

# Presentation of the Serbian Higher Education System

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# HE system in Serbia

- Serbia joined the Bologna process in 2003 and thus initiated gradual reform process which received its legal support in 2005 by the adoption of a new Law on Higher Education.
  - This Law formally introduced the European Credit Transfer System, three-cycle system of study and diploma supplement.
  - From 2007/08 all new attendants study under the new reformed study programs at all higher education institutions.
- HE system has two types of study: academic studies organized at universities and applied studies organized either at vocational study colleges or at universities.

# HE system in Serbia

- HEIs in Serbia:
  - 19 accredited universities – the largest are four biggest state universities: the University of Belgrade with 31 faculties and around 75.000 students, the University of Novi Sad with 14 faculties and 47.000 students, the University of Nis with 13 faculties and 30.000 students and the University of Kragujevac with 12 faculties and 14.000 students
  - 66 accredited colleges for applied studies
  - 6 accredited colleges for academic studies
  - Prospective Academies for applied studies\*
- There are altogether around 270.000 students at state and private universities and colleges for applied sciences; 15% of students study at private HEIs.

# The three-cycle system of academic studies

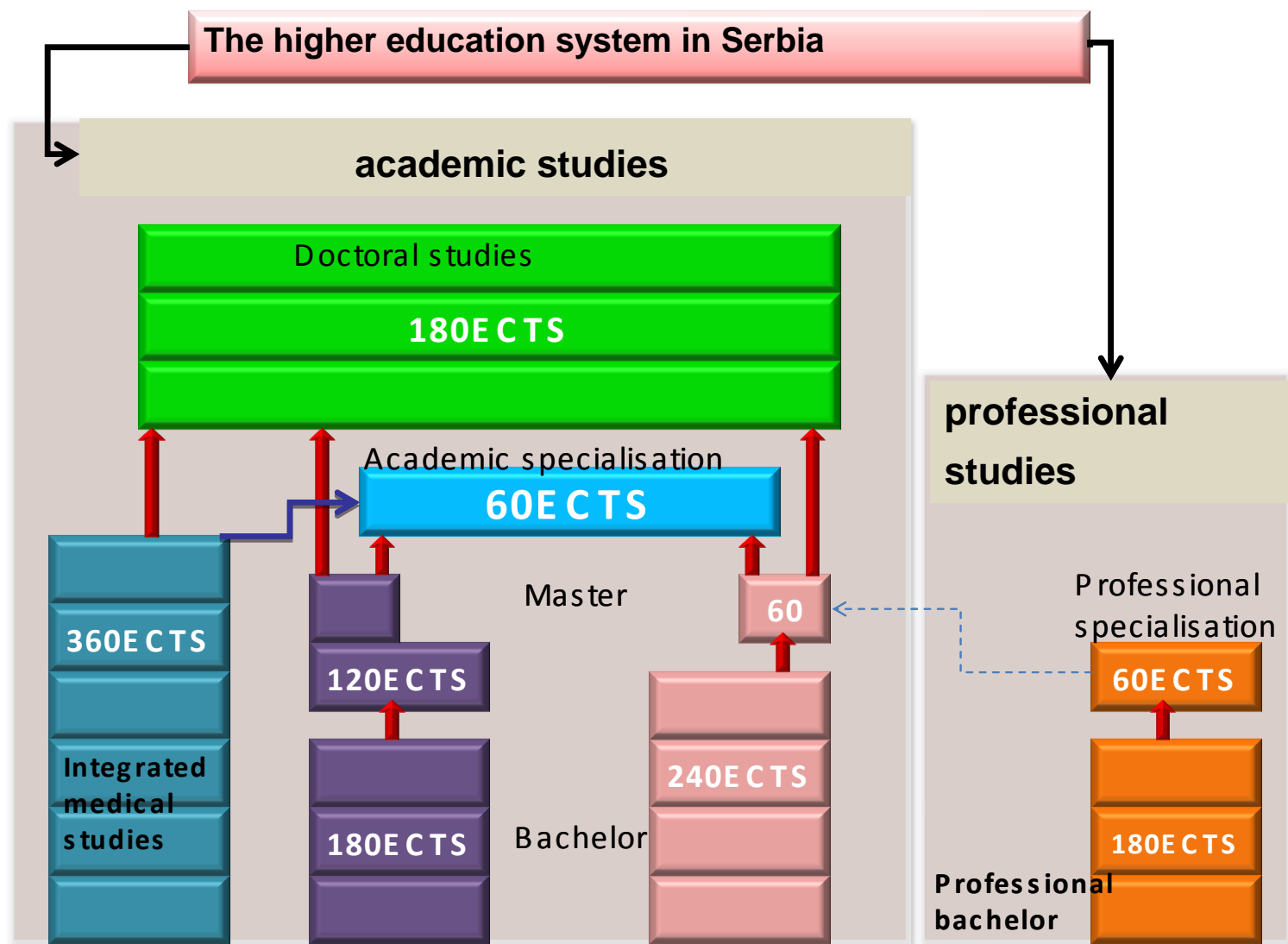
- Basic academic studies lasting 3-4 years, carrying 180 to 240 ECTS
- Master studies lasting 1-2 years with 60 to 120 ECTS
- Doctoral studies with minimum of three years of study or 180 ECTS
  - In the field of medical science (the studies of medicine, dentistry and veterinary medicine) integrated study programmes that last 6 years must carry a minimum of 360 ECTS, as well as integrated pharmacy studies with 300 ECTS have been introduced
  - In addition, the second cycle includes specialist academic studies with minimum duration of one year and carries 60 ECTS.

