

WORK AND FINANCIAL PLAN FOR 2017



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Nacionalna agencija Republike Slovenije
za kakovost v visokem šolstvu

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for Higher Education



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Introduction

It would make sense to prepare and adopt the annual work and financial plan at the beginning of the calendar year. However, that is tough task. Numerous reports are adopted at the beginning of the year for the previous year: business report, annual accounts, report on the work and operation of the Agency – we must also perform the self-evaluation of the Agency for the previous year and prepare the action plan for the following year. These are quite time-consuming tasks in addition to our regular work, and it would make sense to join a few of the abovementioned reports. Therefore, we are adding the action plan for 2017 as soon as the self-evaluation report for 2016 shall be adopted.

According to Article 51.i. of HEA-K, the Director of the Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (hereinafter: the Agency) shall prepare the proposal of the financial plan and adopt the work plan of the Agency, for which it shall obtain the approval of the Agency Council.

2016 was a special year for the Agency staff and the Slovenian higher education area. Two events are worth mentioning – the termination of accreditation of pre-Bologna study programmes (30 September 2016) and the adoption of the act amending the Higher Education Act (17 November 2016) – HEA-K, introducing institutional accreditation upon controlled evaluation of study programmes. These two events will also mark 2017. With the act amending HEA-K the Agency shall be taking a more advisory role.

At the end of 2016, the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Slovenia adopted the changes of the budget for 2017 and the proposal of the budget for 2018, which ensure similar values for the Agency as in the past – EUR 1,271,341, and 1,235,484. Even if the NHEP 2011-2020 promised the Agency annually EUR 6,0 million after 2015, the Agency would be more efficient and successful with an annual budget in the amount of approximately EUR 2,0 million. This has been proven with an economically rational use of ESF resources for the establishment of a national quality system – it only spent EUR 4,606,499 (for the period 2010-2015), the value of the project itself for the Agency upon confirmation in 2010 was even EUR 10,090,257.

In addition to our regular work, we will spend quite some time in 2017 implementing a user-friendly eNakvis information system. The act amending HEA-K imposed a lot of additional work with the changes of implementing regulation, but it was released of the burden of the evaluation of study programmes. The concern for study programmes was left to the autonomy of higher education institutions. At the same time, we will prepare starting points for the draft of the act regarding the Agency, and we have already prepared the strategy of the Agency's work for the period 2017-2020. In 2017, we shall also prepare the documents, necessary for the external evaluation of the Agency at EQAR.

Ivan Leban

In Ljubljana, in May 2017.



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SLOVENIAN QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Organization

Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (hereinafter: the Agency) was established based on the Act Amending the Higher Education Act – HEA-G (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 86/2009). The act and Decision on the Establishment of the Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 114/2009) determines its bodies, competences and tasks.

The basis for the establishment and operation of the Agency is Article 51.e of HEA (hereinafter: HEA) (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 32/2012 – official consolidated text, 40/12 – Fiscal Balance Act, 57/12 – Act Amending the Road Transport Act-2D, 109/12 and 85/14). In December 2016, the amending act HEA-K entered into force (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 75/16). The Agency is an entity of public law established to assure quality in higher education and to perform developmental and advisory work in the field for which it was established.

By taking into consideration the legal provisions, the purpose and aim of the Agency are as follows:

- quality assurance and improvement in higher education;
- professionalization of the quality evaluation;
- gaining the public's trust into the system of quality assessment;
- compliance of operation with the applicable European standards.

The Agency shall encourage the higher education institution towards:

- accountability for a quality creation of and implementation of study programmes;
- constant development and establishment of quality;
- regular annual self-evaluations and periodical external evaluations based on clear and consistent criteria and the relevant assessment.

The Agency consists of: the Council as a first-instance decision-making body and the Appeal Committee as the second-instance decision-making body, and the Technical Departments of the Agency led by the Director.



