



Checklist for assessment of Logical Framework – High Level (Evaluator Perspective)

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Sofia, Bulgaria



Context: Key System Objectives

Drive systemic reform, aligning higher education with labour market needs, digital transformation, and inclusive growth.

"Modernization of Higher Education 2.0"

Evidence Based (*Grounded*)

- Policy

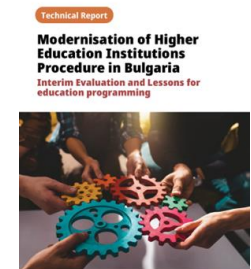
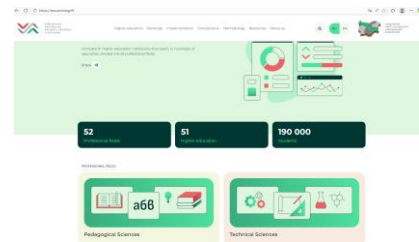
- Higher Education
- Sustainability
- Technology
- Employer
- Government
- Research
- Future Skills

- Stakeholders

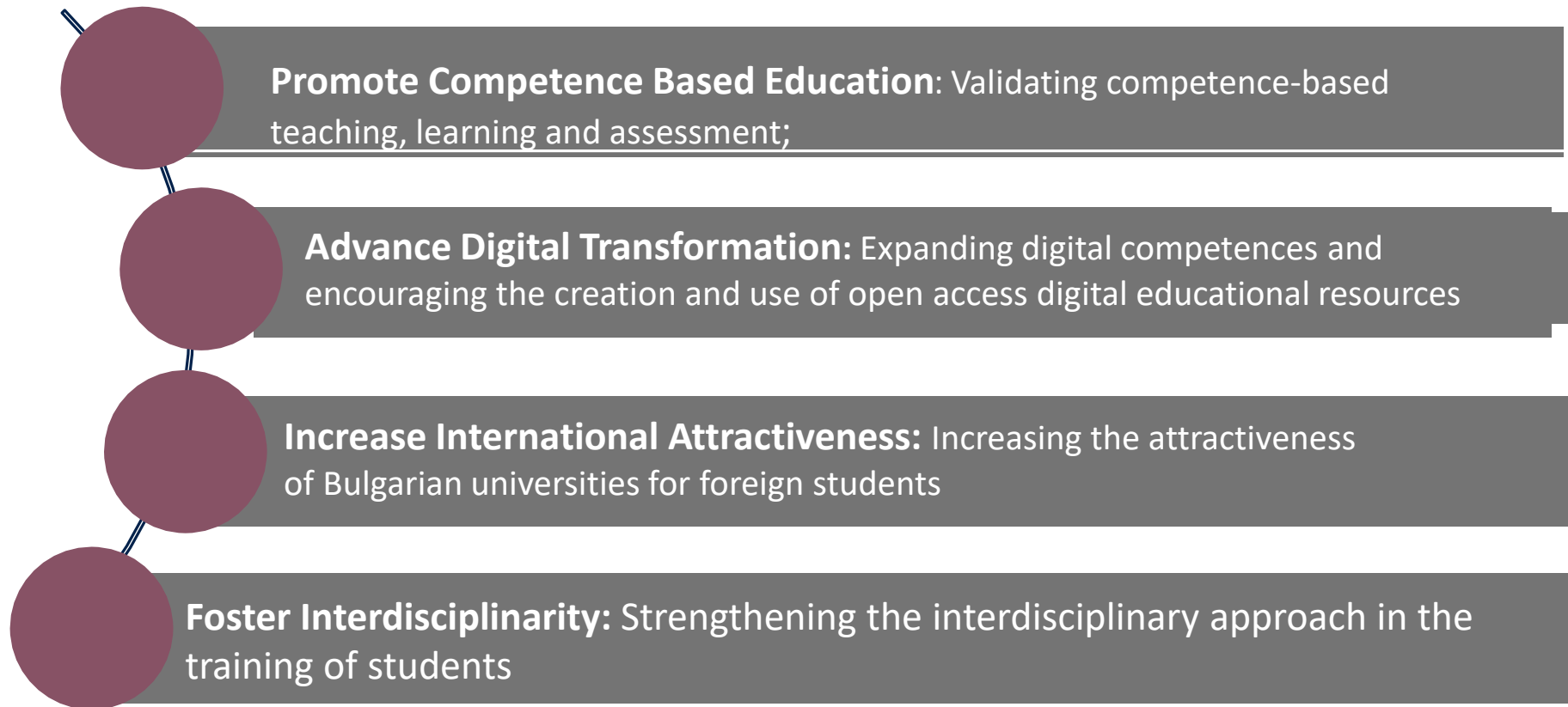
- Industry Involvement
- Representative Bodies
- Academics (All domains)
- National, European and International Trends

