

Higher Education Systems in Transition: Quality Assurance in Central and Eastern Europe

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Acknowledgments

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Outline

- I. HE & QA in Central and Eastern Europe
- II. Conclusion
- III. Case study – QA in Croatia
- IV. Conclusion



500 km



300 mi

Finland

Sweden

Estonia

Latvia

Lithuania

Den.

Ireland

United Kingdom

Netherl.

Belgium

Lux.

Germany

Poland

Czech Rep.

Slovakia

France

Austria

Hungary

Italy

Slov.

Romania

Portugal

Spain

Bulgaria

Greece

Malta

The beginnings – 1990s

- HE system inherited from Yugoslavia (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia & Slovenia)
- Albania, Bulgaria, Czech Republic & Slovakia (ex Czechoslovakia), Hungary, Poland & Romania

Transition

- Private HEIs
- Increase in number of students
- Student fees

Bologna Declaration

- 1999 – Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovakia & Slovenia
- 2001 - Croatia
- 2003 – Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia & Serbia
- 2007 – Montenegro
- Kosovo

Introduction of Bologna system

Major changes:

- ECTS
- Three cycle system (Bachelor, Master & Doctorate level)
- Mobility
- European dimension in quality assurance

Quality Assurance in HE

- **Czech Republic**, Accreditation Commission, Founded 1990
- **The Slovak Republic**, Accreditation Commission, Founded 1990
- **Hungary**, Hungarian Accreditation Committee – HAC, Founded 1993
- **Bulgaria**, National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency – NEAA, Founded 1996
- **Albania**, Public Agency for Accreditation of Higher Education – PAAHE, Founded 1999
- **Poland**, The Polish Accreditation Committee – PKA, Founded 2002
- **Croatia**, Agency for Science and Higher Education – ASHE, Founded 2004
- **Montenegro**, Council of Higher Education, Founded 2004
- **Romania**, Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education – ARACIS, Founded 2005
- **Serbia**, Commission for Accreditation and Quality Assurance – CAQA, Founded 2006
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina**, Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance – HEA, Founded 2008
- **Kosovo**, Kosovo Accreditation Agency – KAA, 2003 (2008)
- **Slovenia**, The Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education – SQAA, 2010
- **Macedonia**, Higher Education Accreditation and Evaluation Board - HEAEB, 2011

Quality Assurance in HE

- Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia = 1 accreditation entity
- **Poland** = 1 accreditation body (Accreditation Committee) + other national QA bodies

Quality Assurance in HE

ENQA & EQAR

- Albania - affiliate status within ENQA, June 2010
- Bosnia & Herzegovina - affiliate status within ENQA, February 2010
- [Bulgaria](#) - [ENQA Full Membership, 2008 & EQAR](#)
- [Croatia](#) - [ENQA Full Membership, 2011 & EQAR](#)
- [Czech Republic](#) - ENQA Full Membership, 2002
- [Hungary](#) - ENQA Full Membership, 2002
- Kosovo - affiliate status within ENQA, April 2011
- Macedonia - affiliate status within ENQA, October 2011
- Montenegro
- [Poland](#) - [ENQA Full Membership, 2009 & EQAR](#)
- [Romania](#) - [ENQA Full Membership, 2009 & EQAR](#)
- Serbia - Candidate member to ENQA
- Slovak Republic - Candidate member to ENQA
- Slovenia

CEENQA

CEENQA – Central and Eastern European
Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in
Higher Education

Quality Assurance in HE

- ✓ Founded by Law (Government)
- ✓ Status
- ✓ Mandatory accreditation/evaluation
- ✓ Scope/Responsibilities
- ✓ Type of accreditation/evaluation
(institutional/programs)
- ✓ Public/private HEIs

Quality Assurance in HE

- ✓ Periodic external review
- ✓ Standards and criteria (key areas)
- ✓ Accreditation Commissions/Councils
- ✓ Self-review
- ✓ Trainings
- ✓ Peer-reviews
- ✓ Site-visit
- ✓ Report
- ✓ Follow-up
- ✓ Accreditation decision
- ✓ Outcome of accreditation
- ✓ Appeal procedure
- ✓ System-wide analyses

