



**MINUTES 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: 07 May, 2018

On May 7th, the stakeholders of the Armenian partner institutions under the Erasmus+ C3QA project had a meeting hosted by ANQA. Under the spotlight of agenda, there were the following major topics, i.e.

- feedback on the report review by HCERES (France)
- working methodology to elaborate Cycle 3 regulatory framework
- discussion of the further activities till 2018 year-end.

The meeting participants firstly discussed the report review by HCERES on the Synthesis of Issues and Propositions on improvement of legal framework of the Cycle 3 programme in Armenia prepared as a working file by the Armenian team under the project. Although in general the participants had no objections to the comments and feedback presented by HCERES, there were two main arguments that the Armenian stakeholders stated as points of disagreement:

1. HCERES comment: The proposals, particularly those for inter-university training, are not easily feasible in a competitive university environment.
Armenian feedback: Considering the HEI situation in Armenia, there is not a strikingly competitive university environment; on the contrary in order to facilitate inter-university cooperation the Armenian team also suggested establishing a centre for promoting inter-university cooperation for the Cycle 3 education.
2. HCERES comment: No, interdisciplinarity is nonsense in doctoral studies, it is not interdisciplinarity that must be promoted, it is the acquisition of multiple skills.
Armenian feedback: Interdisciplinarity is viewed as one of the cornerstone of Cycle 3 education in line with the perspectives of the Salzburg principles, therefore according to the Armenian stakeholders “Structures and curricula should be open and flexible enough to allow doctoral candidates to undertake research and theses based on interdisciplinary approach”.

Afterwards, the Armenian team discussed the best approach on the further elaboration of the regulatory framework on Cycle 3 and agreed that the activities can be focused on 3 main Orders regulating higher education and Decision on introducing credit transfer system in Armenia. Hence, the participants suggested 2 major lines of actions:

- ✓ to present a global concept with suggestions on improving the Cycle 3 education organization and achieve this objective by re-grouping the suggestions already presented in the Synthesis of Issues and Propositions and presenting the latter as a concept note;
- ✓ to take into consideration the existing Orders and suggest improvements within this context having as an end-result a draft regulatory document.

After a heated and intensive discussion it was decided to distribute the work to elaborate the existing Orders among the Armenian stakeholders in the following manner:

- UFAR and MoES Armenia would work on the Order on admission to Cycle 3 education
- YSU would work on the Order on specialized council awarding academic degree
- ANQA would work on the Order on the procedure of academic degree awarding
- SAFAA would work on the regulations relating to the art

The meeting participants later agreed on the outline of main activities and deadlines and set the nearest deadline **by June 7, 2018** in order to implement the development/update of regulatory frameworks for Cycle 3 programs QA.

The closing note of the meeting stated that the timeline of further actions and remaining main activities for the project-year 2018 would be validated at the Coordination meeting during Lyon workshop and might be subject to changes, if necessary.