full value of their qualification recognized inside and outside BiH by employers and education institutions. It will also provide a quality assurance framework for the development of programmes of a consistently high standards that can be designed with input from multiple stakeholders, both private and regulatory bodies with in BiH.
Brand-Profile-Mission Statement: The University of Lleida (UdL) combines a long and fruitful tradition as a University with a young and dynamic structure that is firmly committed to high quality training and research, implementing advanced educational methodologies and focusing on internationalization. The university offers degrees covering the five branches of knowledge: Arts and Humanities, Sciences, Health sciences, Social and Legal Sciences, and Engineering and Architecture. Concerning research, the UdL reaches a relevant position in several research fields. Currently, the UdL has 94 research groups that conduct their activities in very different areas of knowledge, with 4 research and technology transfer institutes.

Main data: Seven faculties; 63 Degree Programs (Bachelor’s, Master’s, Doctoral Studies); 10,901 students; Staff 1,359 (January 2014).

Role and tasks in the BHQFHE project:
Provide EU practice and experience on quality management, presenting the National Qualifications Framework in Spain, focusing on the quality agencies, the accreditation system, the tasks and methodologies aiming at quality assurance. Participate in the expert groups meetings, providing EU expert and trainers for workshops. Collaborate in the Quality Control and Monitoring Group, which guarantees the continued monitoring of the progress in project execution.

BHQFHE project team:
- Dr. Ferran Badia, Vicer-rector of the University of Lleida.
- Dr. Francesc Giné, Dean of the Polytechnic School at University of Lleida.
- Dr. Magda Valls, Head of Studies the Polytechnic School of UdL.
- Dr. Toni Granollers, Department of Computer Science.
- Dr. Silvia Miquel, Department of Mathematics.
- Dr. Josep M. Miret, Department of Mathematics.
- Marga Moltó, Department of Business Administration.
- Dr. Josep M. Ribó, Department of Computer Science.

Message about the importance of the BHQFHE project:
University of Lleida has been involved in several previous projects focused on the development of curricula in BiH universities. We have had the opportunity to collaborate with all the partners, and we can appreciate the improvements they have implemented in the high education programs in their country. This project is still one step forward, supporting the development of the BiH Qualifications Framework.
Brand-Profile-Mission Statement: Mission of UNZE is based on three basic components of higher education institutions: teaching – scientific (educational) work, scientific & research work and community service. UNZE mission includes helping the economic, social and cultural development within and outside the region and the state, providing scientific and technical support. By that, UNZE must fit into national and international quality criteria of education and scientific activities and results. All results of educational, scientific-research and professional work of UNZE must have the character of universal values, which are not measured by the regional qualitative assessments.

Main data: Eight Faculties; more than 40 Study Programmes (within all three cycles); about 6,000 students; about 350 Staff.

Role and tasks in the BHQFHE project: The importance of this project for the University of Zenica is great because without qualifications framework in each area there is a deviant situation in the results of learning outcomes. Clearly, the word framework underlines that there is full freedom and innovation in the creation of educational content (curriculum) but also the mechanisms of control achieved. Through cooperation with the respective European partners from different scientific fields threshold of knowledge and competence of staff from the University of Zenica in this area were significantly improved. Tomorrow, they will be the best promoters of the development of new curricula at faculties of the University of Zenica. Our staff is involved in all working groups of scientific fields and we are leaders in the field of humanities.

UNZE BHQFHE project team:
- Prof.dr sc. Darko Petkovic, UNZE project manager
- Prof.dr sc. Malik Cabaravdic, expert, technical sciences
- Asist.Prof.dr sc. Nebojsa Vasic, expert, humanities, group leader
- Mag. Mirza Oruc, expert, medicine and health sciences
- Asist.Prof.dr sc. Adnan Mujkanovic, expert, social sciences
- Asist.Prof.dr sc. Ibrahim Plancic, expert, QA manager
- Mrs. Lamija Subasic, prof. Secretary of the UNZE team

Message about the importance of the BHQFHE project: Overall this project has great significance for higher education organizations and key stakeholders in B&H. Derived qualifications in each area shown as competence, knowledge and skills, provide a useful baseline for creating educational content within each scientific field. In this respect, the European Qualifications Framework and national specificities need to be reconciled in terms of getting the best output effects know as a learning outcomes. BIH HEI and educational space, as well as HEI region, this should be higher education framework that is consistent with the principles of the EHEA. Qualifications Framework in BIH need to strengthen higher education and act as a driving force that helps decision making bodies of higher education. It should be a guide and reference point for those who creating new qualifications and updating existing.

