



Thematic working group "Quality"

National overview, Slovenia

Notice: The report provides a picture of the current state of play in relation to university lifelong learning quality policy and legislation in each country. Any views expressed are those of the author.

Quality assessment and assurance on higher education level is governed by the Act on higher education (ZViS-UPB3, Official Bulletin No. 119/2006, 20. 11. 2006). The Act was changed twice in some sections. For the topic in discussion, the important changes were in 2011 (ZViS-H, Official Bulletin No. 119/2006, 20. 11. 2006) in which the National Agency for Quality in Higher Education (NAQHE, Slovenian NAKVIS) was formally established. The NAQHE has several tasks, among which are training and keeping records of evaluators, accreditation of study programmes and higher education institutions and external evaluations of study programmes and higher education institutions. By law, a positive external evaluation report is compulsory for re-accreditation of a programme or institution. NAQHE cooperates with other quality assessment and assurance bodies in Europe to exchange practice and experience and to improve policies and processes.

External evaluation committees are composed of at least three members, at least one of them has to be a student representative and at least one of them has to be a foreign expert. Domestic evaluator candidates have to take part in a training programme organised by NAQHE. Other events with foreign lecturers and experts are also organised to keep up with novelties in the field. NAQHE also prepares meta-evaluation reports of the evaluation processes in the past year(s) which are presented in these events. This is a way to ensure constant (lifelong) learning in the field for both researchers and practitioners.

In Slovenian higher education institutions, self-evaluations are compulsory by law, but structure and actual procedures are not defined so each institution performs self-evaluation according to their internal acts and needs. Each institution has to appoint an internal quality committee that is responsible for self-evaluation. NAQHE prepares a summary of these self-evaluations for public.