# Applied studies

- Applied studies comprise two levels:
  - Basic applied studies which last three years and have 180 ECTS and
  - Specialized applied studies which carry 60 ECTS and last one year.
- The law provides that there are also academies of applied studies – institutions that integrate several colleges for applied studies.
  - In the HE system there are currently no such organizations, although there are reflections on their formation in order to achieve better functionality.

# Accreditation of HEIs

- All HE institutions must be accredited before obtaining the working license issued by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technological Development.
- Private HE institutions (not founded by the Republic), which are in the educational system of RS, have the same status as HE institution founded by the Republic.
- Information on Standards and Procedure of Accreditation of Institutions of Higher Education and Study Programs, as well as on Standards and Procedure of External Quality Assurance of Institutions of Higher Learning available on the web site of CAQA.



Source: CAQA, October 2009

# Highlights of the new Education Strategy Serbia 2020 adopted in October 2012

- The most important strategic goals that need to be achieved until 2020 regarding the higher education:
  - That at least 40% of those who finished the 4 year vocational high schools, and 95% of those who finished grammar school enroll tertiary education
  - That at least 50% of students that finish bachelor studies, enroll in the master studies and at least 10% of the master students enter the PhD studies



# Development of academic studies

- Results of studies and competencies of the students in focus
- Functional integration universities in the area of strategic planning, quality control, career guidance and other areas
- Support for the development of e-studying and the research work, together with the entrepreneurial university concept
- The formulation of politics, strategies and measures that will contribute to the image and the competitiveness of Serbian universities

# Development of applied studies

- Related to two main challenges for applied studies:
  - For the improvement of the quality of higher education, the measures are the improvement of competences of teachers and the quality of programs
  - Regarding the development of the educational resources, the key measures are the systematic positioning of the professional studies in the research and artistic area, and the integration of the professional studies into academies of professional studies

# Suggested areas of cooperation

- Initial and in-service teacher training
- Roma education
- Social inclusion
- Language training
- Curriculum development and Reform in line with labour market needs
- Prevention of violence in schools
- Tuning – Harmonizing of learning outcomes in various subject areas
- Cooperation with the industry
- Entrepreneurship in education
- Career guidance

# Thank you for your attention!

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