Challenges & Future

- ENQA
- EQAR
- QA improvement

Case study - Croatia

Agency for Science and Higher Education (ASHE)



agency for science and higher education croatia



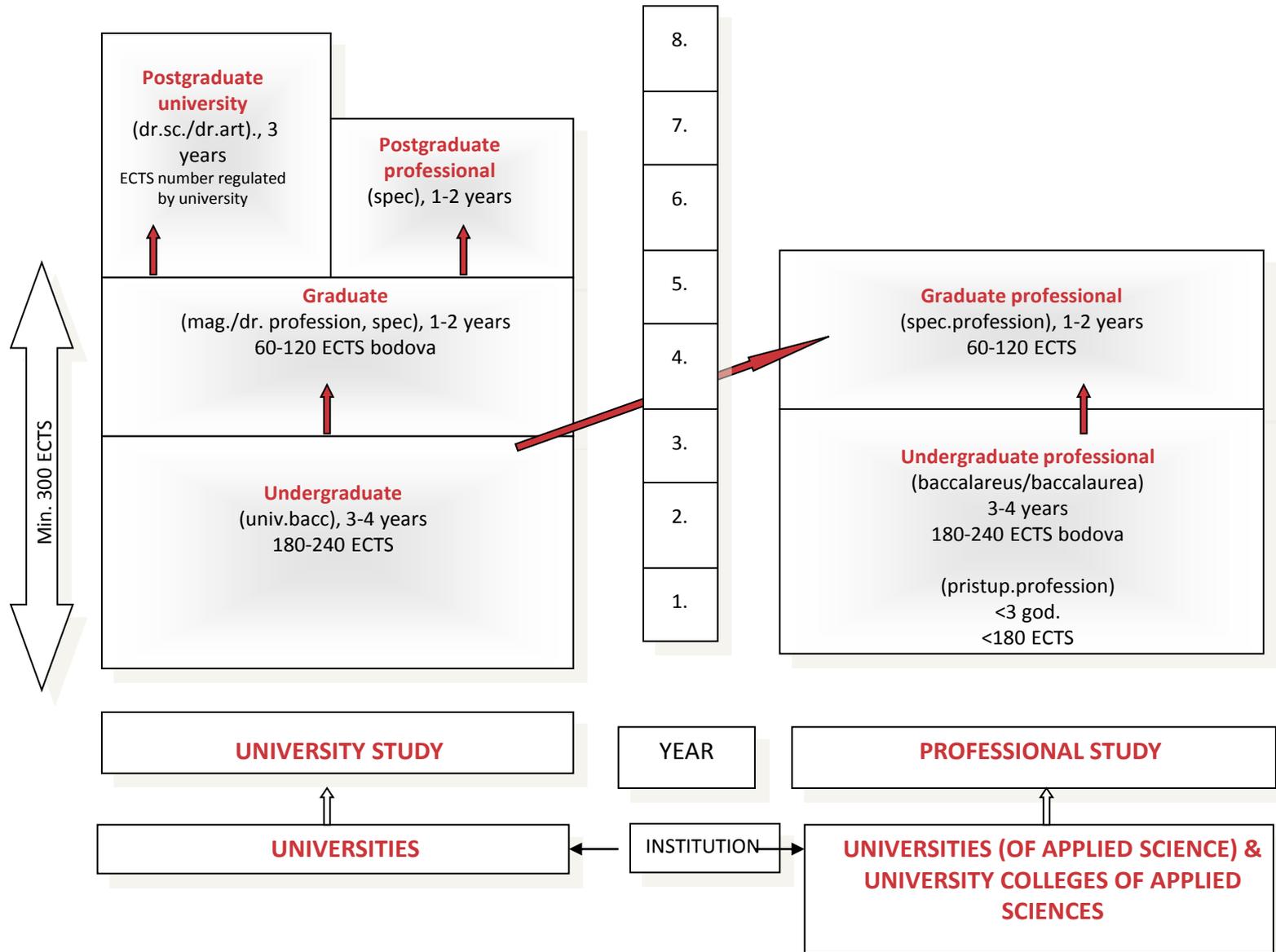
The beginnings – 1990s

- HE system inherited from Yugoslavia
- First legislative changes in 1993 – establishment of private HEIs enabled
- National Councils (Science and HE) set up – strategic and external QA role

