

## **Recent Developments in Ukraine Higher Education according to the new Law of Ukraine “On Education”, September, 2017**

Higher Education Institutions types and statistics 2015/16:

*total* – 659 HEI (1,605 mln students) (525 public HEI (1,466 mln students), 134 private HEI (0,139 mln students));

*among them:* 185 Universities, 53 Academies, 63 Institutes, 1 Conservatory, 218 Colleges, 56 Technical schools, 83 Vocational schools.

**National Qualifications Framework – 10 levels** of qualifications (based on EQF LLL) was approved by the Cabinet of Ministries of Ukraine (2011).

The **Law of Higher Education** (2014) is compatible with the Bologna Process (3-cycle HE, ECTS, DS, ESG, NQF implementation).

The **Law of Education** (2017) is compatible with the Bologna Process in general and includes the following key provisions:

1. Introduce *12-years complete general secondary school* within 3 stages – for primary education – on September 1, 2018; for basic secondary school – on September 1, 2022; for field-specific secondary school – on September 1, 2027 (*Part XII. CONCLUDING AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS*).

2. Implement European approach to assure right of equal access to education and inclusive learning for *people with disabilities* (persons with special educational needs) (*Article 19, 20*).

3. Introduce the institute of *Education Ombudsman* for providing good conditions for realization of the right to education within education system (*Article 73*).

4. Present *formal, non-formal and informal education* as means of life-long learning (*Article 8*).

3. Implementation of reviewed National Qualification Framework (*see Table*) – **11 levels** of qualifications (0-10) *incl.* Higher Education (Junior Bachelor (*short cycle*), Bachelor – Master – PhD) and plus so called 4<sup>th</sup> or postdoctoral cycle – Doctor of Science (*Article 36*).

Determination of *correspondence* between educational levels and levels of *National Qualification Framework* (for Higher education: 6 – 7 – 8 – 9 – 10 levels) (*Article 10*) (*see Table*).

Introduce *Doctor of Art degree* in frame of the 3th cycle of Higher Education for artistic qualifications / professions along with PhD degree for other qualifications / professions.

4. Introduce definitions for professional and educational qualifications; *descriptions* of the National Qualification Framework corresponding with EQF LLL; *Sectoral Qualifications Frameworks, Qualifications Centres* for Learning Outcomes and *Qualifications Recognition* (including via informal and nonformal education) in line with

Lisbon and Bologna processes; *National Qualifications Agency* for maintaining NQF implementation in particular (*Article 34, 35, 36, 38*).

5. Widen University *Autonomy* via introducing several legal statuses for HEIs – state-funding institution (present status for state HEIs); non-commercial education institution; commercial education institution (*Article 22*).

6. Establish *obligatory correlation* between *Education Standards* and *NQF* (*Article 32*).

7. QA system *novation* is *Academic Integrity* as well as *Institutional Accreditation* (voluntary procedure by HEI initiative, assessment of quality of educational activity of the HEI) (*Article 42, 46*).

8. Assure *Teaching Quality improvement* – State provides support to advanced training of State HEIs academic staff via additionally allocated funds from the State Budget and the amount of these funds cannot be less than 2 % of the academic staff' salary fund (*Article 78*).

9. On the day this Law enters into force, *the powers of the members of the NQAA* in Higher Education delegated by the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, national sectoral academies of sciences, elected by congresses from the representatives of HEIs, Joint Representative Body of all-Ukrainian Association of employers' organizations, congress of representatives of students *are terminated* (*Part XII. CONCLUDING AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS*).

10. *The Ministry provides study programmes accreditation* according to the procedure envisaged for accreditation of disciplines and specialities until approval, according to the procedure established by the Law on Education, of the regulations about study programmes accreditation.

11. Some *key amendment* to the Law of Ukraine "On Higher Education" (2014):

(1) Introduce new approach to *formation* of the *NQAA – National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education* is composed on 23 persons appointed by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on the basis of the decision of the *Selection / Competition Commission* following the results of the selection that takes place with due consideration of gender balance and sectoral (field of study) representation principles.

(2) The *composition* of the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education is formed with safeguarding the representation of no more than 1 person from a Field of Study and includes:

1) 3 persons – selected among representatives of all-Ukrainian employers' organizations;

2) 2 persons – students of the first or second cycles of HE;

3) no less than 1 representative from among persons who work on a permanent basis at:

the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine;

national sectoral academy of sciences (1 representative per each academy – 5 ones);  
state HEI;  
municipal HEI;  
private HEI.

A person may be nominated a candidate to the NQAA via self-nomination also.

