



National Accreditation Bureau
for Higher Education

National Accreditation Bureau for Higher Education

2017–2018 Annual Report

I. Introduction

Legal basis

The National Accreditation Bureau for Higher Education (hereinafter “NAB”) was established on 1 September 2016 by the Act No. 137/2016 Coll. that amended the Act No. 111/1998 Coll., on Higher Education Institutions and on Amendments and Supplements to Some Other Acts (the Higher Education Act). The mandate of NAB is stipulated particularly in its Part Nine and further by the Statute of NAB.

According to Section 83 (2) h) of the Higher Education Act and Article 24 of the Statute, NAB releases its annual report every year. This annual report covers the period between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018.

Mandate of NAB

In accordance with the Higher Education Act, NAB decides on accreditations of degree programmes, institutional accreditations of higher education institutions (hereinafter “HEIs”) and accreditations of habilitation procedures and procedures for appointment of professors. It also carries out external evaluations of HEIs’ educational, creative and related activities, performs audits of compliance with legal regulations in carrying out accredited activities, and subsequently publishes the results of the evaluations. It is also responsible for issuing binding standpoints to determination of the type of a HEI. Furthermore, NAB issues standpoints to granting state approval to legal entities wishing to operate as private HEIs, and provides the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (hereinafter “MEYS”) with standpoints to granting domestic permits/authorisations to non-European HEIs and their branches. Last but not least, NAB renders standpoints to matters related to higher education (hereinafter “HE”) requested by the Minister.

II. Structure of NAB

Board of NAB

The executive body of NAB is the 15-member Board that consists of a Chair, two Vice-Chairs and twelve other members. Five members of the Board including the Chair are appointed from persons nominated by MEYS, other central bodies of the State Administration, professional and employers' organisations, or by other bodies involved in educational and creative activities. Ten members of the Board, including a student member, are appointed by the Government from persons proposed by the representative bodies of HEIs. The Board members are appointed for a period of six years, the student member is appointed for a period of two years. They may be appointed for a maximum of two terms. When appointing the Board members for the first time, the Government appointed a part of the Board for only two-year and four-year terms to ensure regular turnover in the composition of the Board.

Composition of the Board between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018:

prof. Ing. Stanislav Labík, CSc. – Chair
RNDr. Tomáš Jelínek – Vice-Chair
JUDr. Ivan Barančík, Ph.D. – Vice-Chair
MUDr. Josef Fontana
prof. RNDr. Libor Grubhoffer, CSc.
prof. PhDr. Dušan Lužný, Dr.
doc. PaedDr. Iva Málková, Ph.D.
doc. Ivo Mathé
prof. RNDr. Ivan Netuka, DrSc.
doc. Ing. Tomáš Pavelka, Ph.D.
prof. Ing. Jaroslav Petr, DrSc.
prof. Ing. Jindřich Petruška, CSc.
Radek Špicar, M.Phil.
prof. RNDr. Eva Táborská, CSc.
prof. Ing. Zdeněk Vintr, CSc.
Mgr. Michal Zima

The Board duly convened twelve times and twice in a non-scheduled meeting between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018.

Appeals Committee

The main task of the Appeals Committee of NAB is to decide on appeals against decisions of the Board in administrative proceedings. The members of the Appeals Committee are appointed by the Government from persons with a higher education degree in Law; three of them are appointed by the Government on the proposal of the representative bodies of HEIs.

Composition of the Appeals Committee between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018:

prof. JUDr. Josef Bejček, CSc.
prof. JUDr. Aleš Gerloch, CSc.
prof. JUDr. Milana Hrušáková, CSc.
JUDr. Stanislav Kadečka, Ph.D.
JUDr. Ing. Josef Staša, CSc.

The Appeals Committee duly convened four between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018.

The Office of NAB

As stipulated by the Higher Education Act, MEYS secures the operation of NAB materially and financially. Tasks related to professional, administrative and technical support of the NAB activities are carried out by the Office of NAB (hereinafter “the Office”), which is a department of MEYS – a unit falling directly under the Minister.

