

December 2023

## Overview and Recent Developments of Higher Education, amendments to legislation, priorities and initiatives, Ukraine' Education System Description (D.4.1, 4.1.2)

*General context of the situation in Ukraine during martial law\* (since 24.02.2022)*

- ✓ 514 children are killed, more than 1169 are injured
- ✓ 19590 illegally deported
- ✓ 9 966 civilians are killed, plus over 100 000 in Mariupol
- ✓ 17 962 civilians are injured
- ✓ 3 mln. people: in the territories under temporary invasion
- ✓ 11,98 million people displaced due to the war
- ✓ over 18,8 mln. crossed the border, 11,7 mln. to EU; 5,3 mln. Returned to Ukraine
- ✓ out of 10.5 mln. young people in Ukraine: 4 mln. are displaced internally/abroad
- ✓ 3798 education institutions have suffered bombing and shelling
- ✓ 365 education institutions have been destroyed completely
- ✓ 34 HEIs, 65 units of HEIs and 45 VET institutions were temporarily relocated
- ✓ In 24 regions of Ukraine and Kyiv, the education institutions are operational in online, offline or blended/hybrid formats depending on the safety situation and shelters availability



### Key reforms since 2014

#### **Law on Higher Education (2014):**

##### Bologna Process

- ✓ 3 cycles – Jnr BA + BA + MA + PhD/ Doctor of Arts
- ✓ Implementation of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System, ECTS – UA; ECTS – Eng
- ✓ National Qualification Framework (NQF) introduced
- ✓ Curricula developed on competence-based and student-centred approaches using Learning Outcomes
- ✓ Mobility & joint programmes
- ✓ Diploma Supplement – DS
- ✓ National higher education standards in compliance with National Qualification Framework (NQF) (420 developers involved)
- ✓ Academic, organisational, staffing autonomy (not yet financial)
- ✓ QA system in line with ESG
- ✓ National Qualification Agency established and fully operational, responsible for NQF and Recognition
- ✓ Regulation on PhD studies approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (2016)

#### **Law On scientific and scientific-technological activities (2015):**

##### National Science Council

- ✓ Participation in Horizon 2020
- ✓ [National Research Fund of Ukraine](#)

#### **Law on Education (2017):**

- ✓ National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance established and fully operational (4000+ accreditation experts trained)
- ✓ National Qualification Framework (NQF) in line with QF EHEA and EQF LLL
- ✓ “New Ukrainian School”
- ✓ Competence-based programming
- ✓ 12 year school trajectory

#### **2019-2022**

- ✓ NAQA prepared for entry into ENQA/EQAR
- ✓ PhD reform – adoption of a new legal framework for dissertation defences
- ✓ Strategy for the Higher Education Development in Ukraine – 2032
- ✓ Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers on the Right for Mobility ([May 2022](#))

*\*As of December 2023 from Internet resources and presentation: Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine; Ministry of Youth and Sport of Ukraine; <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/ukrainian-crisis-situational-analysis-19-december-2023> <https://childrenofwar.gov.ua/> ; <https://saveschools.in.ua/en/>*

## EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN 2023\*\*

### Higher Education Institutions (types and statistics (2022/2023)\*:

	Higher Education Institutions (Universities, Academies, Institutes)	Academic staff
<b>Total HEIs</b>	<b>347</b> (1,053 mln students)	120 514
<b>Public HEIs</b>	<b>246</b> (1,018 mln students)	
<b>Private HEIs</b>	<b>101</b> (0,035 mln students)	
<b>International students</b>	<b>49 999</b>	

### VET Institutions (types and statistics (2022/2023)\*:

	VET Institutions	Students	Teacher staff
<b>Total</b>	283 + 670 = <b>953</b>	301765 + 236689 = <b>538 454</b>	38006+29956 = <b>67 962</b>
<b>Public VETIs</b>	<b>928</b>	0,514 mln	
<b>Private VETIs</b>	<b>25</b>	0,024 mln	
<b>International students</b>		<b>440</b>	

### Secondary Education Institutions types and statistics (2022/23)\*:

	Secondary Education Institutions	School Students	Teaching staff
<b>Total</b>	12 976	4 041 976	401 836
<b>Public</b>	12 570	3 971 076	394 188
<b>Private</b>	406	70 900	7 648

\*Source: State Statistics Service of Ukraine <http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua>

### National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (NASU)

- 160 research institutes
- 29 870 staff, incl. 15 530 researchers
- 260 cooperation agreements with HEIs

5 Sectoral National Academies of Sciences in Law, Medicine, Agrarian, Education, Art

Integration of the NASU and Sectoral Academies with HEIs is a priority



\*\*Ukraine's Education System

Description is at the page 20  
below

## Initiatives of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine in 2023

- Reform of learning pathway – shift to credit accounting (30-80 ECTS credits per year) in particular
  - Reformed content for “regulated professions” – Medical, Maritime, etc.
- Secondary school completion testing – 3+1 subjects (4+1 in 2025 onward)
- Expansion of “cooperative” (dual) education programmes – study + work for credit
  - Particular emphasis on STEM and Computer Science – MA level
- Transformation of funding mechanism – introduction of grants
- Autonomy experiment – 2024 is a key year
- Mergers – “modernisation” of HEIs network, establishment of centers of excellence

