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Knowledge FOR Resilient soCiEty

MEETING IN TIRANA

EPOKA UNIVERSITY



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ACCREDITATION OF STUDY PROGRAMS IN ALBANIA

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Accreditation principles



- ✓ The Accreditation process is regulated with the “Regulation on Accreditation System, Organization and Operation of Institutions of External Quality Assurance”
- ✓ Accreditation of study programs and institutions of higher education is a legal obligation for all HEIs in the country, public and private ones, and should be performed before students graduate a program of study.
- ✓ Accreditation is performed by Public Accreditation Agency of Higher Education or other corresponding agencies, part of the network of European agencies, ENQA.
- ✓ For higher education institutions, which are developing joint study programs with foreign institutions of HE, as well as branches of foreign institutions of higher education that are operating in Albania, the evaluation and accreditation is conducted taking into consideration the assessment of the accreditation in their country of origin.





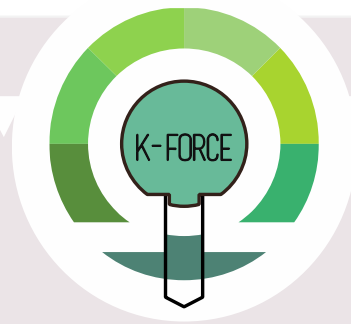
Preliminary assessment of new programs of study

- ✓ The Agency carries out a preliminary assessment of new programs of study for public and private institutions of higher education. This assessment is carried out in order to open new programs of study or institutions and is conducted by field experts, under the direction and responsibility of the agency.
- ✓ Agency carries on activities of external quality assessment in order to accredit the program/s of study or institution (public and private) and makes the reports and the results of evaluations performed public.
- ✓ All higher education institutions and their programs are subject to preliminary assessment process, assessment and first accreditation, and assessment for periodic accreditation.



✓ PAAHE in the preliminary assessment and accreditation process assesses the institutional and academic aspects suitable for the purpose of evaluation. General and specific evaluation aspects, components and criteria and procedures followed for institutional and / or programs assessment are determined by normative acts of the Minister of Education and Science.

✓ During the preliminary assessment process based on documentation and assessment in the framework of the first accreditation, both institutional aspects and the programs that the institution offers are considered. In this process it is also assessed the degree of consistency between objectives, level and aimed professional competencies of the study program with the curriculum offered. It is also assessed how the recommendations of legal acts in force regarding curricula development and programs of different disciplines are respected.



Process for accreditation of study programs

- ✓ The process of accreditation begins with an application for accreditation from the HEI to accredited submitted to the PAAHE along with a number of accompanying documents necessary for to start the process as DCM, Orders of the Minister of Education and Sport, activity license, etc.
- ✓ Institutions of Higher Education, which requires to undergo external evaluation process for their first accreditation, apply for the start of this process to the Public Accreditation Agency for Higher Education and Accreditation Council, at least 1 year before completion of studies.
- ✓ Costs for external quality assessment and accreditation are covered by the institutions of HE , according to tariffs defined by the Council of Ministers.



- ✓ PAAHE, in cooperation with the Accreditation Council, designs the accreditation plan for the higher education institutions that have submitted their applications.
- ✓ PAAHE in cooperation with the Accreditation Council, according to the approved accreditation plan, begins the process of external evaluation, no later than two months from the date that the institution has submitted the final report of internal quality assessment
- ✓ PAAHE sets up assessor groups by area and approves them in the Accreditation Council
- ✓ Based on the regulation "On the system of accreditation, the organization and operation of the institutions of external quality assurance", (amended), PAAHE, CA and domestic and foreign external experts, cooperate closely throughout the process of accreditation.



- ✓ PAAHE supervises the whole process and ensures that it is performed correctly, in accordance with the procedures of evaluation criteria, objectively, transparently and in full equality between HEIs
- ✓ After all phases of the accreditation process are finished, CA makes the final decision for accreditation, based on external evaluation reports compiled by external experts and proposes this to MES, who issues the final Order of accreditation.
- ✓ PAAHE makes public all evaluations reports, acts of the Accreditation Council and the final decisions for accreditation performed
- ✓ PAAHE drafts informative documents for the assessment and evaluation process and makes them known to the institutions of higher education



Follow up of accreditation

- ✓ If an HEI or its programs are accredited, it is a periodic process and is performed every 6 years.
- ✓ On the contrary, when the standards and criteria for accreditation are partially met, and accreditation is on condition, the HEI is subject to "follow up" procedure to meet the conditions set.
- ✓ The Minister of Education and Science should express himself with a decision regarding the recommendations of the Accreditation Council within one month of their notification, or return the report to the Council on the cases provided for in this Regulation, within one month of receiving notice of them.
- ✓ The Minister's decision is made public in the official website of MES and the Public Accreditation Agency for Higher Education.



- ✓ When the Minister of ES does not express himself, the Accreditation Council makes its decision public, as defined by law.
- ✓ When there are complaints against the assessment process, the subject concerned, having exhausted the appeal to the Accreditation Council or assessing agency, has the right to approach the Minister of Education and Sport.
- ✓ The Minister of ES proposes the establishment of an ad-hoc tripartite commission, composed of representatives of the Accreditation Council, the assessing agency and the Ministry of Education and Sport.
- ✓ The decision of this commission is forwarded to the AC, which formulates the final opinion after the appeal and sends it to the Minister of ES in the form of a recommendation.
- ✓ MES provides additional funding for the institution or study program when it is public, aiming its reorganization according to the required quality or decide to permanently close that program of study or institution.



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Thank you
for your attention

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