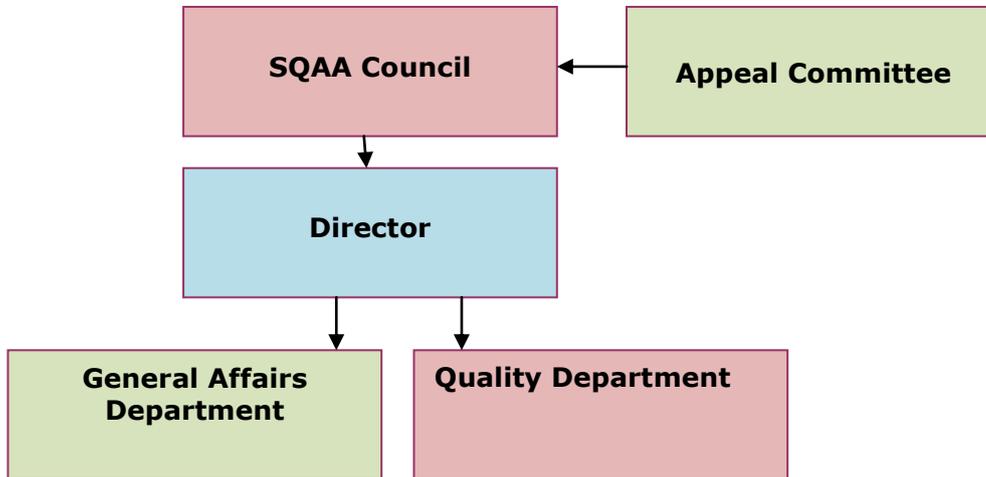
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Organizational scheme of the Agency



From the Agency Development Strategy for the period 2017–2020

Mission

The Agency provides for development and operation of the quality assurance system in the Slovenian higher education area. It operates responsibly, both formally and contextually, and counsels all stakeholders and participants in tertiary education in line with European and global development trends.

Vision

The Agency shall, with its system of quality assurance development, contribute to higher education in Slovenia being of high quality in terms of education and research, internationally recognisable, competitive and equally integrated in the global higher education area.



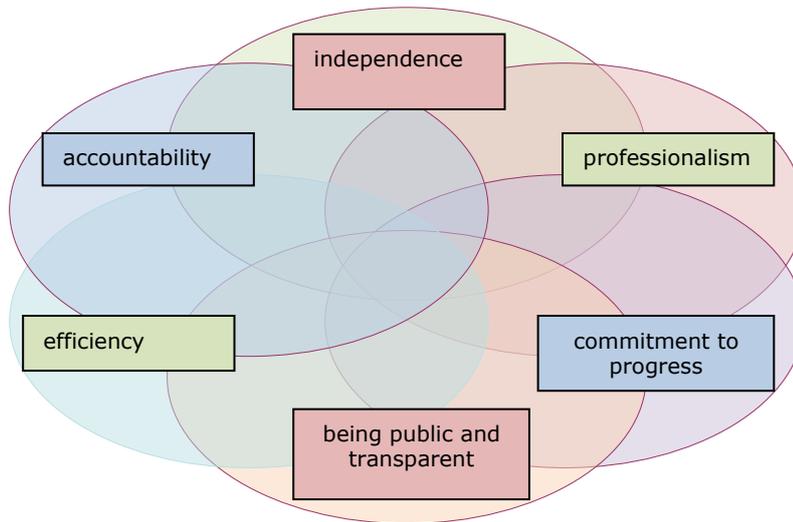
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Values



Strategic objectives (from the Agency's strategy for the period of 2017-2020)

1. improvement of the Agency's professional work,
2. enhancing the Agency's independence and authority,
3. enhancing the meaning of quality,
4. update of the criteria and other legal acts of the Agency,
5. establishment of an efficient and user-friendly information system of the Agency,
6. re-admission to ENQA and EQAR and enhancing the Agency's international cooperation,
7. reorganization of the work of the Agency,
8. developmental work.