(3) The organization and conduct of the selection of NQAA is done by the *Selection Committee* that is established by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine as an advisory body for only 3 years in this composition. The members of Selection Committee perform their duties pro bono.

The *Selection Committee* is comprised on 9 persons, 4 of which as **international members are delegated from the European Higher Education Area organisations** and per 1 person from the following institutions – the Ministry, Joint Representative Body of All-Ukrainian Association of Employers, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine, national students association of Ukraine that is a member of European Students' Union (ESU).

**Membership** is allowed for persons who have an academic degree and / or academic title or no less than 5 years of work experience in the field except for students' representatives and international representatives.

The **decision** of the *Selection / Competition Commission* is considered taken if it is supported by the majority of the international members and majority of national members.

The work of *Selection / Competition Commission* is organized as **sessions**, participation for international representatives is allowed with the assistance of *electronic videoconferencing*. International representatives who take part in a session via videoconferencing confirm results of their voting in writing.

The sessions of the *Selection / Competition Commission* are *open*. Information about the sessions is published on the *Ministry' website*.

The *Selection / Competition Commission* develops a *Regulation* on the contest for the selection of NQAA members that is approved by the Cabinet and formulates qualification requirements to candidates, that foresee the availability of an academic degree or professional work experience no less than 5 years, except for students representatives.

12. According to the Law **the Cabinet** of Ministers of Ukraine **within 1 year** from the day of entry into force by this Law in particularly:

to prepare and submit for consideration by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine a proposal regarding bringing laws of Ukraine *in line with* this Law;

to prepare and submit for consideration by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine draft laws about *making amendments to the Tax and Customs Codes of Ukraine* with a goal to exempt of education and research institutions from taxes, payment of customs duties for educational, scientific / research and production equipment and supply that are moved across the customs border of Ukraine for educational and scientific / research goals (*Part XII. CONCLUDING AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS*).

**EDUCATION STRUCTURE IN UKRAINE (new Law on Education, 2017)**

		<b>LEVELS (DEGREES), education confirming document</b>	<b>PERIOD OF STUDY (years, ECTS credits)</b>	<b>EHEA CYCLES, NQF levels</b>
<b>Higher Education</b>		<b>Doctor of Sciences (Postdoctoral Academic Degree), Diploma</b>	<b>3 years</b>	<b>10 level, NQF</b>
		<b>Doctor of Philosophy, PhD (Academic Degree), Diploma</b>	<b>4 years</b>	<b>III cycle 8 level, ISCED 2011 9 level, NQF</b>
		<b>Master (Academic Degree), Diploma</b>	<b>90-120 ECTS (300-360 ECTS for program in Medicine, Veterinary, Pharmacy)</b>	<b>II cycle 7 level, ISCED 2011 8 level, NQF</b>
		<b>Bachelor (Academic Degree), Diploma</b>	<b>180-240 ECTS</b>	<b>I cycle 6 level, ISCED 2011 7 level, NQF</b>
		<b>Junior Bachelor (Academic Degree), Diploma</b>	<b>90-120 ECTS</b>	<b>short cycle 5 level, ISCED 2011 6 level, NQF</b>
<b>Vocational Education and Training - VET</b>	<b>pre-tertiary vocational education</b>	<b>Junior Specialist Diploma</b>	<b>2-3 years (based on complete secondary education) 3-4 years (based on basic secondary education)</b>	<b>Access to higher education 4 level, ISCED 2011 5 level, NQF</b>
	<b>third (upper) level</b>	<b>Certificate</b>		<b>Access to higher education 4 level, ISCED 2011 4 level, NQF</b>
	<b>second (basic) level</b>	<b>Certificate</b>	<b>1-1,5 years (based on complete secondary education) 3 years (3-4 based on basic secondary education)</b>	<b>Access to higher education 3 level, ISCED 2011 3 level, NQF</b>
	<b>first (initial) level</b>	<b>Certificate</b>		<b>2 level, NQF</b>
<b>Complete Secondary education</b>	<b>Field-specific secondary education (Upper secondary general education)</b>	<b>Certificate</b>	<b>3 years</b>	<b>Access to higher education 3 level, ISCED 2011 3 level, NQF</b>
	<b>Basic secondary education (Lower secondary general education)</b>	<b>Certificate</b>	<b>5 years</b>	<b>Access to VET 2 level, ISCED 2011 2 level, NQF</b>
	<b>Primary secondary education</b>		<b>4 years</b>	<b>1 level, ISCED 2011 1 level, NQF</b>
<b>Preschool education</b>				<b>0 level, NQF</b>