

## **INTERNAL REGULATION No. 2/2019**

# **STATUTE OF THE SLOVAK ACCREDITATION AGENCY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

**as amended on 29 January 2026**

**Bratislava, 29 January 2026**

# **STATUTE OF THE SLOVAK ACCREDITATION AGENCY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION**

approved at the meeting of the Executive Board of the Slovak Accreditation Agency for Higher Education (hereinafter referred to as the “Executive Board”) on 17 April 2019, as amended on 26 January 2023 and as amended on 29 January 2026 pursuant to § 7 par. 7 letter d) point 1 of Act No. 269/2018 Coll. on quality assurance in higher education and amending Act No. 343/2015 Coll. on public procurement and amending certain acts, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the “Act”) – (hereinafter referred to as the “Statute”):

## **Part I Introductory provisions**

### **Article 1 Introductory provisions**

1. Slovak Accreditation Agency for Higher Education (hereinafter referred to as the “Agency”) was established by law as an independent public entity performing external quality assurance activities in higher education and other activities in accordance with the Act.
2. The Agency operates in accordance with the Act, other generally binding legal regulations of the Slovak Republic, in particular Act No. 300/2025 Coll. on higher education institutions and on amendments to certain acts (hereinafter referred to as the “Higher Education Act”), Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area, this Statute and other internal rules and regulations of the Agency.
3. This Statute primarily regulates the basic structure of the Agency, its bodies and activities.
4. Definitions and terms in this Statute are used in accordance with the Act.

### **Article 2 Name and seat of the Agency**

1. The full name of the Agency is: „Slovenská akreditačná agentúra pre vysoké školstvo“, in English “Slovak Accreditation Agency for Higher Education”.
2. The Agency is a legal entity and acts on its behalf in legal matters.
3. The seat of the Agency is Bratislava, Slovak Republic.

### **Article 3 Scope of the Agency**

1. The Agency
  - a) decides on
    1. compliance of the internal system of the higher education institution and its implementation with the standards for the internal system<sup>1</sup>,
    2. granting or non-granting of accreditation of a study programme;
    3. granting, non-granting or withdrawing of accreditation of habilitation proceedings;
    4. granting, non-granting or withdrawing of accreditation of inauguration proceedings;
    5. the imposition of a corrective measure;
    6. the suspension of proceedings on an application for approval to operate as a private higher education institution (hereinafter referred to as “state approval”);

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<sup>1</sup> § 3 of the Act

- b) provides to the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Ministry of Education")
    1. a statement on the application for state approval;
    2. proposals for amendments to standards;
    3. comments on proposals concerning higher education;
    4. information on facts indicating academic fraud or participation in academic fraud<sup>2</sup>;
  - c) maintains a list of reviewers from which the Executive Board establishes review panels;
  - d) monitors the compliance with standards;
  - e) publishes on its website<sup>3</sup>
    1. standards;
    2. methodology for the evaluation of standards;
    3. principles for registration in the list of reviewers, which mainly regulate the procedure for inclusion in the list of reviewers and the requirements for inclusion in the list of reviewers;
  - f) makes entries in the register of fields of study, the register of study programmes and other registers of the Ministry of Education within the meaning of the Higher Education Act;
  - g) prepares
    1. a draft fee schedule for the Agency's actions (hereinafter referred to as the "fee schedule") and a proposal for its amendment;
    2. analyses of developments in the higher education system in the Slovak Republic, including surveys among students, higher education staff, employers and other stakeholders, as well as analyses of self-assessment reports concerning internal systems,
    3. annual activity and economy report of the Agency;
  - h) publishes on its website<sup>3</sup>
    1. standards and methodology for the evaluation of standards;
    2. the Agency's internal rules and regulations;
    3. fee schedule,
    4. application forms pursuant to § 21 par. 1 letters a) and b) of the Act and self-assessment reports, including the form and method of their delivery;
    5. information on the initiation of proceedings pursuant to § 21 par. 1 of the Act;
    6. applications pursuant to § 21 par. 1 letters a) and b) of the Act;
    7. evaluation reports of review panels, after discussion in the Executive Board;
    8. supporting documents for the decision or statement of the Agency and for the statement of the Agency's Board of Appeal (hereinafter referred to as the "Board of Appeal");
    9. decisions of the Agency and statements of the Agency on applications pursuant to § 21 par. 1 letter b) of the Act;
    10. statements of the Board of Appeal pursuant to § 22 par. 2) of the Act;
    11. resolutions of the bodies of the Agency;
    12. schedule pursuant to § 24 par. 1) of the Act;
  - i) conducts business activities pursuant to § 20 par. 7 of the Act.
2. The Agency is obliged to:
- a) request an evaluation of its activities from the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education at least once every five years;
  - b) ensure the demonstrable professional development of its employees, members of its bodies and reviewers within the scope of the Agency's activities;
  - c) publish a draft of the principles for registration in the list of reviewers, removal from the list of reviewers and the creation of review panels on its website for at least 30 days, evaluate the comments received during this period, and publish their evaluation together