Pool of Evaluators

In accordance with the Higher Education Act, NAB administers a Pool of Evaluators as a database of persons eligible to be appointed to evaluation committees. Evaluation committees are advisory bodies of NAB; according to the Statute, the Chair appoints them for the preparation of standpoints in individual administrative proceedings, to evaluate applications for state approval to operate as a private HEI and for the preparation of reports on external evaluation of HEIs. The Pool of Evaluators is divided according to fields of study stipulated by the Government Regulation No. 275/2016 Coll., On Fields of Study in Higher Education.

From 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018, NAB launched two calls for nominations of persons to be included in the Pool of Evaluators in accordance with Section 83e (4) of the Higher Education Act and enrolled 141 new evaluators in it. At the same time, the Board removed 21 persons from the Pool mainly at their own request. The total number of enrollments in the Pool of Evaluators as of 31 August 2018 was 1,288 persons. Some of them are enrolled in several fields of study.

Field of study*	Number of evaluators as of 31/8/2017	Number of evaluators as of 31/8/2018
Architecture and Urbanism	25	34
Security Sector Fields	49	46
Biology, Ecology, and Environmental Studies	44	49
Transportation Sciences	34	41
Economic Disciplines	76	78
Electrical Engineering	44	48
Energetics	40	43
Pharmacy	30	32
Philology	56	60
Philosophy, Religious Studies, and Theology	32	36
Physics	45	45
History	45	45
Chemistry	49	48
Informatics	45	47
Cybernetics	35	37
Forestry and Wood Sciences	43	48
Mathematics	39	41
Media and Communication Studies	21	25
Non-teaching Pedagogy	47	47
Political Sciences	34	34
Food Science	35	39
Law	39	45
Psychology	30	36
Social Work	31	32
Sociology	33	34
Civil Engineering	34	40
Mechanical Engineering, Technology and Materials	46	47
Physical Education and Sport; Kinanthropology	24	28
Mining and Mineral Processing	33	38
Pedagogy	72	75
Art	48	51
Art and Culture Sciences	37	43
Earth Science	44	48
Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Hygiene	20	29
General Medicine and Dentistry	41	41
Healthcare Fields	38	43
Agriculture	49	51
Total	1,487	1604

* In the order stipulated by the Higher Education Act (alphabetical order in Czech)

III. Activities of NAB

Modification of internal regulations

The basic internal regulation related to the activities of NAB is its Statute, originally approved by the Government Resolution No. 923 on 17 October 2016. Based on evaluation of the functioning of NAB, the Board started to prepare **a proposal to amend the Statute**. The aim was most importantly to enable more flexible and effective operations of the Pool of Evaluators, establishment of evaluation committees from persons enrolled in the Pool as well as functioning of the committees. The draft amendment to the Statute was discussed with the bodies of representation of HEIs and forwarded to MEYS to be submitted to the Government. Furthermore, NAB adopted amended **Rules of Procedure of the Evaluation Committees** that reflected the current needs and gained experience. The amendment modified and specified some particular aspects of their operations, i.e. defined the period of operation of evaluation committees in a given administrative proceeding.

Preparation of methodical and conceptual documents

The majority of methodical documents that are key to the NAB's operations had been adopted in the previous period. These include mainly methodical guidelines for preparation and assessment of applications for accreditation of degree programmes, institutional accreditation and accreditation of fields for habilitation procedures and procedures for appointment of professors, but also a number of other methodical documents and guidelines.

A new initiative of NAB was the preparation of the **Methodical guidelines for submission of specific applications for accreditation of degree programmes**. These guidelines clarified the requirements on submitting applications for specific types of applications, such as applications for expansion of accreditation of a degree programme, or applications for accreditation of a degree programme to be carried out jointly with a foreign HEI or another legal entity.

In the field of information duty of HEIs, NAB defined substantial changes in exercising the privileges given by institutional accreditation and the kinds of information necessary for NAB in the **Methodical Guidelines for Information Duty of HEIs with Institutional Accreditation**. The HEIs have a duty to inform NAB in particular about the internal approval and closure of degree programmes.

