

**HIGHER EDUCATION REFORM in  
UKRAINE**

**TURKEY - UKRAINE  
COMPARATIVE STUDY**

- The higher education system in Ukraine is undergoing major reform.
- In July 2014 the new Higher Education Act became law, introducing significant reforms.
- Two factors are particularly important in the reform process.

## **UA HIGHER EDUCATION REFORM**

- The reform has been driven by a small group of highly committed rectors and academics centred in Kiev.
- Their work to reform the system started well before 2014 with nine bills tabled before Parliament between December 2010 and January 2013.

**FACTOR 1**

- The second factor – and the one that provided the window of opportunity for reform – is the political context of Ukraine.
- In February 2014, the 'Euromaidan Revolution' (or 'Revolution of Dignity') made way for the election of the new prodemocracy, pro-European government.
- Education was high on the new government's agenda, with HE prioritised as one of the key systems able to spearhead Ukraine's integration into Europe.

## FACTOR 2

- Ukraine's education has been ranked 42nd in the Ranking of Higher Education Systems 2014.
- According to the 2013 World Economic Forum, Ukraine ranks 10th on the percentage of its population with higher education, 28th in the quality of math and hard science education, 46th place in the presence of scientific and engineering personnel and 69th on the quality of its research institutions.

**Does UA need HE reform?**

- Education in Ukraine has ceased to be the social elevator.
- Only 18% of graduates of Ukrainian higher educational institutions are satisfied with their salary, and 31% are generally satisfied with their job.
- Meanwhile, 67% of graduates had to retrain; for 43% it is difficult to find a job; 38% are dissatisfied with the salary; 27% complain about a lack of perspectives; 23% stated the loss of motivation.

**STATISTICS**

- Before the adoption of the new Law “On Higher Education” in Ukraine in 2014, over 800 institutions were listed as higher educational establishments. The vast majority of them do not conduct any scientific research.
- Eg. The National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine is the largest research organization in Europe, employing about 40 thousand people, however, its annual scientific product equals to results of a single medium size European university. This can be explained by lack of funding, as well as the undeclared Russian-Ukrainian war.

**STATISTICS**

In 2012 Ukraine occupied 40th place in the world for publications and 42 place for citation. According to the Web of Science, growth number of publications Ukrainian scientists as follows:

- At the beginning of independence, Ukraine has clearly outstripped productivity and by citation index Romania, Turkey, South Korea and dozens of other major countries.
- Moreover, it appears that 20 years ago the success scientists Romania and Turkey were insignificant compared to ours.
- And now Ukraine produces nearly five times fewer scientific papers than Poland and Turkey, and almost two times smaller than Romania.
- Countries like Iran, South Africa, Argentina also been successfully ahead of Ukraine.

**The Web of Science Statistics**



<b>country</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2012</b>
Ukraine	5105	5220	6531	6317
Poland	6340	12941	25336	29750
Romania	912	2780	9544	12371
Turkey	1748	6984	25339	32964
Russia	33462	32681	33766	34406

Discuss in groups  
successful reform  
of higher education  
in your country

**Reform of HE in Turkey**

- Structural reform of the higher education system
- Institutional autonomy and leadership
- Financial reform
- Quality
- Integration of Higher Education and Research
- Higher education links to the labour market
- Professional development of higher education staff
- Students' roles
- Integration of Ukraine into the global research and higher education area

## **Challenges of HE Reform in UA**

- Discuss in group challenges of higher education reform in Ukraine.
- Compare challenges of higher education reform in Ukraine and Turkey.

# **Structural reform of the higher education system**

- The 20 years following the break-up of the Soviet Union, saw a huge explosion of universities with large numbers of local institutions being set up. Abuses of the system became widespread. More students meant more money - student numbers tripled and many unqualified students obtained degrees.
- Ukraine ended up with one of the highest HE participation rates in the world with 70% of 18 year olds enrolling in HE (1.7 million students in a country of 45 million people).
- The new government has sought to 'optimise' the system and under the new law, accreditation has been withdrawn from many institutions on the grounds of low quality.
- At the beginning of 2015 there were 802 higher educational establishments in Ukraine, in 2016 they are 317 and by the end of the year there will only remain some 270.
- Eventually, the aim is to have no more than 100 HEIs.

# **Institutional autonomy and leadership**

- Re-defining the functions of the Ministry and the universities, the new law provides for institutional autonomy and self-governance.
- Challenges:
  1. Autonomy is not widely understood across the sector - in particular, the accompanying responsibilities and accountabilities and the scale of the democratic structures and systems needed by HEIs to implement it.
  2. Democratisation of institutional management and governance envisages devolved and distributed leadership in which rectors, staff and students have defined roles and responsibilities.



**Financial reform**

- One aspect of this reform is the funding model for student places – and the Ministry is actively investigating options and looking at the experience of other countries.
- Challenge:
  1. While fighting continues in Ukraine's eastern regions, the Ministry of Finance retains strong central control of money.
  2. The Ministry may prove extremely resistant to ceding financial autonomy to universities which causes considerable problems with European and partnership grants.

**Quality**

- As well as tackling the quantity and low quality of many of the current HEIs, the law aims to build a rigorous national quality assurance system aligned to European and international standards in which quality will be assured through a dual process of internal and external QA.
- The new National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education has still to start functioning.

# **Integration of Higher Education and Research**

- Currently there is a Soviet-era legacy divide between research and education, with teaching/education being carried out mainly in the universities and (largely theoretical) research in the National Academy of Science and the six sectoral national academies of science.
- The new law envisages integration between research carried out in the universities and the academies, so making better use of financial, physical and human resources and potentially increasing Ukraine's competitiveness in the European and global research areas.

**Higher education  
links to the labour  
market**

- One of the significant deficiencies in the higher education system is its disconnection from the labour market.
- Ukrainian students are not studying the subjects their country needs.
- Linking education to the labour market had to be a key concern for higher education reform.



# Professional development of higher education staff

- Academic and teaching staff at all levels are expected to design and deliver new (Bologna compliant) curricula, employ new (interactive) teaching methods, understand and use competence frameworks, monitor, assess and give feedback to students, provide academic and personal support.
- There is also a range of new administrative duties and responsibilities.

**Students' roles**

- Student self-government is an intrinsic part of the democratic and public management process of the sector.
- Students will participate at national level through membership of the National Quality Assurance Agency - of the 25 NQAA members, two are student representatives, elected by the student body.
- Within HEIs, student representatives will vote in the election of rectors, as well as being members of academic councils and working and advisory bodies.

**Integration of  
Ukraine into the  
global research  
and higher  
education area**

- Currently only two universities are in the top 500 places in the world league tables.
- While some of the major universities have numerous bilateral agreements and research partnerships, levels of international engagement across the sector are relatively low when compared with universities in Europe and in other developed countries.
- English language ability is a major factor here, significantly restricting academic and student mobility.

- One important step towards integration into the European and global research areas is that in March 2015, Ukraine formally became an associate member of the Horizon 2020 programme.
- In November 2015, Ukraine also joined Creative Europe.

**We regard the establishment of quality, self-regulated and responsible Ukrainian universities, which will be competitive in global scope, as the main objective of the higher education reform.**