<sup>2</sup> § 101 and § 102 of the Higher Education Act

<sup>3</sup> [www.saavs.sk](http://www.saavs.sk)

with the approved text of the principles; the principles also allow for the registration of international reviewers from different countries and take into account the experience of reviewers from different professional backgrounds;

- d) publish the draft fee schedule and any proposed changes to amend it on its website for at least 30 days, evaluate the comments received during this period and submit its evaluation together with the proposal to the Ministry of Education;
- e) immediately notify the Ministry of Education and the representative bodies of higher education institutions of any proposal published on its website;
- f) file the approved financial statements and annual activity and economy report of the Agency in the public section of the register of financial statements; the financial statements within the deadline specified in a special regulation<sup>4</sup>, the annual activity and economy report of the Agency by 30 June.

## **Part II**

### **Bodies of the Agency and advisory bodies**

#### **Article 4**

##### **Bodies of the Agency**

1. The bodies of the Agency within the meaning of § 5 of the Act are:
  - a) Chair of the Executive Board;
  - b) Vice-Chair of the Executive Board;
  - c) the Executive Board,
  - d) Board of Appeal;
  - e) Agency Auditor,
  - f) Head of Office.

#### **Article 5**

##### **Chair of the Executive Board**

1. The Chair of the Executive Board is the statutory body of the Agency.
2. The Chair of the Executive Board manages the Agency, acts on its behalf and represents it externally.
3. The Chair of the Executive Board is appointed and dismissed by the Minister of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic (hereinafter referred to as the "Minister of Education") based on the results of a selection procedure and under the conditions laid down by the Act.
4. The term of office of the Chair of the Executive Board is six years.
5. Resignation from the position of Chair of the Executive Board also constitutes resignation from the Executive Board.
6. If the Chair of the Executive Board ceases to hold office before the end of his or her term of office as a member of the Executive Board, the Vice-Chair of the Executive Board will perform the duties of the Chair of the Executive Board in full until a new Chair of the Executive Board is appointed.
7. The Chair of the Executive Board is represented by Vice-Chair of the Executive Board during his or her absence.

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<sup>4</sup> § 23a of Act No. 431/2002 Coll. on accounting, as amended.

