



National Accreditation Bureau
for Higher Education

National Accreditation Bureau for Higher Education

2018–2019 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. On 4 September 2018, the Government of the Czech Republic approved a new Statute of NAB by its Resolution No. 568. The new Statute revised and amended some provisions dealing mainly with the Pool of Evaluators and the operation of evaluation committees.

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 2018 and 31 December 2019. Previous annual reports covered periods from 1 September to 31 August of the respective year but, for the sake of comparison with other conceptual documents and of applicability of statistical data, NAB has decided to change the period covered by annual reports to the regular calendar year. This annual report therefore covers the full period of 2019 and the four months of 2018 not covered by the previous annual report.

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.

Composition of the Board between 1 September 2018 and 30 April 2019:

prof. Ing. Stanislav Labík, CSc. – Chair (resigned as of 30 April 2019)
RNDr. Tomáš Jelínek – Vice-Chair
JUDr. Ivan Barančík, Ph.D. – Vice-Chair
prof. RNDr. Libor Grubhoffer, CSc.
prof. PhDr. Dušan Lužný, Dr.
doc. Ivo Mathé
prof. RNDr. Ivan Netuka, DrSc.
prof. Ing. Petr Noskievič, CSc.
doc. Ing. Tomáš Pavelka, Ph.D.
prof. Ing. Jaroslav Petr, DrSc.
prof. PhDr. Eva Šmelová, Ph.D.
Radek Špicar, M.Phil.
prof. RNDr. Eva Táborská, CSc.
prof. Ing. Zdeněk Vintr, CSc.
Mgr. Michal Zima

Composition of the Board between 1 May 2019 and 31 December 2019:

JUDr. Ivan Barančík, Ph.D. – Vice-Chair
RNDr. Tomáš Jelínek – Vice-Chair
prof. RNDr. Libor Grubhoffer, CSc.
prof. PhDr. Dušan Lužný, Dr.
doc. Ivo Mathé
prof. RNDr. Ivan Netuka, DrSc.
prof. Ing. Petr Noskievič, CSc.
doc. Ing. Tomáš Pavelka, Ph.D.
prof. Ing. Jaroslav Petr, DrSc.
prof. PhDr. Eva Šmelová, Ph.D.
Radek Špicar, M.Phil.
prof. RNDr. Eva Táborská, CSc.
prof. Ing. Zdeněk Vintr, CSc.
Mgr. Michal Zima

The Board duly convened four times between 1 September 2018 and 31 December 2018 and twelve times in 2019.

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 and 31 December 2019:

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 once between 1 September 2018 and 31 December 2018 and four times in 2019.

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. On 4 September 2018, the Government Resolution No. 568 approved a new Statute of NAB, which increased the maximum number of persons that can be enrolled in the Pool of Evaluators in each field of study.

From 1 September 2018 to 31 December 2018, NAB launched one call 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 137 new evaluators in it. At the same time, the Board removed 8 persons from the Pool at their own request.

In 2019, NAB launched six calls for nominations of persons to be included in the Pool of Evaluators, and enrolled 91 new evaluators. In this period, NAB removed 10 persons from the Pool of Evaluators at their own request. The total number of enrollments in the Pool of Evaluators as of 31 December 2019 was 1,499 persons. Some of them are enrolled in several fields of study.

Field of study*	Number of evaluators as of 31/8/2018	Number of evaluators as of 31/12/2019
Architecture and Urbanism	34	37
Security Sector Fields	46	57
Biology, Ecology, and Environmental Studies	49	60
Transportation Sciences	41	39
Economic Disciplines	78	97
Electrical Engineering	48	50
Energetics	43	47
Pharmacy	32	34
Philology	60	62
Philosophy, Religious Studies, and Theology	36	41
Physics	45	47
History	45	57
Chemistry	48	52
Informatics	47	57
Cybernetics	37	40
Forestry and Wood Sciences	48	47
Mathematics	41	49
Media and Communication Studies	25	27
Non-teaching Pedagogy	47	53
Political Sciences	34	43
Food Science	39	43
Law	45	52
Psychology	36	41
Social Work	32	33
Sociology	34	37
Civil Engineering	40	44
Mechanical Engineering, Technology and Materials	47	60
Physical Education and Sport; Kinanthropology	28	34
Mining and Mineral Processing	38	34
Pedagogy	75	91
Art	51	64
Art and Culture Sciences	43	41
Earth Science	48	56
Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Hygiene	29	32
General Medicine and Dentistry	41	73
Healthcare Fields	43	60
Agriculture	51	58
Total	1,604	1,849

* 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 a proposal to amend the Statute, prepared by the Board after evaluating the experience with its functioning, the Government Resolution No. 568 approved **a new Statute of NAB** on 4 September 2018.

