

## ICELAND

### National Action Plan 2024-2027

Please identify here for your country the current situation and challenges (if relevant) in the respective key commitments. In addition, you may list other commitments of the Tirana or previous Communiqués and your priorities in their implementation.

	Current situation	Key challenges
<b>ECTS and Qualifications Frameworks</b>	The Qualification framework has been adapted in late 2024 to allow for microcredentials, to clarify the possibility of RPL and to allow an exit with an MPhil	Implementation of the new framework in all HEIs calls for adaptations of short programmes from diplomas to microcredentials.
<b>Recognition</b>	Generally commitments are met but we need more robust procedures for RPL and recognition of microcredentials	Creating consistent procedures for RPL and microcredentials at HE level.
<b>Quality Assurance</b>	The current Quality Assurance framework runs from 2024-2029. Commitments mostly met	The Icelandic Agency for Quality Assurance (IAQA) needs to gain recognition by EQAR/ENQA
<b>Social Dimension of HE</b>	Generally social dimension policy is mainstreamed in overarching legislation.	The main challenge relates to gender inequalities in the HE system, with 70% of students being female, and correspondingly limited uptake of higher education places by men. Limited uptake of student loans due to unfavourable terms and conditions.
<b>Other Bologna Process Commitments</b>		

Please summarise here (in a few bullet points) the main progress to be achieved by 2027 in your country, based on the detailed action plans below, including issues such as key regulatory changes or significant new policies foreseen to support the implementation of the Bologna Process commitments.

- Formalisation of RPL
- Implementation of microcredentials in HEIs
- European recognition of the Icelandic Agency for Quality Assurance
- Improved gender balance in HE

Please list in the below table the concrete actions you want to undertake to achieve the commitments and how you want to tackle the challenge you have mentioned above (e.g. regulatory/legal change, data collection and analysis, (national) peer support, events, publication of support materials, ...)

Please use a separate table for each of the listed (key) commitments and add lines to the tables as needed.

### 1) ECTS and Qualifications frameworks

Action	Contribution of the action to the implementation of the commitment	Expected outcome(s)	Timeline	Achieved in 2027(Yes/No/Partially) [to be filled in 2027]	Provide short explanation [to be filled in 2027]
Implementation of the new and changed elements of the NQF	Implementation of microcredentials to the NQF. Fewer programmes will fall outside QF-EHEA	Implementation of microcredentials and eradication of qualifications containing fewer than 60ECTS	By end of academic year 2025-26		

## 2) Recognition

Action	Contribution of the action to the implementation of the commitment	Expected outcome(s)	Timeline	Achieved in 2027(Yes/No/Partially) [to be filled in 2027]	Provide short explanation [to be filled in 2027]
Development of standardised recognition procedures for RPL across all HEIs	Contribution to recognition of RPL	Standardised recognition procedure for RPL across the system	To be completed 2026		
Pilot of recognition procedure for RPL across varied institutions and disciplines.	Contribution to recognition of RPL	Support for the standardised recognition procedure for RPL proposed.	To be completed 2026		

## 3) Quality assurance

Action	Contribution of the action to the implementation of the (key) commitment	Expected outcome(s)	Timeline	Achieved by 2027(Yes/No/Partially) [to be filled in 2027]	Provide short explanation [to be filled in 2027]
Submit application for recognition of the Icelandic Agency for Quality Assurance to ENQA/EQAR	Would ensure full implementation of the commitment	Recognition of the Agency by ENQA/EQAR	To be submitted by 2025 To be granted by 2027		
Develop any missing documentation (if relevant) prior to submission of application.	Contributes to the commitment listed above	Contributes to the commitment listed above	To be completed by 2025		
Update English translation of Act of	To enhance transparency	Contributes to the	To be completed by		

Higher Education in line with changes made in recent years to the legal framework	and enable international collaboration, study and scrutiny.	commitment listed above.	2025		
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#### 4) Social dimension

Action	Contribution of the action to the implementation of the commitment (key)	Expected outcome(s)	Timeline	Achieved by 2027(Yes/No/Partially) [to be filled in 2027]	Provide short explanation [to be filled in 2027]
Changes to the student loan system to support access to higher education irrespective of income	Removes barriers to access to HE by more favourable terms	Reducing the financial burden of HE on students	Initial proposal to go through parliament in spring 2025		
Targeted information campaigns in HE recruitment and varied career options	Lowering the mental threshold to applying to HE and raises awareness of diverse educational provision in HE.	Increased proportion of males and students from underrepresented groups applying to HEIs	These have been employed in 2023 and 2025 with significant effect and are planned to continue in the coming year		
An impact assessment of support for students shall be carried out in accordance with Article 6, Paragraph 19 of the Act on Higher Education, No. 63/2006, taking into account universal design and human variability.	Highlights possible deficiencies in support for students with disabilities	Impact assessment report	Before 2027		

## 5) Enhancement knowledge sharing

Action	Contribution of the action to the implementation of the (key) commitment	Expected outcome(s)	Timeline	Achieved by 2027(Yes/No /Partially) [to be filled in 2027]	Provide short explanation [to be filled in 2027]
The webpage of the Icelandic Agency for Quality Assurance has been redeveloped and will be updated with new information relevant to QA as fit	Transparency in QA procedures	Greater transparency and knowledge sharing of QA procedures	Ongoing		
Meetings planned with QA agency and HIEs to inform on changes to ESG and ECTS, once draft proposals have been developed	Knowledge awareness of upcoming changes to HE standards	Increased knowledge and preparation	To be completed in 2026		

## 6) Other Bologna commitments

Action	Contribution of the action to the implementation of the (key) commitment	Expected outcome(s)	Timeline	Achieved by 2027(Yes/No /Partially) [to be filled in 2027]	Provide short explanation [to be filled in 2027]
Improved data collection from Higher Education institutions	Improved information on HEIs, students and staff to enable informed policy making in HE	Better informed policy development	Data portal to be fully functional in late 2025		