*National Priorities for the Capacity Building Projects is communicated to the HEIs of Ukraine during Erasmus+ Infodays and by official letter on December 20, 2023 – [at the link](#)*

## European Commission Recommendations – Enlargement Policy (Reports)

### Chapter 26 – Education and culture



*The EU supports cooperation in education and culture through funding programmes and the coordination of Member State policy through the ‘open method of coordination’. The EU and the Member States must also prevent discrimination and ensure quality education for children of migrant workers, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds.*

Ukraine has **some level of preparation** in the area of education and culture. The education system and youth policy are broadly aligned with EU objectives. Ukraine’s cultural policy reflects the general priorities of the New European Agenda for Culture. Ukraine has a good level of cooperation with its European partners on sport. The country is broadly aligned with EU policy on training and qualifications. **Some progress** has been achieved in all these areas.

In the coming year, Ukraine should in particular:

- develop a plan for a relevant statistical data collection, analysis and sharing mechanism for education and training;
- start implementing a plan to optimise the network of education institutions;
- adopt legislation to modernise and regulate professional education (vocational education and training).

### **PRIORITIES during Martial Law in Ukraine\***

- Everything for the Armed Forces! All for Victory! – finances, people, resources
- Safety of students and University staff
- European and Euro-Atlantic integration
- Re-establishment of classroom training in the remote regions
- Policy for veterans support – their integration in education and society
- Return of people fleeing from war – internally relocated and from abroad

### EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND HIGHER EDUCATION

- Implementation of the Strategy for the Higher Education Development in Ukraine – 2022-2032
- Bologna Process implementation
- Transformation of the education institutions network – higher education, VET, school
- Ensuring international comparability of Ukrainian education, relevant national statistics introduction and implementation
- Continuation of education reforms – quality assurance, recognition, autonomy
- Development of the national system of qualifications

## REFORMS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE INDICATORS OF THE BOLOGNA PROCESS

- Instruments of comparability and harmonisation in higher education
- Fundamental values: declaration, legislation, practical implementation
- Social dimension of higher education
- Excellence in learning and teaching
- Internationalisation: unusual and extraordinary

## COMPARABILITY AND HARMONISATION

- ECTS (not only ECTS credits), three-cycle higher education, Diploma Supplement – success and continuation
- National Qualifications Framework, Global Convention on the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications, recognition of non-formal and informal education – fast developments and confidence in success
- Harmonisation of the List of fields of education with ISCED-F 2013 – overcoming local complexes

## CASE: LIST OF FIELDS OF EDUCATION

<p><u>Obligations for European Integration</u> EU Regulations No. 452/2008, 317/2013, 912/2013 for the comparability of education and educational statistics require adherence to the International Standard Classification of Education</p>
<p><u>Strategy for the Higher Education Development in Ukraine for 2022-2032</u> Operational goal 4.1. To be understood by the world. Task 4.1.1. Ensuring the harmonization of the structure of higher education of Ukraine in accordance with the obligations of the member countries of the European Higher Education Area</p>
<p><u>Plan of Priority Actions of the Government for 2023</u> Item 267. Bringing the List of fields of education into compliance with the International Standard Classification of Education</p>

## WHY CHANGES IN TIME?

Regulations are no longer active	List of areas of training of specialists with higher education by professional direction, specialties of various qualification levels and labour professions (Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated May 18, 1994, No. 325, no changes)
	List of area and specialties for specialists training at HEIs according to the relevant qualification descriptors (Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated May 24, 1997, No. 507, 10 amendments)
	List of areas in which specialists are trained in HEIs for the Bachelor's degree (Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated December 13, 2006 No. 1719, 10 amendments)
	List of specialties for which specialists are trained in HEIs for the Master's degree (Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of June 20, 2007, No. 839, 4 changes) List of specialties for which specialists are trained in HEIs for the Master's degree (Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated August 27, 2010 No. 787, 6 amendments)
	List of fields of education (Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 266, 2015, 4 amendments)

## UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY

- Academic autonomy – liberalisation of higher education standards in specialties for unregulated professions
- Organisational autonomy – preparation of an experiment to strengthen the role of the supervisory board (stakeholders)
- Staff autonomy – final assignment of academic titles by higher education institutions
- Financial autonomy – restoration of the Formula for the distribution of state funding in higher education, state grants for education

## ACADEMIC FREEDOM

- University teachers have the right to either conduct research or focus on teaching
- For students – a set of tools for the individualization of the learning path, transfer to another HEI with preservation of state funding of education, student-centred model of deduction, state-sponsored training in certain specialties, financed by the state, with the obligation to work for a certain period under certain conditions or state grant without obligation

## INDIVIDUALISATION OF LEARNING PATHWAY/TRACK

(Law No. 10177 adopted by the Parliament as a basis on November 21, 2023)

