

ESG 2015 and Accreditation in Higher Education System in Ukraine

The features of the reform process
of Accreditation in Ukraine

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08.12.2016



Accreditation and Quality Assurance

Accreditation is the process used in higher education to ensure that postsecondary institutions, and other education providers meet, and maintain, minimum standards of quality and integrity regarding academics, administration, and related educational services (*Ed.*).

Accreditation is a process of assessment and recognition of the high quality of the implementation of educational programs.

Quality, whilst not easy to define, is mainly a result of the interaction between teachers, students and the institutional learning environment. Quality assurance should ensure a learning environment in which the content of programmes, learning opportunities and facilities are fit for purpose.

At the heart of all quality assurance activities are the twin purposes of *accountability* and *enhancement*.

Implementing external quality assurance processes (ESG 2015)

- The term “quality assurance” is used to describe all activities within the continuous improvement cycle.
- The term “quality assurance” includes processes such as evaluation, accreditation and audit.
- External quality assurance processes should be reliable, useful, pre-defined, implemented consistently and published.

They include:

- a self-assessment or equivalent;
- an external assessment normally including a site visit;
- a report resulting from the external assessment;
- a consistent follow-up.

Accreditation Process: principles

This is particularly the principles the ones are based the quality assurance in the EHEA:

- ✓ Higher education institutions have primary responsibility for the quality of their provision and its assurance;
- ✓ Accreditation should respond to the diversity of higher education systems, institutions, programmes and students;
- ✓ Accreditation should support to the development of a quality education culture;
- ✓ Accreditation should take into account the needs and expectations of students, all other stakeholders and society.



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The main elements of the reform of the national system of licensing and accreditation

- The national system of licensing and accreditation of higher education was established in the early 90 th century and reflects the difficult path of transformation of Ukraine's Higher Education system. During the years 1991-2016 it suffered some changes, evolved as the content and institutionally.
- The problem of quality of education and its adequacy requirements of time and social development is central in the global educational discourse. The current system of licensing and accreditation, above all, serves as one of the main instruments of public sector management and not stimulate quality improvement of higher education.



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Principles of transformation of the system of licensing and accreditation in higher education

- The system of licensing and accreditation should be simple, logical, understandable and transparent. Minimization procedures to avoid duplication. Cost resources should not be burdensome for the financial and human capabilities of the state and educational institutions;
- The standards and requirements stipulated by Education Standard, adequate, objective, measurable and subjected to verification. Regulations and requirements must be non-discriminatory on grounds of size of the institution, its type, location and ownership;
- Basic indicators should be focused on a positive assessment of the dynamic development of the educational institution as signs of its competitiveness and adaptability;
- The system of licensing and accreditation (indexes, procedures and processes) should encourage, not hinder the development of national higher education;
- The management of licensing and accreditation in Ukraine should be aimed at accelerated integration of national educational system in the EHEA;

Principles of transformation of the system of licensing and accreditation in higher education

- Further development of the licensing and accreditation is impossible without expanding the role and participation of the professional community and public control over it. If licensing should remain under the control and responsibility of the state (provided significant reduction of the list of educational services that require licensing), the accreditation should move from State to public. In Ukraine has found support a practice independent and international accreditation of educational programs and institutions;
- The system of licensing and accreditation should focus on internal and external quality assurance;
- The system of licensing and accreditation should be one of the main factors of the transition from fragmented to effectively coordinate cooperation of higher education, labor market, self-governing professional communities and other civil society.

Key areas of reform of the system of accreditation in higher education



up to 1 year

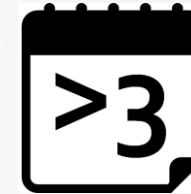
- Re-issue of certificates of accreditation (and issuance of extracts from the USEED) in accordance of the List of disciplines and specialties 2015
- Accreditation of master's degree gives ed. institutions the right to extend the term of the licenses and certificates of accredited specialists and bachelors
- Adoption of new Law «On Education»

Get started working the
National Quality Assurance
Agency for Higher Education



up to 3 year

- Accreditation of programmes of study offered to higher education learners (NQAAHE)



over 3 years

- The last admission for “junior specialist” level programmes shall take place in 2016
- The last admission for “specialist” level programmes shall take place in 2016
- The decision on accreditation of courses of training and specialties up to 2020 (or denial of accreditation) takes Accreditation Commission.

