

Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Quality Assurance

Activity 3.1, 1st Mission, HEI Workshop, Banja Luka, 17-18 September
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Twinning Project

Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Quality Assurance

Twinning Reference Number: BA11-IB-OT-02

Duration: 13 September 2013 – 12 September 2015 (24
month + 3 months follow-up, audit)

Expected Outcomes of the Twinning Partnership

- The **Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance** in the European Higher Education Area (ESG) are implemented on all levels, including higher education institutions (HEI), authorities and quality assurance agencies.
- All HEIs have an **internal quality assurance system** developed, upgraded and in implementation.
- A **first cycle of accreditation** of all HEIs and a selected number of study programmes in BiH is done in accordance with the ESG.
- The **accreditation criteria** are revised.
- The **provisions in legislation**, as well as procedures of the higher education authorities related to QA in HE, were analysed.

Principles of Our Twinning Partnership

- Building on existing progress and achievements
- Focusing on knowledge transfer and capacity building
- Working with a network of experts
- Oriented toward concrete outcomes and action
- Building ownership



Four Components of the Partnership

Component 1

Analysis of Legal Provisions

Component 2

Strengthening the Capacities of HEA

Component 3

Implementation of Quality Management in Higher Education Institutions (HEI)

Component 4

Support in Organising Reviews of HEIs and Their Programmes

Realised Activities / Component 1

Analysis of legal provisions

- Synthesis of the current legal provisions on the basis of documents and interviews / October-December 2013
 - Desktop-research on legal frameworks and provisions with regard to quality assurance
 - Interviews in Banja Luka and Sarajevo: 49 representatives of relevant education bodies in BiH, higher education institutions, students' unions, HEA Steering Board members, QA experts
- Analysis based on the following references: the ESG, the reform of the Austrian quality assurance system and examples from comparable systems / December 2013
 - workshops with HEA Steering Board, management and staff

Realised Activities / Component 1

Analysis of legal provisions

- Recommendations concerning reforms and improvements / February 2014
 - Ca 50 participants
- Study visit to Austria / January 2014
 - 14 BC representatives: 10 representatives of competent education authorities and 4 HEA representatives
 - Visited institutions: AQ Austria, Federal Ministry for Science and Research, Universities Austria, Conference of Private Universities, Conference of Universities of Applied Sciences

Final Outcomes / Documents Component 1

- Realised activities lead to recommendations on the further development of the country's legal system with regard to higher education
- Final documents – available on HEA website:
http://hea.gov.ba/projekti/ipa_twinning/tw_qa/?id=4436
 - **Report Recommendations**
 - **Legal Synthesis Report**
 - **Report ESG II-III Conclusions**
 - **Report Study Visit to Vienna**

Starting Point for Follow Up of Recommendations

- Agreement on the implementation of recommendations
 - Report on recommendations concerning possible developments and reforms of the currently valid legislation submitted to the Council of Ministers/Conference of Ministers of Education in BiH

In parallel:

- Urgently implement current accreditation procedures with the support of the Twinning Project
 - providing support to the accreditation process
 - providing support to all relevant competent education authorities in setting / improving accreditation procedures

Ongoing Activities / Component 2

Strengthening the capacities of HEA

- Analysis of HEA's governance and operation against ESG
 - Starting April 2014
 - Mapping & stocktaking of HEA operation against ESG
 - SER will, on the one hand, be used as the basis for the external evaluation by ENQA/EQAR. On the other hand, it will provide the basis for the organisational development of HEA, which is part of this Twinning Project.
- Implementation of an internal quality management system
 - Starting April 2014
 - Identification of internal processes and procedures
 - IQM Manual that should provide the basis for enhanced processes and functioning of HEA

Ongoing Activities / Component 2

Strengthening the capacities of HEA

- Preparation of HEA's mid-term strategic plan
 - Starting November 2014
 - Stocktaking of implementation of HEA Strategy developed withinin a project financed by GIZ
- Consolidation of accreditation criteria
 - Starting October 2014
 - Analyses of panel reports (use criteria in place)
 - Identification of change needs based upon changes coming from revised ESG
- Internship at AQ Austria
 - Starting September 2014
 - Learning from MS Agency
 - Follow-up / implementation of lessons learned in Agency

Ongoing Activities / Component 3

Implementation of quality management systems in higher education institutions

- Capacity-building workshops with higher education institutions
 - Starting September 2014
 - Internal QM, preparation of accreditation, further topics
- Study visits of QM staff to Austrian HEI
 - Starting January 2015
 - Visit to Austrian HEI institution (QA staff)

Ongoing Activities / Component 4

Support in organising reviews of higher education institutions and selected study programmes

- Support to the implementation of accreditation procedures
 - Starting June 2014
 - Taylor-made workshops with competent education authorities / HEARS
 - Analyses of legal documents (follow-up C1), status-quo of implementation of procedures
 - Observation mission for accreditation procedure
- Nomination & preparation of international experts for the review procedures
 - Starting January 2015
 - Training of experts (newly appointed to BiH list of experts)
 - Training of stakeholders (joint training with experts)
 - Support to the development of a training manual

Hvala Vam na pažnji!
Хвала Вам на пажњи!