- Definition of the concept – individual learning pathway
- Liberalization of learning pathway: 30-80 ECTS credits per academic year
- Interdisciplinary study programmes at all levels of higher education
- Recognition of the learning outcomes of previous education at HEI, VET institution, academic mobility period and outcomes, non-formal education
- Development and support of joint/double degree study programmes

## INITIATIVES OF UKRAINE’S PARLIAMENT MEMBERS

- The Draft Law On Academic Integrity is in the final stages of development in the Parliament
- The Draft Law on Amendments to the Law of Ukraine “On Higher Education” on expanding the rights of student self-government bodies and ensuring the rights of students was registered in the Parliament (No. 10279)

## SOCIAL DIMENSION

- Transformation of state funding of higher education
- Equal access to higher education (external independent assessment, single entrance exam)
- Support of vulnerable categories of entrants and students, especially related to the war
- Recognition of learning outcomes obtained in the temporarily occupied territory
- Re-establishment of classroom training in the remote regions of Ukraine

## STUDENTS OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS BY FUNDING SOURCES

(as of the beginning of 2022/23) – binary system

The state pays for everything!	The state does not pay anything!
Financing of education by the state for a state order on professionals in certain fields of education 418 237 students (39,7%)	Financing of education at the expense of individuals and legal entities 635 497 students (60,3%)
Preferential long-term loan (34 students) and vouchers (2) = 36 (0,003%)	

## CO-FINANCING AND STATE GRANTS

- Co-funding instead of a binary system ("all or nothing"), joint responsibility of the state and families/businesses
- State order on professionals in certain fields of education: provision of public needs, the minimum volume is kept for each field/ specialty / profession
- State grants for education depend on the HEI and field/ specialty / profession, HEIs receive funds on a special account

## TRANSFORMATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION FUNDING SOURCES

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. State order (general funding fund)</li> <li>2. Preferential long-term loan (general funding fund, financial agent – HEI)</li> <li>3. Vouchers of the State Employment Service (non-competitive)</li> <li>4. Funds of individuals and legal entities (contract)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. State order (general funding fund)</li> <li>2. State grants for higher education (special funding fund)</li> <li>3. Preferential long-term loan (special funding fund, financial agent – bank)</li> <li>4. Vouchers of the State Employment Service (adult education)</li> <li>5. Funds of individuals and legal entities (contract)</li> </ol>
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## TARGET MODEL OF DISTRIBUTION BY FUNDING SOURCES (students, at least 5 years)

The state pays for everything!	The territory of co-funding!		The state does not pay anything!
Financing of education by the state for a state order on professionals in certain fields of education 418 237 students (39,7%)	State grants (non-refundable) 25-30%	Preferential long-term lending 8-12%	Financing of education at the expense of individuals and legal entities 635 497 students (60,3%)
About 67% ↑			About 33%
Vouchers – 1-2% (public funding, adult education)			

## TEMPORARY OCCUPIED TERRITORIES: REINTEGRATION ALGORITHM

(adopted by the Parliament on November 21, 2023)

- Education documents issued in the temporarily occupied territories are not recognized
- Learning outcomes obtained in the temporarily occupied territories are assessed and recognized within conditionally safe limits (with state funds)
- The possibility of recognition is not a guarantee of recognition
- Continuation of education, acquisition of general cultural and civic competences is welcomed, quotas and vacancies are provided with state funding

## TEMPORARY OCCUPIED TERRITORIES: HIGHER EDUCATION and “RED LINES”

- Recognition of learning outcomes and ECTS credits in the amount of up to 75% of the study programme when obtaining higher education based on secondary education or 5 NQF level education
- A diploma of higher education is not awarded without the acquisition of Ukrainian general cultural and civic competences
- Not subject to recognition (may be obtained anew): Master's and PhD degrees, as well as higher education in Law, International Relations/Law, Security, History and other ideologically sensitive fields/specialties

## LEARNING AND TEACHING

- Student-oriented learning
- Adult education
- Strengthening of training requirements for regulated professions
- Involvement of practicing teachers
- Improvement of the mechanisms of accreditation of study programmes
- Improving the qualifications of academic staff

## DIGITALISATION

- Online learning during pandemic and martial law, distance learning development, management systems
- National exams in digital format
- Development of the Unified State Electronic Database on Education – enrollment campaign, history of learning pathway
- Monitoring employment of graduates (Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine in cooperation with the Pension Fund of Ukraine)
- The Unified Interdepartmental Information System for foreigners, who want to study in Ukraine

## Summing up Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine Strategic Priorities

### Autonomy – rewarding quality and performance (Top-20)

- Pre-conditions for HEIs network transformation – division of HE/VET institutions
- Incentivizing reputation management – priority of capital improvements

### Student agency

- Individual pathway (30-80 ECTS credits per year + de-emphasize fields of education/specialities in favour of study programmes)
- Harmonising national classification of fields of education with ISCED-F 2013
- Introduction of “grants” in non-critical fields of education

### Quality of teaching and learning

- Digitalisation and centralized (rather than standardized) testing
- NAQA entry into ENQA/EQAR + WFME / National Qualifications System