Rector of the University of Zenica, PhD Dzevad Zecic
Brand-Profile-Mission Statement: University of Bihać is a public higher education institution operating as an integrated university with 6 organizational units and one associate member. Application of Bologna Study model at University began in the academic year 2006/07, meaning that the university issues following qualifications: three years of undergraduate study students acquire the title of a bachelor worth 180 ECTS; four years of undergraduate study students acquire the title of bachelor worth 240 ECTS; graduate studies students gain the title of master worth 300 ECTS; doctoral studies students gain a PhD title worth 480 ECTS. The University adopted comparable, compatible and mutually recognizable system of qualifications. After each study cycle, diploma supplement is issued along with the diploma certificate. Research, scholarship, creative and critical work are the central values of the University of Bihać. The vision of the University of Bihać is to conduct referential scientific, artistic and professional studies, in the framework of integral European area of higher education and research. On this basis, together with other international intellectual achievements, the University should provide superior education and develop basic scientific research in natural sciences, technical sciences, healthcare sciences, biotechnical sciences, and social and humanistic sciences, which would enable the University to become the main generator of development in all areas of life and work, industry, education, healthcare, culture and sport in USC.

Main data: 7 faculties, 83 study programs - 44 in the first study cycle and 39 in the second study cycle.

Role and tasks in the BHQFHE project: UNBI participates in most of the project activities, especially in providing support in project realization within the B&H institutions, applying project’s initiatives in its structure and organization. UNBI is providing project partners with the existing qualifications practice, assist in collecting university related data and connecting the project participants with project related stakeholders.

BHQFHE project team:
- Refik Šahinović, Rector of University of Bihać
- Azra Bakrač Bećiraj, Associate Professor Biotechnical faculty
- Nevzet Veladžić, Associate Professor Faculty of Law
- Džalilla Muharemagić, Project Officer IRO

Message about the importance of the BHQFHE project: The knowledge exchange in implementation of QF and creation of learning outcomes which B&H universities gain from EU partner institutions is of an immense value in their road towards European area of higher education. In addition, the project’s goals such as capacity building of B&H universities in QF and development of generic and specific descriptors, will enable UNBI to develop its capacities and gain further expertise in QF area.

Rector, Professor Refik Šahinović
Brand-Profile-Mission Statement: The mission of the University is to provide intellectual and stimulating environment for learning, research and the art of making a contribution to the social, economic and cultural progress in line with the projected regional, national and international development. The vision of the University is to be recognized at the regional, national and international level through excellence in teaching, research and the arts. Key values of the UES are integrity, responsibility, cooperation, collegiality, excellence. The University of East Sarajevo (UES) is a public integrated and independent university. UES was participated in 22 TEMPUS projects. UES was participated in different project financed within FP6, Brain Drain in WBC, IPA, USAID, UNESCO, ALPS/IRIS.

Main data: 17 organizational units located in 10 Universities cities; 14.000 students; more than 90 study programs; about 1350 staff

Role and tasks in the BHQFHE project:
University of East Sarajevo is very actively involved in creation of BH qualification framework for different disciplines. More precisely we are involved in creation of the qualification standards for Medicine, Humanities and Biotechnology sciences. We developed matrix of competences and standards for pilot programs on all three levels. We trained our team to be able to disseminate this practice to all other programs.

BHQFHE project team:
• Prof. dr Dejan Bokonjic,
• Prof. dr Stevan Trbojevic,
• Ass prof. Grujica Vico,
• Ass. prof. Jovica Bozic,
• Ass prof. dr Danijel Mijic,
• Ass. Srdjan Masic,
• Ass Nenad Markovic,
• Mrs.Slobodanka Krulj,
• Mrs Bojana Klacar

Message about the importance of the BHQFHE project:
This project is coming in the right time for academic community in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Development of the qualification framework is the ultimate task for further development of high education process in our country. Motivation of representatives from different BH institution and EU partner institutions involved in the project is high and resulted in establishing core groups on each partner institutions trained for development of qualification framework and standards for different disciplines. Training of experts for connecting final learning outcomes of different programs with content of different subjects inside curriculum can be crucial for reform of our study program in accordance with similar programs in the region and EU and with the needs of the stakeholders.

