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## Summary

# Quality development of higher education

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Quality development of higher education is a rather general concept with connotations of intensive engagement with a range of processes that could contribute to such development or to the direction of higher education quality. In order to address this issue, we need to start with the strategy of education development policy which, however declarative it may be or precisely because of that quality, leaves room for flexible possibilities of including a range of factors in further development. As the priority of educational policy is professional development, particularly of teachers in all segments of education, a quality application of appropriate contents is to be expected along the lines of (not exclusively) international influences and insights.

In this sense, it is appropriate to give more attention to securing an institutional autonomy of the university, which might ensure and encourage regional development of higher education as an alternative to university tradition, its inflexible structure and inadequate strategy. Such an alternative would support local development and thus also the employment of young people. Continual professional development and its improvement imply a tendency towards a development of human potential and an application of methods of incentives. A particularly interesting incentive can be seen in form of European funds for improvement of various areas, especially those allocated to education. The incentives will surely be supported by Croatian agencies.

The core values discussed in this paper refer to the development and encouragement of educational, personal and social competencies that, when adopted, provide an initial common value that is subject to evaluation. Another value resulting from this is a qualification framework that encompasses the achieved qualification structure, providing a record of the achieved. In this instance, the European orientation (European national framework), allowing the freedom to follow national interests, has also served as the basis.

**Keywords:** outcomes, quality, competencies, human potential, national qualification framework, standards, strategy.