

Outcomes of the 1st cycle of institutional reaccreditation in Croatia and future plans

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agency for science and higher education croatia

ENQA

eqar



- Croatian HE system
- ASHE establishment, role and activities
- ASHE accreditation – past and current activities
- ASHE accreditation – plans for future activities

Croatian HE system



QA in Croatian HE system – **responsibility of a single public agency** – Agency for Science and Higher Education



- **10** universities (8 public and 2 private)
- **15** polytechnics (11 public and 4 private)
- **25** colleges (3 public, 22 private)
- 180,000 students



Croatian QA Agency (ASHE)



- 2005 – establishment of ASHE; development of QA model in line with the *Standards and Guidelines for QA in the European Higher Education Area (ESG)* using best international practices
- 2011 – external evaluation of ASHE – ENQA/EQAR membership/full compliance with ESG
- INQAAHE full membership
- 2017 – renewal of ENQA/EQAR membership





1. Quality Assurance activities in HE and science
2. Collecting and analyzing data on the systems of science and higher education
3. National ENIC/NARIC Office
4. Central Applications Office
5. Support to various national bodies
6. International cooperation

ASHE accreditation – past and current activities



2005-2009

Accreditation of all study programmes (1200) adjusted to Bologna principles (3+2+3 scheme and ECTS system)

2009-2016

Re-accreditation of all HEIs (130) – FIRST CYCLE

Initial accreditation of new HEIs (1) and programmes (50)

2016/2017

Re-accreditation of all PhD studies (130)



Re-accreditation of HEIs in the first cycle



- Mandatory for all public and private HEIs in five-year cycles (130 HEIs in the last 5 years)
- In line with the ESG 2005
- Scope: minimal criteria (*accountability*) and quality grade with recommendations for improvement (*enhancement*)
- Model: combined (institutional and programme) evaluation





130 accreditation recommendations:

- accreditation granted to **76** HEIs
- letter of expectation issued to **51** HEIs
- accreditation denied to **3** HEIs and **25** study programmes

+ *recommendations for improvements*

(action plans and reports on improvements)

+ *publication of all reports (full and summary)*

Recommendations for quality improvement



- Strategic documents/HEI management
- Internal quality assurance mechanisms
- Learning outcomes, ECTS credits
- Student internship
- Graduate employability tracking
- Revising enrolment quotas
- Teacher/student ratio
- Courses delivered by teachers employed at HEIs
- Mobility and international cooperation
- Scientific productivity.



A review of the carried out re-accreditation of HEIs



- Strengths/weaknesses
- Feedback from HEIs and expert panel members (surveys)
- Survey on the impact of external evaluation procedures on higher education.



Re-accreditation of HEIs in the second cycle



Major changes in the new re-accreditation model:

- Quality standards adjusted to new ESG, esp. regarding **ESG 1.2** (*learning outcomes and connection to CQF*), **ESG 1.3** (*student-centred learning, teaching and assessment*) and **ESG 1.5** (*competencies and professional development of teachers / staff*)
- Emphasis on improvements based on recommendations from the 1st cycle
- Shift from *inputs* to *outputs*
- Smaller number of standards; standard descriptions, indicators and evidence examples included
- Quantitative standards included in the quality grade
- Introduction of 'key standards'
- Improved IT system for the input of quantitative data (MOZVAG)
- Improved assessment / decision making based on assessment
- Revised re-accreditation procedure
- Planned pilot procedure at 7 HEIs
- Training



ASHE accreditation – plans for future activities



2017 – 2023

Re-accreditation of all HEIs (130) – SECOND CYCLE

- **Mandatory** for all private and public HEIs
- In line with ESG 2015
- Model: **institutional re-accreditation** (outcomes on the level of institutions)

Evaluation of study programmes

- **Voluntary**
- Checking of compliance with CROQF qualification standards
- Model: **programme re-accreditation** (outcomes on the level of programmes)
- Outcome: enrolment of programme into CROQF Register (*'quality brand'*)

Initial accreditation of new HEIs and programmes



Thank you

