



Tempus

# **Sustainability Actions to Support Restructuring, Rationalization, and Modernization of Higher Education in Moldova**



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# Outline

- **Today's conference outputs**
- **Our journey**
- **Highlight briefly our recommendations**
- **Questions/issues related to sustainability actions**

# Today's outputs

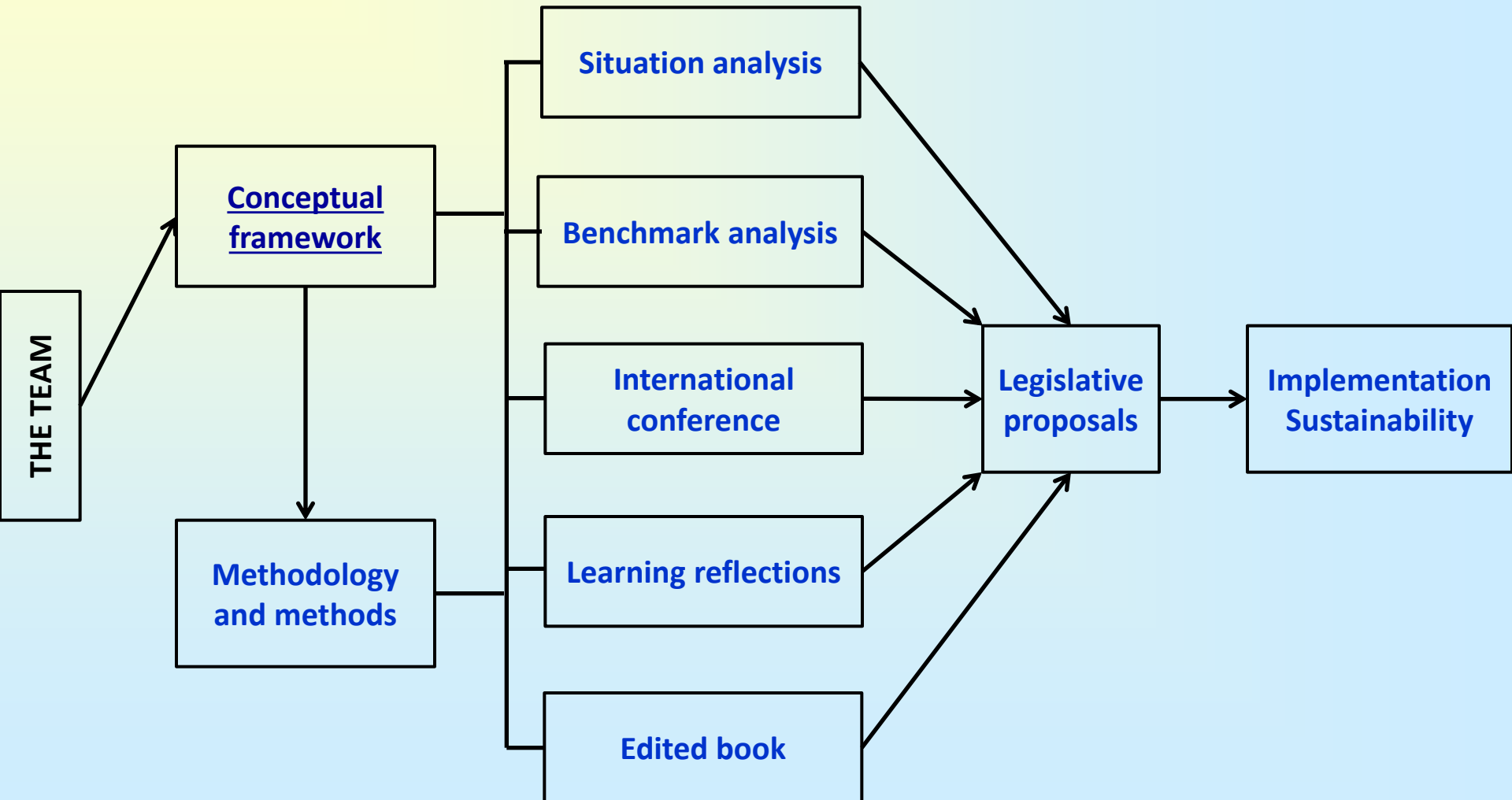
- **Develop a set of recommendations that would assist the Minister in the process of restructuring, rationalization and modernization of higher education in Moldova**
- **Your recommendations, comments, feedback are highly welcome and we would appreciate very much your active participation.**
- **Identify/learn about available instruments international donor and development organizations have or might have that could be made available to the Minister to support the process**

