

**COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORK ST. ALZBETH,
N. O., Bratislava**

***External assessment of the internal quality system of higher
education***

***education of the St. Elizabeth University of Health and Social Work , N. O.
Bratislava***

CONTENTS

CHAPTER ONE.....	3
INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS	3
Article 1.....	3
Subject matter and scope of regulation	3
Article 2.....	4
Sources of regulation of external quality assessment in higher education	4
Article 3.....	5
Terminology in the processes of external assessment of the internal quality system of higher education.....	5
SECOND CHAPTER.....	7
EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT OF THE INTERNAL QUALITY SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION	7
Article 4.....	7
THE THIRD CHAPTER	8
TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS.....	8
Annex 1.....	9
Annex 2.....	12

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS

Article 1

Subject matter and scope of regulation

The external assessment of the internal quality system of higher education (hereinafter referred to as "external quality assessment") of the St. Elizabeth University of Health and Social Work, N.O. in Bratislava (hereinafter referred to as "SEU") includes processes, policies, competences, rights and obligations of the individual levels of organisation and management of the SEU resulting from the content of the SEU

-269/2018 Coll. on quality assurance of higher education and on amendment and supplementation of Act No. 343/2015 Coll. on public procurement and on amendment and supplementation of certain acts, as amended (hereinafter referred to as the "Act on quality assurance of higher education"),

-Act No. 131/2002 Coll. on Higher Education and on Amendments and Additions to Certain Acts, as amended,

-standards and guidelines for quality assurance in the European area

Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area - ESG, 2015.

Article 2

Sources of regulation of external quality assessment in higher education

1. External quality assessment of SEU and SPs includes the application and implementation of the documents of the Slovak Accreditation Agency for Higher Education, which contain requirements for external quality assessment that will be subject to evaluation of SEU and SPs in the period from 1 September 2022, which are mainly:

- Standards for the internal quality assurance system of higher education,
- Standards for the curriculum,
- Standards for the Habilitation Procedure and the Procedure for the Appointment of Professors,
- Methodology for the evaluation of standards as amended on 18 February 2021

The SEU and SP provides external quality assessment mainly through continuous and independent assessment of the internal education system in order to obtain an objective and qualified view of the internal systems of the SEU and SP and tSEUr continuous improvement.

2. The SEU and SP creates conditions for the application of the external system of assessment of the quality of education in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Act on Quality Assurance of Education as amended and the relevant Act on Higher Education, carried out in particular through the Slovak Accreditation Agency for Higher Education (hereinafter referred to as the "Agency"):

- The SEU and SP submits requests for internal quality system assessment to the Agency according to the rules of the relevant standards and the relevant methodology,

. The SEU and the JU shall carry out synergies with the Agency's activities in its conditions in and for the fulfilment of the competences of the Agency's bodies,

Article 3

Terminology in the processes of external assessment of the internal quality system of higher education

1. The SEU and SP shall follow the following basic concepts in the external quality assessment processes:

a) SEU and SP secures the quality of higher education provided education by implementing its internal system and its continuous development.

links between creative activity and higher education at the university in the relevant field of study.

b) The internal system of SEU and SPs, among others,

- lays down the rules for the establishment, approval, implementation and modification of each study programme, which regulate the competence of the bodies of the university or its faculty in approving the study programme,

- ensure that representatives of students, employers from the relevant sector of the economy and other stakeholders are involved in curriculum development and modification,

- provide for the definition of the knowledge, skills and competences to be acquired by the graduate in the course of studies corresponding to the relevant level of the national qualifications framework,

- include monitoring and regular evaluation of study programmes involving students, employers from the relevant economic sector and other stakeholders; this monitoring and evaluation shall take into account:

- monitors the employability of graduates,

- establishes rules for cooperation with external educational institutions involved in the implementation of a third-level study programme, if a higher education institution is implementing a third-level study programme in cooperation with an external educational institution or is interested in implementing it in cooperation with an external educational institution,

- ensures cooperation with external educational institutions involved in the implementation of the third-level study programme, if the SEU and the SP implements the third-level study programme in cooperation with an external educational institution or is interested in implementing it in cooperation with an external educational institution,

- demonstrating the quality of higher education includes in particular commenting on the internal regulations of SEU and SP in systematic application in relation to the standards of the

Slovak Accreditation Agency for Higher Education.