Themes:

- Skills relevance and labour market alignment
- Digital and green transitions
- Lifelong learning and flexible provision
- Inclusion and widening participation
- Quality assurance and system modernisation
- Evidence-based and performance-driven funding



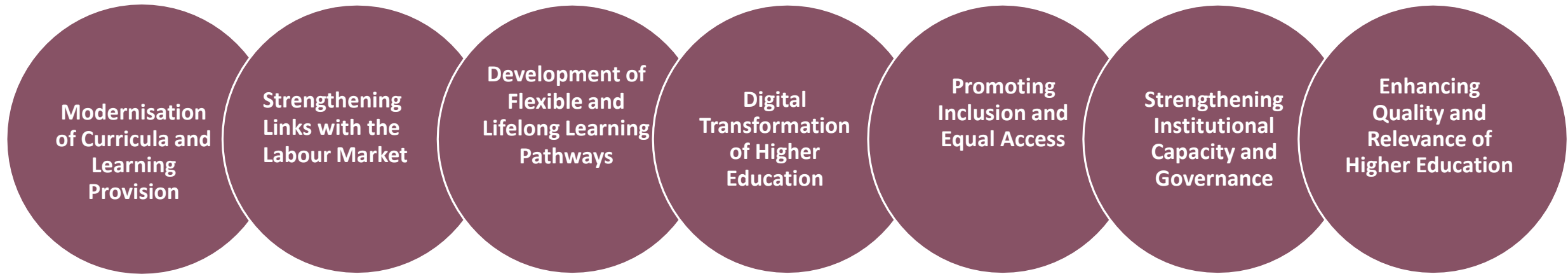
KEY OBJECTIVES ('MHE 2.0')



KEY AREAS OF FOCUS FOR ACTIONS

Horizontal Results for the Professional Fields

- Expansion of bachelor's and master's programs with competence profiles;
- At least 50% of students' grades should be formed from current assessment;
- Creation and implementation of a system for current assignment of tasks for independent preparation of students.



Supporting System-Level Reform and Sustainability

Types of activities and sub-activities eligible for funding (*Examples*)

Activity	Description	Sub Activities (<i>Development of</i>)
1	Apply modern and flexible methods of application, teaching and assessment and resource sharing	Develop remote application environment; VLE, VLC, MOOCs, new resources, Attracting specialists
2	Additional trainings for students for the development of	Cognitive and non cognitive skills, competences for lifelong learning, skills in new digital technologies AI, Prompt engineering
3	Training of lecturers for	interdisciplinary training of students, STEM, teaching technologies; competency-based programs and exam materials
4	Training of employees of the administration of the HEI	work in a multicultural and multilingual environment
5	Mobility of students and teachers	mobility of students in foreign universities with recognition of credits, including student support
6	Promotion of Bulgarian higher education institutions	Student exchanges abroad

ESF+ (*Remember*)

- ESF+ requires projects to be **strategically aligned, measurable, well-managed, inclusive, and impactful**, with strong evidence, clear logic, and accountability throughout the project lifecycle.

Key requirements include	
Alignment with EU and National Priorities	Equality, Inclusion, and Non-Discrimination
Result Orientation and Performance Framework	Partnership and Stakeholder Engagement
SMART Indicators and Measurability	Sound Intervention Logic (Logframe Approach) – Clear Linkages
Monitoring, Reporting, and Evaluation	Feasibility and Administrative Capacity
Financial Management and Compliance	Sustainability and Long-Term Impact

So, what is the Evaluators Framework like? What are we looking for?



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Evaluator Framework (High Level)

- 1.1 **Project Relevance Modernisation of HE 2.0 Objectives** (Alignment with call Objectives)
- 1.2 **Quality of Intervention Logic** (Strength of the logframe structure and causal logic)
- 1.3 **Indicators and Measurability (KPIs)** (Alignment with relevant indicators and measurability)
- 1.4 **Feasibility and Risk Management** (Deliverability, compliance, and operational realism)
- 1.5 **Impact and Sustainability** (Long-term value and continuation beyond funding)

Summary (Scoring)

Component	Summary	RAG
1.1	Project Relevance Modernisation of HE 2.0 Objectives (Alignment with call Objectives)	
1.2	Quality of Intervention Logic (Strength of the logframe structure and causal logic)	
1.3	Indicators and Measurability (Alignment with relevant indicators and measurability)	
1.4	Feasibility and Risk Management (Deliverability, compliance, and operational realism)	
1.5	Impact and Sustainability (Long-term value and continuation beyond funding)	

Overall – what is expected by Evaluators

Evaluators expect strong relevance, coherent intervention logic, measurable indicators, feasible implementation, and credible sustainability.