Vice-rector for international cooperation of the University of East Sarajevo,
Prof. Bokonjic Dejan, PhD
Brand-Profile-Mission Statement: The University of Tuzla is a public institution and one of the primary economic and cultural motors of the Tuzla Canton. It contains 115 Study Programmes (within all three cycles) at 13 faculties and enrols around 16,000 students. Some of the activities carried out during the reform process are harmonization of the curricula and syllabi in accordance with the Bologna standards and ECTS credit allocation. We have given support to the quality assurance at institution level through implementation of number of projects during past years and constant support to structural development and modernization of HEI, bringing it closer to the European Area of HE. The University has strong and valued relationship with local and regional as well as business a community which is the foundation for transfer of knowledge between university and its surroundings.

Main data: Thirteen Faculties; more than 115 Study Programmes (within all three cycles); about 16,000 students; about 745 employed Staff.

Role and tasks in the BHQFHE project: The University of Tuzla is task lieder of mapping of the existing qualifications practice, development of methodology, in establishment of EG, study visits. Active in developing and creating the Guidelines for BHQFHE, drafting Sectorial statements, assist in organization and conducting of consultation process on sectorial statements and Creating of Sectorial statements. We are responsible for establishing WG, creating the Handbook for writing LOs and for the training of WG members. We actively participate in creating and developing the Implementation model at institutional level, be responsible for Pilot study programs reviewing and conducting QA mechanisms. We are responsible for establishing Self-certification panel at institution and publishing Self-certification Report.

UNTZ BHQFHE project team:
- PhD Enver Halilović, rector UNTZ
- PhD Mensura Aščerić, vice rector UNTZ
- PhD Alma Dizdarević, contact person and expert group leader
- PhD Amra Bratovčić, QA coordinator UNTZ
- PhD Zamir Mrkonjić, dean of Faculty of Education and rehabilitation, member
- PhD Samra Mujačić, expert group member
- PhD Selma Porobić, expert group member

Message about the importance of the BHQFHE project: The University of Tuzla has 38 years of existence. Behind us are the years of experiences, work and commitment to the reform process where our Universities staff is obligated to constantly improve courses, modules, adoption procedures as precondition to reach modern curricula, developed in according to student needs and to needs of society and labour market. We as University of Tuzla recognize that development of national QFs are essential for higher education reform in B&H, as the policy tool which significantly contributes to enhancement the transferability and transparency of qualifications, and strengthening links between higher education and work field.

Rector of the University of Tuzla, PhD Enver Halilović
Brand-Profile-Mission Statement: “Dzemal Bijedić” University of Mostar was founded in 1977 as a public higher education institution. During the previous war University lost all its premises and equipment. It continued to work in different premises, until we entered in USRC “Midhat Hujdur Hujka”. Our MISSION is to organize a wide range of educational processes of different contents and levels, and perform theoretical, applied and evolving scientific research to become one of the leaders in the education of young experts necessary for the development of economy and society. VISION is to create relatively small and flexible university recognizable on Mediterranean and in Europe, with internationally recognized educational programs, to produce new knowledges and technologies, to introduce new forms of education, to introduce multidisciplinary studies based on modern technologies, and to educate experts for international involvement and to become the generator of the overall development of society, by implementing international educational standards. Main data: Eight Faculties; more than 50 Study Programmes (within all three cycles); about 5,500 students; 382 teachers, 180 full-time employed, 202 part-time associates, 57 administrative and technical stuff.

Role and tasks in the BHQFHE project: Dzemal Bijedic University of Mostar takes part in all of the activities: establishment of Expert groups, study visits and workshops, developing and creating the Guidelines for BH Qualification Framework, drafting the Sectorial statements, establishment of Working group and be responsible for the training of working group members, participation, creating and developing the Implementation model of study programs at University, testing implementation model through pilot activities on selected number of study programs, reviewing and conducting QA mechanisms, be responsible for establishing Self-certification panel at institution and publishing Self-certification Report, ongoing internal quality control and monitoring, organizing open door day at the University.

BHQFHE project team:
- Ph.D. Vahida Žujo, Vice Rector, project coordinator
- Ph.D. Sead Pašić, Rektor, expert group member
- Ph.D. Nina Bijedic, Vice Rector, expert group leader
- Ph.D. Dragi Tiro, expert group member
- Ph.D. Azra Bajramovic, expert group member
- Iris Memic, Project team member
- Alim Abazović, Project team member

Message about the importance of the BHQFHE project: One of values of this project for Dzemal Bijedic University of Mostar is capacity building for implementation of Qualification Framework at our University. Within implementation of this project we will improve our connections with environment and economy in Herzegovina-neretva canton and even wider. Within this project we will improve our internal procedures for development of study programmes based on learning outcomes, and other institutional quality assurance policies. Constant development and improvement of the national qualifications framework, testing with self-certification in our difficult reality. This project is supporting our efforts in reform process, and challenges we are facing.

