Support to strengthening the higher education system in Azerbaijan

TWINNING

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

(October 14 - 18, 2019)

1. <u>**Name and Function of the Expert:**</u>

Full name of expert

Ms. Zaiga Krišjāne, Latvia

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 (Geography 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:

Date and Time	Activity
Monday 14th of October 2019	**Meeting in in the Ministry of Education** with RTA Ms. Elizaveta Bydanova and Ms. Vusala Gurbanova, Component Leader I, Senior Advisor at Higher Education Department, Ministry of Education. Discussions on the working tasks during the mission, the form of the deliverables. Discussion about current situation and the expected recommendations. **Visit Baku State University** Discussion on the structure of the New Geography standard, study programme, competences required from graduate, learning outcomes of the programme and specific subjects.
Tuesday 15th of October 2019	**Desk work** Document analysis
Wednesday 16th of October 2019	**Visit Baku State University** Discussion and work on the New Geography state standard structure, study programme plan, describing achievements based on competences, mapping the learning outcomes and competences required from graduate, elaboration examples of learning outcomes of the selected subjects.
Thursday 17th of October 2019	**Desk work** Studies of the best practice examples to elaborate achievements based on competences and learning outcomes
Friday 18th of October 2019	**Desk work** Work on recommendation **Meeting in the Ministry of Education**. Final discussion on the results of the meetings during the mission. Presentation of the recommendations for further improvement of the standards, competences required from graduate, learning outcomes and activities for the implementation of the standard relevant for the Twinning project.

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

1. Classification of Bachelor and Master level programs in Azerbaijan
2. Geography State Standards
3. New State Standards of higher education elaborated within the TWINNING project in Ecology, Physics, Biology ect.
4. Information about geography education at the Universities in Azerbaijan.
5. A methodological compendium on identifying and defining learning outcome
6. Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers "On the approval of the 'National Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning of the Republic of Azerbaijan"
7. Twinning project materials

5. Achievement of the Expected Results

Planned action was achieved/not achieved/achieved partially. Add any relevant comments.

Planned action was achieved.

6. Unexpected Results

State if any unexpected results were identified during the mission. Add any relevant comments.

No unexpected results were obtained during the mission

7. Issues Left Open After the Mission

State if any issues were left open. Add any relevant comments.

8. Recommendations (including recommendation for future missions)

This section shall be 2.5 pages at maximum. All other relevant information shall be attached as annex.

Recommendations for the graduations requirements

The scope of the programme shall be no less than 240 ECTS, out of which final subjects have 30 ECTS. The final subjects include an **internship** (20 ECTS) enables to reinforce the practical skills of student. It shows all achieved competences The programme ends with writing, submission and defence of the **Bachelor's thesis**. It shows all the achieved competences.

Recommendations for learning outcome requirements

Annex 1 indicate the learning outcomes for each of the subjects, teaching and learning methods as well as assessment methods. The current version of the table includes required teaching and learning methods, assessment methods for each learning outcome. To provide better overview of all chosen and used teaching, learning and assessment methods for each subject it is recommended to make changes in Annex 1. in the table 1.3.

The updated version of the table 3.1 Indicates **learning outcomes for each subject.** It also indicates teaching, learning and assessment methods for the whole subject.

Name of subject	Learning outcomes of each subject	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods

The teaching and learning methods and assessment methods for each learning outcome can be done in syllabus of each subject (study course or module) if necessary**.**

Some best practice examples from other universities study subject (module) description shows teaching, learning and assessment methods for whole subjects. More detailed information is available in course plan.

For example, according QS World University Rankings one of the leading universities in the field of Geography is the Durham University in the UK. For the study subjects it provides following types of learning outcomes: Subject-specific Knowledge, Subject-specific Skills and Key skills (see example in appendix). Lund University in Sweden mentioned following types of learning outcomes: *Knowledge and understanding, Skills and ability (see example in appendix). At the* University of Latvia required learning outcomes for each subject are following: knowledge, skills and competences.

Requirements for Awarding Credits for each subject in the syllabus should be mentioned. Components of Assessment, for example, Examination and this component weighting (percentage) could be recommended *(see example in appendix).*

The best practise exchange and professional development (master classes, study tours, ERASMUs activities, involvement in international projects etc.) for academic staff has been recommended.

Recommendations for master study programme

Master State standard in Geography should be revised after the classification of master specialties (programmes) of the higher education. The further state standard for master should be designed close to the research. It requires intensive involvement of students in research the work. Further State standard elaboration should be linked to all three study cycles.

8. Acknowledgments (if any)

The expert expresses gratitude to Ms. Lisa Bydanova, (Resident Twinning Advisor) and Ms. Vusala Gurbanova (Component Leader I, Senior Advisor at Higher Education Department, Ministry of Education), and Ms. Aytaj Atakishiyeva and Language assistant Mr. Tarlan Arzumanov as well as to the representatives of the Baku State University, especially the dean of the Faculty of Geography prof. Mammadova Shakar Hidayat and prof. Narmina Seyfullayeva for their high involvement in discussions and elaboration of the new state standard.

Annexes

Some best practice examples for elaborate achievements based on competences and learning outcomes from leading universities has been provided.

(If any)