



Quality Assurance Framework in Bosnia and Herzegovina

*Peer Counselling Meeting in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Banja Luka, 4 December 2023*

www.hea.gov.ba



Co-funded by
the European Union

Content

Bosnia and Herzegovina

1. Quality assurance in higher education
2. Legal framework for quality assurance in higher education
3. Authorities for quality assurance in higher education
4. Participants in accreditation process
5. Organisational structure of the Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance
6. Activities of the Agency

Quality assurance in higher education in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Internal quality assurance

- **Internal quality assurance of higher education institutions and study programmes**
 - A process that represents an efficient mechanisms and procedures of a higher education institution that determine, monitor and periodically control the fulfillment of defined quality standards and criteria in order to improve the quality assurance system and general academic development
 - The higher education institution is most responsible for establishing and implementing its internal quality assurance.

Quality assurance in higher education in Bosnia and Herzegovina

External quality assurance

- **Licencing (mandatory)**

- Mandatory for all higher education institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Licence is a permit to commence and carry out higher education activities
- The process of verifying the fulfilment of the minimum standards for starting work and performing higher education activities
- Minimum standards are determined by the competent educational authorities
- The minimum standards are quantitatively standardized and refer to the spatial, material-technical and human resources of the higher education institution
- Compliance is checked by independent commissions of experts appointed by the competent educational authorities.

Quality assurance in higher education in Bosnia and Herzegovina

External quality assurance

- **Accreditation**

- Mandatory for all higher education institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- A prerequisite for its implementation - a licensed higher education institution
- The process by which, on the basis of an external audit and quality assessment, it is confirmed that the higher education institution has fulfilled the established standards and criteria in its work
- Clear, transparent and accessible criteria for the accreditation of higher education institutions, which are of a generic nature, are established by the Agency for the Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance of Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Fulfillment of criteria and standards is assessed by independent commissions of experts appointed by the Agency for the Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Legal framework for quality assurance in higher education in Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Licensing

- Laws and by-laws of the competent educational authorities;
- Recommendations on criteria for the licensing of higher education institutions and study programmes in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance „Official Gazette B&H, Number: 96/16);
- Recommendations on criteria and standards to the ministry of Republic of Srpska, cantonal ministries and Brčko District for establishment and closure of higher education institutions and re-structuring of study programmes cantonal ministries (Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance „Official Gazette B&H, Number: 13/12).

Legal framework for quality assurance in higher education in Bosnia and Herzegovina

- Accreditation
- Framework law on Higher Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Official Gazette B&H, Number: 59/07)
 - Regulates the accreditation procedure and various competencies of educational authorities and the Agency for the Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance (Article 49)
 - The Framework Law stipulates that all other issues related to higher education in B&H, which are not determined by the Framework Law, shall be regulated by the competent educational authorities
- Laws and by-laws of the competent educational authorities
 - In Federation of B&H - cantonal laws on higher education (10 cantons), rulebooks on accreditation of higher education institutions and study programmes
 - In Republic of Srpska – Law on Higher Education, Law on quality assurance in higher education of Republic of Srpska and other by-laws
 - In Brčko District of B&H - Law on Higher Education of Brčko District, Rulebook on accreditation and other by-laws
 - Regulating the costs of the accreditation process
- Documents of the Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance

The competencies of HEA in accreditation procedures – Framework Law on Higher Education

- **set clear, transparent and accessible criteria for accreditation of higher education institutions and adoption of norms setting minimum standards in the field of higher education;**
 - Decision on the criteria for accreditation of higher education institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, (Official Gazette B&H, No. 75/10; 44/13; 96/16)
 - Decision on the criteria for accreditation of study programmes of 1st and 2nd cycle of studies („Official Gazette B&H", No. 47/17)
 - Decision on norms for determining minimal standards in higher education in Bosnia and Herzegovina („Official Gazette B&H", No. 100/11 i 26/19)
 - Recommendations for regulating the accreditation procedure of higher education institutions and study programs of the 1st and 2nd cycle of studies in Bosnia and Herzegovina („Official Gazette B&H", No. 34/23)
- **determine criteria for selection of domestic and international experts to provide assessment and conduct quality reviews and give recommendation on accreditation of higher education institutions;**
 - Decision on criteria for selection of domestic and international experts to provide assessment and conduct quality reviews and give recommendation on accreditation of higher education institutions and study programmes (“Official Gazete of B&H“, No. 22/23)

The competencies of HEA in accreditation procedures

- Decision on manner of creating Commission for election of domestic and international experts to provide assessment and conduct quality reviews and give recommendations on accreditation of higher education institutions and study programmes („Official Gazette B&H", broj: 22/23)
- **publishing a public competition for election of domestic and international experts for quality assessment and audit and giving recommendations on accreditation of higher education institutions, i.e. their curricula**
- Rulebook on manner of conduction a public call for selection of domestic and international experts to provide assessment and conduct quality reviews and give recommendation on accreditation of higher education institutions and study programmes (“Official Gazette of B&H, No. 22/23)
- **establishing committees for determining a list of experts**
- Decision on manner of creating Commission for election of domestic and international experts to provide assessment and conduct quality reviews and give recommendations on accreditation of higher education institutions and study programmes („Official Gazette B&H", broj: 22/23)
- **submission of the set list of experts for adoption by all the ministries of education in BiH and the competent department of the Brcko District BiH**
- Decision on manner of creating Commission for election of domestic and international experts to provide assessment and conduct quality reviews and give recommendations on accreditation of higher education institutions and study programmes („Official Gazette B&H", broj: 22/23)