Rector of the Džemal Bijedić University of Mostar, PhD Sead Pašić
Brand-Profile-Mission Statement: University of Mostar is a higher education institution which organizes and performs university studies, scientific and professional work and contributes to the overall advancement of the region where it is situated. It is one of eight public Universities in B&H and the only one where Croatian is the official language. The founders of the University are cantons and municipalities where majority of Croatian people live. It consists of 10 faculties and the Academy of Fine Arts. Today, around 15000 students study at the University of Mostar. The educational process is conducted through more than 71 study programs at the undergraduate level, 72 programs at the graduate level, 6 integrated programs and 11 doctoral study programs. University of Mostar is internationally oriented and its intention is to become fully integrated into the European Higher Education Area.

Role and tasks in the BHQFHE project:
- Partner institution
- Take active role in all planned project activities particularly in:
  - Developing and creating Guidelines for BHQFHE
  - Creating sectorial statements
  - Developing the implementation model at the institutional level
  - Responsible for Pilot study programs reviewing and conducting QA mechanisms Management of the Project at SVEMO

BHQFHE project team:
- Prof. Ph.D Dražena Tomić Gašpar, Project coordinator and academic representative
- Prof. Ph.D. Izabela Dankić, Vice Rector and academic representative
- Prof. Ph.D. Vojo Višekruna, expert group leader
- Prof. Ph.D. Vajdana Tomić, expert group member
- Prof. Ph.D. Zora Pilić, expert group member
- Prof. Ph.D. Marijana Sivrić, expert group member

Message about the importance of the BHQFHE project:
The main value of this project for University of Mostar is to be able to contribute to creation of better conditions for conducting the structural reform of higher education system in BiH, to support the development of the BiH Qualifications Framework for Higher Education in line with national priorities, and its implementation at different institutional levels.
The implementation of this project we will result in improvement of our connections with socio-economic environment in the cantons and the entire region. Within this project, we will improve our internal procedures for development of study programmes based on learning outcomes, and other institutional quality assurance policies.
Brand-Profile-Mission Statement: Association of employers of BiH is nonprofit, non-governmental organization established on 7 July 2004. Our mission: Actively participate in creation of adequate business environment in FBiH, through tripartite dialog. Our vision: To be representative organization of employers that will through its own authority, large number of members and quality of own work, be respected and irreplaceable partner to the government and labor unions and have directly influence on economic and legal environment. We work also on improving informing of members on the activities of APBiH, as well as the achieved results so current members could take part in key decisions in the field of economy in which APBiH participate, what in the same time can lead to activation of members. APBiH as one of the legitimate social partners has participated in all processes of high education reforms in B&H. It will work on emphasizing the importance of the role of APBiH in approach BH economy to EU (especially towards APBiH members and Council of ministers and improvement of recognition of our organization and its role in the work of ESC.

Role and tasks in the BHQFHE project:
Developing the Qualification Framework in BiH in high education in accordance with national priorities, represent the strategic orientation in the field of development. In order to realize this commitment, it is necessary to continue with further work on the Qualifications Framework for Higher Education in B&H which is the ultimate goal of this project. It is necessary to ensure that these qualifications are in line with the time, to suit the needs of the labor market and that they comply with international standards. It is particularly important that all activities equally involve all social partners of education and other relevant persons. Since the ultimate goal of the project BHQFHE is development of qualifications framework that will enable BiH companies to get skilled workers. Employers, whether private or state-owned enterprises, are direct beneficiaries, and therefore their opinion is very important. Through surveys and direct interviews with employers project team receives instructions and represents the interests of employers in the project.

BHQFHE project team:
• Mersiha Jusić, project coordinator and expert group member
• Vesna Smajlović, expert group member
• Alija Remzo Bakšić, director APBiH

Message about the importance of the BHQFHE project:
Since the ultimate goal of the project is preparation QFHE or a system that will enable BiH companies to get skilled workers, as well as facilitate mobility of our workers on the European labor market, we feel that this project is of great importance for B&H. This project is of great importance not only for the State but also for individual students, unemployed, workers and employers. In view of these facts APBiH will give its full contribution to the implementation of the project.

