

The Use of Impact Evaluation and Evidences at the Internal Level: the Higher Education Reform in the Republic of Moldova

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Abstract. *After a series of at least five attempts to change the national higher education legal framework, a new legislative framework convergent in a greater extent with the principles of the Bologna Process entered into force in november 2014. Thus, on the one hand, when Moldova joined the Bologna process, changes made in the legislative and regulatory frameworks were developed rather mimetically and through fragmented transposition of procedures and principles governing the Bologna Process. On the other hand, the adjustments made were not substantiated through studies, analysis and comprehensive evaluations of the system.*

Are the recent changes in higher education in the Republic of Moldova accomplished on the basis of arguments related to deepening participation in the Bologna Process? Only in the last two years, changes in the legal framework of higher education refer to studies, analyses and policy proposals (see the strengthening of the autonomy of higher education institutions, the change of the funding mechanism etc.). However, the use of evidences in policy grounding is still at an early stage. Therefore, we try to explain and analyse, based on semi-structured interviews with decision-factors, the use of evidences and impact evaluations in policy making which draw the current structural reform in higher education in the Republic of Moldova.

Keywords: *impact assessment, policy reports, evidence-based policies, higher education.*

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