Ten steps for designing new degree programmes or improving existing ones

1. **Is there a need?** Determine, consulting stakeholders, whether there is really a need for the proposed course of study.

2. **Define the profile and the key competences.** Find out what competences are actually useful for employment, personal culture and citizenship (see inside this guide for a list).

3. **Define the learning outcomes indicating the most important competences (choose around 10 key competences with reference to the cycle level indicators; see inside this guide).**

4. **Decide whether to ‘modularise’** (course units can be of a random number of ECTS credits, or else of a set number, e.g. 5, hence “modularised”).

5. **Define the learning outcomes and the key competences in each module or course unit (the lists of competences inside this guide will help).**

6. **See how those competences can best be formed and assessed,** using a variety of approaches to learning, teaching and assessment.

7. **Check that all the key generic and subject specific competences have been taken into account.**

8. **Describe the programme and the course units,** indicating the learning outcomes in terms of competences.

9. **Check for balance.**

10. **Implement, monitor and improve.**
**Subject Specific competences for Economics degree programmes:**

1. Ability to analyze and synthesize economic processes
2. Ability to use the bases of the natural and economic sciences to form a working professional knowledge
3. Ability to understand and implement innovative and creative ideas in the economic sphere
4. Leadership skills to govern economic processes
5. Ability to scrutinize and analyze problems of ecological economy
6. Ability to understand and encourage the social responsibility of businesses, and public-private partnerships (PPP)
7. Ability to utilize modern information technology in economics
8. Ability to carry out economic calculations as appropriate in different stages of producing goods and services
9. Ability to apply skills and knowledge with respect to state and international taxation systems
10. Ability to analyze and elaborate statistical information
11. Ability to use economic planning and forecasting skills
12. Ability to diagnose the economic condition of the enterprise, to identify problems and to work out solutions
13. Knowledge of and compliance with ethical standards in economics and business
14. Ability to execute economically effective management of human resources: planning, organizing, and regulating the workplace
15. Ability to use the enterprise's economic resources rationally
16. Ability to apply knowledge and skills to identifying connections between micro and macro economies, understand economic cycles, and problem solving
17. Ability to demonstrate cognitive and technical skills that denote broad understanding and knowledge of economics
18. Ability to develop economic models, to produce and apply economic proposals
19. Ability to compare and connect different economic circumstances, to think globally and act locally

To build an effective educational process various teaching methods have been adopted and are updated every year in accordance with transformational changes in the educational systems of the Central Asian countries. The Central Asian countries have similar approaches to learning, teaching and assessment. Generalized examples of organizing the process of learning, teaching and assessment, applied in all countries of Central Asia, have been selected.

Generally, they can be summarised in the following steps:

- analysis of the academic, organizational and financial, as well as the logical, sequence of the educational process
- identification of needs (employees, mission of the higher educational institution, the level of market development, etc.)
- formation of a training programme
- determination of learning outcomes (general and specific competences)
- development of the educational process (content, structure, credits, level, etc.)
- development of appropriate learning methods
- definition of appropriate methods for assessing the level of knowledge, examinations and evaluation methods

**As an example, for Bachelor Training:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Competence</th>
<th>Learning</th>
<th>Teaching</th>
<th>Evaluation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ability to use logical and critical thinking to solve problems</td>
<td>Self-study, business games, technical software, case studies</td>
<td>Lectures, workshops, training for logical and critical thinking</td>
<td>Logical tests, essays</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ability to use innovations</td>
<td>Self-study, the use of technical resources (internet, intranet), role-playing, case studies</td>
<td>Lectures, consultation with an expert (practicals), development of case studies, business games</td>
<td>Using the MAP system (Managing and appraisal of performance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to analyze and synthesize the economic process</td>
<td>Self-study: the use of basic knowledge for the development of professional skills, the use of Internet resources, intranet, business games, the use of case studies for understanding economic cycles and problem-solving</td>
<td>Lectures, consultations with co-teaching with an expert (practicals), the development of case studies, business games</td>
<td>Using the MAP system (Managing and appraisal of performance)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to apply knowledge and skills to identify links between micro and macro-economics, to understand business cycles and solve problems</td>
<td>Study of multimedia, development of Internet education</td>
<td>Lectures, training in small groups</td>
<td>Testing, problem solving, organization of independent work of students</td>
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