

Plan for thematic analyses and reports for 2022 - 2025

as amended on 26 January 2023

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

According to the Standards and Guidelines of the European Higher Education Area (ESG 2015) agencies should regularly publish reports that describe and analyse the general findings of their external quality assurance activities (accreditations).

According to ESG, accreditation agencies obtain information on study programmes and higher education institutions that may be useful outside the scope of a specific action, thus obtaining material for a structured analysis of the entire higher education system. Those findings can contribute to the analysis and improvement of the quality assurance strategy and relevant processes at higher education, national and international level.

In the period of transition to ESG accreditations, when it was not yet possible to carry out ESG accreditations in accordance with the law, the Agency prepared and published in 2021 the first thematic reports of a broader nature:

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

The report summarizes thirty-year trends in the number of students, graduates, and teachers of higher education institutions together with the development of the demographics of 19-year-old citizens of the Slovak Republic. The alarming 45% demographic drop threatens future social and economic welfare in Slovakia, thus increasing the demand to prepare for this development.

2. CHANGES IN HIGHER EDUCATION DUE TO THE INTRODUCTION OF QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEMS 2019-2021 30 December 2021;

The report summarizes the most important steps and systemic changes in higher education in the 'transition period' in terms of quality. These are factual information about the changes in the higher education environment since the adoption of the Act, in particular on accreditation standards, on accreditations themselves, on the implementation of internal rules in higher education institutions, on modifications of the offers of study programmes by higher education institutions or on monitoring the opinions of the students.

For the next period, the Agency intends to elaborate analyses based on its activities, in particular evaluation reports, on annual basis. These should analyse the most common and/or serious problems encountered by the review panels of the Executive Board in the previous year. The analysis should also contain the information about the strengths of higher education institutions and recommendations.

Some of the following thematic reports will be also focused on specific topics, tailored to current societal needs. Such a starting report was an overview of the demography of the development of the higher education in Slovakia, which was published by the agency in December 2021. The Agency also envisages the use of specialized tools, e.g., surveys in the field of higher education, as a supportive survey of views on specific areas of concern.

In 2022, the Agency published the following reports:

1. Conclusions from the first accreditations of study programmes

Analysis of findings from evaluation reports of study programme accreditations. The analysis was focused on the most important findings that were detected during the 63 proceedings of study programme accreditation carried out by the Agency in the period from March 2021 to March 2022.

2. Summarizing report on the findings of the Student Satisfaction Survey

The thematic report summarizes the most important findings of the student satisfaction survey conducted in the months of May 2021, with a total number of respondents of almost 20 thousand.

For the period from 2022, the Agency plans to elaborate the following thematic reports:

3. Summarizing report on the findings of the Student Satisfaction Survey for third-level university students

Quantitative survey among third-level university students.

Date: 4th quarter of 2023

4. Analysis of the structure of internal quality assurance systems of higher education institutions

Analysis of the structure of internal quality assurance systems submitted by higher education institutions as part of the applications for the first assessment of the compliance of the internal system with the standards for the internal system submitted in 2022.

Date: 3rd quarter of 2023

5. Conclusions from the first assessments of the compliance of internal quality assurance systems of higher education institutions with standards

Evaluation of assessments of the compliance of internal quality assurance systems of higher education institutions with the standards, applied for by higher education

institutions by the end of 2022. This should be the first compliance assessment under the applicable act.

The thematic analysis should focus on the most common or serious problems of higher education institutions arising from proceedings carried out by the Agency on the basis of applications from higher education institutions to assess the compliance of internal systems with the standards.

Date: 4th quarter of 2024

6. Thematic report on the current topic

Thematic analysis focused on a specific topic or topics. It is assumed that some conclusions from the assessments of the compliance of internal quality assurance systems of higher education institutions will raise specific topics that will be the subject of analyses or surveys. We expect to publish their processing in the course of 2024.

Date: 4th quarter of 2024

7. Conclusions from the accreditation of study programmes in 2023 and 2024

Evaluation of accreditations of study programmes applied for by higher education institutions and implemented in 2023 and 2024.

Thematic analysis focused on the most common or serious issues of higher education institutions arising from proceedings carried out by the Agency on the basis of applications from higher education institutions for accreditation of the study programme implemented during the period in question.

Date: 1st quarter of 2025

8. Thematic report on the current topic

Thematic analysis focused on a specific topic or topics. It is assumed that some conclusions from the accreditations of the previous period will open up specific topics that will be the subject of analyses or surveys. We expect it to be published in the course of 2025.

Date: 4th quarter of 2025

9. Conclusions from the periodic monitoring of compliance with standards for the internal system

The Agency will carry out the first periodic monitoring of compliance with standards for internal system in the course of 2025. It will publish its analysis of the most serious findings in the course of 2026.

Date: 2nd quarter of 2026