



## Higher Education Policy as it applies to EIE programmes in Slovenia

This document applies only to education at Level 6 and above of the European Qualifications Framework. All terms used in this document have the meaning specific for Slovenia and may have different meaning when used in any other country.

### Overview of Quality Assurance

The Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education [1] shall assess compliance with the conditions for the accreditation of higher education institutions and study programmes. They comply with the quality assurance standards and guidelines that apply in the European Higher Education Area.

The main duties of the Agency shall be to establish whether higher education institutions observe the provisions of the legislation from the field of higher education [2], and other regulations of the Agency, and to assess the quality system of higher education institutions.

Accreditations in higher education are as follows:

- initial accreditation of a higher education institution or study programme;
- re-accreditation of a higher education institution or study programme;

### External Evaluation

External evaluation is the process of complete assessment of the performance of a higher education institution or the provision of study programmes. In particular, progress and development since the last accreditation in all areas of assessment shall be assessed, primarily the internal quality system of the higher education institution.

The basis to assess progress and development shall be the self-evaluation report of the higher education institution, which shows that the institution monitors its performance in all areas of assessment referred to the exact criteria.

### New programme creation

In the process of new programme creation it is necessary to follow the criteria for evaluation:

1. The decision of the senate of the university or independent higher education institution on the proposed study programme;
2. Syllabuses;
3. At least three foreign recognised or accredited study programmes from different countries; in the case of regulated professions, a comparison with the provisions from the relevant European Union directives or proof of conformity, above all with regard to the prescribed



number of hours, the contents of the programme and the knowledge or skills acquired through both theoretical and practical education;

4. Proofs on higher education teachers, researchers and associates: proofs of valid election to titles for all lecturers (or of initiation of the procedure for re-election or subsequent election) in accordance with the Minimum Standards of the Agency (biographies, bibliographies, projects, patents, publications, awards, etc.), declarations of cooperation, agreements of employers by whom staff are employed;
5. Details of the total highest permissible direct and additional weekly teaching load;
6. International cooperation plan (in the field covered by the study programme);
7. The proofs of the established conditions for scientific, research, artistic or professional work: bibliographic information, a website from which scientific-research projects or programmes, research groups or industrial research are evident;
8. The proofs relating to premises and equipment and a plan for the provision of the study programme;
9. Agreements or contracts with companies or other organisations and mentors therein on practical training of the anticipated number of enrolled students.
10. The quality manual;
11. The self-evaluation report of the institution if it already provides other accredited study programmes.

## **Changes to existing programmes**

A university shall change the compulsory components of study programmes on its own.

A university shall inform the Agency on the changes of the compulsory components of study programmes within 30 days by entering the changes in the electronic form Proposal for Accreditation and attaching the copies of the senate decisions on the adoption of these changes, and shall inform the Agency thereof in writing.

The consent of the Agency Council is not required for minor changes.

The higher education institution shall inform the Agency Council in the case of changes to:

1. the name or address of the higher education institution;
2. the names of courses, and
3. the introduction of new elective courses or the discontinuation of old ones promptly.

The following changes shall be adopted by the higher education institution itself, and groups of experts shall assess them during external evaluation:

1. modernisation of the contents of syllabuses and the list of study literature;
2. distribution of contact hours in a learning unit;
3. replacement of courses between semesters;
4. change of habilitated lecturers, or
5. change of non-compulsory components of a study programme.



## **Student influence of programme content**

Students formally do not influence programme content. But the analyses of the results of student surveys or other forms of monitoring the opinion of students on the quality of the provision of the study programme for the last three academic years is one of the criteria for re-accreditation of the study programme; if less than three years have passed since the last accreditation, for the entire period since the last accreditation.

## **Industry influence of programme content**

There are only informal ways how does industry influence programme content. The founder demonstrates cooperation with business and non-business sector in the fields of study, science and research, and arts, for which the higher education institution is being established, and plans the enrolment of students accordingly.

Employment opportunities for graduates based on professional analyses, the Employment Service, relevant chambers, associations, etc. have been established.

## **Students with disabilities/special needs/unconventional needs**

Persons with disabilities should have equal opportunities to participate in education systems and programmes in Slovenia. To fulfill these expectations, different legal documents have been adopted on a national level. Among the more important is the Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities (APPD). This document was developed as a national strategy to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and was ratified in the Slovenian National Assembly on April 2, 2008 [3]. Students with special needs have possibility to inform the faculty about their disabilities and to ask for special treatment.

## **Mobility and life-long learning processes**

Universities of Slovenia as well as other Higher Education Institutions in Slovenia (holders of ECHE) actively participate in the Erasmus+ program [4] and enable students and teachers mobility for study, practice, teaching and training. Similar support is possible through the CEEPUS (Central European Exchange Program for University Studies) network [5]. Also on the base of special agreements between the institutions mobility is possible and some governmental and non-governmental grants are possible. Student achievements are recognized in all this exchanges.

Most of Slovenian HEIs are also offering some life-long learning activities either as a formal and recognize education (part-time study) either as some workshops, seminars, courses and summer schools.



## Information management

All public information are accessible without a login. A login is needed for personal information like grades and for the virtual classroom (moodl).

## References:

- 1) <http://test.nakvis.si/en-GB/Content/Details/8> - Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (SQAA)
- 2) Criteria for the Accreditation and Evaluation of Higher Education Institutions and Study Programmes (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, Nos 95/2010, 17/2011, 51/2012, 6/2013 and 88/2013).
- 3) Action Programme for Persons with Disabilities 2014–2021, Ministry of Labour, Family and Social Affairs, 2014, [Online]. Available, August 7, 2014: <http://www.mddsz.gov.si/en/legislation/>
- 4) Erasmus+: [https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus\\_en](https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-plus_en)
- 5) CEEPUS: <https://www.ceepus.info/>