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Activities of the Agency in 2016

(summarized from the final part of the Report on Work and Operation of the Agency in 2016)

In 2016, the Agency lived by its mission: "The Agency provides for development and operation of the quality assurance system in the Slovenian higher education area. It operates responsibly, both formally and contextually, and counsels all stakeholders and participants in tertiary education in line with European and global development trends."

The tasks the Agency performs in accordance with the law and other legal acts are a part of its operation. The Agency plays an important role in the establishment of the Slovenian higher education environment. In June 2016 there were 98 higher education institutions and higher vocational colleges in Slovenia.

Two events marked 2016 – the termination of accreditations for pre-Bologna study programmes (30 September 2016) and the adoption of the act amending the Higher Education Act (17 November 2016) – HEA-K, introducing institutional accreditation in addition to controlled evaluation of study programmes. In Slovenia, the number of study programmes is still too high (914). The act amending HEA-K shall give the Agency a more advisory role.

For the first time since its establishment in 2010, the Agency was fully financed from the integral resources of the budget and has the resources in a similar scope assured in 2017 and 2018, respectively.

In 2016, both audits of the Court of Audit were concluded: The audit of the regularity of operation of non-governmental and judicial budgetary users in 2011 (Decision issued: 15 June 2012) and Quality and Diversity Assurance of Study Programmes – Opinion issued regarding the efficiency of procedures of evaluation, accreditation and granting concessions for quality and diversity assurance of study programmes (Decision issued: 9 May 2014).

The Agency continually strives towards the improvement of its own quality which is the foundation for an efficient system of external quality assurance in higher and higher vocational education. Unfortunately, the general public still encounters the activity of the Agency regarding negative events in Slovenian higher education (non-accredited study programmes, plagiarism, fraud, failure to comply with legislation).

In 2016, we continued with the upgrades of the eNAKVIS system, we mainly revised the application forms (harmonization with legislation) and improved support for certain processes at the Agency.

Along with the agencies from Poland (coordinator), Portugal and Bulgaria, we successfully concluded the Erasmus+ project EIQAS (Enhancing Internal Quality Assurance Systems) in 2016.



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WORK PLAN FOR 2017

The tasks in the work plan have been defined by taking into consideration the strategic objectives from the Development strategy of the agency for the period 2017-2020, which were prepared by the Agency in 2016 and adopted by the Agency Council on 16 March 2017:

- improvement of the professional work of the Agency,
- enhancing of the independence and authority of the Agency,
- enhancing the meaning of quality,
- update of the criteria and other legal acts of the Agency,
- establishment of an efficient and user-friendly information system of the Agency,
- re-admission to ENQA and EQAR and enhancing of the Agency's international cooperation,
- reorganization of the Agency's operation,
- developmental work.

In accordance with the above strategy we will strive towards the following in 2017

1. further development of the quality assurance system of the Agency and higher education institutions (mainly the establishment of the eNakvis information system)
2. transformation of the quality assurance system in higher and higher vocational education (upon the change in the legislation – adoption of HEA-K); and
3. recognition of the Agency in the Slovenian higher education area, the public and abroad.

The indicated guidelines are connected with the activity for a quality of the Agency's work through annual evaluations, participation with external stakeholders or the establishment of an efficient and mutually agreed upon system of external quality assurance and the cooperation with the European Higher Education Area, EHEA, upon taking into consideration the revised European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area, Yerevan 2015 (hereinafter: ESG 2015).

The plan for 2017 only shows certain priority assignments. While concluding the rest of the evaluations and accreditations of study programmes in 2017, most of the work will be directed towards the harmonization of the evaluation and accreditation criteria with the amending act, preparation of the changed procedures and application forms, and the operation of the eNakvis computer system. These individual assignments of the Agency in 2017 shall be suitably elaborated and demonstrated which will simplify the later drafting of the annual report on the operation of the Agency in 2017. But since the Agency Council confirmed the new SQA Quality Manual (p. 22) at its 88th meeting on 19 February 2015, the instructions from that manual are also taken into consideration.

