



National Accreditation Bureau
for Higher Education

**National Accreditation Bureau
for Higher Education**

2022 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 (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. It revised and amended some provisions dealing mainly with the Pool of Evaluators and the functioning of evaluation committees. On 6 December 2021, another amendment to the Statute of NAB was approved by Government Resolution No. 1120, which simplified and clarified processes and procedures based on previous experience with NAB’s operation.

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 January 2022 and 31 December 2022.

Mandate of NAB

In accordance with the Higher Education Act, NAB decides on accreditations of degree programmes, accreditations of habilitation procedures and procedures for appointment of professors and institutional accreditations of higher education institutions (hereinafter “HEIs”). 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 in charge of issuing standpoints to determination of the type of HEI. Furthermore, NAB issues binding standpoints on 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 on granting domestic permits/authorisations to non-European HEIs and their branches. Finally, NAB renders standpoints on 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, except for the student member who is appointed for a period of two years. They may be appointed for a maximum of two terms.

As of 31 May 2022, prof. PhDr. Mgr. Tomáš Knoz, Ph.D., and prof. RNDr. Viktor Beneš, DrSc., resigned as members of the Board. The term of office of the Chair of the Board, JUDr. Ivan Barančík, Ph.D., the Vice-Chair RNDr. Tomáš Jelínek, and the Board members prof. Ing. Martin Macko, CSc., prof. Ing. Jaroslav Petr, DrSc., and Mgr. Bc. Michal Zima, ended on 31 August 2022.

With effect from 1 September 2022, the Government appointed Ing. Robert Plaga, Ph.D., as the Chair of the Board, PhDr. Tomáš Fliegl as Vice-Chair, and Ing. Michal Farník, prof. PhDr. Jiří Lach, M.A., Ph.D., prof. JUDr. Josef Salač, Ph.D., prof. MVDr. Iva Steinhauserová, CSc., and prof. Rikard von Unge, Ph.D., as members of the Board.

Composition of the Board as of 31 December 2022:

Ing. Robert Plaga, Ph.D. – Chair
PhDr. Tomáš Fliegl – Vice-Chair
Radek Špicar, M.Phil. – Vice-Chair
Ing. Michal Farník
prof. RNDr. Libor Grubhoffer, CSc.
prof. PhDr. Jiří Lach, M.A., Ph.D.
prof. JUDr. Hana Marková, CSc.
doc. MgA. Ivo Mathé
prof. Ing. Petr Noskiewič, CSc.
doc. Ing. Tomáš Pavelka, Ph.D.
prof. JUDr. Josef Salač, Ph.D.
prof. MVDr. Iva Steinhauserová, CSc.
prof. PhDr. Eva Šmelová, Ph.D.
prof. RNDr. Eva Táborská, CSc.
prof. Rikard von Unge, Ph.D.

Between 1 January and 31 December 2022, the Board held ten regular and two extraordinary meetings.

Appeals Committee

The main task of the Appeals Committee is to decide on appeals against the Board's decisions in administrative proceedings. Its members 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.

Although, according to the Higher Education Act, the Appeals Committee of NAB consists of 5 members, it operated with a reduced number of 4 members until 31 August 2022. With effect from 1 September 2022, JUDr. Ivan Barančík, PhD., was appointed by the Government as its new member.

Composition of the Appeals Committee as of 31 December 2022:

JUDr. Ivan Barančík, PhD.
prof. JUDr. Josef Bejček, CSc.
prof. JUDr. Aleš Gerloch, CSc.
prof. JUDr. Milana Hrušáková, CSc.
JUDr. Ing. Josef Staša, CSc.

In the reporting period, the Appeals Committee convened three times.

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 to prepare standpoints usually on individual administrative proceedings, on the type of HEI, on applications for state approval to operate as a private HEI, on ensuring foreign higher education degree programmes including conditions for a proper instruction, and to prepare 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.

In 2022, NAB launched two calls for proposals for inclusion of persons in the Pool of Evaluators. As a result, 26 new evaluators were enrolled. All of them were included on the basis of the first call, which was targeted at students.