Alija Remzo Bakšić, director APBiH
Brand-Profile-Mission Statement: The Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance (HEA) is an independent administrative organization seated in Banja Luka. It was established pursuant to the Framework Law on Higher Education in B&H. In the field of development of higher education the competences of the Agency refer to the adoption of criteria for accreditation of higher education institutions and norms for determining minimum standards in higher education, recommendations to the relevant educational authorities on criteria and standards for establishment and closure of higher education institutions and re-structuring of study programmes, quality analysis, giving recommendations for the remedy of shortcomings in the quality of studies and higher education institutions. In the field of accreditation the Agency is empowered to set criteria for selection and establishment of the list of national and international experts that conduct quality assessment and review and give recommendations on accreditation of higher education institutions and study programmes, appoint panels for accreditation, select experts from the list of experts, give recommendations on each conducted accreditation, review compliance of the accreditation decision with criteria and norms for determining minimum standards in higher education and keep a State register of accredited higher education institutions. The Agency elaborates a manual on the model and content of diploma and diploma supplement issued by accredited higher education institutions. One of the responsibilities of the Agency is also to represent Bosnia and Herzegovina in the international organizations for quality in higher education.

Role and tasks in the BHQFHE project: HEA is task leader for establishing of Expert groups, responsible for the criteria for selection of representatives in EG. Also, HEA are responsible for developing and creating of Guidelines for BHQFHE. HEA coordinates drafting of Sectorial qualification standard and actively participate in creating and developing the implementation model at institutional level. Furthermore, HEA is task leader of pilot study programs reviewing.

BHQFHE project team:
• Husein Nanić, HEA director
• Miljan Popić, HEA deputy director
• Velimir Jukić, HEA deputy director
• Slavica Škoro, Expert group member

Message about the importance of the BHQFHE project: Given the fact that the process of development of the Qualifications Framework represents a long-term and serious task, HEA considers that the continuous professional development and improvement of knowledge, skills and competence of human resources represent a crucial precondition for successful realization of this very important work. Therefore, the Project is very important for HEA in order to be able to perform successfully all tasks within competences of the Agency especially those related to the issue of qualifications framework and quality assurance. Quality assurance, along with the development of BH higher education qualifications framework and recognition of qualifications, is the key prerequisite for the degrees and awards issued by higher education institutions in BH to be recognized across Europe, which will result in the mobility of students, teachers, sharing of schemes, ideas and practices.

Husein Nanić, PhD, HEA director
Brand-Profile-Mission Statement: Labour and Employment Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina is governmental Institution which competencies are to represent Bosnia and Herzegovina internationally in the field of employment and to coordinate activities in domestic labour market. Labor, employment and social policy is a very broad field that encompasses many areas important for the quality of life of the population of each state. According to this the main objective of the Agency is quality implementation of competencies in order to meet obligations and satisfying the needs and service for the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina and local as well as international partners. This objective is implemented through the efficient implementation of signed bilateral agreements on employment of workers from Bosnia and Herzegovina through improved coordination of the Labour and Employment Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina with employment Institutions at the level of the Entities and Brcko District of BiH. Labour and Employment Agency of Bosnia very actively participate in negotiations for the conclusion of agreements on employment and social security of BiH with other countries. Also, Labour and Employment Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina co-ordinates activities in domestic and international projects in the field of employment which are to the interest of Bosnia and Herzegovina and cooperates with entity employment services and the Employment Service of the Brčko District of BiH in their implementation.

Role and tasks in the BHQFHE project: Labour and Employment Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina responsible for giving inputs from labour market needs and to contribute in all activities of BHQFHE project.

BHQFHE project team:
• Mr. Edis Bašić, ARZ project coordinator
• Ms. Zvjezdana Jelić, Expert group member
• Mr. Samir Zuko, Expert group member

Message about the importance of the BHQFHE project: Labour and Employment Agency of Bosnia and Herzegovina as relevant Partner in this Project would like to contribute in development and modernization of Qualification Framework for Higher Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It would be aimed to higher youth employment in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Generally, we are meeting those problems every day and we would like to use this Project as opportunity to change and to create new inputs which would lead to modern education and to higher youth employment. By this Project we would like to stop with wrong practice “to educate students to be registered at employment bureau”. Instead of it they have to be recognized as potential of our country as well as theirs qualification.
Brand-Profile-Mission Statement: CEENQA is the network of Central and Eastern European Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education that was founded in 2001. The CEE Network is a non-governmental and non-profit organization. According to its statutes, “The purpose of the Association is the cooperation between the member organizations in the development and harmonization of their activities in the field of quality assurance and quality improvement in higher education in Central and Eastern Europe, thereby making a contribution towards the development and implementation of the European Higher Education Area.”