### Academic community development

- Training for university leaders / HEI management evaluations (EUA standards)
- Incentivizing research / balance with teaching (bill 9600)

### War recovery – shelters, reconstruction of damaged infrastructure, building new innovative.

*[\\*Presentations by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine were performed during the Bologna Conference in 2023](#)*

### **Useful resources, platforms, analytics:**

*National Platform for the Recovery Plan – [at the link](#)*

*Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine - <https://mon.gov.ua/ua>*

*Mapping of the destroyed/damaged educational institutions – <https://saveschools.in.ua/>*

*Education institutions relocated from the temporary occupied territories and those destroyed.*

*Erasmus+ during martial law in Ukraine – [at the link](#)*

*"Wartime and Postwar Education in Ukraine", European Journal of Education (O1) – 10, Nov.2023*

*War in Ukraine: Reshaping Higher Education Sector – [analytical report 2023](#)*

*Survey results: current status of Pre-Tertiary and Higher Education institutions – [at the link here](#)*

*Needs Assessment of Education June, 2022 – [at the link](#)*

*Higher Education System of Ukraine video <https://youtu.be/NGTzKkrkDHo>*

*Vocational Education and Training System of Ukraine video <https://youtu.be/xGabFI6AMKU>*

*National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance: <https://en.naqa.gov.ua>*

*National Agency of Qualifications of Ukraine: <https://nqa.gov.ua/>*

*Database of the universities and for International Students: <https://studyinukraine.gov.ua/en/>*

## Educational Institutions in 2022

### Higher Education Institutions types and statistics (2021/2022)\*

	Higher Education Institutions (Universities, Academies, Institutes)	Academic staff
<b>Total HEIs</b>	<b>386</b> (1,046 mln students)	124 779
<b>Public HEIs</b>	<b>283</b> (1,007 mln students)	
<b>Private HEIs</b>	<b>103</b> (0,038 mln students)	
<b>International students</b>	<b>73 626</b>	

### VET Institutions\*\*\* statistics (2021/2022)\*:

	VET Institutions	Students	Teacher staff
<b>Total</b>	248 + 692 = <b>940</b>	282319 + 250336 = <b>532 655</b>	3865+31083+31324 = <b>66 272</b>
<b>International students</b>		<b>481</b>	

\*\*\* There is only the public type of ownership of VET institutions in Ukraine

### Secondary Education Institutions types and statistics (2020/21)\*:

	Secondary Education Institutions	School Students	Teacher staff
<b>Total</b>	13 991	4 230 358	434 755
<b>Public</b>	13 585	4 164 307	426 301
<b>Private</b>	406	66 051	8 454

\*Source: State Statistics Service of Ukraine <http://www.ukrstat.gov.ua>

*Strategy for the Higher Education Development in Ukraine for 2022-2032* (Стратегія розвитку вищої освіти в Україні на 2022-2032 роки) (Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, on 23 February 2022, in Ukrainian, <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/286-2022-%D1%80#Text>) is developed in line with European Integration prospects as well as EHEA principles.

Recent amendments to the **Regulation of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine “On the approval of the Procedure for the implementation of the right to *academic mobility*”**, 13 May 2022, in particular: internships (for practical skills development) and language internships were added as forms of academic mobility, the right to mobility was extended to VET students.

**Amendments to the Law On Higher Education, 2022:** the Annual report of the Rector of the HEIs must contain information on the level of achievement of the key performance indicators of the higher education institution, determined by the contract with the Ministry.

**Ukraine Recovery Plan**, project of the working group «Education and Science» (План відновлення України, проєкт робочої групи «Освіта і наука»), 2022. (<https://www.kmu.gov.ua/storage/app/sites/1/recoveryrada/ua/education-and-science.pdf>) presents the vision and ways of development of education and science in the conditions of martial law and post-war recovery, in particular, it contains a description of specific projects to attract international investments.

National Platform for the Recovery Plan - <https://recovery.gov.ua/en/project/program/improve-education-system>



## 2021

Recent amendments to the Law On Higher Education:

- the main change on the election of the Rector of the HEI – if there is the second round of the election, 50 % of those who participated in the vote are required, not from the total number of people, who have the right to participate (Law 1216-IX, <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1216-20#n2>)
- increasing institutional autonomy concerning using property of public higher education institutions (Law 1557-IX, <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1557-20#n6>)
- cancellation of restrictions on sectoral representation for students and employers in frame of the selection procedure for membership of the NQAA (Law 1838-IX, <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1838-20#n6>)
- harmonizing the structure of military education in line with the NATO standards, granting the relevant bodies the authority to independently resolve issues of military education (Law 5641, [http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4\\_1?pf3511=72182](http://w1.c1.rada.gov.ua/pls/zweb2/webproc4_1?pf3511=72182))

The Cabinet approved the *Concept of the State programme for the development of research infrastructures in Ukraine until 2026* on 14 April 2021 (<https://www.kmu.gov.ua/npas/proshvalennya-koncepciyi-derzhavnoyi-cilovoyi-programi-rozvitku-doslidnickih-infrastruktur-v-ukrayini-na-period-do-2026-roku-i140421-322>).

