Legislative framework for the work of foreign QAAs in Lithuania

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LITHUANIA

47 Higher Education Institutions

~ 2000 I&II cycle study programmes

3 mln. population

~170 000 students

At least once every 6 years:

- Institutional review;

- Study programme evaluation and accreditation.

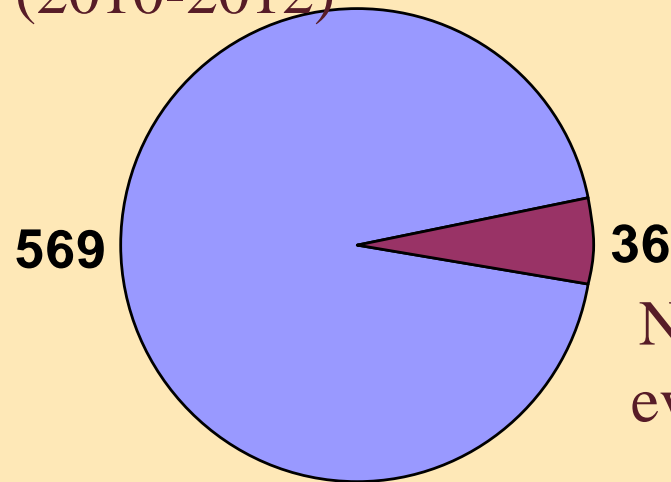External **evaluation** of study programmes can be performed by:

- the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (SKVC);

- another agency for quality assessment in higher education, which is included in the EQAR.

Study programmes shall be **accredited** by an institution authorised by the Minister of Education and Science *(until now – SKVC).*

SKVC

Number of programmes
evaluated by SKVC (2010-2012)

569   **36**

Number of programmes
evaluated by foreign QA
agencies (2010-2013)

- QA Agency must be listed in EQAR;

- evaluation report produced not later that 2 years ago;

- agency shall carry out the external assessment on the basis of the assessment criteria and procedures established by the Agency but there must be equivalence to 6 evaluation areas used in Lithuania and each area must be evaluated in 4-point scale;

- programme meets legal requirements.

Branches of foreign HEI's may carry out only those study programmes which have been **evaluated and accredited** according to the procedure of evaluation and accreditation of **sending country** and which have been positively *evaluated* according to the procedure of external evaluation and accreditation of study programmes in *Lithuania*.

With the view to ensuring the conformity of the quality of study programmes governed by the Congregation for Catholic Education and the Holy See and taught in higher education institutions of the Republic of Lithuania <…> external **evaluation and accreditation** of these programmes shall be carried out by the Holy See's Agency AVEPRO and the Congregation for Catholic Education accordingly.

SKVC experience with other agencies

- Evaluation of study programmes at branch of Bialystok University in Vilnius with Polish Accreditation Commission;

- Evaluation of Theology and Religion study programmes with AVEPRO;

- Evaluation of joint study programmes (JOQAR project & scheduled evaluations by SKVC);

- Accreditation of study programmes evaluated by a foreign agency

12/13/2013   **9**

(4) Facilities and learning resources

All in all it can be observed that the facilities and learning resources of Mykolas Romeris University for the execution of the available study programs is to be evaluated as good.

Over the course of the first day of the assessment there was a tour of the university facilities during which the assessment team was able to see the condition of the resources.

In addition to the various large seminar rooms and classrooms, the library is to be noted in particular. It is equipped with a sufficient number of computer workstations. The computer equipment is considered to be high-quality and modern overall.

An expansion of the library facilities would be desirable with regard to the current enrolment figures at Mykolas Romeris University. Against the backdrop of potentially falling enrolment figures, however, the status quo is considered to be sufficient. The university is very active in attempting to resolve the difficulties regarding facilities that sometimes occur. For instance the students are granted access to an extensive offer of in-depth electronic databases for literature research that can also be used from outside of the university.

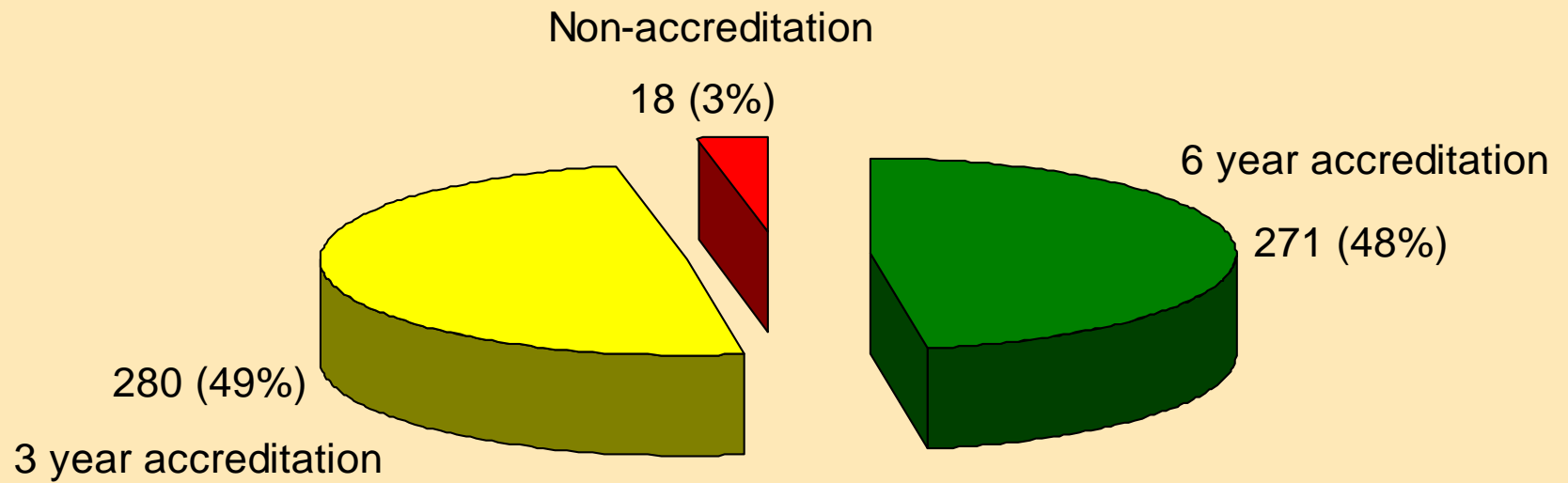| Item No.	Assessment sphere	Assessment of the sphere, points
1	Objectives of the program and projected study results	3
2	Structure of the program	3
3	Staff	3
4	Material resources	3
5	The course of studies and its assessment (selection of students, assessment of achievements, support of students)	3

- Different programmes (study field and level), but identical parts of evaluation report!

- Identical evaluation report, but different scores of evaluation areas! But the same final score!

- Expert panel – 14-19 members!

SKVC

Non-accreditation

18 (3%)

6 year accreditation

271 (48%)

280 (49%)

3 year accreditation

SKVC

When operating in other countries QA Agencies should cooperate closely;

At least for first evaluations it is advisable to have observers from local agency or other official authorities.

Thank you!