Dr. Franci Demšar
Director
September 2020
www.nakvis.si

SLOVENIAN QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Nacionalna agencija Republike Slovenije za kakovost v visokem šolstvu

Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education
Welcome, agenda & background

1. SLOVENIAN HIGHER EDUCATION AREA
2. SQAA and PREDECESSORS
3. OUR WORK
4. APPEALS and COMPLAINTS
SLOVENIAN HIGHER EDUCATION AREA

Higher Education Institutions (HEI)
- 6 universities (3 public + 3 private) and 1 international association of universities (EMUNI)
- 40 independent higher educational institutions (iHEI)
- 951 study programmes
- 65,640 students (2018/19)

Higher Vocational Colleges (HVC):
- 48 higher vocational colleges - 29 state in 19 private
- 32 study programmes
- 10,056 students (2018/19)
(data Ministry of Education, Science and Sport)
Study programmes (ISCED-F 2013)
SQAA and PREDECESSORS

SQAA was established in 2010 as a non-governmental direct budget user and public authorisation holder.

Mission: Development and operation of the quality assurance system in compliance with European QA guidelines.

Predecessors (within the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport):
- 2007 Supporting office of the Council is established.
ORGANISATION OF SQAA

Agency Council (11 members)

Director (19 employees)
- Quality Department
- Department for International Cooperation and Informatization
- Department for Analysis
- General Affairs Department

Appeal Committee (3 members)

cca. 130 trained experts (including students)
Agency Council is the highest decision-making body of the Agency.

3 members nominated by Rectors Conference,
1 member nominated by representative association of independent higher education institutions,
1 member nominated by representative association of higher vocational colleges,
2 members nominated by representative organisation of students in cooperation with the student councils,
1 member nominated by representative unions in the higher education area,
1 member nominated by representative employers' association,
2 members nominated by the Government of the Republic of Slovenia (1 member expert on QA in HE, 1 member working abroad).
AGENCY COUNCIL

- To appoint and dismiss the Director of the Agency and the members of the Appeal Committee and their deputies.
- To set out the procedures and criteria for external evaluations and accreditations, ECTS and other criteria + criteria for external evaluations of higher vocational colleges.
- To decide on accreditations of HEIs and evaluation of a sample of study programs.
- To give its consent to the transformation of HEIs.
- To set out the criteria for entering experts in the register of experts for external evaluations and accreditations.
- To set out the minimum standards for the appointment of higher education teachers, researchers and faculty assistants at higher education institutions.
OUR WORK

A. ACCREDITATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (HEI)
   (every 5 years, HEI includes universities)
B. ACCREDITATION OF STUDY PROGRAMMES (SP)
   (regulated profession)
C. ACCREDITATION OF TRANSFORMATIONS OF HEI
   (transform. to another type, mergers, locations, dislocated units, ...)
D. EVALUATION OF A SAMPLE OF SP
   (advisory function, approx. 20 per year, first time in 2019)
E. EVALUATIONS in case of detected irregularities
F. EVALUATIONS OF HIGHER VOCATIONAL COLLEGES (HVC)
   (every 5 years, accreditation by Ministry of Education, Science and Sport)
G. LEGISLATION and REGULATIONS
H. ANALYSIS
Information system

- Applications modul
- Full database being developed in cooperation with HEIs and the Ministry
Regular updates on procedures and legislation questions

**WEB PAGE**

- Updating the timeline of every pending procedures (1 per week)

- Publishing expert reports and final decisions (positive and negative) on SQAA web page and in DEQAR.

- Publishing the official interpretations of:
  1. the Higher Education Act by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport
  2. the Criteria for Accreditation and External Evaluation by the Council.
STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVEMENT

Communication plan
- Monthly newsletter.
- New web site (updates of all procedures).

HEIs involvement
- Regular informal visits of HEIs.
- Annual meetings specifically for HEIs (current topics f.e. SE reports).
- Annual conferences on broader subjects.
- Additional external members of agency’s self-evaluation group.
- Follow up procedures after sample evaluation.
APPEALS AND COMPLAINTS

Before a decision of the Council:
Complaint against group of experts: possible objections from HEIs. Council may appoint different expert.

After a decision of the Council: Appeal Committee
1. An appeal may be submitted against the decision of the Agency Council in 30 days of its delivery.
2. The Appeal Committee decides on the appeal in three months of the submission of the complete appeal. If the appeal is granted, it is returned to the Council for a new decision.
3. The decision of the appeal committee may be contested by initiating an administrative dispute.
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

SQAA is a full member of:
- CEENQA (2008). Director Franci Demšar is the president.
- ECA (2009). Klemen Šubic is ECA board member.
- INQAAHE (2014).

Cooperation between agencies:
- EIQAS, EUniQ, DEQAR.
- Strengthening the relationships in the neighbouring area (Croatia, Serbia, BiH, Austria, ...).
- Job shadowing with YÖDAK (CEENQA project).
- ECBE.
Thank you for your attention.

Dr. Franci Demšar
Director

September 2020

www.nakvis.si