Proposals should demonstrate

- Evidence-based problem definition
- Aligned objectives and outcomes
- SMART indicators
- Robust planning and risk management
- Effective partnerships
- Clear long-term impact, scalability
- Integration into higher education systems, policies, and practice beyond funding.
- Sustainability

What Factors are going to be considered?



HIGH LEVEL THEMES



DETAILED DISCUSSION

1.1 Project Relevance Modernisation of HE 2.0 Objectives (Alignment with call Objectives)

Evaluators expect clearly articulated problems grounded in evidence, strong alignment with national and European strategies, and SMART objectives.

Proposals should demonstrate

- Stakeholder-informed analysis,
- Integration of competence-based and flexible learning approaches, and
- Clear contributions to employability, inclusion, regional needs, and
- Measurable higher education modernisation and system-level impact.

1.1 Project Relevance Modernisation of HE 2.0 Objectives (Alignment with call Objectives)

1. Problem linked to Bulgarian HE challenges (e.g., skills mismatch, participation in lifelong learning, regional)
2. Evidence from national statistics, Programme Education 2021–2027, employer data, CEDEFOP, NSI Bulgaria
3. Alignment with improving HE quality, responsiveness to labour market needs, and regional economic priorities (e.g., smart specialisation sectors)
4. Integration of competence-based education, aligned with digital (DigComp) and/or green skills, micro credentials, flexible learning pathways
5. SMART objectives directly supporting HE modernisation, innovation, and system-level improvement
6. Engagement with priority groups (e.g., students, academic staff, researchers, lifelong learners, disadvantaged groups, regional populations)
7. Robust analysis using data, stakeholder consultation (employers, HEIs), regional needs, skills forecasts
8. Explicit alignment with Bulgarian Policies - Programme for Education 2021 – 2027, Bulgarian 2030 Strategy, European Skills Agenda, Digital Education Plan
9. Contribution to graduate employability, upskilling/reskilling, addressing skills shortages, including links to priority sectors
10. Aligned with Modernisation of HE 2.0 objectives, including: • Curriculum modernisation; • Digitalisation; • Competence-based learning;

1.2 Quality of Intervention Logic (Strength of the logframe structure and causal logic)

Evaluators expect a coherent, complete logframe with clear causal links from inputs to impact, aligned objectives, and measurable indicators.

Proposals should demonstrate

- Well-designed activities
- Strong alignment between outputs and outcomes
- Co-ordinated partnerships
- Realistic timelines and resources
- Integrated risks and assumptions,
- Internal consistency
- Credible contribution to higher education reform.

1.2 Quality of Intervention Logic (Strength of the logframe structure and causal logic)

1. Complete logframe showing causal chain from inputs to impact, aligned with HE modernisation
2. Alignment between objectives, outputs, outcomes, and impact, supporting HE reform and system change
3. **Activities designed** to produce specific, measurable outputs (e.g., **curricula, digital tools, staff training**)
4. **Defined outcomes** (e.g., improved teaching quality, digital capacity, employability)
5. Priorities (quality, skills, inclusion, labour market relevance) **Outcomes aligned with Programme Education 2021–2027**
6. **Logframe with no gaps**, including assumptions, risks, and indicators
7. **Structured work packages** aligned to call requirements, each contributing to outputs/outcomes
8. **Strong coherence across HEIs** with shared logic, aligned methodologies, and coordinated implementation
9. Clearly defined, **complementary roles with logical integration across partners** (HEIs, employers, stakeholders)
10. Realistic, feasible, internally consistent design with **credible timelines, resources, and risk mitigation**

1.3 Indicators and Measurability (Alignment with relevant indicators and measurability)

Evaluators expect clearly defined, SMART indicators aligned with ESF+ and call requirements, supported by baselines, targets, and verification methods.

Proposals should demonstrate

- Coherent mapping from activities to outcomes
- KPI's addressed (HEI X 3)
- Robust data collection plans
- Disaggregated indicators (sub-categories)
- Credible monitoring systems ensuring continuous evaluation,
- Accountability, and measurable impact aligned with national and sector benchmarks.

