



**Development Strategy of the Slovak
Accreditation Agency for Higher Education for
the years 2022 – 2027**

Bratislava, 24 February 2022

Vision

The Slovak Accreditation Agency for Higher Education (hereinafter the "Agency") is a national reference point in the field of quality assurance in higher education. It is recognized within the European Higher Education Area. Through its activities, it contributes to improving the quality of higher education, thus meeting the expectations of stakeholders and the general public, while strengthening social status and recognition and increasing the attractiveness of universities in the Slovak Republic.

Mission

Its mission is to contribute to the improvement of the quality of higher education in the Slovak Republic by means of external quality assurance tools according to the ESG 2015 principles and in accordance with the expectations of the stakeholders involved in education. The Agency provides higher education institutions with an expert and independent view on the quality of education and fosters the development of a quality culture. In particular, the Agency decides on matters relating to the granting of authorisations to higher education institutions on the basis of their applications and also conducts other related tasks.

Principles

Principle of independence - the Agency carries out its activities independently in accordance with ESG 2015 and pursuing the public interest.

Principle of transparency - the agency publishes and communicates relevant documents and information about its activities and decisions so as to maintain a high level of trust for all stakeholders and the public.

Principle of integrity - the agency carries out its activities in accordance with professional and ethical standards. As part of its activities, the Agency develops the professional expertise of its staff and members of collective bodies. It prevents bias and conflicts of interest and its employees and members of the bodies shall carry out their duties honestly, conscientiously and with knowledge that they are defending public interest. The agency ensures compliance with the principle of equal treatment, it decides in accordance with the principle of the protection of legitimate expectations and in such a case there were no unjustified differences between the procedures and the decisions.

Principle of cooperation/partnership - the agency cooperates in its activities with stakeholders and other similarly focused institutions at national level and international level.

Principle of improvement - the agency systematically monitors the development trends of higher education institutions systems and quality assurance systems in higher education and on a regular basis adapts and innovates its practices and makes recommendations for innovation to stakeholder's parties so that the synergistic result of these efforts is to improve the quality culture of higher education.

The Agency's strategic objectives

Strategic Area 1: Accreditation Activities

Objective 1.1: To develop the Agency's accreditation standards.

Objective 1.2: To develop the Agency's accreditation procedures.

Objective 1.3: To develop the professionalism and competence of members of bodies, working groups and staff of the Agency.

Strategic Area 2: International Cooperation

Objective 2.1: To increase the involvement of foreign experts in the Agency's activities.

Objective 2.2: To develop cooperation with partner agencies abroad.

Objective 2.3: Achieve full agency membership in ENQA and enroll the agency in EQAR.

Strategic Area 3: Quality Culture

Objective 3.1: Develop cooperation with stakeholders.

Objective 3.2: Introduce and develop a system for disseminating good practice in the field of quality assurance in higher education.

Objective 3.3: Carry out analyzes of the higher education system based on the Agency's findings and present their results through thematic reports.