After the public discussions of the draft Order of the Cabinet “*On approval of the Concept of the State programme for the renovation and development of the HEIs’ students hostels network for 2021-2025*” finished on 1 September 2020 the document is on the improvement of the MESU to be further agreed with other public authorities (<https://mon.gov.ua/ua/news/mon-proponuye-do-gromadskogo-obgovorennya-proyekt-rozporядzhennya-kmu-pro-shvalennya-koncepciyi-derzhavnoyi-programi-vidnovlennya-ta-rozbudovi-merezhi-gurtozhitkiv-dlya-prozhivannya-studentiv-zakladiv-vishoyi-osviti-na-2021-2025-roki>)

The State Programmes foresee the activities list, responsible persons, deadlines, and state funds for their implementation. As a matter of fact, their implementation will start under conditions of the reconsideration of the State Budget 2021.

(2) Situation with the **National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance (NAQA)**.

The MESU has prepared the draft Law On Amendments to the Certain Laws of Ukraine (ref. № 1/12-3604 dated 30.07.2020) and submitted to be agreed by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine and other national authorities.

The draft Law concerns the change of the NQAA *status* and *formation procedures*.

The key recommendation of the draft Law is to change from a **public collegial body status** (under the Ministry) to an **executive body status**. (\* In 2013-2014, during the preparation of the Law of Ukraine “On Higher Education”, the possibility of establishing a National Agency as an executive body was considered, but the proposal was rejected by the Ministry of Justice and other authorities - preventing an increase in the number of executive bodies).

Currently, the Ministry itself *approves* the documents developed by the NAQA concerning the national level activities (e.g., Regulations on accreditation of study programmes, etc.). NAQA

*funding* is carried out from two sources – the State Budget (the chief administrator is the Ministry) and incomings from HEIs (payment of services on accreditation).

Thus, as an executive body, the NAQA becomes a chief administrator of own funding, so it acquires independence in approving decisions and funding, i.e. it becomes more independent from the Ministry. However, it will be provided if the current NAQA formation procedure is maintained – the NAQA members are selected by an international Competition Commission, the NAQA Chairman is elected by the NAQA members and appointed by the Government, the Secretariat staff is appointed by the elected Chairman, and the Secretariat is a public service.

As for the *NAQA formation procedure*, the provisions on the establishment of an international Competition Commission and the procedure for NAQA members competitive selection, as well as their rotation every 3 years and election of the NAQA Chairman as in the Law On Higher Education have been *removed by the draft Law* (there is simply NAQA staff appointment by the Government). Provisions on the principles of forming the composition of the NAQA – representation of HEIs, research institutions, employers, students; balance of education fields' representation; gender balance, etc. as in the Law On Higher Education have been *removed by the draft Law*. In addition, one important point is *a draft Law does not provide NAQA quality assurance according to the ESG as it is in the Law On Higher Education 2014*.

In this context, the NAQA really ceases to be an independent organization and does not act according to the ESG. As of June 2021 this draft Law was postponed and not considered by the Cabinet.

On *March 11, 2021*, Hearings on accreditation issues and the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance were conducted in the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Education, Science and Innovation with participation of NEO – Ukraine and HEREs. Issues on accreditation and NAQA activity were discussed by the Parliament's Members, representatives of the Ministry, NAQA, HEIs, NEO – Ukraine, HEREs. The recommendations of the Hearings emphasized the importance of further implementation of ESG-2015 in Ukraine, ensuring NAQA independence and improving QA activities.

On *March 30, 2021* the Law “On amendments to some Laws of Ukraine concerning settlement of some issues of awarding scientific degrees and licensing of educational activity” was adopted by the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine (Parliament). In particular, it cancelled NAQA authority to implement public policy in higher education. At the same time, its authority to accredit specialized scientific councils for the defense of PhD dissertations and the authority of the Ministry of Education and Science to approve decisions on the award of PhD degrees were cancelled. According to the new regulation, the decision of the HEI on awarding a scientific degree doesn't require approval, but may be cancelled by NAQA due to violations of academic integrity.

On *April 14, 2021* a workgroup of Verkhovna Rada Committee on Education, Science and Innovation was created to work out amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On Higher Education" regarding NAQA status in order to harmonize it with other laws in compliance with ESG-2015 recommendations about its independence and core functions.

## 2020

(1) As a result of the meeting of the Rectors of the leading Ukrainian Universities (2 June 2020), the **President Decree “On the improvement of the higher education of Ukraine”** of 3.06.2020 № 210/2020 has been issued (<https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/210/2020#Text>). It specifies the following activities:

- Creation of **the Council on the Higher Education development in Ukraine** as a consultative-counseling body of the President of Ukraine.

The Head of the President’s Office had to submit the Regulations about the Council and its members – by 17 June 2020, no other information is available on this matter as of June 2021.

