

INSTITUTIONAL WEAKNESSES IN IMPLEMENTING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE EUROPEAN QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION SYSTEM IN KOSOVO

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ABSTRACT

The European Union envisages and handles the economic integration process through the creation of a unified system of higher education. As part of this aspect, which is vital for the future of this community, the Heads of Governments, supported by the recommendations of the Ministers of Education and Training, a year earlier in March 2005 in Brussels, laid down the requirement for the establishment of a European Qualifications Framework as a basic and separate document, which shall not only be implemented by member countries on a voluntary basis, without conditions and without obligation, but also to increase transparency and mutual trust that will first enable the creation of a clear framework of qualifications, at the national and sectorial level as referent to one another, and secondly, this system will enable the transfer of knowledge and skills for the citizens in the European area. Along with other important documents that are in effect, there is also a current legal basis for the European integration process of this area, and the terms and conditions stipulated therein have been adequately understood by Kosovo. So far, the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has issued a series of important documents and a solid base for moving forward in this direction has been created. However, the situation is complicated when the time comes for these policies to be implemented in reality. This is because there is still a lack of willingness from the management of Higher Education Providers to enhance quality, improve competence and adapt to the European minimum higher education standards required by the European Qualifications Framework. It is clearly considered as an important step forward to issue policies, but alone it remains insufficient in substance. The responsibility of implementing them lies with everyone, therefore any delay in this regard, not only damages the integration process of the country, but it also depreciates and renders a University degree as unacceptable.

Keywords: Qualifications Framework, higher education, competence, strategy, integration.