In 2017, we must prepare the application for the entry of the Agency into the European register of trustworthy agencies EQAR. The operation of the Agency in



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accordance with the ESG 2015 standards is checked every 5 years by EQAR. The membership in EQAR must be renewed by 1 August 2018 or at the latest by 1 November 2018. This requires the drafting of an applicable self-evaluation report of the Agency. The Agency Council uniformly supported the Agency's approach to the renewal of the membership in EQAR.

In 2017, the Agency shall strive to establish more trust among all higher education stakeholders and enhancing its independent advisory role in the Slovenian higher education area (info@nakvis.si). This shall be demonstrated in the coordination of the evaluation and accreditation criteria with the act amending HEA-K from December 2016.

At the beginning of 2017, the Agency prepared a comprehensive list of tasks, assignments and obligations and distributed the work among all the employees at the Agency.

A) ACCREDITATIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND STUDY PROGRAMMES AND EVALUATIONS OF HIGHER VOCATIONAL COLLEGES 2017

PROCESSING OF APPLICATIONS			
Activity 1: accreditations in higher education			
Task	Implementation and accountability	Anticipated number of applications	Notes
Initial accreditation of study programmes	Quality Department / Agency Council	20	The data for initial accreditation are only estimates. *We are waiting for a reply from MESS – these are the applications submitted by 30 September 2016
Re-accreditation of study programmes		80*	
Initial accreditation of higher education institutions		2	
Re-accreditation of higher education institutions		2	
Transformation of higher education institutions		10	
Transnational higher education		2	
Activity 2: evaluations of higher vocational colleges			
Task	Implementation and accountability	Anticipated number of applications	
External evaluations of higher vocational colleges	Quality Department / Agency Council	12	

Note: The applications to change study programmes are not considered in the table. According to HEA-K a higher education institution may change the compulsory components of study programmes according to the same procedure under which they have been adopted. The institutions then inform the Agency about the changes of compulsory components of study programmes within 30 days of their adoption. The changes of compulsory components are published at the website of the higher education institution.

The list of publicly available records of the accredited higher education institutions and study programmes is published at the Agency's website <http://www.nakvis.si> under three links and additionally in eVŠ at MESS.

- [Public register of accreditations of study programmes from 2004 to 2010](#)
- [Public register of study programmes, accredited after 1 March 2010](#)
- [Plan for re-accreditation and public record on the accreditations of higher education institutions](#)
- [eVŠ databases](#)



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B) ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE eNAKVIS INFORMATION SYSTEM OF THE AGENCY

(also in the Action Plan for 2016)

Activity: Establishment of a comprehensive information system			
Task	Implementation and accountability	Implementation deadline	Expected result
Coordination of application forms with stakeholders in higher education (institutions, students, rectors' conference, associations)	Technical Department	May 2017	More efficient, economically rational and quality work, simplification and improvement of accreditation and evaluation procedures and other work processes at the Agency. Connectedness with the e-VŠ system as well. This is one of the Agency's strategic objectives.
Presentation of the new electronic application forms for electronic applications in the eNakvis system	Technical Department	June 2017	
Prompt coordination of the changes in the application forms with the legislation changes and changes of criteria	Technical Department	Permanent activity	

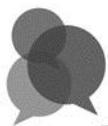


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**C) UPDATE OF THE AGENCY STRATEGY AND DETERMINATION OF STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES from 2017-2020
(already in the Action Plan 2016)**

activity: Strategic objectives of the Agency 2016-2020			
Task	Implementation and accountability	Implementation deadline	Expected results
Determination of the strategic objectives of the Agency 2017-2020 by taking into consideration NHEP 2011-2020	Quality Department / Director	September 2016	Appointment of a working group
		October 2016	Preparation of the draft of the Agency's strategy and determination of priority objectives up to 2020
		January 2017	Discussion at the Agency Council
		March 2017	Adoption and publication



