

**Towards Sustainable & Equitable
Financing of Higher Education
in Bosnia and Herzegovina,
Montenegro and Serbia**

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EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN OPEN AND DIVERSIFIED SYSTEMS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- ◉ **Equity in higher education refers to creating opportunities for equal access and success in higher education among historically underrepresented student populations, such as ethnic minority and low-income students**
- ◉ **It negatively impacts, both economically and socially, the entire nation in such matters as unemployment rates, income, healthcare.**

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN OPEN AND DIVERSIFIED SYSTEMS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- ◉ **Strengthening social cohesion and reducing social and gender inequalities both at national and European level is a proclaimed central and important political goal**
- ◉ **The equal opportunities issues should be at the heart of an European Higher Education Agenda**

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN OPEN AND DIVERSIFIED SYSTEMS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- ◉ **In exercising the right to higher education no discrimination is allowed on any grounds such as gender, race, marital status, skin color, language, religion, political or other affiliation, national, ethnic or other origin, belonging to a national community, material status, disability, birth, or other similar grounds, position or circumstances**
- ◉ **Foreign citizens are entitled to be admitted to higher education institutions in Montenegro under the same conditions as the citizens of Montenegro, in accordance with the Law and Statute of institution**
- ◉ **One of the objectives of the Strategy of Development and Financing of Higher Education in Montenegro 2011-2020 is “Internationalization of Higher Education”**

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN OPEN AND DIVERSIFIED SYSTEMS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- ◎ **The number of students enrolled in undergraduate and postgraduate study programmes doubled in 2005/2006 comparing to the situation several years ago. The pass rate for the students studying in accordance with the Bologna system has substantially increased. This is a significant improvement and one of the most prominent positive results of the implementation of the Bologna principles**
- ◎ **A diversified composition of the student body is very evident, primarily, in view of different school background, social background and vulnerable category of the enrolled students**

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN OPEN AND DIVERSIFIED SYSTEMS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- ◉ **Students have the right to be admitted to study programmes at which diplomas of applied undergraduate studies or diplomas of academic undergraduate studies are obtained, on a competitive basis, all in compliance with their performance during the secondary school education, results of the professional or matriculation exam, as well as the results obtained at the additional or admission exam**
- ◉ **Additional or admission exam can be introduced for the purpose of admission into particular study programmes**
- ◉ **Matriculation or professional exam is valued with at least 15% of the total number of points obtained on admission, by valuation of all the above mentioned criteria**
- ◉ **In compliance with the criteria, the manner and procedure of enrolment into the first year of studies is regulated by the act prescribed by the Ministry of Education**

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN OPEN AND DIVERSIFIED SYSTEMS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- ◉ **31% relates to students who finish gymnasium, they have open access to all HE programmes**
- ◉ **69% relates to students who finish vocational school in duration of four years, they do not have open access to all HE programmes. Admission to HE programmes for this category of students is stipulated by type of vocational school which must correspond to particular HE program**

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN OPEN AND DIVERSIFIED SYSTEMS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- ◉ **The so-called bridging programmes exist at some HEIs in Montenegro, but it is not regular practice arranged by law or secondary legislation, or acts adopted by HEIs**
- ◉ **In that regard, a recommendation is given within the regular external evaluation procedure by the Commission appointed**

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN OPEN AND DIVERSIFIED SYSTEMS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- ◎ **Drop out is not systematically measured, but the progress of students is monitored**

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN OPEN AND DIVERSIFIED SYSTEMS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- **Reorganized tuition fees and funding to make high family income students pay the price of their studies and low income students benefit from all inclusive fellowships**
- **Aim: to socially diversify the student body**
- **Grants (need-based/merit-based) loans: principle of a loan framework with later repayment**

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN OPEN AND DIVERSIFIED SYSTEMS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- ◉ **As part of the Europe 2020 strategy, EU leaders have agreed a target that 40% of those aged 30-34 should have a higher education or equivalent qualification by 2020**
- ◉ **In order to achieve this EU-level "headline" target, EU countries have set their own national participation and attainment targets to be reached by 2020**
- ◉ **In this context, the focus is on targets that countries have set for participation and/or attainment of under-represented groups in order to facilitate widening participation**

