

FEDERATION OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Federal Ministry of Education and Science

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BOLOGNA DECLARATION

ACHIEVED LEVEL OF IMPLEMENTATION AND FUTURE ACTIVITY PLAN

The Federation Ministry of Education and Science recognised the principles and objectives of the Bologna Declaration and decided to take all the activities necessary to implement the Declaration in the higher education system in the Federation of BiH. We officially expressed our commitment to act in compliance with the Bologna Declaration and take all the responsibilities arising from the Declaration, in a Letter of Intent dated 16 April 2002, sent to the Spanish Presidency of the Bologna Process.

In the past year, as we were moving towards the Bologna Process, the following activities were completed successfully:

The document titled “Education Reform” in Bosnia and Herzegovina was made and presented to the Peace Implementation Council (PIC) in Brussels on 21 November 2002. The document was endorsed by both Entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This document, focusing on the implementation of the overall education reforms, contains clear guidance for the higher education reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina, within the Bologna process.

The Universities agreed on the activities, needed for an accelerated reform, at the Higher Education Co-ordination Board of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This Board plays the role of a higher education reform coordinator.

The majority of the higher education institutions adopted the “Plan for Institutional Development of the Universities in 2003-2010”, in which the Bologna processes are incorporated. Different levels of development of the Universities and a specific position of higher education in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina entail different dynamics and priorities in the implementation of the plan for higher education reforms. In evaluating their academic communities and a level of development, each university has produced its own reform implementation plan, including a time frame for its realisation.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BOLOGNA PROCESS AT THE UNIVERSITIES

1. **Tuzla University** has implemented in the past period all the activities in both institutional and legal terms. As a result, all higher education institutions (faculties) are integrated in one legal entity – the University. This process has created the preconditions necessary for professionalization of administration, rationalisation and professional training of the management. The Tuzla University has joined the education reform as from 2002/2003 school year, on the basis of various plans. In doing so, the University is guided by European standards in higher education. Consequently, new curricula are in the process of being completed. The activities related to the formation of a quality study centre will begin soon. In parallel, seminars and training sessions for the staff who will be working in the Centre will be organised as well. An integrated university allows the formation of joint departments for certain courses, which will be introduced in practice as from 2003/2004 school year, when an ECTS pilot project should also begin (European Credit Transfer System pilot project). A diploma supplement will also be introduced to provide significant data on the diploma itself, for the purpose of an easier understanding and recognising the completed studies and an achieved level of education. The quality study centre will also be involved in accreditation, supervision and evaluation of higher education activities.

The formation of new departments will be done in such a way that they will be prepared fully to embrace the new circumstances, ECTS, self-evaluation and quality assurance (QA).

In 2005/2006 school year, following the analyses and monitoring of ECTS, the European mobile credit system will be introduced at some faculties and departments, which is a precondition for a student mobility within the universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The University will be trained for an academic mobility (of both students and teachers) from South East European countries and to the countries in the region in which the languages related to those spoken in Bosnia and Herzegovina are spoken, and will also be open and ready to receive students and teachers from the countries in which the languages, related to those spoken in Bosnia and Herzegovina, are in use.

After the first experiences gained in the academic mobility of students, the activities on the mobility towards other European countries, in which different languages are spoken, will be accelerated. The first students who will graduate under the new curricula for 5 semester studies are expected in 2006/2007 school year.

In the year 2010 the Bologna Declaration will be fully applied at the University. The European Credit Transfer System will be fully applied in evaluating the ECTS teaching process. International accreditation and verification of the teaching process will also be functioning fully. The studies at the University will be fully compatible with the European studies under the 3+2+3 model. The diplomas will be clear and easily recognisable and comparable to the obligatory diploma supplement, which will explain the diploma itself.

2. **Mostar University** produced an Institutional Plan for the Development of the University in a period between, 2003 – 2010, which was sent to the Higher Education Co-ordination Board. The University implemented the ECTS pilot project. Before that, a seminar was organised at the University on all ECTS elements. The introduction of a new evaluation system resulted in certain findings, which are now being analysed. This project includes five faculties and one post-secondary two-year school: the Faculty of Agronomy, the Faculty of Medicine, Pedagogic Faculty, the Faculty of Law and the Faculty of Mechanical Science and Information Technology, as well as the High Medical School. The curricula were made for

new post-graduate studies under the European standards. They are already being implemented. Before May 2003, a proposal for the organisation and functioning of joint departments at the University will have been made and possible savings and rationalisation planned.