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D) HARMONIZATION OF IMPLEMENTING REGULATIONS WITH THE ACT AMENDING HEA-K

activity: Implementing regulations			
Task	Implementation and accountability	Implementation deadline	Expected result
Update of the criteria for evaluations and accreditations and other criteria. Monitoring the existing legislation and proposals of its changes, commenting and giving proposals of changes	Agency Council, Quality Department, Director	September 2016	Preparation of the update of the Criteria and the applicable application forms
		December 2016	Work plan upon the adoption of HEA-K
		February 2017	Prompt monitoring and notifying (newsletter, Twitter)
		April 2017	Coordination with stakeholders
		June 2017	Adoption of the updated criteria at the Agency Council
		October 2017	Adoption of other updated documents



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E) TRAINING OF THE MEMBERS OF THE AGENCY COUNCIL AND THE EXPERTS

IMPLEMENTATION OBJECTIVE 1: Training experts and candidates for experts			
Activity: training			
Task	Implementation and accountability	Implementation deadline	Expected result
Training of experts and candidates for inclusion into the Agency's register of experts	Quality Department, Director, foreign guest.	June 2017	Supplementation of the training programme, adoption at the Council
		September 2017	Implementation of the 1st training
		October 2017	Implementation of the 2nd training



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ADDITIONAL TASKS in 2017

In 2017, the Agency will likely continue to receive numerous questions, including those for which it is not competent. Of course, the Agency provides prompt and timely answers to all questions regarding the procedures of evaluation and accreditation and collection of data from various registers. The Agency shall enhance the acquaintance of the general public with its activities.

In 2017, we are expecting the promised systemic act regarding higher education. We hope that we will be simultaneously successful with an independent act about the Agency. This act is expected to have a foundation in the higher education act and include the governmental decision about the establishment of the Agency. The act could also include the evaluation and accreditation criteria. This could help make the operation of the Agency even more independent which is required by the European ESG standards, Part 3.

By adopting the Slovenian Qualifications Framework Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 104/2015), it was imposed on the Agency to promptly provide the data for the EQF National Coordination Point (NKT SOK-EOK) needed for the entry of a qualification to the register of qualifications in the prescribed form, but no additional resources were provided. Additionally, the act amending HEA-K eliminates the register at the Ministry and the registers were transferred to the Agency. We expect an automatic mutual supplementation of registers via eVŠ and eNakvis.

In 2017, the Agency shall apply for international projects, related with quality assurance in higher education (Erasmus+).

In 2017, the Director of the Agency shall continue his work in two international associations: as the vice-president of the European Consortium for Accreditations, ECA www.ecahe.eu, and as the vice-president of the Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education, CEENQA www.ceenqa.eu.

RESOURCES

Financial resources

In 2017, the activities of the Agency shall continue to be financed solely **from the integral resources of the budget** (that is a significant change compared to 2015 when the financing came from two sources – the integral resources and the ESF resources of a projects), namely:

- the salaries of employees,
- costs incurred in the accreditations of higher education institutions and study programmes and external evaluations of higher education institutions, study programmes and higher vocational colleges (visits of the groups of experts),
- expenses for office and general materials and services (cleaning supplies and services, newspapers and other professional literature, advertising services, computer services, expenses for representation, services of information support for users),
- expenses for special materials and services (small inventory, medical examinations for employees),
- expenses for energy, water and utilities (electrical energy, fuel consumption and heating expenses, water and utilities, garbage removal, telephones, postage and messenger services),
- transport costs and services (vehicle rental, purchase of bus tickets for Ljubljana – the Urbana card),
- expenses for business trips (daily allowances, hotel services, transports costs in the country and abroad),
- expenses regarding the on-going maintenance of the business premises, communication and other equipment, for the maintenance of the licenced software and hardware,
- expenses for business leases (lease of the business premises, hardware lease, compensation for the use of building land, software lease, lease of communication equipment),
- costs of other operative expenses (expenses regarding conferences, seminars and symposiums, payments under a work contract, payments for work through the student work service, expenses for professional training of employees, court costs, memberships),
- investments and major maintenance (on-going maintenance of licences software and other equipment for eNakvis, purchase of hardware and licenced software, control over the eNakvis implementation).