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN OPEN AND DIVERSIFIED SYSTEMS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- ◉ **Under-represented groups of students refers to societal groups that may be considered under-represented in higher education in different countries**
- ◉ **Examples might include people with disabilities, migrants, ethnic groups, lower socio-economic status groups, women/men etc.**
- ◉ **Students with disabilities shall be exempt from paying tuition fee**
- ◉ **A student with a disability is entitled to take an exam in a manner adjusted to their educational needs in compliance with statute of an institution**
- ◉ **For persons with disabilities the principle of affirmative action shall be conducted on the occasion of enrolment to a study programme**

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN OPEN AND DIVERSIFIED SYSTEMS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- ◉ **Our steering documents do not regulate this issues from the quantitative point for the underrepresented group**
- ◉ **Law and strategic documents are harmonized with Strategy Europe 2020 and prescribe special conditions for students with disabilities**

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN OPEN AND DIVERSIFIED SYSTEMS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- ◉ **The regulations allow for the recognition of non-formal and informal learning in the area of higher education. Specifically, in accordance with the Law on National Vocational Qualifications (Official Gazette of Montenegro, 80/08), a vocational qualification in the area of higher education, is acquired upon completion of a special training programme in the area of higher education**
- ◉ **According to the Law on Amendments of the Law on National Vocational Qualifications vocational qualifications in the field of higher education is acquired by testing knowledge, skills and competences after a special training programs in the area of higher education**
- ◉ **In order to ensure the quality and consistency of criteria, procedures of assessment of knowledge, skills and competences acquired through non-formal and informal learning, will be arranged by a Rulebook, in accordance with the Law**

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IN OPEN AND DIVERSIFIED SYSTEMS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- ◉ **There are mechanisms which oblige HEIs to participate in a systematic monitoring of the composition of the student body from the point of gender, age, disability, type and level of qualification achieved prior to the entry to higher education, geographical areas**
- ◉ **A diversified composition of the student body is very evident, primarily, in view of different school background, social background and vulnerable category of the enrolled students**

STUDENTS' STANDARD

- ◉ **In accordance with the Law on Higher Education a student is entitled to:**
- ◉ **dormitory room and board;**
- ◉ **students loan;**
- ◉ **scholarships for best students;**
- ◉ **transport allowance concerning suburban and intercity traffic;**
- ◉ **health care in compliance with special law;**
- ◉ **establish sport associations in accordance with law.**
- ◉ **The criteria, manner, conditions and the amount of fee for exercising rights are prescribed by the Ministry**

GRANTS, LOANS

- ◉ Rulebook on the Criteria, Method, Conditions and Compensation Amount for Exercising Rights to Dormitory Room and Board, Student Loan, Scholarship and Transport Allowance prescribed by the Ministry
- ◉ It regulates in more detail the criteria, method, conditions and compensation amount for exercising rights to room and board for high school student and university student dormitories, student loan, scholarship for highest ranking students, allowance related to suburban and interurban transport costs for students of private and public higher education institutions
- ◉ In accordance with this Rulebook Ministry announces Call for allocation loans and accommodation in dormitories and Call for allocation of grants to the best students annually.

GRANT

- **In accordance with the Rulebook on the Criteria, Method, Conditions and Compensation Amount for Exercising Rights to Dormitory Room and Board, Student Loan, Scholarship and Transport Allowance students entitled to grant shall meet the following:**
- **- rank highest among students on the second and the succeeding years of studies,**
- **- have citizenship of Montenegro,**
- **- be enrolled on a semester of an academic year for the first time,**
- **- not lose a single year during the studies,**
- **- pass all exams from previous years of studies in line with curriculum of a higher education institution they attend, accomplishing the performance index of at least 9.00**
- **Students showing particular scientific or artistic inclinations and winning awards at international and national competitions shall be considered as highest ranking students**
- **Grant amount depends on the level of the loan maximum increased by 30-50%**

GRANT

- **For the first cycle this proportion is the following: In 2014/2015 total number of applications for the first cycle was 413, while total number of awarded grants is 235 i.e. 56,90%**
- **For the second cycle this proportion is the following: In 2014/2015 total number of applications for the second cycle was 90, while total number of awarded grants is 61 i.e. 67,70%**