- The Cabinet of Ministers have to approve the following documents:

*On September 1, 2020* – **Action Plan for promotion of the STEM education** developed in cooperation with the National Institute of Strategic Studies, National Academy of Science of Ukraine, National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine (The Action Plan was adopted on 13 January 2021) (<https://www.kmu.gov.ua/npas/pro-zatverdzhennya-planu-zahodiv-sh-a131r?fbclid=IwAR0wAdPwkgIGHfqBvwQphNLBys7zn8hvAfHLgXh6g-kZIynYXJuwTIuUc1w> ).

– **Action Plan for promotion of the higher education opportunities for the foreign students in Ukraine** developed by the subgroup, which was created within the Workgroup on the Higher Education Development Strategy 2031 (The Action Plan was adopted on 21 April 2021) (<https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/350-2021-%D1%80#Text>).

*On 1 November 2020* – **Higher Education Development Strategy 2031** to set up the key objectives and priorities, taking into consideration global trends of the world economy.

The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine in cooperation with the National Institute of Strategic Studies and the National Academy of Science of Ukraine has been assigned responsible for the Strategy by the Government.

The Deputy Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine has been appointed responsible for European Integration and as Temporary Acting Minister (Cabinet of Ministers Orders (25.06.2020. № 759-p, 25.06.2020 № 761-p).

Temporary Acting Minister formed the **Workgroup for the Higher Education Development Strategy 2021-2031** (the Order of 28.07.2020 № 974), which is divided into the subgroups according to the strategic goals defined by the Ministry, while the *Internationalization* goal was not in the list among:

1. Analysis of the current Ukraine’s higher education state of play
2. International experience of the higher education system organisation
3. Forecast of the labour market needs in higher education graduates
4. *Institutional forms of obtaining higher education in Ukraine*
5. *The University teacher of the future*
6. *Innovation technologies in higher education, distance learning, scientific and methodological developments for higher education*

7. *Research and technical activities within higher education*
8. *Entrepreneurship skills development in frame of the higher education*
9. *Higher education system and smart-specialisation of the regions, building of the regional eco-systems and clusters of Industry 4.0*
10. *Education monitoring and quality assessment system*
11. *Higher education funding*
12. *Development of the higher education governance system*
13. *Promotion of the higher education opportunities for the foreign students in Ukraine (for the **Action Plan**).*

The Workgroup and subgroups members list (*incl. 6 HEREs and 1 NEO representative*) and meetings are placed at the special *Strategy website* to invite wider audience to provide contributions (<http://www.reform.org.ua/workgroup.html>).

The subgroups proposals are submitted to the MESU for the generalization.

The latest e-meeting of the Workgroup was led by the 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Minister – Mr. Kyzym on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

NEO – Ukraine also submitted proposals for the higher education internationalization in Ukraine, which were not taken into account in the draft Strategy, which was discussed at the meeting of the Workgroup on 4 September.

Now, after receiving comments and suggestions, the draft Strategy is being finalized by the Ministry of Education and Science in close cooperation with HEREs and in line the new legal requirements on strategic documents.

The Law with amendments to the **Law of Higher Education** and **Law of Education** concerning *improvement of educational process in higher education* (adopted by the Parliament and signed by the President of Ukraine on January 13, 2020) are compatible with the Bologna Process in general and includes the following key provisions:

1. Higher education institutions are allowed to issue a higher education document (Diploma/Degree) under an accredited study programme only. This provision somewhat limits the academic autonomy of institutions, as any higher education documents issued under a non accredited programme will not be accounted in the National Unified Education e-Database and recognized by the state.
2. *License requirements* for conducting educational activities in higher education institutions are supplemented by the requirement to create appropriate conditions for persons with special educational needs. License requirements allow the offer of Junior Bachelor's (higher education short cycle) and Bachelor's degree programmes not only by higher education institutions but also by pre-tertiary vocational institutions (VET).
3. *License* is granted by the Ministry for conducting educational activity on certain higher education level/cycle and not within a specific Program Subject Area (specialty) (as it was in previous version of the Law).

4. The *List of Fields of Study and Program Subject Areas* (specialties) in Higher Education is developed *on the basis of the International Standard Classification of Education* and approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, which will ensure comparison of higher education documents (Diploma/Degrees) and collection of statistics on higher education.
5. The *contract* with the Rector will identify the higher education institution performance indicators (KPI), the achievement of which must be provided by the Rector, as well as the timing and mechanisms of verification of achievement of such targets.
6. Introduced *dual higher education* as full-time education, which provides on-the-job training at enterprises, institutions and organizations for the acquisition of certain qualification (in the amount of 25-60 % of the study programme).
7. The higher education institution has the right to decide on the *teaching of one, several or all courses, the completion of individual tasks and the conduct of control measures in English*, provided that all students who study the respective courses are enough competent in English. If there is a written request from one or more students, the higher education institution provides translation into the Ukrainian.
8. **National Qualifications Framework** (2011, 2020) with **8 levels** of qualifications according to the *amendments to the Law of Ukraine “On Education”* (2019) and QF LLL (2017) was approved by the Cabinet of Ministries of Ukraine in 2020.  
Note\* The NQF with **11 levels** of qualifications (based on EQF LLL) was approved by the Cabinet of Ministries of Ukraine in 2011.