In 2017, the Agency was supposed to obtain, as a direct non-governmental budget user, the resources in the amount of **EUR 1,271,341.00:**

Integral resources (for 19 employees employed for an indefinite period + Director)

salaries	EUR 640,000
mat. costs	EUR 230,000
investments	EUR 100,000
quality of higher education (+meeting fees of the Council)	EUR 300,000

The Agency is currently financing all the activities (salaries, accreditations, material costs, external experts, Agency Council, Appeal Committee) with approximately EUR 1.3 million annually.

If the Agency received only a third (that is EUR 2 million) from the promised EUR 6 million for 2016 from NHEP11 – action 20 (when the ESF resources expired), it would be able to work with quality and make further developments; otherwise, it will continue to perform its activities with the current dynamics. However, the activities, which were transferred to the Agency with the act amending HEA-K, have not yet been valued.

With these funds the Agency could create and update the external quality assurance system in accordance with the European standards and guidelines regarding quality in higher education. At the same time, it could give some of the resources to presentation brochures and analytical-developmental work.

The Agency was very economical in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and spent in those years EUR 1,295,457.97; 1,301,117.05; 1,209,022.68; 1,310,797.56, and 1,243,222.34; respectively.

The experience from previous years and the annual governmental limits show that the allocated resources shall not suffice and that we will have to at the end of the year (when it will become clear how much resources will be required) ask the Ministry of Finance for new additional resources.

Indicative financial plan for 2017 according to the type of cost

Type of cost	SQAA plan 2017
Salaries and other expenses for employees	640,000.00
Work through the student work service	5,000.00
External experts (execution of external evaluations and accreditations), meeting fees of the Council, Appeal Committee	290,000.00
Daily allowances, expenses for accommodation and travelling (for employees)	5,000.00
Informing and notifying	5,000.00
Publications	5,000.00
Promotional materials	5,000.00
Expenses related with conferences / symposiums / seminars / trainings	10,000.00
Representation	1,000.00
Computer services (eNakvis + computer network maintenance)	70,000.00
Purchase of furniture and office equipment	5,000.00
Computer equipment	6,000.00

Material costs (rent, electricity, heating...)	230,000.00
Planned expenditure - total	1,277,000.00

Human resources

The employments of the employees of the Agency are planned according to the assured resources in the integral part of the state budget for 2017. At the end of 2015 there was a significant change. The ESF project "Establishment of a national quality assurance system in higher education 2010-2014 (2015)" was concluded and additional integral resources for the functioning of the Agency were provided. This addition made the work of the Agency easier as there were many demanding tasks to be done, connected with self-evaluation, the work on the information system needed to be finished and, finally, we needed to tend to the extensive audit of the Court of Audit of the Republic of Slovenia.

Years of experience have shown us that for a quality execution of the set tasks we do not need all the anticipated resources from the ESF funds. The entire amount, which was spent by the Agency after the project, was EUR 4,606,499.48 (from the planned EUR 10,090,257.00) which sufficed for the achievement of all objectives from the project.

In the staffing plan of the Agency for 2017 (sent to the Ministry of Finance and coordinated with the Ministry of Public Administration), 19 job positions and the position of the Director are systemized in the integral resources.

For all tasks, which the Agency must perform, there are now 19 members of the staff employed for an indefinite period. The profile of the employees is specific, since they have all passed the general administrative procedure exam. The Agency's legal service is strong in both the Quality Department and the General Affairs Department.

At the same time, upon the admittance to ENQA, we must comply with the ESG Standard 3.5, stating "Agencies should have adequate and appropriate resources, both human and financial, to carry out their work."

