



External quality assurance framework in Lithuania

Aurelija Valeikienė, Deputy Director

8 Sept 2022

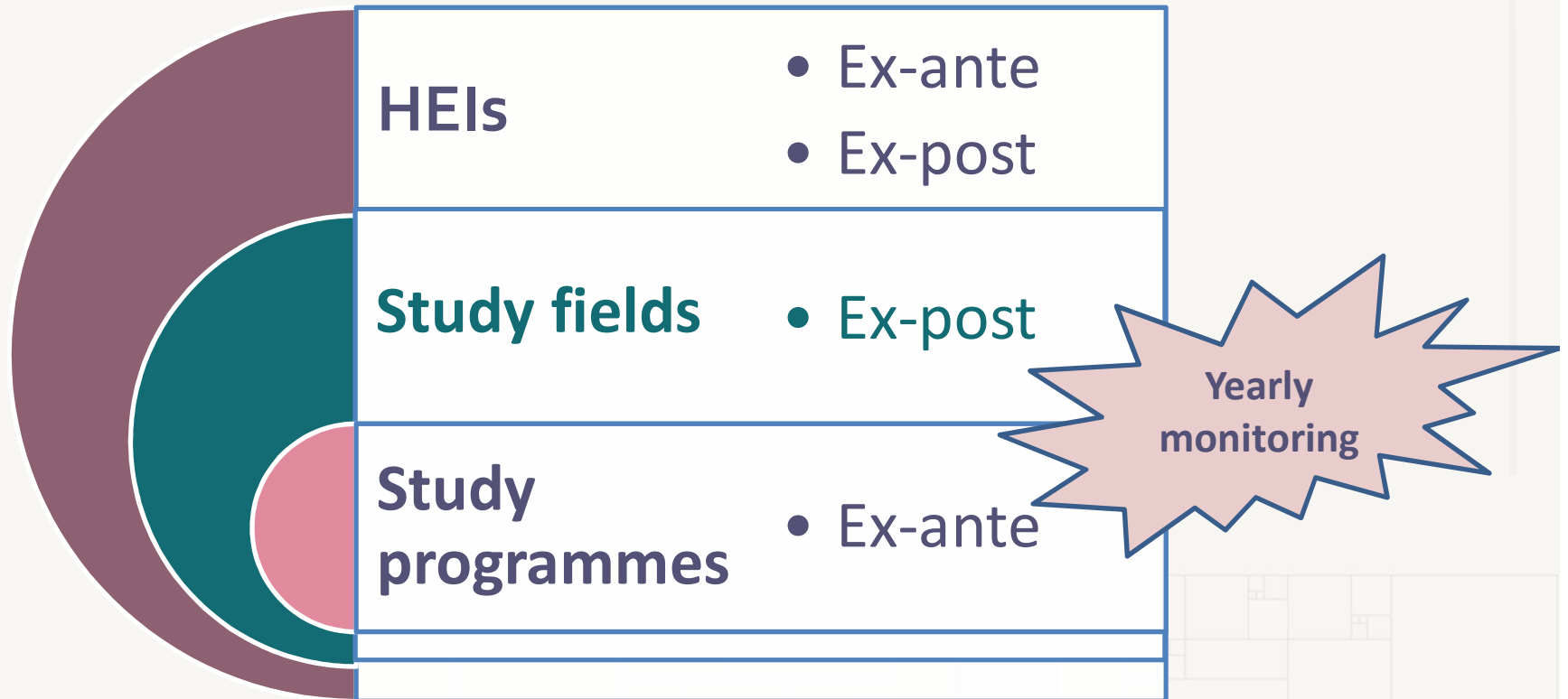
Vilnius

National quality assurance system

Principles of ESG apply,
primary responsibility for quality – by HEIs

- Licencing of provision of studies and activities related to studies (parties involved include the Ministry, SKVC, State Security Department)
- Internal quality assurance by HEIs themselves
- External quality assurance by SKVC [or other QA agencies listed on EQAR]
- Monitoring by the Ministry, STRATA and SKVC
- Authorisation to provide doctoral education, quality of doctoral education and research, benchmarking of research - by Lithuanian Research Council
- Oversight of innovation activities – by STRATA
- Academic ombudsperson institution

The current external quality assurance framework



Approach to external QA

Alignment to the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG):