## 2019

The **Law of Vocational Pre-Tertiary Education**\* (2019) is compatible with the Bologna Process in general and includes the following key amendment to the Law of Higher Education and the Law of Education:

1. Introduce a new level of NQF (5<sup>th</sup>) for qualifications relevant to Vocational Pre-Tertiary Education within VET; therefore NQF includes 11 levels now. Tertiary (Higher) Education consists 5 levels and the Law determinates correspondence between higher education levels, postdoctoral/scientific level (Junior Bachelor – Bachelor – Master – PhD – Doctor of Science) and levels of ***National Qualification Framework*** (6 – 7 – 8 – 9 – 10)

\**Law of VET Education is under development now.*

## 2017-2018

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 Committee* 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 ENQA, EURASHE, EUA, ESU* and

per 1 person from the following institutions

- the Ministry – Yuriy Rashkevych, Deputy Minister, **HERE team member**,
- Joint Representative Body of All-Ukrainian Association of Employers,
- National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine,
- National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine – Volodymyr Lugovyy, First Vice-President, National Academy of Educational Sciences of Ukraine, **HERE team member**, as a *Chairman*,
- 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 Committee* is considered taken if it is supported by the majority of the international members and majority of national members.

The work of *Selection Committee* 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 Committee* are *open*. Information about the sessions is published on the *Ministry's website*.

The *Selection Committee* 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.



The *Selection Committee* provided selection procedure and formulated list of NQAA members. Regulation of the Cabinet on NQAA approval (27 December 2018) incl. *NQAA members list* is placed at the Cabinet website (<https://www.kmu.gov.ua/ua/npas/pro-zatverdzhennya-skladu-nacionalnogo-agentstva-iz-zabezpechennya-yakosti-vishchoyi-osviti>). **HERE team member** – Iryna ZOLOTARIOVA is selected NQAA member. During the first official meeting of the NQAA members the NQAA Chairman was elected, ex-Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine Sergiy KVIT took this position. In February 2019 **HERE team member** – Mychailo WYNNYCKYJ was appointed on position of the Head of the NQAA' Secretariat – executive body.

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*).

13. According to the Law of Higher Education, the Ministry of Education and Sciences of Ukraine formed the Scientific and Methodical Commissions (SMCs) in 2016, which developed 236 Higher Education Standards projects by 2020. HEREs provided methodical expertise of 214 projects during 2017-2020 and 135 projects were approved by the Ministry. Established NQAA will providing accreditation taking in account Higher Education Standards according to the Law of Higher Education of Ukraine.

*NQAA began activity in 2019* (<https://en.nqa.gov.ua>). The Cabinet approved **NQAA' members list** (December 2018) (<https://www.kmu.gov.ua/ua/npas/pro-zatverdzhennya-skladu-nacionalnogo-agentstva-iz-zabezpechennya-yakosti-vishchoyi-osviti>). Guidelines on accreditation procedure incl. criteria were developed and implemented under providing accreditation process using EDUQAS project outcomes. National QA experts' pool was created based on QUAERE project outcomes and engaging representatives of the Erasmus+ projects.

**Note\*** **HERE team member** – Iryna ZOLOTARIOVA is selected NQAA member (from 2018 to the present time). Ex-Minister of Education and Science of Ukraine Sergiy KVIT is the NQAA Chairman elected by the NQAA members (December 2018 – 2021). **HERE team member** – Mychailo WYNNYCKYJ was appointed on position of the Head of the NQAA' Secretariat – Executive Body (February 2019 – 2022).

*Accreditation* of study programmes (curricula) is provided by the NQAA from *September 2019* (according to the **Law of Education** (2017); before 2019 accreditation was provided by the Accreditation Commission (advisory body) established by the Ministry of Education and Sciences of Ukraine according to the existing procedure).

## 2014-2017

The *Law of Higher Education* (2014) is in line with Bologna process but *finance autonomy* will remain **limited** until appropriate Draft Law on Amendments to Budget Code will be passed.

The National Bank of Ukraine adopted the Resolution on the *exemption* from the **mandatory** sale of exchange for EU projects that have passed state registration (December 4, 2015, № 863).

Now HEIs *cannot* manage their own revenues (non-governmental funding), *incl. international grants*, that is managed by the State Treasury.

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine (September 2, 2015, № 719) adopted the Regulation on placing revenues of public HEIs and research institutions on bank accounts (*incl. international grants*) that allow HEIs more flexibility to manage grants.