Therefore, similar is planned in 2017 as was planned in 2016. On 31 December 2016, 20 work positions were filled within the budgetary resources. The budgetary capabilities for 2017 and 2018 allow for 20 employees, even though 22 and 24 were anticipated in the proposal of the staffing plan for 2016 and 2017 in accordance with the Agency's needs. Because of the continued performance of urgent developmental and advisory tasks which are imposed on the Agency by law as well as international experts (EQAR and ENQA), and with the adoption of the act amending HEA-K (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia 75/16) many additional tasks (i.e. provision of data for eVŠ regarding the register of higher education institutions and study programmes, takeover of tasks which were performed by MESS prior to the implementation: previous register of institutions

and study programmes, obtaining consents for regulated professions etc.), the number of employees at the Agency should be gradually increased (every year by two employees, making it 24 by the end of 2018). But because the anticipated financial resources prevent that, the proposed number of employees on the day 31 December 2017 and 31 December 2018 remains unchanged, therefore 20.

In 2017, contacts with the relevant stakeholders – Ministry of Finance, National Assembly, National Council and the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport – need to be maintained. Especially with SSU and the Higher Education Council of the Republic of Slovenia.

At the Agency, the employees' union Sloka, KSS Pergam, is active and is included as much as possible in the resolution of the financial and staffing situation of the Agency, mainly in the direct discussions at MF and MESS.

Below is the proposal of the staffing plan of the Agency for 2017 and 2018

Body	Number of employees 31 December 2015	Permissible number of employees 31 December 2016	Proposal of the permissible number of employees 31 December 2017	Proposal of the permissible number of employees 31 December 2018
SQAA	20	20	20	20

The staffing plan shows the actual employment situation and the planned changes in the number of civil servants for the period of two years. The proposal of the staffing plan was prepared according to budgetary possibilities, anticipated scope of work and work programme.

In accordance with Article 44 of the Civil Servants Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 63/07- official consolidated text 3, 65/08, 69/08-Financial Instruments Market Act-A, 69/08-Act Amending the Insurance Act-E, 74/09 Decision of the Constitutional Court: U-I-136/07-13, 40/12-Fiscal Balance Act) the body shall adopt a staffing plan, coordinated with the adopted budget, at the latest in 60 days after the implementation of the budget.

But since the anticipated financial resources prevent that, the proposed number of employees on 31 December 2017 and 31 December 2018, respectively, remains unchanged, i.e. 20.

The following statement from the Post-Audit Report of the Court of Audit of the Republic of Slovenia deserves a special mention: “Quality and diversity assurance of study programmes” – Opinion regarding the efficiency of the procedures of evaluation, accreditation and granting concessions for quality and diversity assurance of study programmes (Decision issued on: 9 May 2014), where it states – quoting “For 2016 and 2017, when the ESF resources are no longer available, the government assured the Agency the resources in the integral part of the budget according to the annual realization in the year before so that the work of the Agency is not threatened. According to the statements of the government, the careful planning and calculation of the resources in the previous years has proven to be relative, as the unstable financial environment, amendments and changes in the budgetary resources by setting new approximate limits significantly affect the planned financial constructions of the Agency. In its response report, the government assessed that the expected act amending HEA will probably not make a significant change of the costs of the Agency in the future and that the Agency will probably make a financial plan of the costs of procedures in accordance with the changes HEA or it will adapt the assessments to the available resources. Additionally, the government expressed the desire for the Agency to expand its operation, especially in the direction of the implementation of developmental and analytical work and the enhancing of the advisory activity which also brings along financial obligations.”

SKLEP

V letu 2017 bo agencija opravljala dejavnost, ki jo opravljamo v skladu z zakonom in drugimi akti agencije (evalvacije in akreditacije zavodov in študijskih programov), namenjena pa bo tudi mednarodni afirmaciji agencije. Predvsem zagovarjamo tudi čimprejšnjo spremembo zakonodaje (najprej nov sistemski ZViS in hkrati ločen zakon o agenciji).