# Our journey

- **When Christopher Columbus went to Queen Isabella to ask for support for his "*exploration*" of the New World, he had to have some reasons/rationale for asking for:**
  - **Three ships (Why not two? Why not five?)**
  - **Going westward (Why not south? Why not south and then east?)**
  - **Recognizing the Indies (though based on mistaken initial criteria)**



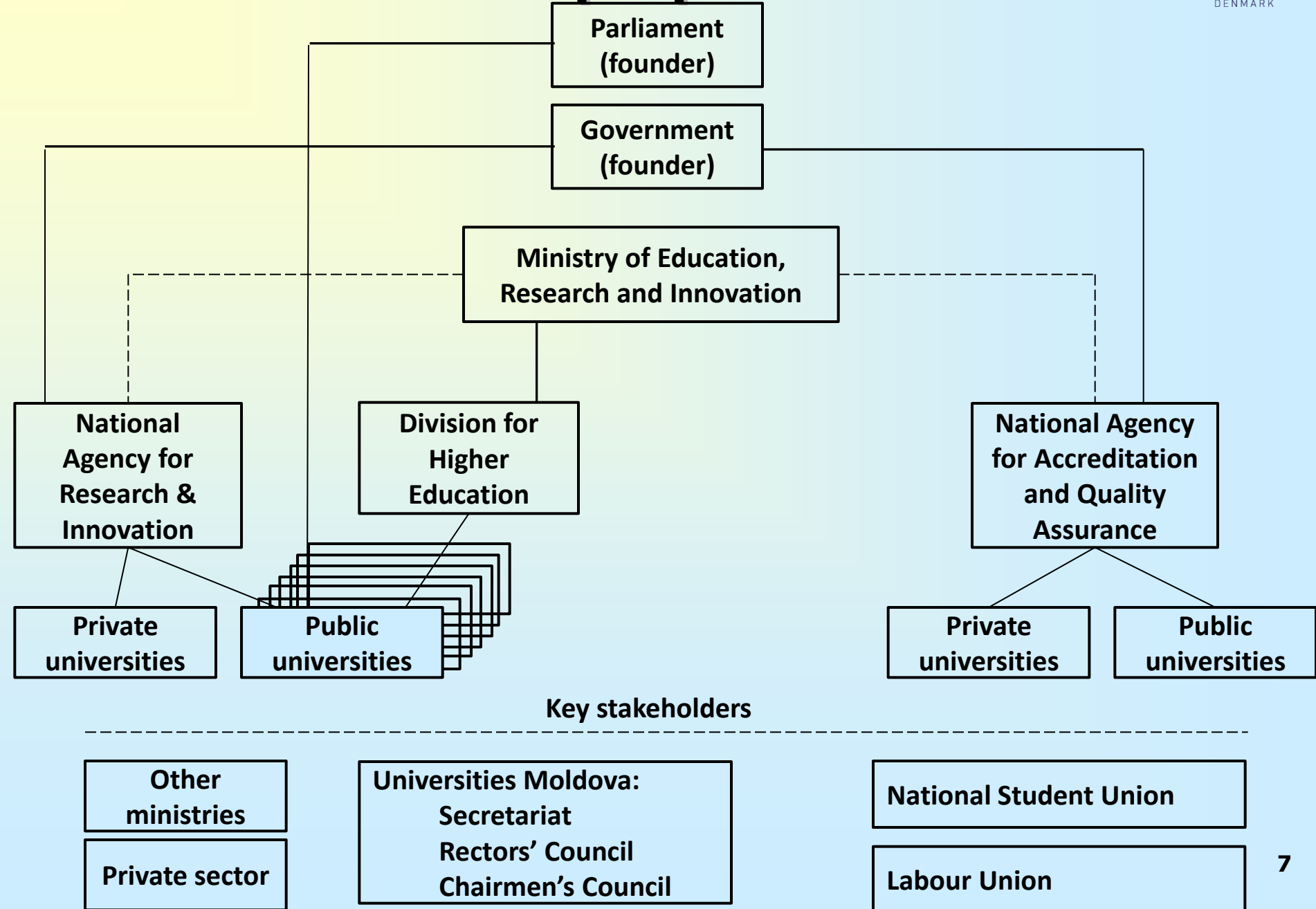
# Our journey (cont'd)



