

---

Meeting, is held within framework of chairmanship of Azerbaijan Republic for may-november months of 2014 in The Committee of Ministers of European Council.

High level representatives of Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Russia and Ukrainian Education Ministries, also European Council and European Union took part in the event.

According to the agenda, discussion of the issues on determination of existing problems and settlement ways of these problems, implementation of European Single Education Space Conception in mentioned countries, are envisaged in the meeting.

Making a speech in the opening ceremony of meeting, Mikayil Jabbarov, the minister of education informed event's participants about education reforms implemented in our country within framework of "State Strategy on development of education in Azerbaijan Republic" and process on implementation of European Single Education Space Conception after joining in Bologna process in 2005. The minister stated that, education system of country is open and democratic that refuse traditional administrative management at the same time, is directed on the requirements of labor market, also appropriates skills to apply obtained skills in real life. As a result of social-economical and political reforms implemented under administration of President Ilhami Aliyev, Azerbaijan joined in the list of the countries who are rapidly developing, now Azerbaijan kept the 39th place among 148 countries, 1st place among membership countries to CIS in global competitive rate in the report of World Economical Forum for 2012-2013-2014. Our country kept place from 101th for 2008 to 76th for 2013 among 187 countries according to Human Development Index in the report "About human development" of UN. In addition, Azerbaijan joined in the group of highly developed countries on human potential.

To maintain and strengthen economical development depend on human capital formed by him and quality of education system. It's fact that, one of documents signed by our President after election for the second time, was "State Strategy on development of education in Azerbaijan Republic". Integration of national higher education system in European education environment and deepen of structural reforms in the higher education institutions, are focused in this document.

Mikayil Jabbarov, introduced event's participants with the changes taking place in education system of Azerbaijan. The minister stated that, number of the first years' students of the universities grew up 30 percent, passage to per capita financing mechanism was completed, issue on accreditation of higher education and establishment of quality control body started. Principles of European Credit Transfer System had already been applied in the universities of country. National student credits and grants system will start during this year. Mentioning fact on increase of education opportunities in abroad, the minister stressed durability of state program implemented on this sphere.

In addition, system's transformation puts new requirements before university's rectors. Rapid application of transparency principles in decision making, involvement of all interested parties in universities' activity, formation of report culture and corporate management, are among important factors that ensure development opportunities.

Talking about joint collaboration opportunities on the sphere of education, Mikayil Jabbarov also explained foreign factors that prevent integration of regional higher education institutions. The minister pointed that, occupation of some part of Azerbaijan territories prevented implementation of joint projects related to education among the universities practically.

Mikayil Jabbarov stated that, this meeting will open favourable conditions for discussion of actual problems related to further development of education in the region countries and positive impact to development of Bologna process.

Finally, the minister expressed his gratitude to World Bank, European Union and other bilateral partners according to support made in implementation of several projects and reforms on the sphere of higher education.