The competencies of HEA in accreditation procedures

- **appointment of a committee of experts, on the basis of a proposal by the competent education authorities in relation to selection of experts from the set list of experts,**
 - Decisions on norms for determining minimal standards in higher education in Bosnia and Herzegovina („Official Gazette, No. 100/11 i 26/19)
 - Instruction on the appointment of the Commission of Experts for the Accreditation of Higher Education Institutions
- **giving recommendations to competent education authorities on accreditation of a higher education institution, i.e. a curriculum, on the basis of the opinion of the committee of experts**
 - The instruction on the Manner of Giving Recommendation for Accreditation of Higher Education Institutions and Study Programmes
- **assessment of harmonization of decisions on accreditation with norms and criteria**
 - Instruction for Reviewing the Compliance of Decision on Accreditation with the Minimal Standards in Higher Education and Criteria for Accreditation of Higher Education Institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina
- **maintaining a state register of accredited higher education institutions**
 - Rulebook on Keeping the National Register of Accredited Higher Education Institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina („Official Gazette No. 91/11)
- **publishing the list of accredited higher education institutions at www.heg.gov.ba**

The competencies of educational authorities in accreditation procedures

- The competent educational authorities:
 - **propose members of the committee of experts from the pre-established list of experts** (Article 49. of the Framework Law);
 - **issue a decision on accreditation for a higher education institution, that is, a study program** (Article 49. of the Framework Law);
 - **harmonize their regulations with the Framework Law** (Article 63. of the Framework Law) and documents of the Agency;
 - regulate the financial framework of the accreditation process;
 - They regulate the contractual relationship with the higher education institution and the appointed committee of experts

Participants in the accreditation process

- Higher education institutions
- Competent educational authorities: cantonal ministries of education/ Agency for Higher Education of Republic of Srpska/ Department of education at the Government of Brčko District
- Commissions of domestic and international experts
- Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance

Establishment of the Agency for Development of Higher Education And Quality Assurance

- The Agency was founded in 2008 and became operational in early 2009;
- independent administrative organization at the level of BiH;
- competencies are determined by Articles 48, 49 and 50 of the Framework Law;
- The agency is financed from the budget and own revenues

Structure of HEA



Work of HEA

- The work of the Agency is independent and public.
- When carrying out tasks within its jurisdiction, the Agency observes the following principles:
 - legality,
 - transparency,
 - public,
 - responsibilities,
 - efficiency and effectiveness,
 - professional impartiality.
- The Agency is financed from the budget of Bosnia and Herzegovina institutions and from its own revenues;
- In its activities, the Agency cooperates with relevant domestic institutions - competent educational authorities in BiH, entities, cantons and Brčko District, the academic community, the international community and other interested parties

Steering Board of HEA

The competences of the Steering Board of the Agency are:

- adopts the Statute of the Agency and submits it to the Council of Ministers for approval;
- gives consent to the regulations proposed by the Agency within its jurisdiction development of higher education and quality assurance defined by the Statute
- ensures that the work of the Agency is in accordance with the competencies established in the Framework Law on Higher Education in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- ensures that the work of the Agency is in accordance with the priority policies of the Council of Ministers and the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the reform of higher education in Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- adopts the Agency's work program for the period of the next calendar year, no later than January 31 of the current year, which regulates in detail the activities, jobs and financing of the Agency;
- supervises the implementation of the Agency's work program;

resolves appeals against the decision www.hea.gov.ba on annulment of the decision on

Steering Board of HEA

The competences of the Steering Board of the Agency are:

- determines the types of services that the Agency provides with compensation and the amount of compensation for the services provided;
- adopts the report on the work of the Agency for the previous year, which is submitted to the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- reports in writing to the Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina about its work once a year;
- performs other duties in accordance with the Framework Law on Higher Education and the Statute of the Agency

International cooperation

- Member of CEENQA, INQAAHE and associate member of ENQA

Signed memorandum of cooperation

- National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (NEAA), Bulgaria
- National Center for Public Accreditation (NCPA), Russia
- Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (SQAA), Slovenia
- Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating (IAAR), Kazakhstan
- Agency for Science and Higher Education (ASHE), Croatia
- Agency for Control and Quality Assurance of Higher Education (ACQAHE), Montenegro
- NEAQA National Entity for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education (NEAQA), Serbia
- Turkish Higher Education Quality Council (THEQC), Turkey

Activities of HEA

- Continuous work in the processes of accreditation of institutions and study programs
- Cooperation with
 - Ministry of Civil Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - Rector's Conference of Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - Association of Rectors of Private Universities
 - Rector's Conference of the Republic of Srpska
 - Centre for Information and Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education BiH
 - Agency for the Civil Service BiH
- Working with interested parties
- Day-to-day cooperation with Competent education authorities and Higher Education Institutions

Thank you for your attention!