



**1<sup>st</sup> Workshop on Qualification and Occupational Standards**  
**18-19 December 2013, Hotel Europe, Sarajevo**

**REPORT**

**DAY 1 Welcoming and opening session:**

The workshop was introduced with a series of brief statements from *Daria Duilović (Commission for BiH QF)*, *Jadranka Mihić (EU Task Manager)*, *Haris Muhić (TEMPUS project)* and *Nedim Vrabac (CoE project manager)*. The comments focused on the importance of the new joint project and its context, linkages and relationship to other important past and concurrent initiatives and project, and the project was placed in the context of EU strategy 2020, SEE strategy 2020, draft BiH country strategy and their main priorities: mobility, recognition, QA, qualifications frameworks, human resources development, skills, employability. Important synergies were noted with the TEMPUS project '*BiH Qualifications Framework for Higher Education*' and the work of the '*Commission for the QFBiH*'. Links were also made with the previous three Joint CoE-EU projects and how the current work builds on the output of the previous work. The various components of the '*Strategic Development of Higher Education and Qualifications Standards*' were explained as well as the focus of the Qualifications and Occupational Standards element.

**Introduction:**

This session had four main elements: (i) A brief review and update of European higher education developments, introduced by Stephen Adam, (ii) An examination of the role of qualifications frameworks in general and the two frameworks in BiH, introduced by Mile Dželalija, (iii) a short presentation of the 2011 '*Curriculum Development Good Practice Guide*', introduced by Stephen Adam. This identified the key aspects that should be useful to the current work developing Qualifications Standards, and the final element (iv) explored 'the concept and practice associated with occupational and qualifications standards. This covered the developments that are currently taking place in Croatia.

The sessions were followed by discussion and questions. Various important aspects were raised. It was emphasised that any qualifications standards developed in BiH by the working groups had to be practical and useful. The exact format, nature and purposes of qualifications standards is to evolve (and be agreed) from the pilot project work. The results must be applicable in the complex political situation that exists in BiH.

**Group work:**

The group work was introduced in a plenary session and a brief document was distributed that outlined the immediate group work tasks. The five groups then dispersed to begin their deliberations. This work continued until the end of the day. The external experts, who offered clarification and support as necessary, visited each group.

**DAY 2 Plenary session - report back from the five working groups:**

The rapporteur of each of the five groups (ICT, Economics, Agriculture and Food Processing, Teacher Education, and Engineering) reported back the key issues and challenges in the interactive plenary session. A number of issues were identified. The main discussions

focused on a number of challenges including the: nature/breadth of any subject field or discipline (component parts, sub-sections, distinctive boundaries); issues associated with 3+2 and 4+1 degrees; the possible mix or proportion of elements within a subject field/disciplines; the relationship between qualification and occupational standards; whether to establish qualifications standards for all three EHEA cycles (EQF levels 6,7,8); the need to include a fully representative range of higher education institutions (HEI) from across BiH and to expand the number of participants involved in the work of working groups, need for examples from the region and other countries. The agriculture group proposed for their subject to create a backbone of 2 subgroups that exist in that subject field (agriculture and technological study programmes) with similarities between 2 subgroups of study programmes. The issue of difference between field, discipline, subject and study programme was also raised.

### Work-plan and next steps:

Mile Dželalija introduced the document that outlined the work for each group, to be completed before the next full workshop meeting.

The Chairperson and rapporteur for the five groups were agreed and the date for their first individual meetings.

Subject Group	Chairperson	Rapporteur	Meeting date	Venue
ICT	Samra Mujačić		To be decided	
Economics	Zdenko Klepić	Azra Bajramović	To be decided	Sarajevo
Agriculture and Food Processing	Elvis Ahmetović		End January	Tuzla
Teacher Education	Meliha Bijedić		6-7 February	Vlašić
Engineering	Dijana Čubela	Bojana Grujić	To be decided	Sarajevo

### Conclusions:

A number of conclusions were agreed:

- The project must include full representation from HEIs drawn from across BiH
- Future work by subject groups will require examples of national Qualifications Standards, Sector Frameworks and similar devices including any appropriate international professional standards.
- Qualifications Standards should only be developed for first and second cycle qualifications as they are not applicable to third cycle Doctoral studies.
- Date of next full plenary event meeting was agreed: **6-7th March 2014**
- The project team will send conclusions and all materials from the workshop electronically to all WG members, together with lists of WG members and their chairs.
- The Chairs of subject working groups will coordinate with the project team date and location of individual subject working group meetings.

Attachments:

- Tasks for working groups before next joint meeting.
- List of WG members