CEENQA Bi-Monthly Meeting
January 2022.

Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance of Bosnia and Herzegovina (HEA)

Benjamin Muhamedbegović
assistant director for QA
The legal framework for QA in BiH:

2. Laws and bylaws documents of the Agency (HEA BiH) aligned with ESG.
3. Documents of Competent Educational Authorities in BiH (CEAs) aligned with FHLE and HEA documents.

12 CEAs
vertical shared responsibilities between HEA and CEAs
Organisational structure

- 35 jobs is predicted by the Rulebook.
- currently: 17 staff (8 civil servants and 6 employees + director and 2 deputies)
Main activities of HEA

Main activities defined by Framework Law on HE in BiH:

• Adopting criteria for accreditation HEIs and SPs
• Adopting decision on norms of minimum standards in higher education in BiH
• Selection of experts for accreditation HEIs and SPs
• Training of experts for accreditation HEIs and SPs
• Appointment of committees of experts
• Issuing recommendations on accreditation
• The rating compliance decision on the accreditation and entering of HEIs in the State Register of accredited HEIs in BiH
• Giving advice and information to stakeholders
• Setting quality standards, quality analyses, give recommendations for removal of shortcomings in the quality of studies and HEIs;
• Represent BiH in international organisations for quality in higher education;
• Giving advice on work and development policy to the CEAs
The jurisdiction of the SB of the Agency is determined by the Statue of the Agency in detail:

a) adopts the Statute of the Agency and submits it for approval to the Council of Ministers of BiH;

b) approves the regulations proposed by the Agency of its competence in the development of higher education and quality assurance, as defined in Articles 6 and 7 of this Statute;

c) ensures that the Agency's work shall be in accordance with the responsibilities set out in the FLHE in BiH;

d) ensures that the Agency's work shall be in accordance with the policy of priorities of the CM and the PA BiH in the reform of higher education in BiH;

e) adopts the Agency Work Program for the period of the next calendar year, no later than 31st January of the current year, which regulates in detail the activities, jobs and funding of the Agency;

f) monitors the implementation of the Agency Work Program;

g) rules on appeals against the decision on annulment of accreditation;

h) determines the types of services provided by the Agency and reimbursement of the amount of compensation for services rendered;

i) before 31st March each year adopts the report on the work of the Agency in the previous year to be submitted to the CM BiH;

j) delivers an annual written report to the PA BiH on its work;

k) performs other duties in accordance with the FLHE and the Statute.
Currently:

- 45 licensed HEIs in BiH (10 public and 35 private) (27 universities and 18 colleges).

- The number of SP at accredited HEIs in BiH is 2109.

- 34 HEIs and 66 study programs are in the State Register of Accredited HEIs BiH.

- 34 higher education institutions on the List of accredited HEIs in BiH (available: http://hea.gov.ba/akreditacija_vsu/Default.aspx)
How to improve current situation in QA in HE in BiH?

3 directions of improvement

- Improving the Legislative Framework (better alignment with ESG 2.2., 2.3. & 2.7.) (Joint working group HEA + SB + CEAs)
- Better harmonization CEAs documents with HEA documents
- System accreditation

International cooperation

Improve the capacity of the List of Experts and the competencies of experts
1. Simplification of the procedure of selection of Experts
2. Trainings of experts (more often F2F or online...)
3. Improve guideline and other instructive documents for experts and also for HEIs to achieve:
   - better preparation Self-evaluation reports
   - better interpretation of criteria for SP accreditation
   - much better quality of Reports of external evaluation.
Thank you for your attention!