



Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA)

Increasing the Financial Autonomy and accountability at public higher education institutions in Kosovo

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Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA)

- KAA is a public agency responsible to evaluate quality assurance among HEIs in Kosovo;
- Established by MEST (2008) in accordance with the Law on Higher Education (2003/14);
- Establishment and development of KAA is supported by Austria (KAIP Project);
- Contacts and cooperation with three Austrian bodies for QA and accreditation (AQA; OAR; FHR) and BAC;



Legislation

- Law on Higher Education in the Republic of Kosovo (2011);
- AI on Establishment of Kosovo Accreditation Agency (2004);
- AI on Licensing of HEIs in the Republic of Kosovo (2012);
- AI on Accreditation of HEIs in the Republic of Kosovo (2013);
- AI on Accreditation of High Professional and Technical Schools in the Republic of Kosovo (2010);



Mission

- Through the accreditation process KAA supports development of the quality in HEIs;
- Assures the Kosovo society that the quality of teaching and learning is at the level of international standards;

Responsibilities

- Accreditation and re-accreditation of public and private HEIs and their study programs;
- Constant control of quality at the accredited institutions and their study programs;
- Informs the public about the quality of HEIs and their study programs;



HEIs in the Republic of Kosovo

- 6 Public Universities (UP, UPe, UPz, UGjk, UM, UGjl)
- Faculty of Islamic Studies
- 26 Private HEIs
 - 23 Colleges
 - 2 High Professional Schools
 - 1 Academy

Validated institutions:

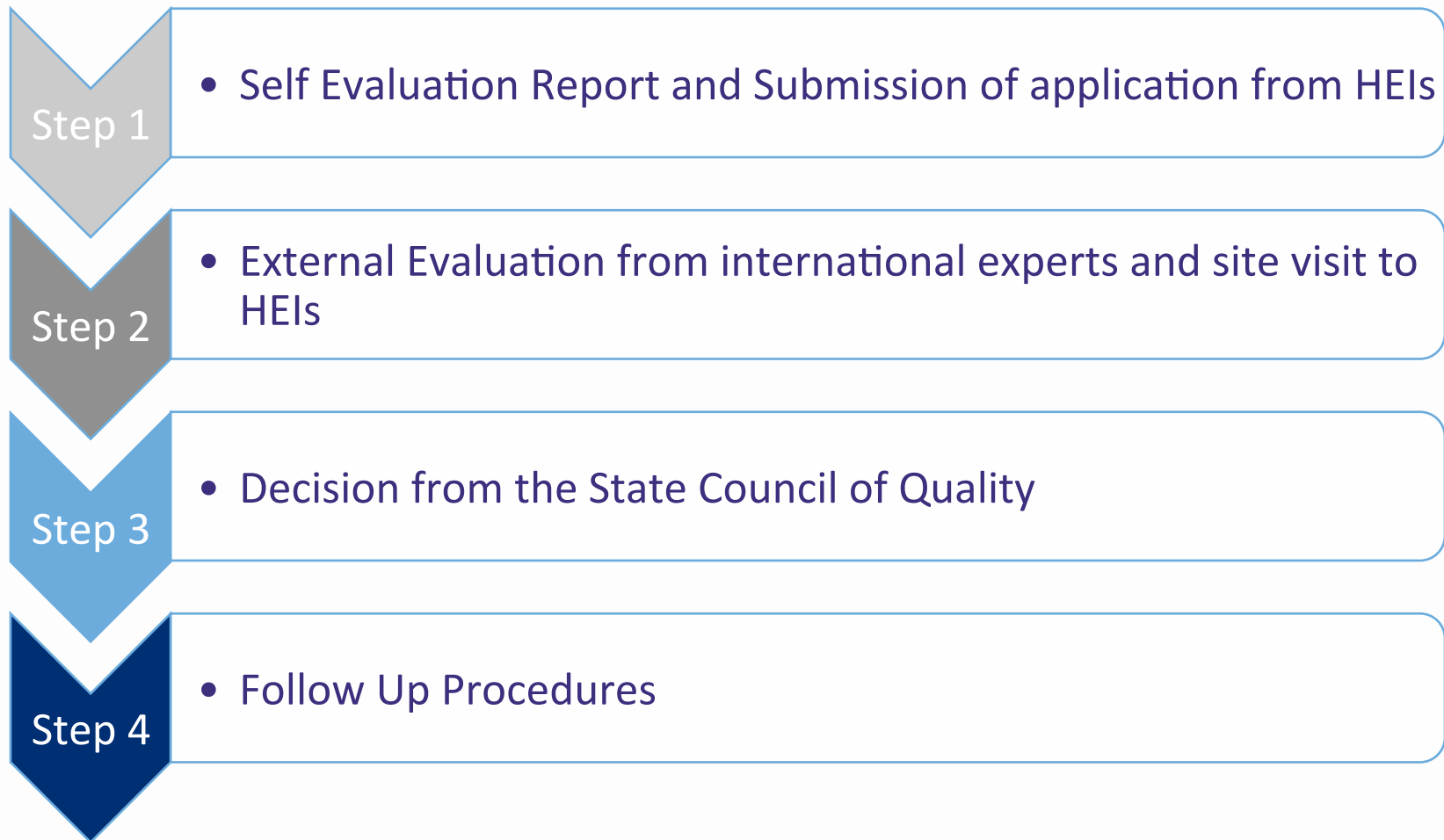
- Faculty of Economics of University of Lublana
- International Business College of Mitrovica
- EADA School