GRANTS

- ◉ **Ministry of Education in accordance with criteria prescribed by annual Public Call for Co financing of scholarship for master and doctoral studies allocates certain amount of money for co financing of scholarships. In 2014 total number of applications for co financing of master scholarship was 33, while, respecting prescribed criteria, total number of awarded co financing was 30 i.e. 90.09%**
- ◉ **Also Ministry of Science, in accordance with Public Call and prescribed criteria, allocates money for defence of doctoral thesis. The average number of awarded candidates is 20 annually**

LOANS

- **For the first cycle this proportion is the following: In 2014/2015 total number of applications for the first cycle was 3.421, while total number of awarded loans is 2.885 i.e. 84,33%**
- **For the second cycle this proportion is the following: In 2014/2015 total number of applications for the second cycle was 1.200, while total number of awarded loans is 630 i.e. 52.50%**

LOANS

- ◉ **Montenegrin citizenship, who enrolled a semester for the first time of the relevant year and have not changed their study program shall be entitled to student loan**
- ◉ **Performance accomplished in the previous year of studies is the criterion for granting loans**
- ◉ **Students whose parents or guardians exercise the right to social security in line with the social welfare regulations shall be given advantage under equal conditions with regard to the performance**
- ◉ **Loan amount depends on performance index and the year of studies attended. It is calculated in such way which gives amount not lower than the amount of a students' dormitory room and board allowance increased by 25%.**
- ◉ **About 14% out of total number of students are users of students' loan**

LOANS

- ◉ **Loan repayment can be deferred for maximum 18 months from the date of completion of studies, so that the final loan repayment deadline cannot exceed the time twice as long as the period of loan usage.**
- ◉ **Student who completes the studies within the timeframe defined by a higher education institution Statutes as a period necessary for completion of full-time study programme, with the average grade ranging from 9.00 to 10, shall be granted full loan remission.**
- ◉ **Student who completes the studies within the timeframe defined by a higher education institution Statutes as a period necessary for completion of full-time study programme, with average grade ranging from 8.00 to 9.00, shall be granted 80% remission.**
- ◉ **Student who completes the studies within the timeframe defined by a higher education institution Statutes as a period necessary for completion of a full-time study programme, with the average grade ranging from 7.00 to 8.00, shall be granted 60% loan remission.**

STUDENT SERVICES

- ◉ **Information and Professional Development Centre as well as University of Montenegro Career Development Centre, both providing career services.**
- ◉ **From the very beginning of their work, Career Development Centre is engaged in close cooperation with Information and Professional Development Centre**
- ◉ **They organize workshops, i.e. professionals from Information and Professional Development Centre create the workshops offered to students who need and want to improve their resumes, professional behaviour, knowledge of labour market, job options and communication skills.**

STUDENT SERVICE

- ◉ **There is Students' Advisory Office, within NGO Association of Youth with Disabilities of Montenegro, whose main goal is to create better studying conditions for persons with disabilities**
- ◉ **Within the TEMPUS project "Support and inclusion of students with disabilities in higher education institution in Montenegro", this Advisory Office was established**
- ◉ **It provides assistance and support to students with disabilities to enrol in HEIs, obtain students' accommodation, access to special aid tools for persons with disabilities and equipment, adaptation of exams and teaching to their needs**

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR EXCELLENCE

- ◉ **The Ministry of Science and the Ministry of Education, in the framework of the project "Higher education and research for innovation and competitiveness – HERIC", award scholarships for master, doctoral and postdoctoral to students who are enrolled (accepted) or plan their research stay at prominent universities abroad**
- ◉ **For the project of national scholarships was allocated 1.260.000,00 euros, of which 630.000,00 will be spent on scholarships for master studies, and 630.000,00 in scholarships for doctoral and postdoctoral studies, which is the highest amount that the state so far carried out for this purpose**
- ◉ **The competition was announced on 24 April and will be open until 6 July 2015**

<http://www.heric.me/en/news/info-days-national-scholarships-excellence>

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