SECOND CHAPTER

EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT OF THE INTERNAL QUALITY SYSTEM OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Article 4

Regular external quality assurance assessment in accordance with Article 11 of the Standards

1. The SEU and the SP ensure regular external quality assessment by national bodies within the framework of the Slovak legal order as well as within the framework of extra-legal assessment.
2. The SEU and the SP operate in synergy mainly with the agency, with the respective employers of future graduates of the school especially in the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Labour Social Affairs and Family, with the respective hospitals and DSS who act as the main buyers of our graduates.
3. The SEU and SP invites a representative from the education section of both ministries and ensures tSEUr involvement in curriculum development. The SEU and the SP provide external evaluations as part of the annexes to the individual study programmes.
4. The SEU and SP ensures regular external quality assessment by foreign entities, especially through tSEUr participation in scientific research activities, habilitation/inauguration procedures, etc.
5. The SEU and SP applies mechanisms of periodic evaluation and monitoring by foreign evaluation, which the school financed and ensured in 2004, 2012, 2017, the minutes and conclusions of which are in the annexes to points 23 and 11, and plans to ensure this in the future as well, especially if the legislation takes such evaluation into account in an appropriate way in the six-yearly periodic evaluations of the study programmes or tSEUr accreditation.
6. The SEU and SP provides external quality assessment through independent experts for quality assessment of higher education.
7. The SEU and the SP implement the procedural rules of external quality assessment of higher education mainly through tSEUr departments and through the Internal Quality System Council.

THE THIRD CHAPTER
TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

1. External Assessment of the Internal Quality System of Higher Education of the St. Elizabeth University of Health and Social Work, N. O. in Bratislava

- a) discussed by the Academic Senate of the St. Elizabeth University of Health and Social Work N. O., Bratislava on 25.11.2021
- b) approved by the Scientific Council of the St. Elizabeth University of Health and Social Work, N. O., Bratislava on 26.11.2021

2. This Directive is effective from 01.12.2021

In Bratislava on 26.11.2021

Dr. h. c. prof. MUDr. Juraj Benca, PhD., MPH, v.r.
Rector

Annex 1

The structures of the internal system for control, quality monitoring and SEUr competences at the SEU are :

1. **The Internal Quality Council (IQC)** is composed of representatives from the external and internal environment.
 - 1.1 The external environment is represented by representatives of the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs as the two departments where 90% of our graduates are , then a representative from the health or social professional chambers, or a representative of employers.
 - 1.2 The internal environment consists of the chief controller, the vice-rector for quality , student and faculty representatives.
 - 1.3 Ex offo members are representatives of AS , RK , or members of faculties and alumni (Alumni Club) of SEU.

The competence of the CoR is defined in its Statutes and Rules of Procedure.

2. Programme Board of the SEU

The key body of the SEU in the process of preparation, development, approval and control of study programmes is the Programme Board of the SEU, whose statute and rules of procedure are the subject of a special regulation. It is composed of persons who are outside the process of curriculum development, i.e. they are appointed by the Rector of the SEU from among :

- a) representatives of domestic and foreign contractors and employers,
- b) domestic and foreign experts from outside the academic community of the SEU,

- c) professionals from health and social care practice , ministries and chambers that bring together graduates,
- d) Alumni Club representatives, i.e. former students as well as current students.

The Programme Board annually discusses the status, academic success , or problems and results of curriculum evaluation. It is based on an anonymous survey of students under the Higher Education Act as well as a report on the handling of complaints about study programmes. It also discusses and approves new study programmes which have not been subject to approval under the regulations in force until 31.12.2021 (CoR, AS). Once a year, the PR is invited to the meetings of the CoR and the AS, as a rule, to discuss annual reports, reports on teaching and research activities and reports on the quality of higher education at the SEU.