Number of study programs in Kosovo

| Study programs by level | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Sector | Level V | BA | MA | PhD | Total |
| Private | 9 | 124 | 73 | 0 | 206 |
| Public | 0 | 130 | 108 | 24 | 262 |
| TOTAL | 9 | 254 | 181 | 24 | 468 |



Evaluation procedure





What are the key elements to be evaluated by KAA when doing external evaluation of HEIs in relation to finances?



1. Academic staff;
2. Infrastructure, equipment, and IT;
3. Students;
4. International cooperation;
5. Scientific/ artistic research
6. Quality Assurance
7. Financing

Guidelines on Drafting the Self Evaluation Report for assessing institutions and study programs

- Development plan under the leading principles and the financial plan;
- Academic staff development plan for a period of 3 years (provide evidence how the growth of qualified academic staff is planned, how the HEI plan to support further education and financing of new academic staff, mobility, training. Participation in conferences and scientific symposiums, etc.)
- Financing: budget and financial plan of academic units/ institutions/ study programs for at least three years, with data about the financing sources

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Standards of quality

- HEIs should have a Strategic Development Plan which covers a minimal period of three years. If the HEIs accept public funds, should have plans how to harmonize those incomes with those coming from MEST;
- HEIs should prove that possess sufficient human, material and financial resources as well as physical and technical infrastructure that enables them to achieve aims and objectives set in the Strategic Plan;
- Study programs should regularly accept financial support to ensure that learning outcomes are achieved;
- Financial resources of HEIs should be transparent and should not restrict its academic autonomy;

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Expenses of accreditation process

- HEIs shall bear all its own costs during the self evaluation process
- The cost of the accreditation process for all public, private and public – private higher education institutions, including all costs of the experts, shall be met by the institution applying for accreditation;
- KAA will make a preliminary estimate of the cost of the accreditation process and will notify the institution of this;
- Estimated expenditures for examining the application for accreditation and its submitting documentation, are: initial accreditation/ accreditation of a new study program/ institutional re/ accreditation/ re/accreditation of a study program. The expenditures for expert teams are also calculated by multiplying the amount of money with the number of experts in the Expert Team

Challenges of HEIs to KAA requirements and legislation in relation to finances

- Big number of study programs in comparison to the small number of academic staff;
- Big number of students in comparison to the small number of academic and administrative staff;
- Lack of appropriate technical equipment, infrastructure, laboratories, libraries, and other technological and contemporary equipment which are necessary for students practices;
- Low level of mobility of academic staff and students with other HEIs in the region and world;
- Low level of research and scientific works and low level of participation in regional and international scientific conferences;
- Lack of full financial autonomy of HEIs in complying financial requirements for the HEIs itself and in relation to KAA;

KAA' s perspective to increase the financial autonomy and performance

- Effective and transparent organization of mechanisms in the area of finances in order to increase their financial performance;
- Decentralization of decision-making process in the finance field for all academic units;
- Profiling of HEIs and their study programs in relation to labor market needs;
- Increasing the financial support in the area of research and scientific works;
- Establishing research institutes and other relevant mechanisms among HEIs which could generate projects and financial incomes for HEIs;
- Increasing funds for HEIs which would enable exchange of academic staff and students with other HEIs.



Thank you for your attention