- Stakeholder involvement in development of the entire framework in a consultative manner
- Student inclusion in expert panels
- Inclusion of reviewers from the labor market
- Very high degree of internationalisation:
 - In institutional review -100% of panels are international
 - In evaluation of study fields – 95% international

The model of external evaluation (1)

- the preparation of the HEI's self-assessment report (in the case of ex-ante procedures, the submission of the relevant applications)
- the establishment of the expert group by SKVC and its familiarisation to the HEI; in the case of requests for changes in the composition of the expert groups, the examination of the requests and the final composition of the expert group
- examination of the self-assessment report (application – in case of ex-ante procedures for study programmes and HEIs)
- a visit to the HEI (normally physical, in pandemic situations – remote)
- drafting and submission of the preliminary expert report to the HEI

The model of external evaluation (2)

- analysis of the HEI's comments on factual errors
- preparation of the final evaluation report
- consideration of the findings by the relevant advisory body of SKVC
- the adoption of the evaluation and accreditation decision by SKVC
- making the evaluation findings public (by SKVC and HEIs)
- the lodging and processing of appeals, if any, prior to the accreditation decision
- follow-up activities after the evaluation.

Legal framework: the case of study programmes and fields

SKVC

MOE
Parl

- Evaluation plan
 - Evaluation Methodology for New Study Programmes
 - Evaluation Methodolgy for Study Fields
- Procedure of Organisation of Expert Selection and Work
- Methodology for Evaluation of Medical Residency Studies
 - Methodology for Evaluation of Short-Cycle Studies

- Procedure for evaluation of medical residency & odontology studies
 - Specific requirements for SP (study field descriptors)
 - General requirements for study programmes (SP)

Law on Higher Education and Research

Regulation regarding MA study programmes

- Master level programmes – of 60 ECTS (only applies to MBA), 90 ECTS or 120 ECTS
- Practical placement periods – not required
- Thesis – not less than 30 ECTS
- Specific requirements depend upon the study field(s) under which the programme is classified, descriptions available at: <https://www.skvc.lt/default/en/quality-assurance/study-program-descriptions>
- It is possible to award a Joint Diploma
- In student admission – recognition according to the *Lisbon Recognition Convention* matters

Regulation regarding study programmes

- Other EQAR registered agencies are allowed in LT
- European Approach towards quality assurance of Joint Degrees not explicitly mentioned, possible to new SP
- Evaluation and Accreditation of JP – together with the study field:
 - In order to run a JP, a HEI has to have an accreditation of a relevant study field per relevant study cycle
- A common SKVC framework for taking decisions applies
 - Evaluation by seven evaluation areas
 - If an evaluation is carried out by another EQAR-registered agency, the report could be not older than 1 year, it will be analysed by SVK
 - Accreditation for 7 years, 3 years, non-accreditation

Legislation on institutional review

- Procedure For The External Review And Accreditation Of HEIs and Branches of foreign HEIs, Evaluation Areas and Indicators (by MoE)

https://www.skvc.lt/uploads/lawacts/docs/353_cac1702d73fe563e60f626878b9d5f9e.pdf

- Methodology For Conducting Institutional Review by SKVC

https://www.skvc.lt/uploads/lawacts/docs/354_1b98eeccf97cd5278356b2a62bb794d1.pdf

- Methodology for Conducting Institutional Review of a Higher Education Institution in Exile

https://www.skvc.lt/uploads/lawacts/docs/393_ff6e5aaace655d1cd997dd2bocebbe5c.pdf

Legislation on evaluation of study fields and programmes

- The Procedure For The External Evaluation And Accreditation Of Studies, Evaluation Areas And Indicators (by the MoE)
https://www.skvc.lt/uploads/lawacts/docs/355_23a7f3887e5f74f259c82oddd1e68dd3.pdf
- Methodology for external evaluation of study fields
https://www.skvc.lt/uploads/lawacts/docs/352_32474967568cc1ac28786of2137e6ob8.pdf
- Methodology for evaluation of new study programmes
https://www.skvc.lt/uploads/lawacts/docs/351_8ofegofc28ead52a82a5155082ao6d72.pdf
- Methodologies for Evaluation of Medical Residency Study Programmes
https://www.skvc.lt/uploads/lawacts/docs/389_7ba2ca3031c6941cfa85299984dd5f78.pdf

Thank you!