

## IMPROVEMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS REGARDING NATIONAL AND SECTORAL QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

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Implementation of reforms in education, designed to obtain large-scale results, to improve mechanism of identifying needs in qualifications, currently is largely due to the problem of implementation of the National Qualifications Framework.

In Kazakhstan, the National Qualifications Framework was approved in September 2012. It represents structured description of the eight qualification levels recognized in the labor market, which corresponds to the European Qualifications Framework and educational levels, defined by the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated July 27, 2007 "About Education" [1]. The National Qualifications Framework provides a summary of the results, detailed elaboration is carried out within the industrial qualifications framework and professional standards.

The concept of qualifications framework allows establishing a connection between qualifications. The level of qualification is the result of the obtaining of specific educational programs and/or practical experience. The competencies are a mechanism ensuring transparency and comparability of qualifications, which forms basis for the qualifications framework.

National Qualifications Framework based on competencies provides transparency, clarity and accessibility for people to improve their own qualifications, the ability to have a job, regardless of their social status and level of education [2].

Since 2013, Kazakhstan has been launched to develop sectoral qualifications frameworks. Both practical workers and representatives of educational institutions were involved to this. In particular, Karaganda Economic University worked with Ministry of Economy and Budget Planning of the Republic of Kazakhstan to develop Sectoral Qualifications Framework in the wholesale and retail trade.

Developed sectoral qualifications framework designed for different industry user groups (employers, education authorities, employees) and allows you to:

- Describe from unified positions qualification requirements for workers, graduates of educational institutions when developing professional and educational standards;
- Develop evaluation materials and procedures for determining the qualifications of workers and graduates of all levels of education;
- Plan different learning paths leading to the receipt of a particular qualification level, career growth.

It should be noted that the sectoral qualifications framework compiled on every area of professional activity sector on the basis of the National Qualifications Framework and industry development strategy.

Level of qualification of the trade specialist is the result of the learning of specific educational programs and practical experience.

Since the basic unit of classification, encompassing all levels of education is an educational program, the adoption of national and sectoral qualifications frameworks required to make the appropriate changes to the content and structure of the educational programs of the university.

We proceeded from the fact that educational programs designed only for the transmission of theoretical knowledge and professional skills are not able to provide training for professionals, which requires a modern country. Due to this shift of emphasis was done from the content of education to the learning achievements through competence (general and professional), in accordance with the methodology of the «Tuning» project. Processed educational programs were subjected to review by key ministries. It should be noted that the performed work is the initial stage of the process of harmonization of educational programs of the university with the requirements of national and sectoral qualifications frameworks.

Currently, the development of new professional standards is processing in Kazakhstan, based on which universities will conduct further modernization of their educational programs, with an emphasis on practice-oriented learning and increase the role of students' independent work in the educational process.

All of this will ensure that the educational programs correspond to the modern requirements of the labor market and the National Qualifications Framework.

#### List of References

1. Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan dated July 27, 2007 "About Education» - [www.edu.gov.kz](http://www.edu.gov.kz)
2. Concept of the National Qualifications Framework of the Republic of Kazakhstan. - [www.pandia.ru](http://www.pandia.ru)
3. Tuning Educational Structures in Europe - [www.eua.uni-graz.at](http://www.eua.uni-graz.at)