The Law is compatible with the Bologna Process in general and includes the following key provisions:

- Implementation of *three cycle structure* of Higher Education (Junior Bachelor (*short cycle vs Junior Specialist*), Bachelor – Master – PhD) and plus so called 4<sup>th</sup> or postdoctoral cycle – Doctor of Science;
- PhD education is provided by structured education and research programs within Aspirantura (similar with *Doctoral School*) at HEI or research institutions, 4 years duration;
- Doctor of Sciences' (postdoctorate) education is provided by Doctorantura of HEI or research institutions (Article 7);
- Determination of correspondence between educational levels, postdoctoral/scientific level (Junior Bachelor – Bachelor – Master – PhD – Doctor of Science) and levels of *National Qualification Framework* (5 – 6 – 7 – 8 – 9);
- Implementation of *ECTS* (determination of education programs scope in terms of ECTS credits) and *Diploma Supplement* (integral part of documents of HE);
- Decrease of *student workload* from 36 to 30 hours in 1 ECTS credit, and decrease of maximum of *teaching workload* from 900 to 600 contact hours per year;
- Development of *academic mobility*, provide maintenance of job place/study place, scholarship/salary in academic mobility period:

The Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted the Regulation on *academic mobility* (August 12, 2015, № 579);

- University' *academic autonomy* (development new programs *incl.* interdisciplinary, degree awards, *recognition* of degrees/diplomas, etc.), *organizational autonomy* (development of HEI structure, establishment of research and education institutions, innovative productive organizations, clinics, laboratories, etc.), *human resources autonomy* (direct elections of Rectors by

- secret ballot, personnel arrangements, foreign scholars and academics employment, tangible reward, etc.) and *financial autonomy* (international grants for research and education could be placed on accounts in public banks and not only in State Treasury, independently command budget *incl.* reallocation between budget items, etc.);
- Establishment of *National Agency on HE Quality Assurance (NQAA)* in the capacity of a public institution; **NQAA** should be established by the Cabinet (*it had to be done till September 6, 2015*). **NQAA** will consist Secretariat for Agency' activity support and Public Council (25 individuals from different stakeholders – academics, students, employers) for making decisions on QA issues (*incl.* accreditation of study programs). According to Article 17 of the Law on Higher Education, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine issued a decree about the establishment of the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and approved the rules of this Agency (15 April 2015). The **NQAA** has not yet started its activities in Ukraine;
  - The methods for Quality Assurance are defined by the Law on Higher Education. The procedure for issuing the Certificates of Study Programmes Accreditation by **NQAA** should be approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine;
  - According to the Law on Higher Education, the *Higher Education Standard* is a set of requirements for the content and results of the educational activities of the higher education institutions and the research institutes at each higher education level within each programme subject area (there are 114 programme subject areas (detailed fields) of education and training);
  - The Ministry of Education and Sciences of Ukraine has formed *Scientific and Methodical Commissions (SMCs)* in March 2016. Each SMC consists of experts in the relevant *program subject area*, which represent HEIs from over Ukraine. The key objective of SMCs is *development of higher education standards* according to the Law of Ukraine on Higher Education. Training sessions were initiated by the Ministry of Education and Sciences of Ukraine and performed by Institute of Higher Education, NEO and HERE team with support of British Council and USETI. All in all 430 members of SMC took the trainings on creation of higher education standards in line with new Law and ESG during April 2016;
  - SMCs under the Ministry intend to develop higher education standards for each programme subject area (detailed field) taking into account the proposals of sectoral public authorities, industry associations and employers' organizations till September 2016;
  - Technical schools and Vocational schools that offer Junior Specialist' programs (ex-level within HE) will be *transfer from Higher Education system into Vocational Education system during 5 years*.

Useful information for the higher education institutions on capacity building to implement reforms, including presentations, publications, videorecordings, translations etc. is placed on the Higher Education Reform Experts Team web-page: <https://erasmusplus.org.ua/library/materialy-here-team/>

**EDUCATION STRUCTURE IN UKRAINE (NQF revised in 2020, new Law on Education, 2017, Law on Vocational Pre-Tertiary Education, 2019)**

		<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>2 years</b>	<b>8 level, NQF</b>
		<b>Doctor of Philosophy, PhD (Academic Degree), Diploma</b>	<b>4 years (30-60 ECTS – education part)</b>	<b>III cycle 8 level, ISCED 2011 8 level, NQF</b>
		<b>Master (Academic Degree), Diploma</b>	<b>90-120 ECTS (300-360 ECTS for program in Medicine, Veterinary, Pharmacy, Dentistry, Pediatrics)</b>	<b>II cycle 7 level, ISCED 2011 7 level, NQF</b>
		<b>Bachelor (Academic Degree), Diploma</b>	<b>180-240 ECTS (Nursing)</b>	<b>I cycle 6 level, ISCED 2011 6 level, NQF</b>
		<b>Junior Bachelor (Academic Degree), Diploma</b>	<b>90-120 ECTS</b>	<b>short cycle 5 level, ISCED 2011 5 level, NQF</b>
<b>Vocational Education and Training - VET</b>	<b>vocational pre-tertiary education</b>	<b>Vocational Junior Bachelor Diploma</b>	<b>120-180 ECTS (based on complete secondary education) 240 ECTS (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>Junior Specialist Diploma, Certificate</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 4 level, 5 level, NQF</b>
	<b>second (basic) level</b>	<b>Certificate</b>	<b>1-1,5 years (based on complete secondary education) 3 years (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 General Education</b>	<b>Fields-specific secondary education (Upper secondary general education) Under the implementation from 2018</b>	<b>Certificate</b>	<b>2 years (3 years since 2027)</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>4 years</b>	



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