Introduction of Bologna system in Croatia

- 2001 Croatia signed the Bologna Declaration
- Impetus - wish to improve the education structure of the population, reform the system, and join the EU
- Major changes: binary system, three cycle system, ECTS
- National Councils tasked with external QA
- 2005 – first Bologna generation of students enrolled

Scheme of studies in Croatia



HEIs in Croatia (in numbers)

122 Higher Education Institutions:

- 7 public universities
- 3 private universities
- 67 faculties and academies
- 3 private polytechnics
- 12 public polytechnics
- 27 private colleges
- 3 public colleges

Agency for Science and Higher Education - ASHE



agency for science and higher education croatia

- Established in 2005
- 2009 – redefinition of its role (Quality Assurance Act) and strengthening of its independence
- Unifies various activities related to the science and higher education system

ASHE activities

- Quality Assurance role
- Collecting and analyzing data on the system of higher education
- National ENIC/NARIC Office
- Central Application Office
- Support to various strategic bodies
- International cooperation

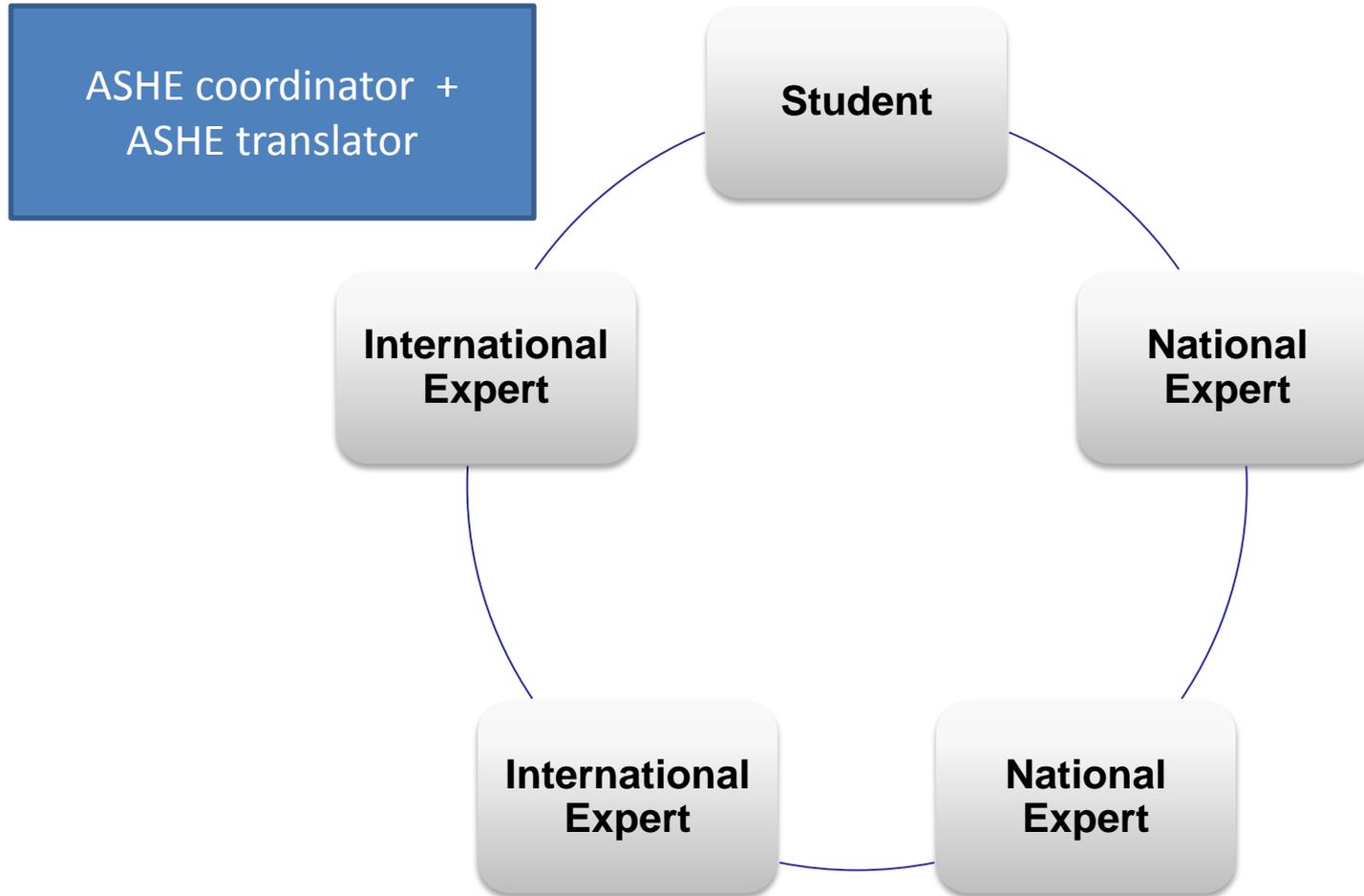
QA role (2009 - ...)

