

EXPLANATORY NOTE

to the draft of the Framework-plan for Bachelor's degree (Cycle I), Master's degree (cycle II) and integrated studies

1. Name of the author and of the participants in the development of the draft

The draft of the Framework-plan for Bachelor's degree (Cycle I), Master's degree (cycle II) and integrated studies shall replace the Framework-plan for higher education (Cycle I – Bachelor's degree, cycle II – Master's degree, integrated studies, cycle III – doctoral studies) approved by Order of the Ministry of Education no. 1045 of 29.10.2015. The draft is promoted by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, in consultation with interested institutions.

2. The conditions that led to the elaboration of the draft of the normative act

The necessity to improve the existing normative act through the elaboration of a new variant resulted from the reforms carried out at European level and, as a consequence, at national level, which assigns university autonomy to higher education institutions under the conditions of public accountability.

3. Expected outcomes

This Framework-plan is part of the educational policies for the modernization of higher education and aims to ensure efficient and competitive conditions for the organization of Bachelor's degree, Master's degree and integrated studies both in the country and at European level, thus being stimulated the academic performance, encouraged and sustained university autonomy and public accountability of the higher education institution.

The process of reviewing the Framework-plan approved by Order of the Ministry of Education no. 1045 of 29.10.2015 pursued the following objectives:

1. Compatibility of the study programmes offered by the universities of the Republic of Moldova with those of the European Union countries;
2. Facilitate the process of organizing and developing joint study programmes and supporting academic mobility, both nationally and internationally;
3. Ensure flexible study programmes and an effective connection with the national and international labour market;
4. Linking study programmes and contents to international trends in the field;
5. Involvement of partners, including the business community and employers, in the design of educational plans;
6. Involvement of beneficiaries in establishing their own educational pathways, according to the individual needs of professional development.

4. The main provisions of the draft and highlighting the new elements

- 1) The Regulatory Framework has been updated;
- 2) The Glossary and definition of terms have been revised;
- 3) Unsuitable provisions for the Framework Plan concept have been excluded;
- 4) The terminology of the document has been unified and updated;

- 5) General requirements for developing the Educational plan (requirements that do not affect university autonomy and highlight the public accountability of the university) have been established;
- 6) The special requirements for the elaboration of the Educational plan have been set out, with the annexes of the tables and the information that it should contain. For convenience, for each Annex, the important aspects that need to be taken into account when developing the respective structural element of the Educational plan, but without diminishing the institution's responsibilities and decision-making, have been enumerated, with the multiple limitations excluded from the ones existing in the variant subject to change
- 7) Controversies related to the process of modifying the Educational Plan were excluded (a distinction was made between the annual and the periodical reviews, the latter necessarily involving external expertise, with the involvement of experts from the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education and Research (ANACEC) or an agency registered in EQAR);
- 8) Regarding the record of the Educational plan - the obligation to coordinate the Educational plans with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research (in the key to good European practices) was excluded. The Educational plan should be kept at the higher education institution (mandatory on the website of the institution) and at ANACEC. Given that the study programmes are authorized / accredited / re-accredited by decision of the Ministry of Education, Culture and Research, a database of approved / accredited / re-accredited study programmes will be managed by the MECC profile department;
- 9) The main stages of initiating a study programme were described;
- 10) There have been stipulated the two situations in which the study programmes can be closed (by non-accreditation or CDSI decision);
- 11) The explanatory note has been substantially amended, with the assumption of providing more relevant information both on the content of the programme and on the process of development, self-evaluation and connection to the labour market.

5. Economic and financial reasoning

Application of the provisions of this Regulation does not imply additional financial means.

6. Incorporation of the act into the normative framework in force

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Minister

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