Until 6 September 2014 (Old Law of Ukraine «On Higher Education»)

- The national system of quality assurance (QA) is implemented by means of licensing and accreditation procedures carried out by the Department for Licensing and Accreditation of the Ministry of Education and Science through the State Accreditation Commission, a network of experts and the Supreme Attestation Commission. Thus, on the national level, quality assurance (QA) is applied to higher education as a whole and consists of external and internal assessment and publication of results. Some universities in Ukraine contact international accreditation agencies directly. The Law on Higher Education (2002) stipulates that all HEIs must be licensed before they can offer tertiary-level education programs. To be granted a license, an HEI must meet the required standards set by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, which relate to infrastructure, resources, staff and programs. The accreditation procedures include the accreditation of education programs and the institutional accreditation of HEIs. In order to have an education program accredited, an HEI must meet the requirements of the HE standards. An HEI receives institutional accreditation if at least two-thirds of its educational programs have been accredited.

2014-present (New Law «On Higher Education») Model of Accreditation System

- *Law of Ukraine «On Education», 23 May 1991*

Article 15. State Educational Standards

2. Compliance educational services to state standards and requirements determined by the founder of the institution, a central executive body that implements the state policy in the field of education, executive authority Autonomous Republic of Crimea in education, central authorities of executive authorities, the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, local education authorities through licensing, inspection, certification and accreditation of educational institutions in the order established by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

2014-present (New Law «On Higher Education») Model of Accreditation System

- *The Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine «On Accreditation of higher education institutions and specialties in higher education and higher vocational education institutions», #978, 9 August 2001*
- Accreditation is initiated of education institution.
- Accreditation of higher education institution is the public recognition of his status (level of accreditation).
- Accreditation field of study, specialties in an educational institution for a certain educational level is the public recognition of the relevance of training (retraining) specialists state requirements for field of study, specialty and higher education institution approved by MES.
- Accreditation field of study, specialties made after (or during) the end of training specialists in educational institutions for this field of study, specialty.
- The accreditation assessment conducted by an expert commission, which forms the MES. Regulations on the expert committee and accreditation procedure of examination approve MES.



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2014-present (New Law «On Higher Education») Model of Accreditation System

- *The Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine «On Accreditation of higher education institutions and specialties in higher education and higher vocational education institutions», #978, 9 August 2001*
- The accreditation expertise conducted by an expert commission, which forms the MES. Regulations on the expert committee and accreditation procedure of examination approved MES.
- The decision on accreditation (or denial of accreditation) takes Accreditation Commission.
- The certificate of accreditation of the institution (field of study, specialties) first issued for five years, during the second and subsequent accreditation - for ten years.

2014-present (New Law «On Higher Education») Model of Accreditation System

- *The Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine «On Accreditation of higher education institutions and specialties in higher education and higher vocational education institutions», #978, 9 August 2001*

- **Procedure of Accreditation**

The educational institution, which announced the accreditation of training direction, specialty, submit to MES:

- 1) information on the series, number and date of issue of the license for educational activity and the certificate of previous accreditation (if held);
- 2) report on its activities in the field of training, specialty that is accredited, which confirms the compliance of personnel, educational, logistical and information support license conditions of educational services in higher education, and that the quality characteristics of training specialists state requirements ; specified list of comments (regulations) of exercising control over compliance with licensing conditions, as well as information on complaints of businesses and individuals on the educational activities of the institution in the field of training, specialty that is accredited for the period of preparation (training) of experts, measures to eliminate and information on the implementation of such measures, a description of the internal quality assurance system for educational activities.
- These materials must be considered for academic (teaching) are pleased institution. The report signed by the chairperson and sealed by the institution.
- Documents generated in the case, numbered and signed by the chairperson of the institution. The signature must bear seal of the institution.