**Article 6**  
**Competencies of the Chair of the Executive Board**

1. The Chair of the Executive Board shall, in particular:
  - a) perform management and decision-making activities, unless such functions have been entrusted to the Executive Board or the Board of Appeal by the Act or internal regulations of the Agency. As part of these activities, he or she shall, in particular, issue instructions, orders, measures, guidelines, notices and other normative and internal management acts in order to ensure the proper performance of the Agency's activities;
  - b) ensure the employer's function in employment relationships concerning the Agency;
  - c) convene and chair meetings of the Executive Board;
  - d) ensure the preparation of and submission to the Executive Board for approval:
    1. draft statute or its amendment;
    2. draft standards or their amendments,
    3. draft methodology for the evaluation of standards or its amendments;
    4. draft internal rules and regulations of the Agency;
    5. other relevant materials;
  - e) submit to the Minister of Education a proposal for the appointment of the Vice-Chair of the Executive Board from among the members of the Executive Board;
  - f) appoint and dismiss the Head of Office;
  - g) be responsible for the efficient and effective use of funds in accordance with the relevant provisions of the law and their settlement with the state budget, and for the management of the Agency's assets;
  - h) represent the Agency externally in international relations; if the Agency is a member of an international organisation, it is represented by the Chair of the Executive Board or a member of the Executive Board authorised by the Chair, or by an employee of the Agency authorised by the Chair;
  - i) sign the Agency's internal rules and regulations, and decisions of the Agency approved by the Executive Board within the scope of its competence; however, he or she will not sign them if they are contrary to the law;
  - j) appoint and dismiss the Chair and the members of the review panels after approval by the Executive Board;
  - k) establish permanent or temporary advisory bodies of the Chair, usually for the purpose of preparing documents for decision-making by the bodies, preparing background documents for methodological or analytical activities, or making recommendations.
  - l) represent the Agency in the media, communicate and make public statements on behalf of the Agency, in person or through a person authorised by the Chair.

**Article 7**  
**Vice-Chair of the Executive Board**

1. The Vice-Chair of the Executive Board shall represent the Chair of the Executive Board during his or her absence.
2. The term of office of the Vice-Chair of the Executive Board is six years.
3. If the Vice-President of the Executive Board ceases to hold office before the end of his or her term of office as a member of the Executive Board and the position of the Chair of the Executive Board is vacant, the duties of the Chair of the Executive Board shall be performed in full by a member of the Executive Board appointed by the Minister of Education until the expiry of the original term of office of the Vice-Chair of the Executive Board.
4. The Vice-Chair of the Executive Board may resign from this position without resigning from membership in the Executive Board.

## **Article 8**

### **The Executive Board**

1. The Executive Board consists of nine members, including the Chair of the Executive Board and the Vice-Chair of the Executive Board.
2. The members of the Executive Board are appointed and dismissed by the Minister of Education. The Minister for Education appoints the members of the Executive Board in accordance with the results of the selection procedure, such that:
  - a) two members of the Executive Board are not employed by any higher education institution, including higher education institutions based abroad,
  - b) four members are or have been teachers at a higher education institution, researchers or artists at a higher education institution based in the Slovak Republic or at a higher education institution based abroad;
  - c) two members are students at a higher education institution based in the Slovak Republic.
3. The term of office of a member of the Executive Board is six years, except for a member appointed pursuant to § 7 par. 1 letter c) of the Act, whose term of office is three years. If a member of the Executive Board pursuant to § 7 par. 1 letter c) of the Act ceases to be a student, he or she shall continue to perform his or her duties until the end of the term of office. The same person may serve as a member of the Executive Board for a maximum of two terms.
4. A member of the Executive Board may not be appointed as a member of the Board of Appeal for a period of four years after leaving office.

