



**PROTOCOL ON DISCUSSIONS OF DEVELOPING A
SYNTHESIS OF ISSUES AND SUGGESTIONS ON IMPROVEMENT OF LEGAL FRAMEWORK
OF
THE CYCLE 3 PROGRAMME IN ARMENIA**

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Meeting Venue: ANQA premises

Date: 09 February, 2018

On February 9th, the stakeholders of the Armenian partner institutions under the Erasmus+ C3QA project had a meeting hosted by ANQA in order to work through the Synthesis of issues and suggestions on improvement of legal framework of the Cycle 3 programme in Armenia and set up a methodology using an elaborated template as a tool for gathering ideas. Afterwards similar working discussions would be continued by the Mongolian, Kazakh and Ukrainian partners in order to establish common approaches for the context of Cycle 3 studies.

The general lines of discussion were set up by Mr. Navoyan, C3QA project coordinator, who encouraged to work on the improvements and propositions of Cycle 3 studies through the common template which focuses on the following elements: *Salzburg principles, Regulatory field, Current steps and regulations concerning [Student], [University/Research Institute], [Supreme Certifying Commission], [Ministry/State], as well as Issues and Proposals.*

It was suggested by Mr. Navoyan that each Armenian partner institution works on the provided template in order to identify the issues and concrete suggestions in a 3 phase procedure by suggesting its feedback and further ideas in order to come up with a comprehensive list of suggestions to be presented to the review by the RA Ministry of Education and Science, in particular:

1st phase – each partner Institution provides a synthesis of issues and propositions on the regulatory framework of Cycle 3 programmes organization

2nd phase – consensus is made to address the identified issues in a country level

3rd phase – detailed elaboration of the issues/propositions in order to address the improvements concerning the regulatory frameworks by each country

It was noted by Mr. Navoyan that after these stages a larger discussion will be organized also involving external stakeholders for further discussions and elaboration.

Thus, Mr. Navoyan noted that it is needed to finalize the results of the 3 phases by the end of February so as to submit the results to the European partners for feedback and receive their finalized responses by March 29, 2018.

Mr. Edgar Aleksanyan, representative of the RA Ministry of Education and Science, addressed the need to look at the advantages of the European Cycle 3 programmes and elaborate what are the elements that the Armenian system lacks and focused on the Armenian experience of the credit accumulation system, entrance exams for the PhD education, etc.

It was suggested by Mr. Topchyan, the ANQA president, that the European experience could serve as a benchmark in this regard and the meeting participants agreed that the outcomes of the Kyiv training and Alcala workshop could be consulted for further works on the Cycle 3 propositions.

Mr. Navoyan also emphasized that the findings of the Tempus VERITAS project could become another useful source since the C3QA project has been envisioned as a continuation of the Tempus VERITAS project, therefore the SAFAA representatives could present the VERITAS results based on the provided template in terms of the C3QA objectives.

Mr. Edgar Aleksanyan, representative of the RA Ministry of Education and Science, also asked about the completion of the Training Kit and it was also mentioned that the Training Kit would be finalized soon and send to all the partners to serve as an important tool for the stakeholders.

Mrs. Marta Sandoyan, representative of the RA Ministry of Education and Science, inquired about the specific sessions within the Lyon workshop and it was suggested that a session would be allocated to present the findings of the partners who could synthesize their findings based on the provided template.

Further discussions during the meeting also highlighted the significance to commonly specify such general inquiries as: *What is the role of PhD studies globally and locally in specific contexts? How the PhD experience of the American context could be compared to the European one? What is the role of the young researcher in different countries?*

Thus, in the framework of the meeting the following points were agreed:

- Add in the suggested template on issues and propositions for Cycle 3 regulatory framework the part concerning the general objectives of Cycle 3 programmes as well as reference to the relevant Salzburg principles;
- Follow the above-mentioned 3 phase procedure while working on the provided template, i.e. 1st phase - [synthesis...], 2nd phase – [consensus...], 3rd phase – [detailed elaboration...];
- Complete the suggested template **by the end of February** in order to send it the feedback by the European partners as well as reach a consensus on the priorities for improvement of the regulatory framework **by March 29, 2018**;
- Prepare findings of the TEMPUS VERITAS project per the format of the provided template through the contribution of the partners involved in the TEMPUS VERITAS project the **by February 23, 2018**;

- Organize a follow-up meeting in order to discuss the intermediate results with the view of the already made progress in the works on **February 23, 2018** (place/time to be specified by the ANQA team).
- Finalize the template and send it to the review by the European partners by the end of February
- Use the suggested template also for the Kazakh, Ukrainian, and Mongolian partners in order to apply the common methodology
- Receive the finalized Training kit and Training Kit and send to all the partners serving as an important tool for all the stakeholders
- Organize a small session during the Lyon workshop in order to resent the identified propositions on the improvement before applying the regulatory standard for the QA.