Within that same period, a proposal for the rationalisation of student services and administration and extra-curricular activities of the University will be done in accordance with the Bologna Declaration.

The attempts will be made to develop in students' minds the need and a feeling for quality education which will guarantee success and develop a positive competition; motivate students to achieve better results during their studies; form and develop further student counselling; introduce new qualities in cooperation between students and professors within a teaching process; train the existing management and improve their performance with a view to increasing efficiency and productivity; develop the curricula under European standards and the Bologna Declaration. In 2004, the University will intensify the activities on the selection of the programme which will suit the needs of the state and be capable of offering a clear picture of quality.

The curricula and the curricula contents will meet the international standards through new methods of work. New concepts will be introduced in lecturing and learning, such as lifelong and distance learning. Institutional mechanisms for self-evaluation will be developed and introduced. The teaching process for international study programmes and student mobility will also be introduced. It will be possible for students, particularly post-graduate students, to join research projects for the purpose of improving education quality. The development of the information network of the University will be accelerated and information technology will be applied at the University. The activities will start on building a university, a national library and other related facilities.

The non-teaching staff will be trained; the appropriate training will be organised under the new requirements of the university. The University will be reorganised under the Bologna Declaration (a new Law on the University).

In a period between 2005 and 2010, the University will carry out the following activities: improve a student standard in all aspects, including accommodation, classrooms, library, study conditions; the quality assurance system will be applied efficiently; an internal evaluation and an external evaluation (EUA) will be conducted; preparations will be made to implement accreditation at all levels of the University.

Both the reforms and the laws will lead to an integrated University under the model of a European university.

3. **Bihac University**, like other universities in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, produced its Plan for Institutional Development of the University in 2003-2010. The University academic plan is a central plan and its institutional development includes fully the under-graduate and post-graduate programmes, their duration, levels, and all other courses. This projection includes new study models (full-time studies, part-time studies), new courses, as well as new approaches to learning and studying. This is a presupposition that compatible curricula will be developed to correspond to the European level and the

Bologna Declaration, i.e. that ECTS system will be applied in the first place (European Credit Transfer System), which is a starting point for introducing changes to the study programmes.

The University has planned to implement the following activities in 2003: an analysis of the existing situation from the aspect of available space; training of the existing management and improvement of their work; an analysis of the existing curricula and their contents and their harmonisation with European standards; introduction of the ECTS pilot project in 2003/2004 school year.

The Law on Higher Education and Amendments to the Law on the University, once adopted, will create legal and institutional presuppositions for the University to function on the new principles. The University will be given a status of a legal entity, while the faculties will have an academic freedom, although they will not have a status of a legal entity. The University will have the full autonomy and self-rule, especially in the field of research, determination of the contents and teaching methods, management of its own resources. It will do the concentration of the teaching staff and research capacities and form joint departments. It will include students in the decision-making processes at the level of the University, which will contribute to a successful implementation of the Bologna Declaration objectives, increase interest in research activities and compatibility of the curricula and lead to the adoption of new common evaluation standards. Integration information system, to be introduced, will consist of four modules: students, staff, library and financial information system.

The Technical Faculty within the Bihac University completed successfully a certification procedure, thus acquiring the right to ISO 9001/2000 certificate, awarded to the University in late 2002. This certificate obliges the University to pay a particular attention to the teaching process quality standard. This year the University will carry out a thorough expert analysis of all the curricula in use and will reconsider them critically, in an attempt to adjust them to the Bologna Declaration and European standards. An institution will be formed to assist the future students in choosing their studies and encourage them to enrol in the disciplines which will help them find employment in the labour market. The standards and norms will be developed in higher education. The application of information and communication technologies at the University will also be prepared. An institution will be formed at the University for the introduction of Quality Assurance (QA). The staff will be trained in Quality Assurance and Management.

From 2004/2005 school year, the Institutional Plan envisages the following activities: education and training of the existing management and improvement of their work; a new organisation of the University, adjusted to and compatible with the organisation of European universities; changes in the management of the University (centralised); creation of our own base of a scientific successor generation out of talented cadets.

In selecting and re-selecting the teaching staff, reference requirements will be applied and an analytical assessment of each nomination will be conducted.