## **Article 9**

### **Competencies of the Executive Board**

1. The Executive Board shall, in particular:
  - a) adopt decisions pursuant to § 4 par. 2 letter a) of the Act;
  - b) adopt statements pursuant to § 4 par. 2 letter b) of the Act;
  - c) approve the draft of standards and the proposals for its amendments submitted by the Chair of the Executive Board;
  - d) approve methodology for the evaluation of standards and proposals for its amendments;
  - e) approve the draft of fee schedule and proposals for its amendments before submitting the schedule to the Ministry of Education for approval;
  - f) approve the Agency's budget proposal;
  - g) approve the draft of financial statements and the distribution or settlement of the economic result;
  - h) approve the draft of annual activity and economy report of the Agency;
  - i) approve the Agency's internal rules and regulations and any amendments thereto, with the exception of the rules of procedure of the Board of Appeal, including:
    1. Statute of the Agency, on a proposal from the Chair of the Executive Board,
    2. Organisational rules of the Agency;
    3. Rules of procedure of the Executive Board;
    4. Adjustment of the conflict of interest of members of the Agency's collective bodies, members of Executive Board review panels and employees of the Agency,
    5. Internal quality assurance system of the Agency's activities;
    6. Principles for registration in the list of reviewers, removal from the list of reviewers and the creation of the Executive Board review panels;
    7. Rules for conducting business activities;
    8. Rules for the organisation of the selection procedure for the Chair of the Executive Board and the members of the Executive Board;
  - j) add persons to the list of reviewers and remove them from the list;
  - k) monitor compliance with the internal quality assurance system for the Agency's activities;
  - l) methodically guide, manage and coordinate the activities of review panels;

- m) may establish permanent or temporary advisory bodies;
  - n) perform other tasks pursuant to the Act or internal rules and regulations of the Agency.
2. The convening, conduct and procedures of the Executive Board's meetings are governed in detail by the rules of procedure of the Executive Board.

## **Article 10**

### **The Board of Appeal**

1. The Board of Appeal reviews the procedures of the Executive Board and review panels based on objections submitted by a party to the proceedings regarding the decisions or statements of the Executive Board.
2. The Board of Appeal has five members and two alternates, who are appointed and dismissed by the Minister for Education.
3. The term of office of a member of the Board of Appeal is four years. The same person may serve as a member of the Board of Appeal for a maximum of two terms.
4. If a member's position is vacant, if a member has been excluded from deliberating on a matter due to a conflict of interest, or if a member is unable to perform his or her duties, an alternate member who has the status of a full member of the Board of Appeal shall take his or her position. The convening, conduct and manner of proceedings of the Board of Appeal is further regulated by the rules of procedure of the Board of Appeal. The rules of procedure of the Board of Appeal is approved by the Board of Appeal following a prior statement by the Executive Board.

## **Article 11**

### **Auditor**

1. The Auditor is appointed based on the results of a selection procedure and dismissed by the Minister of Education.
2. In particular, the Auditor shall:
  - a) audit the Agency's financial management;
  - b) comment on the annual activity and economy report of the Agency before submitting it to the Executive Board within 15 days of its submission by the Agency; if the Auditor does not comment on the Agency's draft of annual activity and economy report within the specified period, the Executive Board may approve it even without the opinion of the Auditor,
  - c) comment on the financial statements before submitting them to the Executive Board within 15 days of its submission by the Agency; if the Auditor does not comment on the Agency's draft financial statements within the specified period, the Executive Board may approve them even without the opinion of the Auditor;
  - d) submit proposals to the Chair of the Executive Board for the elimination of identified deficiencies;
  - e) perform other tasks pursuant to the Act or internal rules and regulations of the Agency.
3. In performing his or her activities, the Auditor is entitled to request information and explanations from the relevant bodies of the Agency, their members and employees of the Agency, and to inspect all accounting records and other documents of the Agency to the extent specified by the Act.
4. The Auditor has the right to attend meetings of the Executive Board when the Executive Board discusses the draft of financial statements, the draft of annual activity and economy report of the Agency for the calendar year or other materials relating to the financing and management of the Agency.
5. The term of office of the Auditor is four years. The same person may serve as an Auditor for a maximum of two terms.

## **Article 12 Head of Office**

1. The Head of Office is appointed and dismissed by the Chair of the Executive Board. The Head of Office is appointed by the Chair of the Executive Board based on the results of a selection procedure.
2. The Head of Office
  - a) ensures the proper functioning of the Agency, including administrative, technical, spatial and personnel support;
  - b) manages the Agency's office based on instructions and within the scope determined by the Chair of the Executive Board;
  - c) submits to the Executive Board the Agency's draft of budget and a proposal for the allocation of the Agency's operating results or the settlement of the Agency's operating results;
  - d) submits to the Auditor and the Executive Board a draft of the financial statements and a draft of the annual activity and economy report of the Agency; he or she submits it to the Executive Board for discussion together with the opinion of the Auditor;
  - e) performs other tasks assigned to him or her by the Act, this statute or other internal rules and regulations of the Agency.
3. If the Agency does not have Head of Office, his or her duties are performed by an employee of the Agency appointed by the Chair of the Executive Board until a new Head of Office is appointed.

