Agenda

- Higher Education System
- Law on Quality Assurance in Higher Education
- Agency (establishment, international cooperation, procedures)
Bosnia and Herzegovina is a complex administration country.

Republic of Srpska is an entity within B&H with jurisdiction in all education levels.
Higher Education System

Higher Education Institutions in Republic of Srpska

20

- 4 public HEI’s
- 16 private HEI’s
Total number of study programs on universities (first cycle):

- 152 on public universities
- 166 on private universities

Total number of study programs on colleges (first cycle):

- 11 on public colleges
- 70 on private colleges
Higher Education System

Total number of study programs on HEI’s (second cycle)
- 227
  - 145 on public HEI’s
  - 82 on private HEI’s

Total number of study programs on HEI’s (third cycle)
- 28
  - 24 on public HEI’s
  - 4 on private HEI’s
Higher Education System

Total number of enrolled students in 2019/2020:

26,980

Total number of graduated students in 2019:

4,144

Total number of enrolled students on second and third cycle in 2019/2020:

2,460

- 2,295 Second cycle
- 165 Third cycle
Higher Education System

- Total number of promoted Masters of science in 2019: 466
- Total number of promoted Doctors of science in 2019: 42
- Total number of professors and associates in 2019/2020: 2,795
Law on Quality Assurance in Higher Education

- Entered into force July 2020
- Agency is transformed in Agency for Higher Education
- Obtained new jurisdictions – external evaluation for initial accreditation and recognition of foreign qualifications
Most important improvements:

- Independance of the Agency
- Director appointment and reporting by/to National Assembly
- Committee for Complaints and Appeals
Most important improvements:

- New Quality Assurance mechanisms (thematic evaluation and audit)
- More stakeholders in Steering Board and Accreditation Council
Agency for Higher Education

- Established in 2011
- Currently at the end of second cycle of accreditation
- First cycle started in 2012 – institutions only
- Second cycle started in 2018 – institutions and study programs (so far six HEI’S and 55 study programs – in process 4 HEI’s and 24 study programs)
RS HEAA is an institution that fosters quality culture in higher education of Republic of Srpska. For us, the quality is dialogue and development oriented process.

RS HEAA is committed to the principles of the European Higher Education Area and has an active role in European and world’s quality assurance networks.

RS HEAA continuously follows and analyses trends and scientific research in higher education, applying them in its own processes thus creating a holistic approach towards improving the quality of higher education institutions and study programs as a whole.

RS HEAA is committed to partnering with higher education institutions, through professional support in improving quality in science and education and through joint projects.
RS HEAA is committed to partnering with students thus encouraging them to actively engage in the creation of student-centred learning, teaching and assessment processes.

RS HEAA affirms conduct based on professionalism and respect, with both, its employees and other participants in quality assurance processes. We renounce all forms of discrimination and intolerance.

RS HEAA bases its activities on reliability and openness and makes available all relevant information, from the scope of its work, to the higher education system.

In the accreditation process, RS HEAA applies verification methods based on modern methodologies for quality assurance. Special attention is paid to the independence of the accreditation processes and objectivity of the accreditation outcomes.
International Cooperation

- Full member of CEENQA
- Full member of INQAAHE
- Affiliate member of ENQA

Cooperation agreements with several agencies (NAA, NAQA, ACPUA, ACQAHE...)

Involvement in projects
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE AGENCY
Steering Board and Accreditation Council

STEERING BOARD
Five members: three from academic community, one from labour market and one student

ACCREDITATION COUNCIL
Five members: two from academic community, two from abroad and one student
adopts the Statute of the Agency, with the previously obtained consent of the founder,
adopts other acts in accordance with the law and the Statute of the Agency,
adopts the reports submitted by the director in accordance with the law,
adopts the annual work plan and financial plan of the Agency,
adopts the Work Report and the Financial Report of the Agency,
proposes standards for the initial accreditation of higher education institutions and study programs in the Republic,
proposes standards for accreditation of higher education institutions and study programs in the Republic
adopts the List of Experts for Quality Assessment and Audit and makes recommendations on accreditation of higher education institutions, i.e. study programs in accordance with the law,
adopts the List of reviewers for initial accreditation and for review of study programs,
appoints members of the Accreditation Council,
issues an act prescribing the amount of fees for conducting external evaluations,
adopts the Rulebook on internal quality assurance of the Agency's work,
decides on appeals and objections of higher education institutions to the decision on accreditation of higher education institutions based on the opinion of the Committee on Appeals and Complaints,
appoints members of the Appeals and Complaints Committee.
Reviews external evaluation reports,
issues a conclusion on the compliance, ie non-compliance of the external evaluation procedure with the standards, criteria and law, which it submits to the Director of the Agency,
selects and proposes to the director the composition of commissions of experts and reviewers on the basis of a preliminary proposal of the accreditation coordinator,
considers and proposes to the Agency acts related to the establishment of the internal quality assurance system of the Agency and
makes recommendations for improving the work of the Agency.
Committee for Complaints and Appeals

- considers the complaints of higher education institutions submitted during the external evaluation procedure
- considers the appeals and shall issue an opinion on the basis of which the Steering Board shall issue a final decision against which an administrative dispute may be initiated
Procedures for accreditation

- Application
- Study programs reviews
- Appointment of the panel
- On-site visit
- Report
- Decision on accreditation
- Follow-up activities
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Thank you for your attention!