



WP2

Development of curricula

Lead Organisations of WP2: **UNS - Serbia**

Participating Organisation: UB;UNI; UBL; UNSA; INSZASUM;
BOKU; UNSCM; UNIRC;FRI-BAS

Deliverable 2.1

Title: Defined study requirements with Bologna standards

Participating Organisation: UB; UNS; UNI; UBL; UNSA; BOKU;
UNSCM; UNIRC



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- Institutional and legal framework of higher education - Law on Higher Education

The Ministry of Education and Science is in charge of education. Separate legislation exists for all education types (primary, secondary and high education). Beside the ministry, National Agency for European educational programs and mobility exist.

ORGANOGRAM OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

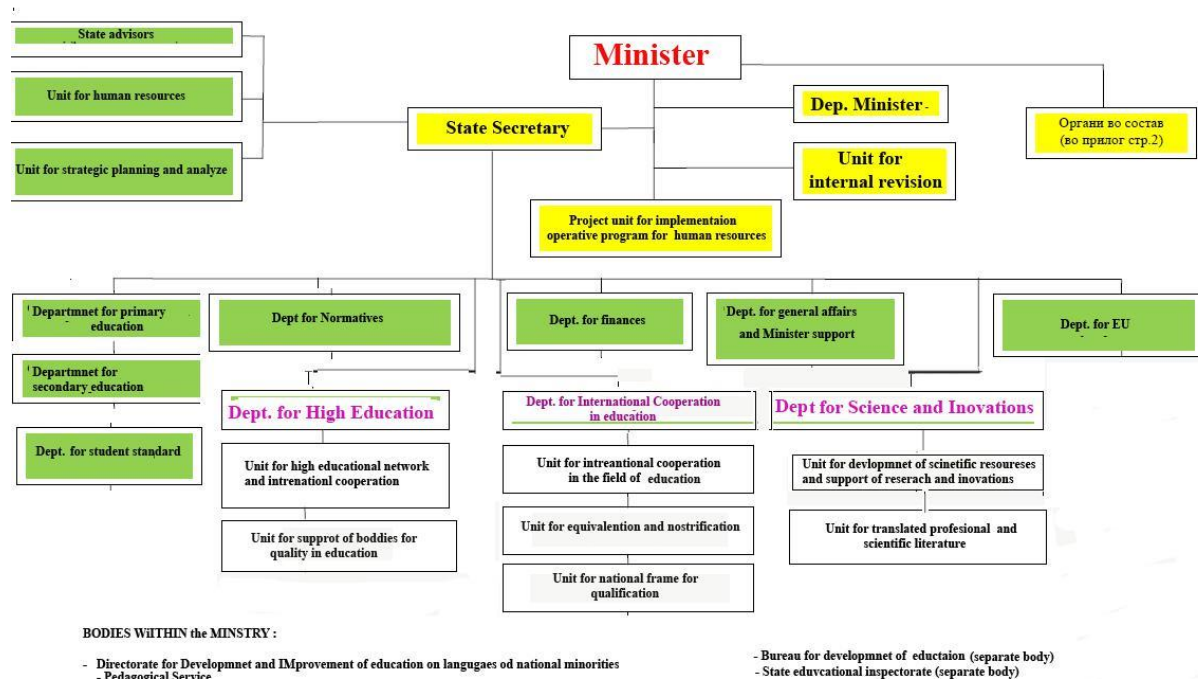


Figure 1 – Organogram of the Ministry of Education and Science

ON the figure 1, only department directly related to high education and science (Dept. for High education, Dept. for international cooperation in education, Dept. for Science and innovation) are in detail presented (with their units) .

The main legal act for the higher education sector is the Law on Higher Education (Official Gazetteof RM nr.82/2008, 8.V.2018), which contains, inter alia, provisions for the harmonization of higher education in the country with the Bologna Process and the European Credit Transfer System, and also provides legal a basis for teaching staff status and student mobility. Those items were incorporated in the previous act from 2008 too.