The application of ECTS in the full capacity enables the student and teacher mobility, which will encourage the exchange of students with other universities. In the beginning, the countries in which the languages related to those spoken in Bosnia and Herzegovina will be included and in a later stage this will expand to include other countries as well. The networking of the

information system at the University will be introduced and the possibility to establish the system at the level of Bosnia and Herzegovina will be opened up.

The following activities are planned for a period 2005-2010: introduction of the rules and application of ISS procedures – standards, self-evaluation and assessment of a teaching process at the University; introduction of multi-disciplinary under-graduate studies; continued modelling of the studying programmes for different and new disciplines and adjustment to the needs of our economy and society; a two-tier system; internal evaluation of the University, accreditation at all levels.

4. **“Dzermal Bijedic” University in Mostar**, within the framework of development strategy, adopted the Plan for Institutional Development of the University, including the time frame for the implementation of activities this University is planning to undertake in the context of implementation of the Bologna Process. The following activities are included in the time frame for 2003: the analysis of the existing academic curricula and their harmonisation with the European standards governing the teaching and scientific processes; education and training of management and administration with a view to achieving a more efficient monitoring of all changes, introduction and partial application of ECTS in the teaching process and monitoring of this model throughout the year and an analysis of the achieved results; issuance of the plan for introduction of quality management information system at the University.

In 2004, the plan is to create both legal and institutional conditions necessary for the reorganisation of the University towards its integration. On the basis of the experience gained in monitoring the ECTS pilot project in 2003, the European Credit Transfer (Mobile) System will be applied fully; application and implementation of the information system at the University; application and full implementation of the quality management system at the University; application and implementation of self-evaluation (of both students and teachers) at the University.

In a period between 2005 and 2010, “Dzermal Bijedic” University in Mostar is planning to undertake the following activities within the spirit of the Bologna Declaration: implementation and monitoring of the first results of a new organisation of the University; application and implementation of all academic programmes; application of the curricula for Bacalorea – master system (two-tier education); the full functioning of information system at the University; certification of the quality management system and an efficient functioning of accreditation by the issuing institution.

5. **Sarajevo University**, the biggest university by the number of students and faculties, has had a dilemma as to how to define a mission strategy and vision of the basic development documents which would be in harmony with the Bologna Declaration and the development of the society in Bosnia and Herzegovina, directed towards European integration. The overall activities and discussions led to the introduction and adoption of the Plan for Institutional Development of the University from 2003 to 2008, including the dynamics of harmonisation with the European standards in higher education. The dynamics of reforms and institutional changes arise clearly from that Plan, which will follow the development of the University. The dynamics plan for education reforms envisages that the University should by the end of 2003 initiate the amendments to the Law on Higher Education in

Sarajevo Canton, as a starting point for the University integration. A diploma supplement will also be introduced. Standards and norms will be made in the area of higher education (pedagogic field, staff, space, etc.) and lifelong education will be proposed and eventually introduced. The University has planned to produce an information system project this year and has considered the possibility for accession to INTERNET, the broadest university and academic community.

A new manner of funding is being prepared, the basis of which will be a student and a 'one teacher-one salary' system will be avoided as discouraging.

All legal and institutional preparations for students to enrol in an integrated University, as a legal entity, in 2004/2005 school year will be done. The faculties will be integrated in a single legal system – the University. In that period, an ECTS pilot project is planned to be introduced, which entails new curricula harmonised with the new manner of evaluation and validation. The ECTS will be applied at the Sarajevo University by the end of 2008. An institutional participation of students, academic and non-academic staff in decision-making internal processes at the level of the University will be ensured during that period. Within the transformation of the University, a new rationalised systematisation and organisation of affairs at the University and higher education institutions will be carried out and the possibility for joint departments will be explored. A modern and capable management will be trained and the managing structures of the University will be established. By the end of 2008, university offices or the activity centres, of mutual interest, will be formed.

During the planned period, a procedure will be developed for admission, evaluation and issuance of diplomas, which will be recognisable, clearly comparable to the diplomas granted in the European academic community. An on-line access to the overall university contents will be made available. The conditions for a pilot project, quality assurance at some faculties and an analysis of achieved results will also be assured. During the period of application of quality assurance (QA), a self-evaluation will be done and the results will be analysed by the end of the planned period, along with the planning of corrections of the quality assistance application at the University, without exception. A procedure for a periodical external evaluation of the University (accreditation) will also be introduced and the basis for quality assurance will be given a legal framework through an institution which will monitor QA and will include all the procedures for accreditation, supervision and validation of the activities in higher education.