

LJUBLJANA UNIVERSITY WORKSHOP

QUALITY ASSURANCE IN SLOVENIAN HIGHER EDUCATION

Ljubljana, December 7, 2010

Quality Assurance System in Slovenian Higher Education

- **Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency**, established in 2010
(Act Amending the Higher Education Act , November 2009)
- It is **independent** and operates as a **direct non-governmental budget user**
- It follows the principles of **professionalism, impartiality, transparency, legality, and political neutrality.**
- It **develops and issues legal acts** on quality assurance and decides in individual matters (Public authority body)

Act Amending the Higher Education Act (November 2009)

- Quality is priority
- Professionalization of the QA processes (External Experts)
- Transparency
- Building trust in the QA System (Public Authority Body)
- Compliance with the ESG

Creating culture of quality development and assurance in Slovenian HE

The SQAA Bodies

- Director of the Agency
- Agency Council consisting of 11 members:
Representatives of: Students (2), Rectors' Conference (Universities) (3), Government of the Republic of Slovenia (2), Vocational Education (1), Employers (1), Unions in the Field of HE (1)
- Appeal Committee (High Level of Independence; 5 Years of Work Experience at Court); consisting of 3 members and their deputies

Main principles of QA System in Slovenia

- Professionalization of external QA system (Initial Accreditation, Cyclical External Evaluation, Accreditation Extension)
- Independence of stakeholders (Nomination of 11 Council Members)
- Conflict of interest prevention (Self-exclusion from Council's Decision Making Process)
- Transparency of work
- Continuous follow-up and evaluation procedures (7 years)
- Extraordinary external evaluations (Less than 7 years)

Adoption of New Standards and Procedures in December 2010

- Accreditation and External Evaluation Standards and Procedures for Higher Education Institutions and Study Programmes (Including the Accreditation Application Form)
- Study Programme Transition Standards and Procedures
- European Credit Transfer System Standards and Procedures
- Standards and Procedures for Entry of External Experts into the Register of External Experts
- Minimum Standards for Awarding Titles to Higher Education Teachers, Researchers, and Faculty Assistants at Higher Education Institutions
- Cross-border Education Standards and Procedures

Main Issues of Accreditation Standards

- Interrelation between the first accreditation and the accreditation extension (7-year follow-up) within the framework of common concepts and methodology
- Procedures: First Accreditation (Self-evaluation, External Extraordinary Evaluation), Accreditation Extension
- Interrelation between quality assurance standards and procedures
- Self-evaluation – basic input for external evaluation

New instrument: (Electronic) Application form

Accreditation and External Evaluation: Comparisons to the Former Procedures

- Development of the quality assurance culture: Higher autonomy and accountability of HE institutions
- Accreditation procedure based on external evaluation: The quality progress is more transparent and evident
- External evaluation: National and international external experts, and students
- The new electronic application form: Standardized procedures and administration; authorised access to electronic applications by HE institutions; constant access to improvements evidence

Goals for 2011

- First cycle of regular (Institutional and Programme) accreditation extensions (approx. 175 cases): Efficient and effective processes and logistics needed
- Initial (Institutional and Programme) accreditations – undergraduate, postgraduate, doctoral
- The selection of national and international external experts with regard to high academic standards and experiences in quality assessment (Mandatory External Experts Training)
- SQAA – close collaboration with international QAAs (International External Experts), approaching the ENQA and EQAR memberships