Training of evaluators

NAB also focused on training of persons enrolled in the Pool of Evaluators. During two training sessions, the evaluators became acquainted with the process of administrative proceedings conducted by NAB, with the procedures and methods of assessment as well as the role and tasks of the evaluation committees. A total of 95 persons were trained between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018. Trainings focused on institutional accreditations were organized on an ongoing basis: 21 training sessions were attended by 380 persons.

Other activities

Chair, Vice-Chairs and other members of the Board held meetings with **members of the representative bodies of HEIs** (Czech Rectors Conference, Council of HEIs), **associations of deans, representatives of MEYS and other partners**. Along with Office staff they also took part in thematic seminars focused on accreditation and quality assurance.

NAB has taken measures in the area of personal data protection related to the European General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). NAB processes personal data mainly of persons enrolled in the Pool of Evaluators and of persons that teach and do research at HEIs and other legal entities. The basis for this data processing is given in the legal obligation and the exercise of public power of NAB. Necessary measures have been taken in the operations of NAB to ensure full protection of personal data and to fulfill the instruction duty towards data subjects.

Audits and external evaluations

The Board approved an Audit Plan for 2018, which included 6 audits of compliance with legal regulations at HEIs. In the period covered by this report, the Board initiated two audits: at Newton College: University of Applied Business in Prague and at Evropský polytechnický institut, s.r.o. These audits were completed after the reporting period.

Administrative proceedings

Application-based administrative proceedings

a) Accreditation of degree programmes:

In the reporting period from 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018, NAB received the following numbers of applications for accreditation of degree programmes. The figures relate to the number of degree programmes that were applied for.

Applications¹	Accreditation granted	Accreditation denied	Proceedings terminated	Proceedings unfinished
Bachelor programmes	0 86	0 2	28 (28) 19	5 237
Short Master programmes	0 82	0 0	33 (33) 6	1 176
Long Master programmes	0 5	0 0	0 0	0 4
Doctoral programmes	0 25	0 0	9 (9) 9	0 82
Programmes in cooperation with another legal entity	0 4	0 0	5 (5) 2	2 (2) 19

The numbers in brackets refer to the number of applications (out of the total) that had been submitted to MEYS prior to the Act No. 137/2016 Coll. that amended the Act No. 111/1998 Coll. (the Higher Education Act). MEYS passed these applications on to NAB after it had been established by the Act.

b) Accreditation of fields for habilitation procedures and procedures for appointment of professors:

¹ Figures for the current reporting period 1/9/2017 – 31/8/2018 are given **in bold**. For comparison, figures for the previous reporting period 1/9/2016 – 31/8/2017 are given in the standard font.

From 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018, NAB received the following number of the applications. The figures relate to the number of fields that were applied for.

Applications²	Accreditation granted	Accreditation denied	Proceedings terminated	Proceedings unfinished
fields of habilitation procedure	0 19	0 0	6 (5) 0	4 (4) 3
fields of procedure for appointment of professors	0 16	0 0	2 (2) 1	6 (6) 3

The numbers in brackets refer to the number of applications (out of the total) that had been submitted to MEYS prior to the Act No. 137/2016 Coll. that amended the Act No. 111/1998 Coll. (the Higher Education Act). MEYS passed these applications on to NAB after it had been established by the Act.

c) Institutional accreditation³:

From 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018, NAB received the following number of applications. The figures relate to the number of HEIs that applied for institutional accreditation, the number of fields of study that were applied for and the number of types of degree programmes that were applied for within individual fields of study.

The number of partially granted accreditations for fields of study refers to the number of fields of study for which institutional accreditation has not been granted for all types of degree programmes that the HEI had applied for.

Applications for institutional accreditation	Accreditation granted	Accreditation denied *	Accreditation partially granted	Proceedings terminated	Proceedings unfinished
HEIs	7	0	0	0	6
fields of study	76	1	15	0	26
Bachelor type	87	6	0	0	26
Master type	87	4	0	0	26
Doctoral type	74	15	0	0	25

* Denied by the Board or narrowed by the HEI during the proceedings

Administrative proceedings instigated by NAB

a) Proceedings towards revocation of accreditation⁴:

² Figures for the current reporting period 1/9/2017 – 31/8/2018 are given **in bold**. For comparison, figures for the previous reporting period 1/9/2016 – 31/8/2017 are given in the standard font.