3. **The Board of Directors of SEU** discusses and approves the report on the activities of the SEU and the report on the management of the SEU according to the Act on SEU
4. **The Scientific Council of SEU** discusses at least once a year the Rector's report on pedagogical activities and scientific research activities and approves, after the opinion of PR and AS, the study programmes of SEU for accreditation.25% - 33% of the members of the Scientific Council are from the external environment (outside SEU).
5. **The Academic Senate of SEU** discusses the status and implementation of the internal quality system in accordance with the plans of its meetings. In the internal quality assurance system of education, it expresses its opinion on the draft internal regulations of the SEU, approves the long-term plan of the SEU after discussion in the Scientific Council of the SEU and its update, approves the annual activity report and the annual management report, expresses its opinion on the draft of the internal system of the SEU before submitting it to the Scientific Council of the SEU, once a year submits to

the academic community of the SEU a report on its activities, which it publishes on the website of the SEU at least for four years.

6. **The Rector's College** prepares documents for the meetings of the Rector's Committee, the Board of Governors and the AS and annual reports in accordance with the internal regulations of the College of Higher Education and the Higher Education Act No. 131/2002. The College consists of the Rector, Vice-Rectors, the Bursar, the President of the AS, the invited Chairperson of the AC, the Chairperson of the CoR and the President of the SR.
7. **The Alumni Club of SEU (AK)** represent the interests and suggestions of alumni in the process of quality higher education. The President of AK participates in the meetings of the Rector's College and the Internal Quality System Council as well as in the approval of study programmes in the Programme Council and the Scientific Council.

Annex 2

Identification and types of periodic assessment reports and PDCA cycle

1. Periodic evaluation reports on the state of the college - internal
 - a) Annual report on the activities of the university within the meaning of Act No. 213/1997 Coll. on Non-Profit Organisations (for the Ministry of the Interior, deadline: 31 May)
 - b) Annual report on the activities of the university according to Act No. 131/2002 (for the Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic, deadline: by 31 October)
 - c) Annual report on the university's research and development activities (annually for the Statistical Office of the Slovak Republic, deadline by 30.6.)
 - d) Annual report on the activities of the university on the management of scholarship grants (for the Ministry of Education and Science of the Slovak Republic, deadline 15.4.)
 - e) Annual report on the completion of the specialisation studies. (for the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic, deadline 31 December)
 - f) Annual statistical report on students and teachers (for UIPŠ, deadline: 31.10.)
 - g) Report on publishing activities, editorial activities and scientific research activities (intended for SEU, deadline 31.12.)
 - h) Report on the state of the university, prepared by the Academic Senate of the SEU. Due by 30 June of the following year (for the academic community)
 - i) Internal evaluation (implementation) report on the internal system 2022-2030 (for SAAVS)

2. Periodic evaluation reports on the state of the college - external
 - a) Accreditation Commission Evaluation Reports, every 6 to 8 years (Accreditation Commissions in 2008 and 2016)
 - b) International evaluation report, every 6 years (2003, 2008, 2012, 2017) by a 5-member international group of experts from public health, nursing, laboratory medicine and psychology and social work.
 - c) Ongoing surveillance reports (produced by SAAVS every 2 years)
 - d) SAAVS evaluation reports (internal system, criteria, curricula, HaI)

The reports are intended for universities, the academic community, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of the Interior, the Ministry of Health, SAAVS (listed in brackets). The submitted report indicates who prepared it and in what cycle (less than a year, a year, 2 years, etc.).

Conclusion 1

1. The planning, development, correction and control cycle (PDCA) is generally 1 year for item 1 (Internal Periodic Review) reports, and 2-6 years for external reports)
2. The evaluation reports mainly evaluated:
 - (a) the process of learning, teaching, i.e. pedagogical work and creative activity
 - b) interest in studying, how many students are from abroad and its comparison with other universities (data from UIPŠ)
 - (c) attribution of awards and accolades for scholarly and creative activity.
 - (d) community service projects and fundraising for planned activities
 - (e) the mission and vision of the college and tSEUr fulfilment
 - (f) Quality Criterion (QC) at the university

International accreditations :

https://www.vssvalzbety.sk/userfiles/VSK/INTL-ACRD/2004-ACCRED_REPORT_SITE_VISIT-ST-ELIZABETH.pdf

<https://www.vssvalzbety.sk/userfiles/VSK/INTL-ACRD/2008-ACCREDITATION.pdf>

<https://www.vssvalzbety.sk/userfiles/VSK/INTL-ACRD/2012-Acreditation.pdf>

<https://www.vssvalzbety.sk/userfiles/INFOPORTAL/AccreditationReportMay2017StElizabethUniversity-4.pdf>