Here should be mentioned the following related acts:

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- Law on scientific-research activity consolidated text ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 46/2008, 103/2008, 24/2011, 80/2012, 24/2013, 147/2013, 41/2014, 145 / 2015, 154 / 2015, 30 / 2016 and 53/2016)
 - Law on establishing National agency for European educational programs and mobility ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 113/2007, 24/2011, 24/2011, 24/2011, 24/2013)
 - Law on open civil university for lifelong learning ("Official Gazette of the Republic of Macedonia" No. 36/2011, 41/2014 and 145/2015)
 - Law on Higher Education Institutions for Teacher Education in Preschool, Elementary and Secondary Education

Beside the law, relevant document is "Education strategy for 2018-2025 and Action Plan"

These are the priorities set within the strategy:

- Ensuring the quality and effectiveness of higher education in line with European good practice
- Promotion of higher education content
- Improving accessibility and enrollment in higher education
- Improving the management and financing of higher education
- Supporting research and innovation

Within the Action plan are listed 60 measures according to the priorities.

- **Analysis of the system of the undergraduate and graduate studies comparing to the Bologna Declaration**

Republic of North Macedonia started the process of changes in higher education system in 2000, when Ministry of Education and Science passed the new Law on high education (2000) giving greater autonomy to higher education institutions. According to it, universities were obligated to reform curricula following the principles of the Bologna Declaration. On 19th September 2003, the Republic of Macedonia became a member of the European family of countries committed to implement the Bologna declaration

Starting at 2002/03 and up to 2005, most of the faculties in Republic of Macedonia have decided to implement ECTS. The process of curricula reform according to the ECTS, was completed in the academic 2008/2009. Regarding the readjustment of the undergraduate study programs on the level of the entire University, the model 4 + 1 was accepted by the majority study programs. Some of the faculties embraced the 3 + 2 model or model of integrating both undergraduate and graduate study programs for the period of 5 or 6 years. Ss. Cyril and Methodius University (UKIM) accepted Bologna Declaration as its strategy with the following priorities [5]:

Development and preservation of the academic autonomy, European Credit Transfer System full implementation,

Harmonization and compatibility of the study programs with the EU model of university,

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System of Quality assurance with evaluation and accreditation of study programs, Student and academic staff mobility,
Openness to all students on the basis
of equality, Promotion of life-long learning,
Readable and comparable degrees.

Establishment of the third cycle of study –Doctoral studies was one of the most important reform in higher education in Republic of Macedonia. In 2010 UKIM adopted the *Regulations, criteria and rules of admission to doctoral level studies*, and its implementation started the next academic year with programs of study that had been accredited.

The Faculty of Forestry as a part of UKIM accepted all above. In 2004, all undergraduate academic programs introduced ECTS (**European Credit Transfer System**). In 2006, the ECTS was introduced in the postgraduate academic programs.

Today, the Faculty of Forestry has **3 undergraduate academic programs forestry, landscape design, eco-engineering and eco-management**), 2 postgraduate academic programs (forestry, Landscaping and environment promotion; following study programmes on the I cycle in previous accreditation from 2004) while **doctoral studies hasn't been established yet. In the recent period (up to 2016), 6 candidates obtain their PhD according to the previous tutorial system.** Activities for the development of the Faculty of Forestry continue in the new accreditation of doctoral studies according to the Higher Education Act and the Statutes and regulations of the University, as well as accreditation of new postgraduate academic programs following the current study programmes on the I cycle.

Regarding **implementation of ECTS and Bologna process**, the evaluation team stated that ECTS is implemented at the whole UKIM. Students welcomed the new regulations related to the appointment of academic staff, as well as quality of teaching and transparency in assessment.

- **Analysis of the system of credits – ECTS system comparing to the Bologna Declaration**

On national level, taking in consideration various study programmes, situation for the I and II cycle is presented in

http://www.ehea.info/media.ehea.info/file/The_Former_Yugoslav_Republic_of_Macedonia/23/3/National_Report_FYROM_2015_572233.pdf



Table 1 – Situation of study programmes and students on the I cycle in the country

	180 ECTS	240 ECTS	other
% of all study programmes on I Cycle	20,8	76.6	2.8
% of all enrolled students	28	64	8

The specific studies with different duration (other) are: medicine – 6 years – 360 ECTS, while on the following faculties architecture, pharmacy, dentistry, veterinary medicine, the I and II cycle are integrated.