2014-present (New Law «On Higher Education») Model of Accreditation System

- *The Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine «On Accreditation of higher education institutions and specialties in higher education and higher vocational education institutions», #978, 9 August 2001*
- **Procedure of Accreditation**

Upon receipt of these materials, MES within 20 days of conducting a preliminary examination.
- Subject to submissions regulatory acts MES within fifteen days form a commission of experts that conducts the accreditation examination and determine the period of its operation.
- The total period of the expert committee directly to the educational institution shall not exceed three days.
- The results of the examination of the accreditation expert commission within a specified period of preparing a reasoned opinion on the possibility of accreditation institution (field of study, specialties). After getting acquainted with this conclusion head of the institution a copy of it within seven days submitted to the Ministry of Education, is second in school.
- MES sends expert commission on accreditation field of study, specialties with the application and documents to the Accreditation Commission.



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2014-present (New Law «On Higher Education») Model of Accreditation System

The Order of the Ministry of Education and Science, Youth and Sports of Ukraine

- *«On approval of the State Accreditation requirements for the field of study, specialties and the educational institution», #689, 13 June 2012*
- **State requirements for accreditation field of study and specialty**
- Compliance with the Laws of Ukraine, Acts of the President of Ukraine, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, legal acts of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, registered in the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine and other legal acts in the field of education.
- Conducting educational activities for the licensed field of study, specialization within the licensed number of for the duration of the license (at the first accreditation of training direction, specialty - the date of the license, the next accreditation field of study, specialties - the date of the previous decision on accreditation).
- Compliance with License conditions of educational services in higher education for the duration of the license (at first accreditation - the date of the license, the next accreditation - the date of the previous decision on accreditation).
- Compliance with regulatory requirements for quality characteristics of training specialists of different educational levels.



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Future (from May 2017) Accreditation System and The National Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education

- *Law of Ukraine «On Higher Education», 01 July 2014*

Article 1. Main terms and definitions

...*accreditation of a program* of study shall mean evaluation of a program of study and/or education processes and operations of a higher education institution under this program with regard to:

- compliance with the Higher Education Standard;
- capability to meet the Standard requirements and achieve learning outcomes claimed by the program;
- achievement of learning outcomes claimed by the program;

Article 25. Accreditation of programs of study

1. A higher education institution that desires to have their programs of study accredited shall submit to the National Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education a written application and documents confirming compliance of its education activity with the higher education standard for the relevant specialty.
2. The National Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, within two months upon receipt of an application, shall take a decision on granting or rejecting accreditation of a particular program of study on the basis of an accreditation review.

Future (from May 2017) Accreditation of programs and The National Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education

- *Law of Ukraine «On Higher Education», 01 July 2014*

Article 25. Accreditation of programs of study

3. Within three working days after the decision to grant accreditation to a program of study, the National Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education shall provide a higher education institution with an accreditation certificate.

4. An accreditation certificate shall contain the following:

- 1) title and address of a higher education institution;
- 2) specialty and level of higher education for which the program of study is accredited;
- 3) date of issuance.

5. An accreditation certificate shall be first issued for each accredited program of study for the period of five years, and upon second and each subsequent accreditation – for the period of ten years. Information about issuance of an accreditation certificate shall be entered to the Unified State Education Electronic Database.

6. Form of an accreditation certificate, issuance and re-issuance, delivery, safekeeping and recording procedure shall be approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

Re-issuance of an education activity license shall be required in case of:

- 1) change of title or place of a higher education institution;
- 2) reorganization of legal entities that hold an accreditation certificate by way of acquisition or merger;
- 4) liquidation or reorganization, or change of title (place) of a structural unit of a higher education institution that delivers education under the relevant specialty (field) and level of higher education.

