



Working Plan of the Slovak Accreditation Agency for Higher Education for 2023 with an outlook to 2024

In Bratislava on May 9, 2023

The working plan of the Slovak Accreditation Agency for Higher Education (from now on referred to as “Agency” or “SAAHE”) for 2023 with an outlook to 2024 (“the action plan”) is prepared in accordance with Article 3 par. 3 of the SAAHE Internal Regulation No. 1/2022. It indicates the main areas of measures and tasks of the Agency for 2023 with an outlook to 2024. The action plan is based on the strategic areas and goals determined in the Development Strategy of the Slovak Accreditation Agency for Higher Education for the years 2022-2027. It follows the previous plan, which was the updated SAAHE Action Plan in the form of priorities for 2022 with an outlook to 2023, and which was approved by the Agency’s Executive Board on 22.9.2022. At the same time, it also reflects the National Action Plan in the field of external quality assurance of higher education institutions in the Slovak Republic, prepared in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Science of Research and Sports of the Slovak Republic. When preparing the plan, the conclusions of the 2022 SAAHE Annual Internal System Evaluation, which were discussed by the Agency’s Executive Board at its meeting on 14.3.2023, were taken into account.

Context and Priorities

The working plan is a translation of the Agency’s strategic goals into specific tasks and measures. During the planning period, SAAHE will focus primarily on fulfilling the tasks of the Quality Assurance Act. In the field of accreditation activities, the most important task is the review of compliance of the higher education internal systems and their implementation with the standards for the internal system. The assessment will be carried out at all 33 higher education institutions based in the Slovak Republic. This process should be implemented during 2023 and in the first half of 2024. In addition, the Agency will accredit study programs based on requests from higher education institutions. In the field of international cooperation, the Agency expects the results of the evaluation by the ENQA Panel in order to be registered in EQAR and accepted as a full member of ENQA. The Agency will implement the panel's findings and recommendations in detail and anticipates possible optimization of its activities based on them. In the strategic area of quality culture, the Agency will carefully analyse the system of higher education institutions in the Slovak Republic, with an emphasis on the satisfaction survey of PhD students and on the analysis of information related to the internal systems of higher education institutions, which the higher education institutions provided in their self-assessment reports. After completing all reviews of the internal systems of higher education institutions, the agency plans to prepare an analytical report on the findings that the review panels will present in the self-assessment reports.

In addition to the tasks and measures reflecting the strategic goals of the Agency, the working plan also includes other tasks that result from its current internal needs and external inputs. These are listed in the fourth part of the plan. The Agency concretizes the measures and tasks of the working plan into operational tasks, which are determined and controlled at meetings held weekly.

Specific tasks and measures according to strategic areas

| Target | Identification of the task/measure | Responsibility | Timeline |
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| 1. Strategic area: accreditation activities | | | |
| Development of Accreditation Standards | Adjustment of standards for the study program focused on the specificities of teacher study programs | SAAHE | 3Q 2023 |

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| | Adjustment of accreditation standards after the evaluation of reviews of higher education institutions' internal systems | SAAHE | 4Q 2024 |
| Development of accreditation procedures | Ongoing evaluation of accreditation procedures with an emphasis on knowledge gained during on-site visits when reviewing the internal systems of higher education institutions in the Slovak Republic | Accr. Dep. | 1Q 2023-1Q 2024 |
| | Adjustment of accreditation procedures after evaluation of reviews of higher education institutions' internal systems | Accr. Dep. | 4Q 2024 |
| Development of professionalism and competence of the members of the bodies, review panels, and employees of the Agency | Continuous training and preparation of members of review panels for reviewing the internal systems of higher education institutions | Accr. Dep. | 1Q 2023-3Q 2023 |
| | Training of the Agency's employees on relevant national legislation | SAAHE – legislative and legal unit | 2Q 2023—2Q 2024 |
| | Educational meetings and training for selected Agency employees focused on ESG | SAAHE | 2Q 2023-4Q 2023 |
| 2. Strategic area: international cooperation | | | |
| Increasing the involvement of international experts in the Agency's activities | Supplementing the list of reviewers with international reviewers with an emphasis on ESG oriented persons and external quality assurance in higher education | SAAHE | 2Q 2023—2Q 2024 |
| Development of cooperation with partner agencies abroad | Exchanging experiences and sharing good practices with partner organizations abroad | SAAHE | 2Q 2023—2Q 2024 |
| | Active participation in the V4 Forum event | SAAHE | 3Q 2023 |
| | Active participation in the activities of the ENQA review panel for academic integrity | Accr. Dep. | 2Q 2023—4Q 2023 |
| Achieving full membership of the Agency in ENQA and registration of the Agency in EQAR. | On-site assessment of the Agency by a panel of ENQA experts | SAAHE | 1Q 2023 |
| | Statement of the Agency on the factual side of the ENQA expert panel's assessment report | SAAHE | 2Q 2023 |
| | Evaluation of experts' recommendations in the ENQA panel assessment report | SAAHE | 3Q 2023-4Q 2023 |

| 3. Strategic area: culture of Quality | | | |
|--|--|--------------|-------------------|
| Development of cooperation with the stakeholders | Meetings and events with stakeholders in order to optimize the processes of external and internal quality assurance in higher education | SAAHE | 1Q 2023-4Q 2024 |
| Establishment and development of the system of dissemination of good practice in higher education quality assurance area | Evaluation of good practices from the findings of review panels assessing the internal systems of higher education institutions and preparation of a catalogue of good practices | SAAHE | 1Q 2024 – 3Q 2024 |
| | Publication of the catalogue of good practices on the Agency's website | SAAHE | 4Q 2024 |
| Implementation of analyses of the higher education system | PhD student satisfaction survey – data collection | Analyt. Dep. | 3Q 2023 |
| | PhD student satisfaction survey – evaluation and presentation of results and thematic report | Analyt. Dep. | 4Q 2023 |
| | Analysis of the structure of the internal quality assurance systems of higher education institutions based on the evaluation of the basis for their assessment | SAAHE | 4Q 2023 |
| | Analysis and findings from first reviews of compliance of internal quality assurance systems of higher education institutions with standards | Analyt. Dep. | 4Q 2024 |
| 4. Other priorities and tasks | | | |
| System of the Agency's internal regulations | Amendment of selected internal regulations of the Agency | SAAHE | 2Q 2023-4Q 2023 |
| Information infrastructure of the Agency | Processing of the Agency's information security audit | SAAHE | 2Q 2023 |
| | Evaluation and implementation of the Agency's information security audit recommendations | SAAHE | 3Q 2023-1Q 2024 |