Role and tasks in the BHQFHE project:
• Contribution to the development and creation of guidelines for BHQFHE;
• Development of external assessment methodologies in line with qualification framework;
• Input for the drafting of Sectorial Statements;
• Consult and train experts responsible for the development of the subject-related Sectorial statements in matters of best European practices;
• Contribution to the ongoing quality control and monitoring of project.

BHQFHE project team:
• Dr. Iring Wasser, President
• Christina Rozsnyai, Secretary General
• Viktoria Börner, Project Manager
• Mila Zarkh, Project Manager

Message about the importance of the BHQFHE project:
The development and implementation of a QFHE is an important component within the reform of BiH’s education and training system. It will certainly support improvement in quality and relevance of higher education by stimulating the development of qualifications that are based on internationally comparable standards and supported by rigorous quality assurance. It will further contribute to strengthening links between higher education and the work field.
Brand-Profile-Mission Statement: Pursuant to the Article 44 of the Framework Law on Higher Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina the Centre for Information and Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education was established in 2008. Pursuant to the Article 45 of the Framework Law, the Centre is competent for: information and recognition in area of higher education; coordination and international exchange of academic staff, students, and programs in the area of higher education; representation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in international projects in the area of higher education from its scope of competency; through the international network of information centres (ENIC/NARIC network), provides information to the higher education institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina related to foreign higher education institutions and programs, as the basis for recognition of degrees and diplomas for the purpose of further education at higher education institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and representation of Bosnia and Herzegovina in such networks; provision of notifications and opinions on foreign degrees and diplomas in Bosnia and Herzegovina for purpose of continued education at higher education institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina; provision of advice and information on the issues from its scope of activity to parties with legitimate interest; pursuant to the Lisbon Convention and its accompanying documents, submission of recommendations to the Ministry of the Republic of Srpska, cantonal ministries, and the Brčko District of B&H on recognition of diplomas acquired outside B&H for the purpose of employment, continued education and pursuing of other rights arising from the qualification acquired.

Role and tasks in the BHQFHE project: The Centre is participating in all consortium meetings. The representative of the Centre is a member of Expert Group, assisting in mapping the existing qualifications practice, development of methodology, takes part in the workshops and study visits, operating in developing and creating the Guidelines for BHQFHE, drafting and creating Sectorial statements, participates in creating and developing of QF Implementation model.

BHQFHE project team:
• Prof. dr Borko Sorajić, Director
• Dragana Dilber, Assistant Director

Message about the importance of the BHQFHE project: The Centre has collaboration with all institutions in BiH, and all European and international concerning recognition matters. We are aware of the fact that developing of national qualifications frameworks can significantly facilitate recognition of foreign higher education within EHEA and beyond and academic and mobility of the labor force. We hope that this Project can show a route which the BHQFHE should direct. We also hope that this project will train people who will be the most important resource of further development of the Qualifications Framework for Higher Education in BiH. The Centre will do its best to assist in this project for the benefit of the entire community in BiH.

Director of the Centre for Information and Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education, Prof. dr Borko Sorajić
Brand-Profile-Mission Statement: “Knowledge is strength”
Foundation for Higher Education World University Service Bosnia and Herzegovina (SUSBiH) is a non-profit organization and has implemented more than 60 different projects in cooperation with over 70 partners, in last 15y.

The framework for the activities and the development of the higher education, research and civil society sector is the Bologna Process on the one hand and the Horizon 2020 Program of the European Union on the other. Within these two frameworks, through different projects and with our partners we are striving towards integration of BiH into the European Higher Education Area and the European Research Area.

The programs which we support and participate aim at providing assistance to BiH higher education institutions, university staff, students, academics, individual researchers and research institutes. The target groups of the programs are government institutions, the entire academic community, local and international NGOs, research institutes, companies and small and medium enterprises.

Project activities in which we are involved are directed towards connecting BiH and European universities, research centers, researchers and academics and establishing inter-university and international co-operation between BiH and European institutions.

The main SUSBiH goals are to support development of the higher education, research and civil society sector in BiH in a sustainable manner in order to reduce the number of young people and academic staff leaving the country and place the emphasis on prospects in BiH. Through projects we are striving to enlarge and strengthen the established local and regional academic, youth, research and information networks.

