



Presentation title

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Strengthening of master curricula in water resources
management for the Western Balkans HEIs and stakeholders

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Legislation

On 18th September 2019 was adopted **Law on dual model of studies in higher education.**

This law regulates the content and manner of realization of the dual model of studies in higher education, mutual rights and obligations of students, higher education institutions and employers, material and financial provision of students, as well as other issues of importance for dual model studies.

Dual model of studies

"Dual model of studies" is a model of teaching in higher education study programs in which through active teaching at a higher education institution and practical training and work with the employer, improve, i.e. build knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes (competencies) in accordance with the study program and qualification standard.

The **key subjects** of realization of this model of education, beside of Universities and students are:

"Employer" is a legal entity or entrepreneur, who meets the requirements set out in this law and whose activity enables the realization of appropriate content and learning through the work determined by the study program;

"Mentor with the employer" is a person engaged with the employer, who directly ensures that during the learning through work the contents determined by the study program are realized and is responsible for the students to acquire competencies prescribed by the study program and qualification standard;

"Academic mentor" is a person employed in a higher education institution (teacher or associate), who in cooperation with the mentor at the employer plans, monitors, implements and evaluates the achievement of learning through work.

Goals of the dual model of studies in higher education are:

- providing conditions for acquiring, improving and developing student competencies in accordance with the needs of the labor market;
- contribution to strengthening the competitiveness of the economy of the Republic of Serbia;
- providing conditions for easier employment after completing higher education;
- providing conditions for further education and lifelong learning;
- developing the entrepreneurship, innovation and creativity of each individual for his professional and career development;
- providing conditions for personal, economic and general social development;
- developing the ability to work in a team and a sense of personal responsibility in work;
- developing awareness of the importance of health and safety, including safety and health at work;
- developing the ability to self-evaluate and express one's own opinion as well as independent decision-making;

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Cooperation between higher education institutions and employers

- A higher education institution that wants to implement study programs according to the dual model of studies forms a network of employers who have the need to employ persons with qualifications acquired at that institution.
- Members of the network of employers may also be members of the employers' council, which is formed in accordance with the law governing higher education.

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Study programs according to the dual model

- The basis for the implementation of the dual study model is the study program accredited in accordance with the accreditation standards established in accordance with the law governing higher education and this law and the qualification standard determined in accordance with the law governing the national qualifications framework.
- The dual study model can be accredited as an independent study program or as one of the modules within the study program and in addition to the elements prescribed by law governing higher education and accreditation standards, contains a description and scope of learning through work expressed in hours and ESPB credits.
- Employers also participate in the development of study programs, ie modules referred to in paragraph 2 of this Article, in accordance with the law governing higher education.

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Scope, period and place of realization

- The ratio in the number of hours of active teaching conducted at the higher education institution and learning through work with the employer is determined by the study program, with the proviso that active teaching (lectures, exercises and other forms of active teaching) must be represented by at least 450 hours a year, and learning through work with at least 450 hours per year on average at the level of the entire study program.
- Learning through work is realized in its entirety with one or more employers in accordance with the study program and the plan for the realization of learning through work.

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Career guidance and counseling

- The higher education institution through the Center for Career Guidance and Counseling or otherwise provides support, encourages and monitors the career development of students, in accordance with the general act of the higher education institution and career guidance and counseling standards adopted on the basis of the law governing the national qualifications framework.
- The higher education institution supports the career development of students in the dual model of study by: monitoring the satisfaction and motivation of students and employers during the learning program through work, empowering and supporting students to plan and set career development goals, cooperates with high schools to establish continuity of career guidance services, counseling, helps students in choosing an employer when learning through work is realized with several employers in order to guide students towards individual needs and in their best interests.

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The conditions that the employer must meet in order to perform learning through work are:

- performing activities that enable the realization of content from the study program;
- an appropriate number of mentors with employers who have at least the type and level of higher education that corresponds to the type and level that the student acquires according to the study program and three years of work experience in the profession;
- disposal of appropriate space, equipment and means for work in accordance with the study program and the plan for the realization of learning through work;
- ensuring the application of safety and health measures at work in accordance with the law;
- that no bankruptcy proceedings have been opened against the employer or that liquidation proceedings have not been initiated;
- that the mentor and another responsible person with the employer have not been convicted by a final judgment for a criminal offense punishable by unconditional imprisonment of at least three months, as well as for criminal offenses of domestic violence, deprivation of a minor, neglect and abuse of a minor or incest, crimes from the group of crimes against sexual freedom, against the economy, against official duty, against legal traffic and against humanity and other goods protected by international law, regardless of the criminal sanction imposed, that they have not been convicted of a misdemeanor in the field of labor relations and for whom, in accordance with the law, discriminatory behavior has not been established;
- that the mentor at the employer and the responsible person at the employer have not been convicted of criminal offenses prescribed by the law governing the prevention of harassment at work.

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Arrangement of mutual relations between higher education institutions, employers and students

- The mutual relationship between a higher education institution, an employer and a student in study programs, ie modules according to the dual model, is regulated by a contract.
- The mutual relationship between the higher education institution and the employer is regulated by the agreement on the dual model, and the mutual relationship between the employer and the student is regulated by the agreement on learning through work.



Evaluation and Exams in the Dual Model

- The evaluation of students according to the dual model of studies is regulated by a general act of the higher education institution.
- The content and manner of conducting the Thesis are regulated in accordance with the study program and the implementation plan according to the dual model.

Material and financial provision of students

- **Student material support** - The employer provides the student who performs learning through work:
 - means and equipment for personal protection at work;
 - reimbursement of the actual costs of transport to the place of learning through work and back, at most in the amount of the price of the transport ticket in public transport, if the employer has not provided its own transport;
 - reimbursement of food costs in accordance with the general act of the employer;
 - insurance in case of injury during learning through work with the employer, if such insurance is provided for employees of that employer.
 - The employer may also provide the student with coverage of the costs of accommodation and meals in the dormitory.

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- **Student financial provision** - A student who performs learning through work is entitled to compensation.
 - **Compensation for work**-based learning is paid once a month no later than the end of the current month for the previous month for each hour spent on work-based learning in the net amount of at least 50% of the basic salary of an employee working on the same or similar jobs.
 - **Compensation for learning** through work in undergraduate studies can be paid in different amounts by years of study according to the level of knowledge of students, for each hour spent learning through work in the range of 30-70% of the basic salary of an employee working on the same or similar jobs, provided that the total remuneration for learning through work paid at the level of the study program must be at least 50% of the basic salary of the employee paid for the same period.
 - **If the employer bears the costs of tuition fees** at the same time, he can reduce the tuition fee up to the amount of tuition fees.

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Impact of the SWARM results on the water-related sector

As soon as the higher education institutions that educate professionals who will be employed in PWMC Vode Vojvodine, accredit study programs in accordance with the dual model of study, PWMC Vode Vojvodine will join the network of employers and participate in the realization of this way of studying, within the limits of its financial possibilities.



THANK FOR YOUR ATTENTION!