Preparation of methodical and conceptual documents

In 2019, NAB drafted and, after consultation with the representative bodies of HEIs, approved **a methodical guideline for external evaluation of activities of HEIs**, which specifies the procedure and rules of external evaluations conducted by NAB on the basis of Section 84 of the Higher Education Act.

Internal evaluation

Following the need to lay down the processes and principles of internal evaluation of NAB's own activities, the Board adopted **The Framework for Internal Quality Assurance and Evaluation of the Activities of NAB**. It defines the policy of internal quality assurance of NAB towards the public and also forms the methodical basis for regular internal evaluations. The document is conceived as a vision that NAB will pursue in the upcoming period.

In accordance with the requirements of the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG), the Statute and the Framework for Internal Quality Assurance and Evaluation of the Activities of NAB, NAB conducted the first internal evaluation of its activities. The Board had charged three selected members to manage the evaluation. Its input was a survey carried out by the Office among the evaluators enrolled in the Pool of Evaluators, which focused on the operation of evaluation committees in the area of assessment of both degree programmes and institutional accreditations. The evaluation also included a basic overview of compliance with individual ESG standards. The results of the internal evaluation, approved by the Board at its meeting No. 7/2019, were presented in **The Internal Evaluation Report of NAB in the years 2016-2019** and published on the NAB's website.

Training of evaluators

NAB also focused on training of persons enrolled in the Pool of Evaluators. Between 1 September 2018 and 31 December 2018, two training sessions took place. No training was held in 2019, since the Pool of Evaluators did not grow considerably at that time and a core of experts had already been created with sufficient practical experience and knowledge in the quality assessment of HEIs and degree programmes. During the trainings in 2018, 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. Trainings focused on institutional accreditations were organized continuously: Six training sessions, attended by 71 evaluators, took place between 1 September 2018 and 31 December 2018, followed by 9 training sessions with 87 trained persons in 2019.

Information provision under the Act No. 106/1999 Coll., On Free Access to Information

Pursuant to Section 18 of the Act No. 106/1999 Coll., On Free Access to Information, NAB, as an obliged entity, includes a report on its activities in regard to providing information as part of the respective annual report. According to Article 38 (3) of the Statute, the duties of the obliged entity are delegated to the Director of the Office.

Number of submitted requests for information: 7

Number of issued refusal decisions: 2

Number of submitted appeals against a decision: 0

Copies of substantial parts of a court judgment reviewing the legality of the obliged entity's decision to refuse the request for information: none

List of exclusive licenses granted, including justification of the need for exclusive license: none

Number of complaints submitted on the basis of Section 16a, reasons for submitting them and a brief description of the respective resolution: 0

Further information related to the application of this Act: The obliged entity publishes the provided information on its official notice board in accordance with Section 5 (3) of the Act No. 106/1999 Coll., On Free Access to Information.

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**. Representatives of NAB also participated in **discussions on the draft amendment to the Higher Education Act**, acted as members of working groups to **prepare strategic documents in the area of HE**, and engaged in thematic seminars focused on accreditation and quality assurance in HE.

Audits and external evaluations

Between 1 September 2018 and 31 December 2018, NAB initiated an audit of Mendel University in Brno. Furthermore, the previously initiated audits of Newton College, a.s., and the Evropský polytechnický institut, s.r.o., were finished.

In 2019, NAB finished the audit of Mendel University in Brno and the audit of the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Ostrava that had started in the same year. It also initiated three new audits of the following institutions: (1) Vysoká škola technická a ekonomická v Českých Budějovicích; (2) Anglo-American University in Prague, Czech University of Life Sciences Prague, VSB – Technical University of Ostrava and University of Economics and Management Prague; (3) The University of Ostrava. These audits will be completed after the reporting period.

Given the very diverse character and relatively low number of completed audits, it is not possible to summarize overall findings with general validity. It can only be stated that some of the audits of compliance with legal regulations found deficiencies related to admission procedure for study in degree programmes.

In 2019, the Board of NAB initiated the first external evaluations of educational, creative and related activities at HEIs, namely at the Jan Amos Komenský University Prague and at Ambis. These evaluations will be finished after the reporting period.

