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Republika Kosova-Republic of Kosovo  
*Qeveria –Vlada-Government*

*Ministria e Arsimit, e Shkencës dhe e Teknologjisë  
Ministarstvo Obrazovanja, Nauke i Tehnologije  
Ministry of Education, Science and Technology*

## **REGIONAL COOPERATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION: HUNGARY AND THE WESTERN BALKANS**

# Higher Education System in the Republic of Kosova

Hungary , 10,11 March 2015

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# Kosova Context

## Kosovo



- About 2 million inhabitants
- Unemployment: around 40%
- Population under 25 years : >50%
- Each year about 25.000 students complete secondary education
- About 20.000 intends to continue their education in HEI each year



# HE Background

- The first higher education institution in Kosova was established in 1959.
- Currently, Kosova has:
  - 7 Public universities
  - 25 private colleges

..offering 418 different study programs, with slightly over 100,000 students currently enrolled
- Actual inclusion of group-age 20-24 is 62.7%, which is the exact EU average
- Provision is delivered in five languages: Albanian, Serbian, Bosnian, Turkish and English

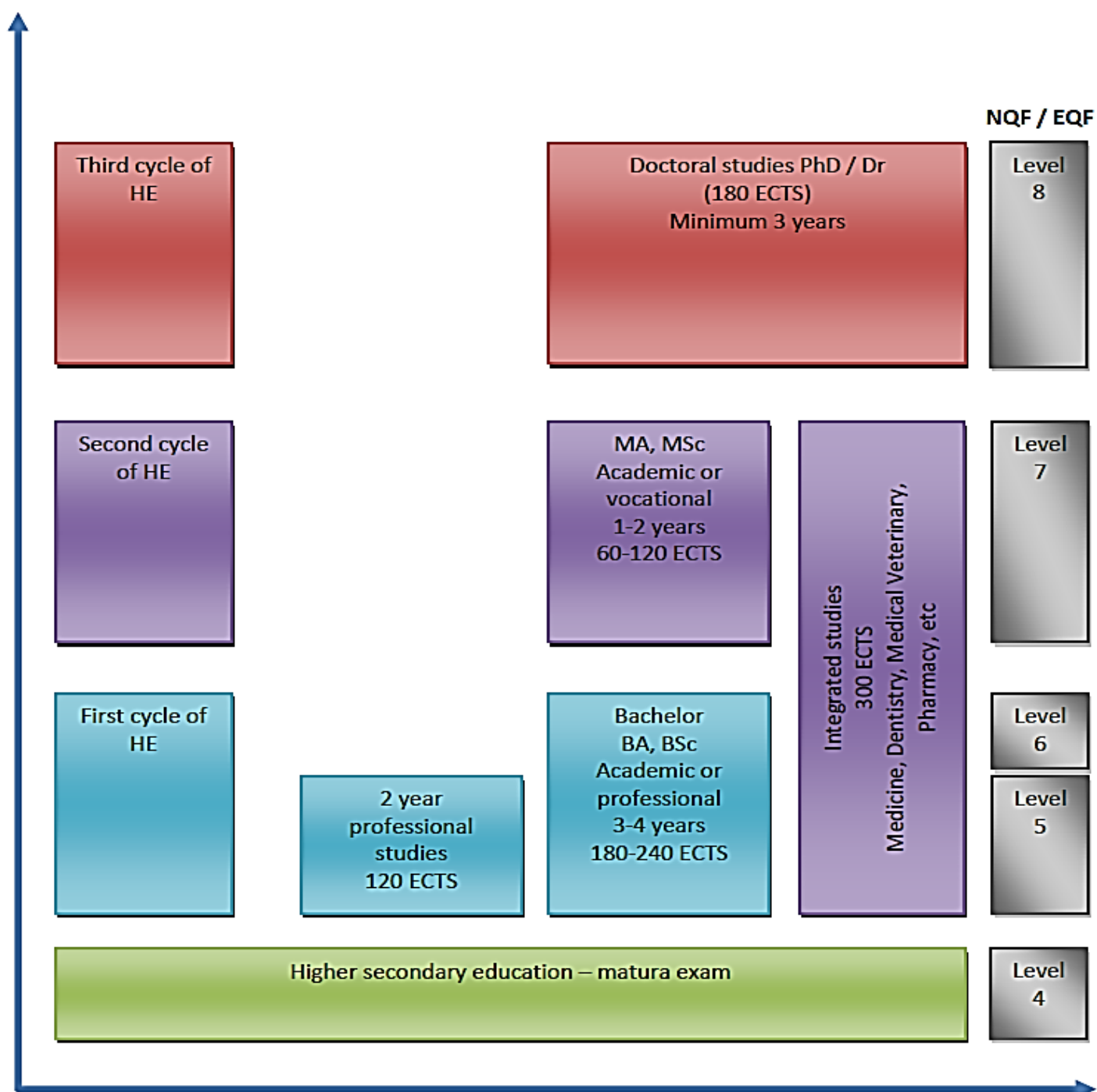
# Introduction of Bologna reform

- The University of Prishtina adopted the Bologna Declaration in 2001, making it one of the first universities in Europe to start with the reforms called for in the EHEA.
- In the spirit of the Bologna Declaration a new Law on Higher Education was drafted in 2002 and adopted in 2003, which was revised again in 2011.
- As a result of implementation of these reforms in higher education in Kosova today all institutions of higher education implement the ECTS credit system, curriculum reform, three cycle degree system, student and staff mobility, diploma supplement and decent quality assurance system.