## **Article 13 Review Panel**

1. For the purpose of assessing a specific application, the Executive Board shall establish review panels from among the persons listed in the list of reviewers. The Executive Board may also establish a review panel to review a proposal from the Agency or to verify measures taken by a higher education institution, if such review or verification by an employee of the Agency is not sufficient.
2. The review panel is appointed and dismissed by the Chair of the Executive Board with the prior consent of the Executive Board.
3. The type of proceedings is taken into account when establishing the review panel.
4. The principles for registration in the list of reviewers, removal from the list of reviewers, and the creation of the Executive Board review panels are determined by the Agency's internal rules and regulations.
5. The activities of the review panel are governed by the Act and the relevant methodology of the Agency.

## **Part III Common provisions on the bodies of the Agency and the review panel**

### **Article 14**

1. The Executive Board and the Board of Appeal adopt their conclusions in the form of resolutions only at their meetings; in the case of the establishment of a review panel, a resolution may also be adopted outside a meeting. Meetings may also be held by videoconference or other means of information and communication technology without the physical presence of the members of the Executive Board or the Board of Appeal. A

resolution of the Executive Board is adopted if at least two-thirds majority of all members of the Executive Board vote in favour of its adoption. A resolution of the Board of Appeal is adopted if a simple majority of all members of the Board of Appeal vote in favour of its adoption. If the Board of Appeal does not adopt a resolution, this means confirmation of the decision or confirmation of the Agency's statement.

2. The manner and form of the adoption of resolutions from meetings, including resolutions adopted *per rollam*, are further regulated by the rules of procedure of the relevant body.
3. A member of the Executive Board, a member of the Board of Appeal, an Auditor and a member of the review panel are required to act independently in the proceedings; this means that he or she is not bound by the instructions of the person who proposed their appointment to the position or the person who appointed him or her to the position.

### **Article 15 Conflict of interest**

1. The position of member of the Executive Board, member of the Board of Appeal, Auditor and Head of Office is incompatible with the positions specified in the relevant provisions of the Act.
2. The Chair of the Executive Board may not engage in any business or other gainful activity or be a member of the management, control or supervisory bodies of legal entities engaged in business activities to the extent specified in the Act on the performance of work in the public interest.
3. The position of the Chair of the Executive Board, the Vice-Chair of the Executive Board, member of the Executive Board pursuant to § 7 par. 1 letter a) of the Act, the position of a member of the Board of Appeal pursuant to § 9 par. 5 of the Act and the position of the Head of the Office are incompatible with the employment at a higher education institution based in the Slovak Republic or with any other employment with a higher education institution based in Slovak Republic. The position of member of the Executive Board is incompatible with the position of member of the Board of Appeal, the position of Auditor and the position of Head of Office. The position of member of the Board of Appeal is incompatible with the position of Auditor and the position of Head of Office. The position of Head of Office is incompatible with the position of Auditor.
4. If a natural person is to become a member of the Executive Board, a member of the Board of Appeal, the Auditor or the Head of Office and performs a position or activity that is incompatible with this position, he or she is obliged to terminate the performance of such position or activity no later than on the day of his or her appointment. A member of the Executive Board, a member of the Board of Appeal, the Auditor and the Head of the Office are required to submit a written notification within 30 days of his or her appointment stating that he or she meets the conditions of incompatibility of his or her position, which shall be delivered to the Minister of Education. The Head of Office shall deliver a written notification that he or she meets the conditions of incompatibility of his or her position to the Chair of the Executive Board.
5. Members of the Executive Board, members of the Board of Appeal, the Auditor and the Head of Office may not be included in the list of reviewers. The Agency shall remove from the list of reviewers any reviewer who has been appointed as a member of the Executive Board, a member of the Board of Appeal, the Auditor or the Head of Offices.