Role and tasks in the BHQFHE project: In BHQFHE project SUSBiH assists UPD on smooth on-going BHQFHE project implementation. Due to SUSBiH staff expertise in project management, SUSBiH actively contributes to the implementation and content of the project. Furthermore, it assists in organization of the study visits to MCU and promotes the project and awareness for QF implementation. More specifically, SUSIH organizes info days and conference “Self-certification panel” in Sarajevo. It is also responsible for development of web-portal and development of the Guidelines for implementation of BHQFHE

BHQFHE project team:
- Haris Muhić,
- Faruk Bavčić,
- Lejla Selimović

Message about the importance of the BHQFHE project: Considering that different TEMPUS projects during past years have given support to the quality assurance (QA) in HE in BiH, from establishment of QA offices at the universities and university staff education and training to constant support of the HE by bringing it closer to the EAHE, there was a need for BHQFHE project, as a next step. With this new project universities should reach one new level in the area of modernization of the curriculum based on learning outcomes approach. With each European project, including this one, it seeks to harmonize and standardize Higher Education Area in BiH, which is one of the basic ideas of SUSBiH.

Haris Muhić, SUSBiH Director
Brand-Profile-Mission Statement: Ministry of Education and Culture is the highest public administrative institution in the area of education and culture in Republic of Srpska. In the area of education, it performs administrative and other professional tasks in the field of education which refer to preschool, primary and secondary education, education of the children of citizens of the Republic to work abroad, recognition of foreign school certificates, pupils standard, preparing program of educational cooperation with other countries and international organizations and international agreements in the field of education in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Srpska and the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Higher education; students standard; preparing program of educational cooperation with the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, other countries and international organizations and international agreements in the field of higher education in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Srpska and the Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Role and tasks in the BHQFHE project: Ministry of Education and Culture of Republic of Srpska as the government institution and as an associate partner in the BHQFHE project, its main role is to offer support and supervision for the project activities on the public universities in Republic of Srpska. ME is also giving contribution in developing and creating this Guidelines for BHQFHE. ME will follow developing new Pilot study programs and accreditation process and is allow to give a comments and suggestions for they improvement. It will also take part on self-certification panel conference and be actively included in Administrative and Financial management. Finally, ME will participate in consortium meetings, deliver all requested financial and administrative documents and help by producing the Mid-term and final project reports.

BHQFHE project team: Jelena Starčević, LLM, Secretary of the Commission for Information and Recognition of Foreign Higher Education Documents

Message about the importance of the BHQFHE project: Development and implementation of QF in Republic of Srpska is recognized in the Strategy for Development of Education in Republic of Srpska for period of 2015 to 2020 through a set of activities and goals like defining general learning outcomes for each level and type of higher education, established relationship levels and types of qualifications in the education system, defined compatibility with the EQF and EHEA, training of teaching staff in higher education institutions for the development of standards of qualifications and restructuring programs of study towards the development of descriptors of qualifications for each qualification individually.
BHQFHE project is aimed to help ME in this mission. The project is the tool and a mechanism for training ministry officers for further development of QF and for drafting a law of qualification framework in higher education.
Brand-Profile-Mission Statement: Ministry of Education Science and Youth is in charge of administrative and other activities relating to the following: preschool education, elementary, secondary education and high education in the Canton Sarajevo; curriculum; textbooks, educational standards; development of the educational system; professional education and permanent education of kindergarten and school teachers; student standard; inspection and professional and pedagogic control; establishment of educational institutions and control of their compliance with the laws; securing financial and material conditions for work in education; qualifying the children, youth and adults for acquiring technical knowledge and skills, and activities of various associations in its domain. The Ministry also performs administrative and other activities relating to the following: system and design of curricula for higher education in the Canton Sarajevo and securing financial and material conditions for work, professional education and permanent education of teachers, accommodation, food and other issues relating to student standard, and inspection in higher education. The Ministry also performs other activities given competence for under a special act.

Role and tasks in the BHQFHE project: Ministry of education, science and youth will be a part of the management process at universities we give regulation in form of laws. Within the project we give an impact of governmental structures and decision making processes. The Ministry of Education’s policy and strategy efforts result in improved education in Canton Sarajevo. Current focus in project is on building better education system that equips students from BiH with the knowledge, skills and values to be successful citizens in the 21st century, and actively participate in creating and developing the Implementation model at institutional level.

