



Erasmus+

## Brief description of the Higher Education sector in Kosovo\*

Lazic Goran, Project Officer, Kosovo Erasmus+ Office

# Statistical data

- Unemployment: around 40% out of 2 million
- Population under 25 years > 50%
- Each year about 25000 students complete secondary school
- About 20000 intend to continue their education in HEIs each year

# HE background

- ▶ UP was the first HEI in Kosovo\* established in 1959
- ▶ The HE system operates through public (universities) and private HEIs (colleagues, institutes, higher professional schools)
- ▶ 8 public universities and 27 colleagues
- ▶ More than 40 study programmes
- ▶ Over 100 000 students are currently involved
- ▶ Education is delivered in five languages: Albanian, Serbian, Bosnian, Turkish and English
- ▶ Kosovo HE system has received an extensive international support and expertise

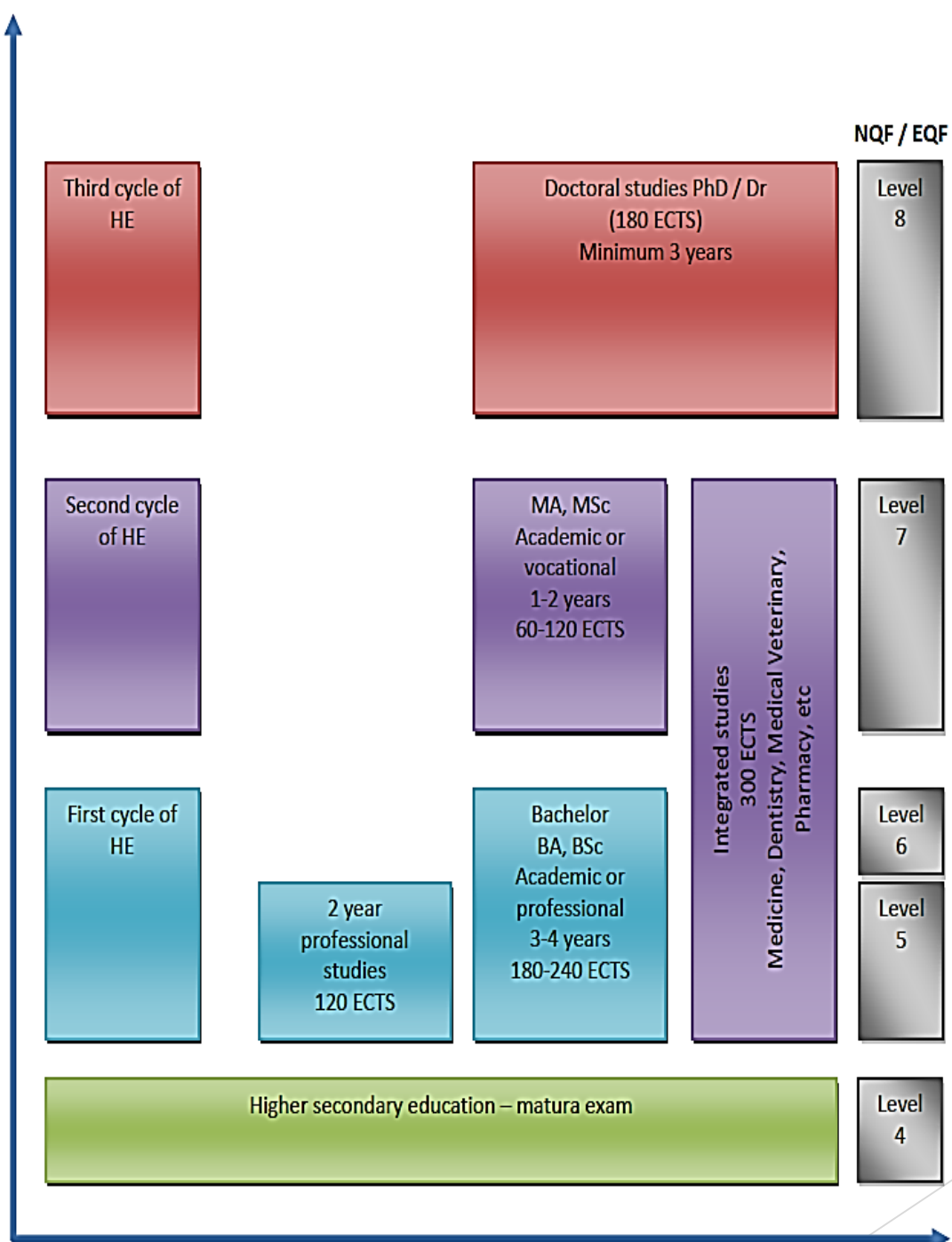
# Major changes, reforms and development trends