Table 2 - Situation of study programmes and students in the II cycle in the country

	60-75 ECTS	90 ECTS	120 ECTS	Other
% of all study programmes on II Cycle	71	0.6	21	7.4
% of all enrolled students	70	2	20	8

According to research by Achkoska-Leshkoska E., 2013, there are still weaknesses due to an objective economic situation in the Republic of Macedonia or to a subjective understanding of “Bologna philosophy”. (<https://cyberleninka.ru/article/v/implementation-of-bologna-process-at-the-ss-cyril-and-methodius-university-in-skopje-a-view-from-inside>).

In the meantime, situation is improved.

The Ss. Cyril and Methodius University was evaluated by internal foreign team in 2017. Based on the analyze of the situation, The Team gave 24 recommendations for improvement in the fields of: Management; Quality Culture; Teaching and Learning; Research; Serving to the Society; Internationalization.

http://ukim.edu.mk/dokumenti_m/307_folow%20up%202018.pdf

- Analysis of redibility and comparability of degrees and Diploma Supplements

Regrading the Faculty of Forestry, Accepted study model is: 4 + 1 + 3 i.e. BSc – 240 ECTS (graduated engineer of: forestry/landscape design/ecoengineering and eco-management), MSc – 300 ECTS (Master of Science), PhD – 480 ECTS.

Courses related to erosion and torrent now belong to study programme ecoengineering and eco-management while on other study programmes there is 1 elective course.

Student that obtain diploma of the I cycle of studies (BSc) on the “Ss.Cyril and Methodius University” in Skopje, is eligible for any MSc programme in foreign. In the recent period (15 years) at least 40 students that obtain BSc diploma from the Faculty of Forestry within “Ss Cyril and Methodus University” in Skopje, continued their education in foreign universities in Europe and other world.

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Diploma supplement was introduced with the Law from 2008, but in practice started much later. On the faculty of forestry students got diploma supplement from 2017.

The template of diploma supplement from the Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje:
http://mrk.mk/wp-content/uploads/2015/07/UKIM_Diploma_Supplement.pdf

- **Analysis of the mobility of students, teachers and researchers**

The National agency for European educational programs and mobility (NAEPM) is a public institution established by Law. The aim of the NAEPM is to promote and implement the European educational programs into the country. By implementing the programs, the NAEPM contributes to development of knowledge-based society, with sustainable economic development, more and better jobs and bigger social cohesion, at the same time providing environmental protection and especially exchange, collaboration and mobility into the areas of education and training. Program beneficiaries are: learners, students, teachers, professors, educators and other personnel engaged in any stage of educational process, enterprises and other legal bodies including commercial entities, chambers of commerce and other associations of legal bodies in the field of industry, research centers and bodies, as well as citizen associations and foundations. The only programme for universities is Erasmus.

On the other hand some faculties are in network with same faculties from other countries (e.g. Faculty of Veterinary medicine is part of VetNEST network of faculties from East and South east Europe that enable mobility of their students and teaching staff, through CEEPUS programme; also they have bilateral agreement with some faculties out of VetNEST for mobility).

Faculty of forestry has various bilateral agreements/memorandums with other faculties and enable teaching mobility. Through ERAZMUS + only 1 student spent 1 semester in Italy and 2 professors were include in teaching in foreign.

But through other programmes/projects mobility of students and profesors is realized. IN past it was through the project FOPER 1 and 2.

Now current project with Bern University of Applied Sciences - School of Agricultural, Forest and Food Sciences started from 2013 is enabled mobility of a students of both faculties as well as teaching and research staff, mostly in North Macedonia but also in Switzerland. Students usually work on diploma thesis together 1 from Swiss and 1 from Macedonia while professor from NM is mentor. Also there are thematic lessons by professors from Swiss and study visit of professors from Macedonia in Swiss. The first project cycle was focused on nature conservation.



Within the second project cycle started from 2017/8 is included topic "Erosion and torrent control." The first lectures by Swiss professors were held in 2018 while 2 students are selected for preparation their BSc thesis in the field of Erosion and torrent control with support of the project.

References:

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<http://www.mon.gov.mk/>

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<http://www.sf.ukim.edu.mk/en/index.htm>