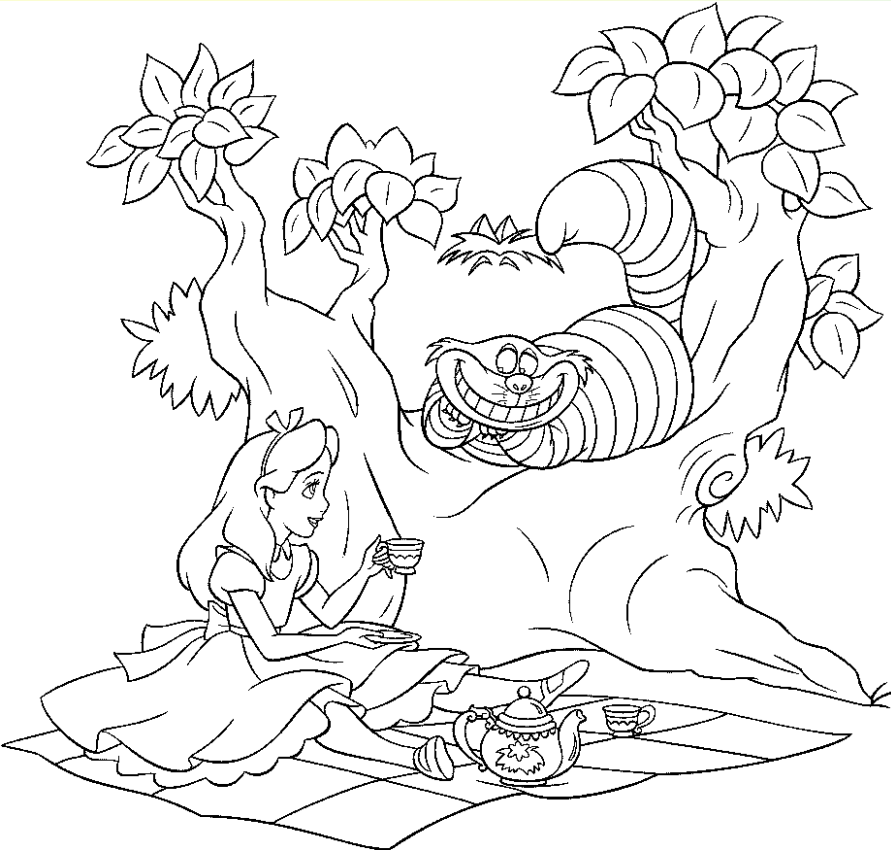
# Conceptual Framework

	Academic Autonomy	Financial Autonomy	Organization Autonomy	Staffing Autonomy
Government- University				
University -Staff				
Staff- Students				
University- Internationalization				
University- Business				

# Our proposals



# Where to go from here?



***Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here? asked Alice.***

***That depends a good deal on where you want to get to, said the Cat. I don't much care where..., said Alice.***

***Then it doesn't matter which way you go, said the Cat.***



# Where to go from here?

## (cont'd)

- **Universities started private talks to discuss possible mergers**
- **Prospect students advise each other not to go to those that will be acquired**



# Sustainability actions

- **What kind of support is there from international donors and development organizations?**
  - **WB, EU delegation, ERASMUS+, Embassies**
  - **BUT, the outputs of the rationalization process MUST be made explicit**
- **How to involve external members from the strategic councils to support the rectors to implement the rationalization/mergers?**
  - **Training for new university governing body on issues of university autonomy and HE optimization through new projects via Technical Assistance Mission, in collaboration with the HEREs team**
  - **BUT, it is essential that changes are made in the Code of Education to allow for the creation of real Governing Bodies**

# **Sustainability actions**

## **(cont'd)**

- **EUniAM Lead Task Force team to become an advisory body to:**
  - **the Department for Higher Education**
  - **the Rectors Council**
  - **the Ministry of Finance**
  - **The Agency for Research and Innovation**
  - **The Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation**
  - **To international donor and development organizations**
- **By the end of today's event, I hope we could generate more ideas**

# Urgency of the Matter

- **January/February 2016 to start the rationalization process**
- **HEIs move forward with new coming ERASMUS+ project on modernizing study programs and curricula at 6 universities**

# Critical Success Factors

- It is critical there is a **continuous commitment** and **fruitful collaboration** between all project partners and national stakeholders during the EUniAM project and beyond.
- It is pivotal a **holistic approach** to university autonomy development is taken, recognizing that each type of university autonomy is necessary, but separately – not sufficient.
- **Active direct participation** of all key stakeholders to public hearings on projects deliverables is indispensable to the success of the EUniAM project.
- Stakeholders' **confidence in expertise and commitment** of the EUniAM project team will also contribute tremendously to the success of the project.
- **Endurance** and **agility** are the two properties of the emergent university autonomy framework – properties that ought to be part of the mind-set of all project members and stakeholders involved.
- Last, but not least, **patience** and **hard work** are virtues everyone involved in the EUniAM project can not afford not to pursue.