1.3 Indicators and Measurability (Alignment with relevant indicators and measurability)

1. Clear, **complete set of output and result indicators** aligned (e.g., participants, qualifications, progression)
2. Full **alignment with the Three KPI's for each HEI** in the Logframe Matrix (**Bachelor and Masters Programmes expansion with competency Profile; 50% current assessment; system for independent learning**) clearly mapped (SMART)
3. Full **alignment with societal call indicators** (e.g., participants, mobility, qualifications, skills acquisition) clearly mapped (SMART)
4. **Clear baseline values provided** or justified using national/sector data (e.g. institutional data)
5. Realistic, **evidence-based targets** aligned with project scope, duration, and national benchmarks
6. **Mapping of activities** → outputs → indicators → outcomes demonstrating **causal logic**
7. **Credible means of verification** (e.g., institutional systems, surveys, administrative data)
8. Robust, feasible **data collection plan** with tools, responsibilities, and timelines
9. **Indicators disaggregated by relevant categories** (e.g., gender, region, disadvantaged groups, learners/staff)
10. **Continuous monitoring, reporting, and evaluation.**

1.4 Feasibility and Risk Management (Deliverability, compliance, and operational realism)

Evaluators expect clear identification of risks, assumptions, and feasible mitigation strategies, supported by realistic planning and governance.

Proposals should demonstrate

- Credible implementation arrangements,
- Aligned resources and budgets,
- Strong institutional capacity,
- Defined partner roles,
- Transparent coordination mechanisms, ensuring deliverability,
- Compliance with call requirements, and overall operational readiness.

1.4 Feasibility and Risk Management (Deliverability, compliance, and operational realism)

1. Clear, **realistic assumptions identified and linked to risks** and outcomes within the logframe
2. **Comprehensive identification of key risks** (operational, financial, institutional, policy-related)
3. Clear, feasible, and **proportionate risk mitigation strategies** aligned with identified risks
4. Detailed, **realistic implementation plan with clear milestones, sequencing, and deliverables**
5. **Clear allocation of financial and human resources per work package, aligned with outputs**
6. Strong **evidence of institutional and administrative capacity** (project management, financial control, ESF+ experience)
7. Clearly **defined, complementary roles with effective coordination mechanisms** across partners and workpackages
8. Transparent, detailed **budget clearly linked to activities**, outputs, and cost categories (ESF+ compliance)
9. **Robust governance** with clear decision-making structures, reporting lines, and partner coordination mechanisms
10. **Credible delivery model**, risk awareness, and operational readiness

1.5 Impact and Sustainability (Long-term value and continuation beyond funding)

Evaluators expect clear evidence of long-term impact, sustainability, and value beyond funding, with realistic assumptions and risk awareness.

Proposals should demonstrate

- Durable outcomes,
- Institutional embedding,
- Scalability, and continued benefits for stakeholders,
- Credible plans for continuation,
- Resource alignment, and
- Integration into policies, systems, and practices within higher education.

1.5 Impact and Sustainability (Long-term value and continuation beyond funding)

1. **Credible long-term impact aligned with HE modernisation**, skills development, and national priorities
2. **Evidence-based contribution** to employability, upskilling/reskilling, and labour market needs
3. **Contribution to system-level reform** (e.g., curriculum reform, new models of delivery, governance improvements)
4. **Credible sustainability mechanisms** (e.g., institutional embedding, policy alignment, continued delivery models)
5. Potential, **diversified future funding sources identified** (e.g., institutional budgets, national funding, private sector, EU programmes) *or at least considered*.
6. **Sustainability**, evidence that results and activities will continue (e.g., embedded programmes, institutional adoption)
7. **Outputs designed to be reusable, transferable, and scalable** across institutions and regions
8. **Embedded institutional transformation** (e.g., new curricula, teaching methods, governance structures)
9. Strong **potential for replication across Bulgarian HEIs** and alignment with national reform agendas
10. **Contribution to internationalisation**, partnerships, mobility, and attractiveness of Bulgarian HE

Final Comment

Project and work packages must not only be compliant, but they also must be coherent, measurable, and impactful.

Good Luck

Next session, we will look at how you might address each of the sections and what may be included namely:

Application - Specific

Thematic Area	
1	General Objectives
2	Participating Organisations
3	Challenges
4	Solutions/Decision
5	Activities
6	Target Groups
7	Project Plan
8	Management
9	Financial Resources
10	Key Performance Indicators

Realism – Evaluators Considerations (Risks)

- Be Clear, Aligned interventions with outputs, system impact and sustainability

COFFEE

- *Time to Collaborate*
- *Share Experiences*
- *Share Ideas*