Administrative proceedings

Application-based administrative proceedings

a) Accreditation of degree programmes:

In the reporting period from 1 September 2018 to 31 December 2018, NAB received **241** applications for accreditation of degree programmes.

In this period, it conducted administrative proceedings on the following number of the applications. The figures relate to the number of degree programmes that were applied for. They include applications submitted to NAB prior to the start of the reporting period in the cases when NAB conducted related administrative proceedings in that period.

Applications	Accreditation granted	Accreditation denied	Proceedings terminated	Proceedings unfinished as of 31/12/2018
Bachelor programmes	82	0	33	227
Short Master programmes	81	0	27	130
Long Master programmes	1	0	2	3
Doctoral programmes	33	0	9	130
Programmes in cooperation with another legal entity	8	0	1	48

In the reporting period from 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019, NAB received **528** applications for accreditation of degree programmes.

In this period, it conducted administrative proceedings on the following number of the applications. The figures relate to the number of degree programmes that were applied for. They include applications submitted to NAB prior to the start of the reporting period in the cases when NAB conducted related administrative proceedings in that period.

Applications	Accreditation granted	Accreditation denied	Proceedings terminated	Proceedings unfinished as of 31/12/2019
Bachelor programmes	260	0	30	115
Short Master programmes	181	1	17	101
Long Master programmes	6	0	4	8
Doctoral programmes	114	0	37	78
Programmes in cooperation with another legal entity	26	0	14	11

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

From 1 September 2018 to 31 December 2018, NAB received **68** applications for this accreditation.

In this period, it conducted administrative proceedings on the following number of the applications. The figures relate to the number of fields that were applied for. They include applications submitted to NAB prior to the start of the reporting period in the cases when NAB conducted related administrative proceedings in that period.

Applications	Accreditation granted	Accreditation denied	Proceedings terminated	Proceedings unfinished as of 31/12/2018
fields of habilitation procedure	3	0	0	59
fields of procedure for appointment of professors	3	0	0	56

From 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019, NAB received **218** applications for accreditation of fields for habilitation procedures and procedures for appointment of professors.

In this period, it conducted administrative proceedings on the following number of the applications. The figures relate to the number of fields that were applied for. They include applications submitted to NAB prior to the start of the reporting period in the cases when NAB conducted related administrative proceedings in that period.

Applications	Accreditation granted	Accreditation denied	Proceedings terminated	Proceedings unfinished as of 31/12/2019
fields of habilitation procedure	207	0	3	56
fields of procedure for appointment of professors	182	3	3	49

c) Institutional accreditation¹:

From 1 September 2018 to 31 December 2018, NAB received **3** applications for institutional accreditation.

In this period, it decided on 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.

Applications for institutional accreditation	Accreditation granted (out of the total, granted for all types of programmes that were applied for)	Accreditation denied (application rejected or narrowed)	Proceedings terminated
HEIs	1	0	1
fields of study	7 (5)	1	1
Bachelor type	7	1	1
Master type	7	1	1
Doctoral type	5	3	1

Proceedings on 7 other applications of HEIs were not finished as of 31 December 2018.

From 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019, NAB received **2** applications for institutional accreditation.

In this period, it decided on 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.

Applications for institutional accreditation	Accreditation granted (out of the total, granted for all types of programmes that were applied for)	Accreditation denied (application rejected or narrowed)	Proceedings terminated
HEIs	7	1	0
fields of study	41 (36)	8	0
Bachelor type	40	8	0
Master type	37	12	0
Doctoral type	30	5	0

¹ An institutional accreditation is granted to a HEI for individual fields of study and types of degree programmes.

NAB also decided to expand the institutional accreditation of **1** HEI to a further field of study. Proceedings on the application for institutional accreditation by **1** HEI were not finished as of 31 December 2019.

The Board took note of **269** degree programmes approved by HEIs under their institutional accreditations in the period from 1 September 2018 to 31 December 2018, and of **1,617** such degree programmes in 2019².

Administrative proceedings instigated by NAB

a) Proceedings towards revocation of accreditation³:

From 1 September 2018 to 31 December 2018, NAB conducted the following number of administrative proceedings towards revocation 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 revocation.

	Accreditation revoked	Proceedings terminated	Proceedings unfinished as of 31/12/2018
Proceedings towards revocation of accreditation	0	0	4

From 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019, NAB conducted the following number of administrative proceedings towards revocation 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 revocation.