Poleg akreditacij oziroma zunanjih evalvacij visokošolskih zavodov in študijskih programov ter zunanjih evalvacij višjih strokovnih šol so naloge agencije predvsem:

- zagotavljanje nemotenega delovanja agencije, predvsem vsakokratno reševanje finančnega in kadrovskega vprašanja tudi v letu 2017 - tu so tudi sprejeli spremembe proračuna za leto 2018 in predlog proračuna za 2019;
- aktivno sodelovanje pri spremembah visokošolske zakonodaje;
- ob udeležanju ZViS-K vzpostaviti celoviti informacijski sistem agencije;
- začeti postopek preverbe vpisa agencije v EQAR;
- usposabljanje kandidatov za uvrstitev v register strokovnjakov, usposabljanje strokovnjakov ob novem delovanju agencije;
- tvorno sodelovanje z deležniki v visokem šolstvu in višjem strokovnem izobraževanju na delavnicah in strokovnih posvetih;
- stalna svetovalna služba ob aktualnih vprašanjih-odgovori na info@nakvis.si;
- sodelovanje v mednarodnih in domačih projektih, povezanih z delom agencije;
- sodelovanje s tujimi agencijami;
- zbiranje podatkov od visokošolskih zavodov, višjih strokovnih šol, strokovnjakov in drugih deležnikov o delu agencije, analiza anketnih vprašalnikov in sprejetje ukrepov za izboljšave na podlagi anketnih izsledkov;
- načrtovano sodelovanje na različnih konferencah, posvetih in delavnicah doma in v tujini.

Velikega pomena ostaja večanje zaupanja vseh deležnikov in širše javnosti v delo agencije ter okrepitev njene prepoznavnosti.

Agencija si mora še naprej prizadevati za zagotavljanje in izboljševanje lastne kakovosti, kar je temelj za učinkovit, z vsemi deležniki dogovorjen in splošno priznan sistem zunanjega zagotavljanja kakovosti v visokem in višjem šolstvu.

V Ljubljani, maj 2017.

Ivan Leban

CONCLUSION

In 2017, the Agency will carry out activities in accordance with the law and other legal acts of Agency (evaluation and accreditation of institutions and study programmes), and will also target at the international affirmation of the agency. We particularly advocate a swift revision of the legislation (a new systematic HEA and at the same time a separate act concerning the Agency only).

In addition to accreditations and external evaluation of higher education institutions and study programmes and external evaluations of higher vocational colleges, the tasks of the Agency will mainly be the following:

- to ensure the uninterrupted functioning of the Agency, particularly the respective settlement of financial and human resources issues in 2017 - there are also the adoptions of amendments to the budget for 2018 and draft of the budget for 2019;
- to actively participate in the changes of higher education legislation;
- to implement the new HEA-K and the comprehensive information system of the Agency;
- to begin the process of verification of registration agency in EQAR;
- to train candidates for inclusion in the register of experts, to train of experts on the new operation of the agency;
- to cooperate constructively with stakeholders in higher education and vocational training in workshops and expert consultations;
- to establish a permanent advisory service regarding current issues-answers at info@nakvis.si;
- to participate in domestic and international projects related to the work of the Agency;
- to cooperate with foreign agencies;
- to collect data from higher education institutions, higher vocational colleges, experts and other stakeholders about the Agency's work, analysis of the survey questionnaires and the adoption of measures for enhancements based on the survey results;
- to fulfil the planned participation at various conferences, meetings and workshops at home and abroad.

It remains of great importance to increase the trust of all stakeholders and the general public into the work of the Agency and to enhance its visibility.

The Agency should continue its efforts to ensure and improve its own quality, which is the basis for an efficient, universally recognized system of external quality assurance in higher and higher vocational education agreed upon with all stakeholders.

In Ljubljana, May 2017.

Ivan Leban, Director