

# CONCEPT

## Higher Education and Research in the Post-COVID Period

### International Webinar

19 April 2021, 14:00-16:00 (*Baku time*)

#### *Background*

The sudden spread of the COVID-19 pandemic worldwide has caught all by surprise and its dramatic impact can be felt across all sectors, including the higher education institutions. The lasting impact of the pandemic and its effect on their institutions is reshaping higher education, laying emphasis on the future of higher education institutions, which lies in information technology and inclusive distance learning, accelerating trends toward new academic modalities, institutional strategy and operations.

In response to the unexpected global shift to online learning, universities and research institutions have been grappling with multiple issues that are critical to ensuring their viability and sustainability. Many questions remain open. One of the essential questions is how universities can use what they have learned during the pandemic to overcome the current limitations in education and sustain the delivery of academic services in the post-COVID period.

#### *Purpose*

The post-pandemic context provides the most appropriate environment to reconsider past practices that have influenced the nature and modalities of global, regional and national academic performance and multidisciplinary research. An international webinar entitled “Higher Education and Research in the Post-COVID period” co-hosted by the Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan, Baku Higher Oil School (BHOS) and BSUN aims to offer a platform for exchange of experiences and a dialogue on the change of paradigms and mindsets, and emerging innovation opportunities in order to facilitate deliberations on formulating recommendations that would support universities as a forefront of the transformative change and how they should plan for a sustainable, inclusive and inherently more hybridized higher education.

Given below are the proposed questions to be addressed during online discussion:

- What kind of innovations have been applied by your institution during the pandemic and how they will be used further during the post-COVID period?
- How are you planning to build resilience, safety and security in your university in the post-COVID period?
- How should higher education services further react to the challenges imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic?
- What, in your view, should the recommendations on transformed learning and e-learning solutions reflect?

#### *Participants*

The international webinar will bring together representatives from the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan, BSUN member-universities, non-BSUN member universities, research institutions and other stakeholders.