BHQFHE project team:
- Mr.sci. Azemina Njuhović, assistant of minister for informatization
- Sifet Kukuruz, assistant of minister for high education, science and youth

Message about the importance of the BHQFHE project:
With this project, which is important for students, citizens, employers, small and medium enterprises, institutions, and the whole education system and the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina. BHQFA will support improvements in quality and relevance of education by stimulating the development of qualifications that are based on internationally comparable standards of knowledge, skills and competences. The BHQFH Framework is an important component within the reform of the education system in BiH. It is intended to improve access to work and further learning by ensuring that qualifications are relevant to employment and learning, and meet the needs of learners, the economy and education and training institutions. Importantly, the BHQFH will also provide a basis for co-operation and mutual recognition between the NQF and the European Qualifications Framework (EQF).
Brand-Profile-Mission Statement: Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the West Herzegovina Canton is a public authority which is actively involved in several projects for reform and improvement of the education system quality in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We cooperate with all relevant education institutions including higher education institutions and we are one of the founders of the University of Mostar. Main tasks of the Ministry are: performing administrative and other professional tasks related to pre-school, elementary and secondary education, higher education; organizing of education and adoption of curricula for primary and secondary education; participation in the process of designing curricula for higher education institutions, textbooks, conducting inspections in this area, development of scientific and technical information, innovation and preparation of the program of scientific and technical cooperation, protection and use of cultural, historical and natural heritage, museums, archives, art, theater, music, film, publishing and library activities, development sports, technical and physical education, traffic education and other activities for which the Ministry is responsible.

Role and tasks in the BHQFHE project:
Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport of the West Herzegovina Canton actively contributes to implementation of particular project activities in which it participates with a goal of strengthening the cooperation between higher education institutions in BiH and Ministries of education. The Ministry contributes to developing and creating of Guidelines for BHQFHE, drafting of Sectorial statements, assists in organization and conducting of consultation process on sectorial statements and Creating of Sectorial statements. The Ministry also takes part in EG meeting.

BHQFHE project team:
• Želimir Bakula, LL.M
• Mirela Perić, mr.sc

Message about the importance of the BHQFHE project:
Education in BiH is under full and undivided responsibility of the Republic of Srpska, ten cantons in the Federation of BiH and Brcko District of BiH. In the educational system, that is based on the principle of autonomy of educational authorities, cooperation among competent institutions is of high importance. This project is a good example of cooperation that will result with a valuable Document which is connection with the European Higher Education Area. National QF will contribute to the internationalization and recognition of the national education system and it will link the education system with other systems and labor market needs. This project will enhance the whole educational system, which is a key factor for progress of the whole society.

Minister Ružica Mikulić
Brand-Profile-Mission Statement: The Ministry of Science, Education and Sports (MoSES) aims at ensuring conditions for high-quality education in Croatia with central role of lifelong learning. The Strategy of Education, Science and Technology adopted by the Croatian Parliament recognizes the central role of human potential for achieving better competitiveness of the Croatian economy. However, a coordinated quality assurance system for existing and future qualifications is still being developed. An important reform tool for Croatian education system is the Croatian Qualifications Framework, which is an instrument for regulating the system of qualifications at all levels in the Republic of Croatia. Qualifications standards will be based on learning outcomes and follow the needs of the labour market, individuals and the society. International cooperation of MoSES in the field of development and implementation of the Croatian Qualifications Framework consists of active participation in different European, regional and other international initiatives which aim at exchanging examples of good practice and experiences in developing national qualifications frameworks as well as providing easier understanding of qualifications acquired in other countries. MoSES is a member of Bologna Follow-up Group, EQF Advisory Group and Western Balkans Platform on Education and Training. It is actively involved in the implementation of Danube strategy, Euroguidance and Europass.

Role and tasks in the BHQFHE project: MoSES experience helps with: capacity building of expert groups; analysis of best EU practice; guidelines for BHQFHE development; quality assessment; self-certification of BHQFHE; participation in dissemination conference; writing project reports.

BHQFHE project team:
• Ružica Beljo Lučić, Assistant minister responsible for higher education
• Ana Tecilazić Goršić, Head of Sector for Development of Higher Education
• Mihaela Dubravac Šigir, Working on development of the CROQF
• Biljana Birač, Head of Section for the Croatian Qualifications Framework

Message about the importance of the BHQFHE project: I believe that development of BHQFHE is an important step towards better understanding and regulating of higher education qualifications in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Moreover, by taking into account EU guidelines and international regulations easier recogniton of qualifications can be achieved. Through the project Croatian MoSES can share its experience in developing the national qualifications framework and help with development of BHQFHE.

Ružica Beljo Lučić, PhD, Assistant minister