³ An institutional accreditation is granted to a HEI for individual fields of study and types of degree programmes.

⁴ Revocation of accreditation means final termination of all teaching, examination and other activities in the degree programme.

From 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018, NAB conducted 1 administrative proceeding towards revocation of accreditation: revocation of accreditation of a field for habilitation procedure. Accreditation was revoked.

b) Proceedings towards restriction of accreditation⁵:

From 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018, NAB conducted the following number of administrative proceedings towards restriction of accreditation of a degree programme. The figures relate to the number of degree programmes (or areas of study in the cases where the degree programme accredited under the previous Higher Education Act is divided into areas of study) that were subject of the proceedings towards restriction.

	Accreditation restricted	Proceedings terminated	Proceedings unfinished
Proceedings towards restriction of accreditation	0 13 (7)	1 (1) 10 (8)	21 (15) 1 (0)

The numbers in brackets refer to the number of applications (out of the total) that had been submitted to MEYS prior to the Act No. 137/2016 Coll. that amended the Act No. 111/1998 Coll. (the Higher Education Act). MEYS passed these applications on to NAB after it had been established by the Act.

From 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018, NAB received the following number of requests to abolish a restriction of accreditation of a degree programme. The figures relate to the number of degree programmes (or areas of study in the cases where the degree programme accredited under the previous Higher Education Act is divided into areas of study) that were subject of the abolition request.

	Requests to abolish restriction where proceedings were not instigated	Proceedings instigated and restriction of accreditation abolished	Proceedings instigated and then terminated	Proceedings instigated and unfinished
Proceedings towards abolition of restriction of accreditation	2 0	2 1	7 1	2 1

Standpoints

Standpoints to applications for state approval

⁵ Restriction of accreditation means a ban on admission of new students to a degree programme.

In the period from 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018, the Board received no application for state approval to operate as a private HEI.

Standpoints to granting domestic permits/authorisations to non-European higher education institutions and their branches

From 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018, the Board received the following number of applications for domestic permits/authorisations to non-European higher education institutions and their branches.

Applications⁶	Affirmative standpoint	Negative standpoint	Standpoint not yet released
for standpoint to granting domestic permits /authorisations	0 1	0 0	2 0

Standpoints to determination of the type of a higher education institution

From 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018, the Board received no such request.

Standpoints to follow-up reports and reports on changes

From 1 September 2017 to 31 August 2018, the Board examined 332 follow-up reports or their supplements related to degree programmes (or areas of study in the cases where the degree programme accredited under the previous Higher Education Act is divided into areas of study) and 2 follow-up reports/supplements related to habilitation procedures or procedures for appointment of professors. These were follow-up reports on the realization of educational activities requested by the Accreditation Commission prior to the amendment of the Higher Education Act in 2016. The mechanism of submitting and examining follow-up reports enables monitoring of the quality of degree programmes and fields of habilitation procedures and procedures for appointment of professors in the course of the accreditation period.

In addition, the Board examined 425 reports on changes in degree programmes (or areas of study where the degree programme accredited under the previous Higher Education Act is divided into areas of study) and 17 reports on changes in habilitation procedures and procedures for appointment of professors between 1 September 2017 and 31 December 2018. These reports had been submitted to NAB on the basis of the information duty stipulated for HEIs by the Higher Education Act.

IV. International Cooperation

Membership in international associations

NAB was both in 2017 and 2018 an affiliate of ENQA (European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education), which brings together accreditation agencies at the European level and acts as a partner for other European bodies in HE. The affiliate status in ENQA

⁶ Figures for the current reporting period 1/9/2017 – 31/8/2018 are given **in bold**. For comparison, figures for the previous reporting period 1/9/2016 – 31/8/2017 are given in the standard font.

enables NAB to take part in its activities, attend its seminars and other events as well as to benefit from opportunities to exchange good practice and experience with the member agencies. Staff members of the Office represented NAB at general assemblies of the association.

NAB continued to be a member of CEENQA (The Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education), which serves as a platform for cooperation of accreditation agencies in the Central and Eastern European region. A representative of the Office served on the association's Board after being elected in 2017.