## **Part IV Performance of the Agency**

**Article 16**  
**Performance of the Agency**

1. The Agency conducts proceedings pursuant to part three of the Act, in particular in matters of regular assessment of the internal system, accreditation of the study programmes, accreditation of the habilitation proceedings, accreditation of proceedings for the appointment of professors (hereinafter referred to as “inauguration proceedings”) and the imposition of corrective measures. The Agency initiates proceedings in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Act, at the request of the applicant or on its own initiative. The Agency initiates proceedings on its own initiative based on a decision of the Executive Board.
2. The Agency’s procedures in relation to the proceedings conducted are further regulated by the Agency’s internal rules and regulations. The party to the proceedings has the right to object to a decision or to a statement by the Agency in accordance with the Act. The Board of Appeal decides on the objections of the party to the proceedings.

**Article 17**  
**Principles of the Agency**

1. The Agency, its employees, members of its bodies, review panels and external co-workers shall adhere to the principles of transparency, objectivity, impartiality, and equal and fair treatment in their activities. They refrain from conflicts of interest and act with high moral and ethical standards.

**Article 18**  
**Internal quality assurance system of the Agency’s activities**

1. The internal system of the Agency consists of interlinked policies, structures and procedures for ensuring and developing the quality of the activities carried out by the Agency in accordance with its development strategy. The internal system of the Agency applies to all activities carried out by the Agency.
2. The Agency’s internal system applies to the Agency’s employees, members of the Agency’s collective bodies and other stakeholders involved in the Agency’s activities.
3. The basic principles of the Agency’s internal system are the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area and the Act.
4. The internal quality assurance system of the Agency’s activities is further regulated by the Agency’s internal rules and regulations.

**Part V**  
**Financing and management of the Agency**

**Article 19**

1. The Agency’s funds are kept in accounts with the State Treasury. Funds relating to business activities are kept by the Agency in a separate account in the State Treasury.
2. The Agency’s accounting and financial management are ensured by the Head of Office.
3. The Agency manages its finances in accordance with a budget of revenues and expenditures, the draft of which is submitted by the Head of Office to the Executive Board no later than one month after the approval of the amount of funds allocated to the Agency from the state budget for the given year, and which is approved by the Executive Board.

Until its approval, the Agency manages its finances in accordance with the draft of budget of revenues and expenditures for the previous calendar year or in accordance with the draft submitted by the Head of Office to the extent approved by the Chair of the Executive Board.

4. The Head of Office submits the draft of financial statements and the draft of annual activity and economy report of the Agency for the calendar year to the Auditor before submitting them to the Executive Board.
5. The Head of Office submits the draft of distribution of the economic result or the draft settlement of the economic result to the Executive Board together with the draft of financial statements and the draft of annual activity and economy report of the Agency, unless the Chair of the Executive Board decides otherwise.
6. Legal acts relating to the property of the Agency are carried out by the Chair of the Executive Board with the prior consent of the Executive Board, if such consent is required under the relevant Act.
7. The Agency is authorised to conduct business activities within the scope provided by law. The business activities of the Agency are managed by the Chair of the Executive Board or, upon the Chair's authorisation, by the Head of the Office.
8. The Head of Office ensures that clear accounting records of revenues and expenses from business activities are maintained in accordance with the law and makes them available upon request to any member of the Executive Board and the Auditor, along with the necessary information.

## **Part VI**

### **Final provisions**

1. Amendments to this Statute are approved by the Executive Board upon proposal from the Chair of the Executive Board.
2. This Statute, as amended, shall take effect on 1 March 2026.

Bratislava, 29 January 2026

**prof. Ing. Robert Redhammer, PhD.**  
Chair of the Executive Board