



Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova – Republic of Kosovo
Agjencia e Kosovës për Akreditim
Agencija Kosova za Akreditaciju
Kosovo Accreditation Agency



With funding from
 Austrian
Development
Cooperation

HERAS
Higher Education, Research
and Applied Science **Plus**

Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA)

Host: Kosovo Accreditation Agency

Venue: Emerald Hotel

Date: 26th of September 2023

Conference on Higher Education

Topic: The impact of QA Mechanisms on establishing a quality culture

Supported by: HERAS Plus project

Speech of the Minister of the Ministry of Education, Science, Technology and Innovation Mrs. Arberie Nagavci

Honourable Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Mr. Albin Kurti,
Dear Ambassador of Austria in Kosovo, Your Excellency Mr. Georg Schnetzer,
Honourable president of EQAR, Mr. Lauwick,
Honourable Vice President of ENQA, Mrs. Ghitulica
Dear Director of the Kosovo Accreditation Agency, Mr. Naim Gashi,
Dear Chairman of the Board of the Kosovo Accreditation Agency, Mrs. Hasnije Ilazi,
Dear professors, colleagues and participants,

Today's conference is the first of its kind, both for the fact that it has an international character and for the fact that it aims at a major goal: the creation of quality culture in higher education.

Therefore, it is a pleasure and a privilege to see wide and high-level representation, both political and academic, at the national and international level.

Since receiving the mandate of our Government, and since my appointment to the post of Minister in MESTI, one of the priority goals has been to increase the quality of education, at all levels. Here, higher education has a special place, because it prepares cadres who have the future of the country in their hands. This priority still features strongly on our agenda.

Creating a quality culture in higher education is both a broad and complex goal, with a long reach in terms of time and resources. Cultivating this culture requires attention, foresight, open mind and clear vision. At the same time, it requires that all involved parties understand correctly that to achieve this goal, dedication and patience are needed.

Higher education today is undergoing unprecedented transformations and it is our duty to prepare young people with the right skills for work and life.

Today's job market requires individuals with theoretical and practical knowledge, professionals who think creatively and contribute effectively to the workplace and society.

International mobility is an integral part of higher education today. Exchanging experiences with colleagues and counterparts from the region and the world helps a lot in creating a culture of quality education, especially from developed countries and those with a long academic tradition.

On the other hand, scientific research today has opened its doors to everyone, with electronic platforms and virtual publications providing access to the latest science anywhere in the world.

Higher Education is one of the 5 main pillars of the Education Strategy, which aims to increase quality, competitiveness and integrity. The four main areas of action in this sector are:

- Quality improvement
- Improvement of governance and financing
- The connection of higher and professional education with the labor market
- Internationalization of higher education.

The latter is achieved through joint study programs, increased participation in international academic and scientific cooperation programs, and integration into the European Higher Education Area. Likewise, building partnerships with universities in the EU contributes to the modernization of programs and the construction of curricula that are in step with the times and respond to the needs of the labor market.

As the Government, we have undertaken a series of actions and policies to improve the quality in Higher Education and to ensure the independence of the Accreditation Agency.

This includes the Bill on Higher Education and the Bill on the Accreditation Agency, which is already in force.

- We approved the opening of vacancies in the Accreditation Agency and allocated the budget for them.
- I made a decision to check all doctoral themes of the program holders and we are working to equip all universities with plagiarism control systems.
- We have developed the KRIS platform which aims to collect standardized information for researchers in Kosovo and beyond.
- We are working on the concept document for changing the law on research activity and knowledge transfer.

Education has no limits, therefore in MESTI we are using all the opportunities offered effectively to increase the mobility of individuals and groups. At the same time, we are intensifying efforts towards inclusiveness and equality, both at the level of organizations and in policy making.

Seeing that this conference has gathered the most important local and European actors, I express the belief that its work will result in a quality package of principles and practices, which will pave the way for the further work that awaits us.

We all have responsibility and obligation to create mechanisms for quality assurance in higher education and here the role of national accreditation agencies is irreplaceable.

On behalf of the Ministry of Education, I guarantee to provide unsparing support in every aspect and at all times.

I wish the conference good work and success!