- Initial accreditation
- Re-accreditation
- Thematic evaluation
- Audit

Re-accreditation process in Croatia

- Re-accreditation of all HEIs (public and private)
- Model – combination (institutions & programs)
- 5-year cycle
- Scope of re-accreditation – minimum criteria & quality grade
- Self-evaluations, trainings, peer reviews, site visits
- Reports and accreditation decisions are published on ASHE website
- Quality assessment affects the amount of financing from the state budget

Expert Panel



Common practice – USA & Croatia (institutional accreditation/re- accreditation)

- ✓ Periodic external review
- ✓ Standards and criteria (key areas)
- ✓ Accreditation Commissions/Councils
- ✓ Self-review
- ✓ Trainings
- ✓ Peer-reviews
- ✓ Site-visit
- ✓ Report
- ✓ Follow-up
- ✓ Accreditation decision
- ✓ Outcome of accreditation

Differences (in general)

USA

- Long tradition
- Many types of accrediting organizations
- Private (nongovernmental)
- Voluntary based accreditation
- US peer reviews
- Students are not included
- Accreditation decision and report
- Public, private non-profit & private for-profit
- Department of Education is not included

Croatia

- At the beginning
- 1 accrediting organization (ASHE)
- Established by government
- Mandatory accreditation
- International peer-reviews
- Students in peer-reviews
- Public disclosure (accreditation decision & report)
- Public and private institutions
- Ministry issues licences

Independence, transparency & accountability - ASHE

- ASHE is a member of ENQA & EQAR
- External quality assurance procedures in line with the ESG, as well as European and international best practices
- Public call for experts (peer reviews)
- Foreign reviewers in the panels
- Business representatives and students included in the Management Board, Accreditation Council, and review panels
- NGO representative member of the Accreditation Council
- Accreditation reports and decisions are public

Independence, transparency & accountability - ASHE

- Fair and equitable treatment of all stakeholders (public, private, new or traditional HEIs)
- Involvement of all stakeholders in implementing changes and carrying out activities
- Public discussions with all stakeholders
- Public forum – ASHE website
- ASHE documents public (standards, criteria & procedures)
- The Ministry clearly committed to independence of the national agency

Independence, transparency & accountability - ASHE

- Surveys
- Confidentiality Statement – ASHE staff
- Confidentiality and Conflict of Interest Statement (everybody participating in external QA procedures)
- Accreditation Council Ethical Code
- No gifts from HEIs, no paid lunches or dinners from HEIs (members of peer-reviews) – written procedure
- ASHE annual report is public

International activities - ASHE

- CIQG (CHEA International Quality Group)
- ENQA (European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education) – since 2011
- EQAR (European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education) – since 2011
- CEENQA (Network of Central and Eastern European Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education)- since 2008

International activities - ASHE

- OECD IMHE forum (Organization for economic co-operation and development/Institutional management in Higher Education) – since 2008
- INQAAHE (International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education) – since 2006
- APQN (Asia-Pacific Quality Network) – observer status

International activities - ASHE

- National ENIC/NARIC Office – cooperation with other ENIC/NARIC offices worldwide
- EU projects
- Conferences, workshops, observers at the site visits

Challenges & Future – ASHE

- Support to evidence-based policy making: focus on data collection
- Thematic reviews of „burning issues” in Croatian HE: doctoral education, learning outcomes...
- Further support to development of quality culture: workshops, reports...
- Strengthen regional and international cooperation
- Improve public perception of ASHE
- National Qualification Framework

Challenges & Future – ASHE

- Help our HEIs to enhance their position in EHEA and worldwide (mobility, cooperation with business)

Thank you