# Legal and Policy Framework

- Law no. 04/L-037 for Higher Education in the Republic of Kosova (2011);
- Law no. 04/L-135 on Scientific Research (2013);
- Law no. 03/L-060 on National Qualifications (2008);
- Kosova Education Strategic Plan 2011-2016;
- Higher Education Strategy 2005-2015;
- National Qualifications Framework (2011);
- National Research Program (2010-2015);
- National Innovations Strategy 2015-2020 (draft);
- Career Guidance Strategy (draft);

# HE System in Kosovo



# HE System in Kosova – HE Law (2011)

- First cycle – three (3) to four (4) years of studies by which the student reaches 180, respectively 240 ECTS => Bachelor Diploma.
- Second cycle – one (1) to two (2) years of studies after completion of the first level by which the students reaches 60, respectively 120 ECTS => Master Diploma.
- Third cycle – doctoral studies with academic and independent research scientific character.
- Any other post-secondary education in the levels 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the European Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning, for which credits may be given (ECTS).

# Main regulatory authorities of HE in Kosova

- **Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST)**
  - Sets the policy framework for higher education and oversees its implementation
- **The Kosova Accreditation Agency (KAA)**
  - Ensures the external quality assurance in HE in full accordance with ENQA Guidelines and Standards for QA – full member of ENQA since September 2014
- **The National Qualifications Authority (NQA)**
  - Regulates the qualifications according to National Qualifications Framework and EQF
- **The Kosova ENIC Office**
  - Responsible for recognition of foreign diplomas and degrees in accordance with Lisbon Convention on Recognition



# Quality Assurance System

- **External Quality Assurance**

- KAA ensures accreditation of HE institutions and study programs, with decision from State Council for Quality Assurance taken based on recommendations from international experts;
- Ensures that study programs and curricula are developed based on learning outcomes;
- Constant monitor and control of quality at the accredited institutions and their study programs;
- Decisions are made publicly available;

- **Internal Quality Assurance**

- Every HEI in Kosovo has functional QA Offices and relevant procedures and instruments for ensuring internal quality assurance (involving academic and administrative staff as well as students)

# The National Qualification Framework (NQF)

National Qualifications Framework				
NQF Level	Contains qualifications associated with			EQF ref. level
	Education programmes	Currently available qualifications (Type)	Potential work roles/occupational requirements	
8	Higher education - Bologna 3rd cycle (Doctorate)	Doctorate (A)	Entry to, or continuing professional development within, senior levels of management or higher level professional occupations	8
7	Higher education - Bologna 2nd cycle (Master)	Master degree (A)		7
6	Higher education - Bologna 1st cycle (Bachelor)	Bachelor degree (A)		6
5	Bologna short cycle and /or post-secondary VET	Title of qualifications still unknown (A), (C) Certificates of non-formal providers (D or E)	Specialist/Trainer/Manager	5
4	Preparation for progression into higher education and/or labour market entry	Matura diploma in general or vocational subjects (B), (C), Vocational education diploma (C)	Qualified Worker/Supervisor	4
3	Preparation for labour market entry (young people and adults)	Vocational education certificate (C) Certificates of non-formal VET providers (D or E)	Semi-skilled Worker	3
2	Progression from lower to upper secondary education (young people), preparation for labour market (adults)	No existing qualifications of formal education system identified Certificates of non-formal providers (D or E)	Low-skilled Worker	2
1	Basic education	No existing qualifications of formal education system identified Certificates of non-formal providers (E)	Minimum level of basic skills, inc. literacy/numeracy, required for entry to lowest level of employment	1

- NQF was adopted in 2011 and fully harmonized with European Qualifications Framework in order to enable the recognition of qualifications internationally;
- NQF actually explores various pathways to enable the development of qualifications across horizontal and vertical levels of the NQF;

# International Cooperation in HE

- **Promoting partnerships and cooperation among HEIs**

- Participation in Erasmus + program;
- Bilateral agreements (between governments with different countries);

- **Increasing mobility opportunities**

- Participation in CEEPUS Program;
- HEIs in Kosova are partners of many Erasmus Mundus Consortiums;
- Governmental funds for international mobility (scholarships for study abroad, research mobility and participation in int. conferences and events);

Thank you for your attention !

Questions??