



Plan of thematic analyses and reports for the years 2022 - 2025

Bratislava, 26 January 2022

According to Act. No 269/2018 Coll. the Slovak Accreditation Agency for Higher Education elaborates thematic analyses of the development of the higher education system in the Slovak Republic, including the analysis of internal evaluation reports regarding internal systems.

According to the ESG Standards and Guidelines of the European Higher Education Area, agencies should regularly publish reports describing and analysing general conclusions from external quality assurance (accreditation) activities.

According to the ESG guidelines, during the performance of the mandate, accreditation agencies obtain information about HEIs and study programs that may be useful even outside the scope of a specific procedure, thus obtaining material for a structured analysis of the entire system of higher education. The stated findings can contribute to the analysis and improvement of the quality assurance strategy and the relevant processes at the higher education level, as well as at the national and international level.

During the period of transition to ESG accreditations, i.e., in the period when, in accordance with the law, it was not yet possible to carry out ESG accreditations, the agency developed and in 2021 published the first thematic reports of a broader nature:

1. QUANTITATIVE OVERVIEWS OF DEMOGRAPHIC DEVELOPMENT IN SLOVAK HIGHER EDUCATION FOR 1989 – 2020, December 20, 2021;

The report summarizes the thirty-year development trends in the number of students, graduates and university teachers, together with the demographic development of 19-year-old citizens of the Slovak Republic. An alarming 45% demographic decline threatens the future social and economic life in Slovakia, and therefore, it is necessary to prepare for such development.

2. CHANGES IN HIGHER EDUCATION DUE TO IMPLEMENTATION OF QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEMS FOR 2019 – 2021, December 30, 2021;

The report summarizes the most important steps and systemic changes in higher education in the "transitional period" in terms of quality. This is a factual information about changes in the higher education environment, from the adoption of the law, especially on accreditation standards, on accreditations themselves, on the introduction of internal rules at HEIs, on the adjustments of study program offered by HEIs, and on the monitoring of opinions of students themselves.

In the next period, the agency plans to develop analyses focusing on its activities, in particular with evaluation reports on an annual basis. These will be analyses of the principal problems of HEIs that the review panels of the executive board detected in the previous year. The analyses should also touch the strengths of the universities and indicate the respective recommendations. Thematic reports should also be prepared on specific topics, according to current social needs. The first example of such a report was the thematic report - QUANTITATIVE OVERVIEWS OF DEMOGRAPHIC DEVELOPMENT IN SLOVAK HIGHER EDUCATION FOR 1989 – 2020 published in December 2021. The agency also assumes the use of specialized tools, e.g., surveys from the field of higher education as a supporting source of opinions on specific areas of questions.

For the period from 2022, the agency plans to prepare the following thematic reports:

1. The principal conclusions from the first accreditations of study programs

Evaluation of accreditation of study programs applied for by universities in March 2021. Thematic analysis focused on the most frequent, or the principal problems of universities

resulting from 63 proceedings carried out by the agency based on applications from universities for the accreditation

of the study program implemented in the period March 2021 - March 2022.

Deadline: 2nd quarter 2022

2. Thematic report on the findings of the survey of student opinions

The thematic report summarizes the principal findings from the student satisfaction survey conducted in May 2021 with a total of almost 20,000 respondents.

Deadline: 2nd quarter 2022

3. Motivations of students to seek higher education

Finding and analysing the motivations of students looking for higher education in the overall social context.

Thematic analysis focused on the way of thinking of applicants with the aim of better understanding the processes before entering universities.

Deadline: 1st quarter 2023

4. The fundamental conclusions from the accreditation of study programs in 2022

Evaluation of the accreditation of study programmes that universities applied for and were implemented in 2022. Thematic analysis focused on the most frequent, or the most serious problems of universities resulting from actions carried out by the agency on the basis of requests from universities for the accreditation of the study program implemented in 2022.

Deadline: 2nd quarter 2023

5. The fundamental conclusions from the first assessments of compliance of internal quality assurance systems of HEIs with the standards

Evaluation of the compliance assessment of the internal quality assurance systems of higher education institutions with the standards that the higher education institutions have to apply by the end of 2022. This will be the first assessment of compliance in terms of the applicable law. Thematic analysis focused on the most frequent, or fundamental problems of HEIs resulting from actions carried out by the agency on the basis of requests from HEIs for the accreditation of the study program implemented in 2022. It should be an important document on the quality of higher education based on the evaluation of all higher education institutions in the Slovak Republic.

Deadline: 2nd quarter 2024

6. Thematic report on a current topic

Thematic analysis focused on a specific current topic or topics. It is assumed that some conclusions from the conformity assessment of internal quality assurance systems of higher education will open up specific topics that could be the subject of special analyses or investigations. We expect to publish their processing in the course of 2024.

Deadline: 4th quarter 2024

7. The fundamental conclusions from the accreditation of study programs in 2023 and 2024

Evaluation of the accreditation of study programmes applied for by universities and implemented in 2023 and 2024. Thematic analysis focused on the most frequent, or the most serious problems of universities resulting from actions carried out by the agency on the basis of requests from universities for the accreditation of the study program implemented in the specified period.

Deadline: 2nd quarter 2025

8. Thematic report on a current topic

Thematic analysis focused on a specific current topic or topics. It is assumed that some conclusions from accreditations of the previous period will open up specific topics that will be the subject of special analyses or investigations. We expect to publish their processing during the year 2025.

Deadline: 4th quarter 2025

9. The fundamental conclusions from the supervision of the fulfilment of standards for the internal system

The agency will carry out the first follow-up review of the fulfilment of the standards for the internal system in the course of 2025. The analysis of the fundamental facts will then be published in the course of 2026.

Deadline: 2nd quarter 2026