- ▶ Education system in Kosovo\* went through changes and developments since June 1999
- ▶ Although Higher Education experienced essential reforms, there are pro et contra arguments whether substantial or superficial reforms took place after 1999
- ▶ The reform process is underway, but it will take more time until it delivers a quality products, i.e. skilful and competitive students for the open market
- ▶ Environment to be free of disagreements of the past and where peace building and reconciliation are deeply rooted in the society

# Introduction of Bologna reform

- ▶ The University of Pristina adopted voluntarily the Bologna Declaration in 2001, making it one of the first university in Europe to start with reforms for entering 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 Kosovo today all HEIs implement ECTS, curriculum reform, three cycle degree system, student and staff mobility, diploma supplement and decent quality assurance system

# HE System in Kosovo



# Main regulatory authorities of HE sector

- ▶ Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST) sets the policy framework for higher education and oversees its implementation
- ▶ The Kosovo 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 Kosovo ENIC Office is 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 based on recommendations from international experts
- Ensures that study programs and curricula are developed based on learning outcomes
- Monitor and control the 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)



# International Cooperation in HE

## **Promoting partnerships and cooperation with EU HEIs**

- Participation in Erasmus + programme (20 CBHE projects)
- Bilateral agreements with different countries

- **Increasing mobility opportunities**

- Participation in 244 ICM and 1 EMJMDs projects
- 1866 ICM mobilities and 16 EMJMDs scholarships
- Participation in CEEPUS Program and Erasmus Mundus partnerships
- Governmental funds for international mobility (scholarships for study abroad, research mobility and participation in international conferences and events)

# Involvement of Kosovo in ICM projects

Total		2018	2017	2016	2015
Proposals received involving Kosovo*	371	110	94	80	87
Projects selected involving Kosovo*	244	75	65	54	50
Students and staff moving to Europe	1866	517	512	462	375
Students and staff moving to Kosovo*	918	263	260	200	195
Percentage of regional budget	10,0	9,67	9,93	10,23	10,2

# International Credit Mobility objectives:

- ▶ make the education system more coherent in order to bridge the gaps in provision of high quality services
- ▶ ensure coherence between education content and learning processes with sustainable HE development priorities
- ▶ strengthen the quality assurance mechanisms of the HE system
- ▶ harmonize education system with the labor market demands
- ▶ develop international competence baselines for different professions
- ▶ apply Information and Communication Technology tools in learning processes
- ▶ align with key national priorities addressing economic development goals
- ▶ offer a range of strategies for meeting the national priorities, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the Education for All (EFA)

## Destination country for student mobility

- ▶ Developing and supporting an inclusive system of education enabling equitable access to quality education
- ▶ Closer alignment between education and employment including the development of tertiary vocational education and training in response to the labor market demand
- ▶ Improving the quality of higher education by ensuring quality control, the application of European standards and a review of academic structures organization
- ▶ Establishing research institutions within higher education institutions to offer services for the private sector and for other purposes
- ▶ Developing information and communication technology (ICT) in all levels and all groups of education
- ▶ Declaring development of human resources a national priority and creating a life-long learning culture
- ▶ Kosovo Erasmus+ Office ([www.erasmuspluskosovo.org](http://www.erasmuspluskosovo.org))

**Thank you for your attention!**