7. The certificate confirms conformity of a program of study offered by a higher education institution under the relevant specialty and level of higher education with the higher education standards and grants the right to issue state-recognized diploma for this specialty.



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Future (from May 2017)

Accreditation of programs and The National Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education

- *The Decision of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine «On establishment of the National Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education», 15 April 2015*
- **The authorities of the National Agency:**
- ...forms the requirements for quality assurance system for higher education is developing regulations on accreditation of educational programs and submit it for approval MES;
- ...decides on accreditation or refusal to accredit education programs;
- ...develops regulations on accreditation of academic councils and submits it for approval by the MES, accredits specialized scientific council and monitor their activities;
- ...accredits independent agency evaluation and quality assurance;
- **National Agency may:**
- ...involve procedures for the accreditation of educational programs accredited by them independent agency evaluation and quality assurance;
- ...get the established order of state authorities and local governments, enterprises, institutions, organizations and citizens with information, documents and materials necessary for the fulfillment of the National Agency office;
- ...get the established order during the licensing examination, accreditation of educational programs, accreditation, academic councils, accreditation agencies independent evaluation and quality assurance of higher education institutions and independent assessment and quality assurance documents specified by law;



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2016-2017

Accreditation of programs and The National Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education

- Within six months (Legal personality from 31 October 2016) of the start of The National Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (NQAAHE – NAZYAVO) - while they gain office - The Accreditation Commission will examine the case and make a decision on issuing certificates of accreditation. This decision was taken in order The National Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education to give started and gradually take over all the necessary authorities.

The main bullet points for the National Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education today

Activities, policy and processes for quality assurance

- To ensure the meaningfulness of external quality assurance, it is important that institutions and the public trust agencies.
- (Today, we don't have an extremely high trust to activity of Agency)
- Agencies should have an established legal basis and should be formally recognised as quality assurance agencies by competent public authorities.
- (Today, Agency is solely vulnerable to political instability, I'm sure, Agency should be start work as soon as possible)
- Agencies should be independent and act autonomously.
- They should have full responsibility for their operations and the outcomes of those operations without third party influence.

Future

Accreditation of programs and The final draft new law «On Education»

Article 44. Accreditation of educational program

1. Accreditation of educational programs - educational program evaluation for its compliance with the standard of education and educational institution capacity to meet the requirements of this standard and achieve the stated program learning outcomes.
2. Accreditation of educational programs appropriate education body made from quality assurance defined by this and a special law.
3. The procedure for accreditation of educational programs is determined by special laws.

The amendments to accreditation legislation

Law of Ukraine «On amendments to some laws of Ukraine concerning the activities of higher education institutions, research institutions, temporarily displaced from the occupied territories and the settlements in the territory of which the public authorities temporarily exercise their powers», 03 November 2016

Action of accreditation certificates temporarily displaced higher education institution and academic institutions to conduct educational activities in the field of higher education, who were operating per day move from temporarily occupied territory or the settlements on the territory of which the public authorities temporarily not exercise their powers in force, continue to apply for the period of the anti-terrorist operation, but no more than five years from the date of expiry of the accreditation certificate. (The Treaty came into force on 30 December 2016)

The amendments to accreditation legislation

*(Project) The Order of the Ministry of Education and Science «On generalization of lists of specialties licensed volumes universities and renewal of certificates of accreditation areas and specialties»,
December 2016 – January 2017*

Re-issue of certificates of accreditation areas and specialties of higher education institutions in accordance with the licenses and extracts received concerning the right of educational activities of educational institutions from the Unified State Education Electronic Database due to the introduction of the List of disciplines and specialties 2015, entered in the Unified State Education Electronic Database until 31 August 2016.

Wish you lots of success! Questions...

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State Educational Institution "Training and Methodology Center for Quality Education"

Accreditation Commission of Ukraine

<http://ak.gov.ua/>