	Accreditation revoked	Proceedings terminated	Proceedings unfinished as of 31/12/2019
Proceedings towards revocation of accreditation	2	2	0

² HEIs with institutional accreditation are entitled to approve (self-accredit) their degree programmes in the fields of study and for the types of programmes that they hold institutional accreditation for.

³ Revocation of accreditation means final termination of all teaching, examination and other activities in the degree programme.

b) Proceedings towards restriction of accreditation⁴:

From 1 September 2018 to 31 December 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 as of 31/12/2018
Proceedings towards restriction of accreditation	1	0	1

From 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019, 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 as of 31/12/2019
Proceedings towards restriction of accreditation	2	4	1

From 1 September 2018 to 31 December 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 as of 31/12/2018 unfinished
Proceedings towards abolition of restriction of accreditation	0	0	1	0

⁴ Restriction of accreditation means a ban on admission of new students to a degree programme.

From 1 January 2019 to 31 December 2019, 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 request⁵.

	Requests to abolish restriction where proceedings were not instigated	Proceedings instigated and restriction of accreditation abolished	Proceedings instigated and then terminated	Proceedings instigated and as of 31/12/2019 unfinished
Proceedings towards abolition of restriction of accreditation	1	0	1	0

Standpoints

Standpoints to applications for state approval

In the period from 1 September 2018 to 31 December 2019, 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 2018 to 31 December 2019, the Board received no such application.

Standpoints to determination of the type of a higher education institution

From 1 September 2018 to 31 December 2019, the Board received no such request.

Standpoints to follow-up reports and reports on changes

From 1 September 2018 to 31 December 2018, the Board examined 61 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 no follow-up reports/supplements related to habilitation procedures or procedures for appointment of professors. In 2019, the Board examined 144 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 8 follow-up reports or their supplements related to habilitation procedures and procedures for appointment of professors. These were both 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, and follow-up reports requested by NAB. The mechanism of submitting and examining follow-up reports enables monitoring of the

⁵ In order to lift a restriction of accreditation, HEI can file a request to NAB to abolish this corrective measure. NAB decides at its own discretion whether to instigate proceedings or not.

quality of degree programmes and fields of habilitation procedures and procedures for appointment of professors in the course of the accreditation period.

In 2019, the Board also examined 6 follow-up reports on institutional accreditations, which serve primarily to verify the fulfillment of recommendations made to the HEI when granting the institutional accreditation.

In addition, the Board examined 63 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 18 reports on changes in habilitation procedures and procedures for appointment of professors between 1 September 2018 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. In 2019, the count is 308 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 27 reports on changes in habilitation procedures and procedures for appointment of professors.

IV. International Cooperation

Membership in international associations

NAB was both in 2018 and 2019 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 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, having been elected for the first time in 2015. In the 2019 Board elections, she was elected vice-president of CEENQA.

Other international activities

In November 2018, NAB hosted a meeting of the ECA (The European Consortium for Accreditation in Higher Education), an association of some European accreditation agencies. Representatives of NAB spoke at the meeting and presented the structure of NAB along with its activities up to date. The involvement of NAB as the host of the meeting contributed to strengthening the position of NAB in the European area and made it possible to establish ties with the members of ECA.

Furthermore, NAB joined the Peer Support Group C on Quality Assurance, which is one of the three support groups set up to implement the Bologna Process. The group brings together most of the countries in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) and creates a platform for coordinated activities of individual groups of countries towards greater compliance with the Bologna Process indicators. One of the staff members of the Office represented the Czech

Republic at the Peer Support Group meetings. The main activity of the group is thematically focused staff mobility to other EHEA countries.

In 2019, NAB participated in completing the application for recognition of the Czech Republic by the U.S. National Committee on Foreign Medical Education and Accreditation (NCFMEA). NCFMEA issues a recognition status to national systems of quality assurance in HE based on their compatibility with the U.S. system. The Czech Republic has long been a holder of this status, which enables U.S. students to study at Czech medical faculties with federal financial aid. NCFMEA approved the Czech application in a meeting attended by Michal Zima, a NAB Board member, and granted the recognition status to the Czech system of quality assurance in HE for a six-year period.

Other international activities of NAB include cooperation with MEYS and ENQA in filing an application for a project under a European Commission's open call. The proposed SEQA-ESG project aims to support NAB and other European accreditation agencies that are not yet full members of ENQA to entirely implement the ESG and prepare for external evaluation of compliance with these standards so as to achieve full membership in ENQA and registration in The European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR). The European Commission is scheduled to take a decision on funding of the project in 2020.