The second call was primarily intended to prevent a large drop in the number of evaluators at the beginning of 2023. Evaluators are registered in the Pool for a period of six years and many of them were added in the first quarter of 2017. To prevent lack of evaluators in 2023, NAB launched a call for proposals in May 2022, open to both evaluators included in the Pool in 2017 and new persons. NAB also addressed representative bodies of HEIs, public administration bodies and several professional organisations and associations with a request for cooperation in supplementing the Pool. Based on this call, 1,178 persons were selected for inclusion from 1 January 2023.

In 2022, the Board removed 3 persons from the Pool at their own request. In addition, 54 students were removed due to the end of their studies. The total number of evaluators registered in the Pool as of 31 December 2022 was 1,459. Some of them are enrolled in multiple fields of study.

Field of study*	Number of evaluators as of 31/12/2021	Number of evaluators as of 31/12/2022
Architecture and Urbanism	43	41
Security Sector Fields	60	67
Biology, Ecology, and Environmental Studies	61	59
Transportation Sciences	38	38
Economic Disciplines	97	94
Electrical Engineering	52	51
Energetics	51	50
Pharmacy	36	35
Philology	68	67
Philosophy, Religious Studies, and Theology	43	43
Physics	47	47
History	66	59
Chemistry	57	55
Informatics	61	60
Cybernetics	42	43
Forestry and Wood Sciences	46	46
Mathematics	45	44
Media and Communication Studies	33	28
Non-teaching Pedagogy	54	52
Political Sciences	49	50
Food Science	42	41
Law	62	64
Psychology	47	48
Social Work	34	34
Sociology	38	36
Civil Engineering	52	50
Mechanical Engineering, Technology and Materials	58	58
Physical Education and Sport; Kinanthropology	30	25
Mining and Mineral Processing	34	34
Pedagogy	93	86
Art	67	62
Art and Culture Sciences	47	45
Earth Science	59	57
Veterinary Medicine, Veterinary Hygiene	31	29
General Medicine and Dentistry	68	65
Healthcare Fields	67	62
Agriculture	55	53
Total	1933	1878

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

III. Activities of NAB

Modification of internal regulations

Following the amendment to the Statute of NAB, approved by the Government by its Resolution No. 1120 on 6 December 2021, the **Rules of Procedure of the NAB Evaluation Committees were amended**. Changes to some rules governing the activities of the evaluation committees resulting from the amendments to the Statute were incorporated. Among other things, the amendment enabled a distance and hybrid form of committee meetings, which should make their activities more flexible and efficient.

Preparation of methodical and conceptual documents

In 2022, NAB undertook a comprehensive revision of methodological materials for evaluation activities. Its purpose was mainly to anchor the existing administrative practice with the aim of facilitating transparency and predictability of NAB's decision-making. It was also intended to reflect feedback from HEIs and evaluators on NAB's methodological materials and to increase their clarity and comprehensibility both for preparation and submission of various types of applications by HEIs and for their evaluation by NAB bodies. The revision of methodological materials also reflected the need to define and develop more precisely basic requirements for ensuring distance form of study in degree programmes, which had arisen from the long-term development in the higher education environment and was reinforced by the extraordinary situation related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The modifications made in the methodological materials had been discussed in advance with the representative bodies of HEIs and were adopted in their final form by the Board at its meeting No. 7/2022 on 14 July 2022. In the case of the documents related to the accreditation procedure, they were mainly **Methodological Materials for Preparation and Evaluation of Applications for Accreditation of Degree Programmes, Methodological Materials for Accreditation of the Fields of Habilitation Procedures and Procedures for Appointment of Professors** and **Methodological Material for Submission of Specific Applications for Accreditation of Degree Programmes**. Further subjects to revision were materials regulating the information obligation of HEIs, namely **Methodological Material on the Obligation of HEIs to Inform about Changes in the Implementation of Accredited Activities** and **Methodological Material on the Information Obligation of HEIs with Institutional Accreditation**.

Methodological Material on Preparation and Assessment of Requests for Issuance of Standpoint on the Type of HEI was also revised, and in the area of assessing the fulfilment of requirements for the provision of higher education by foreign entities in the Czech Republic, the **Methodological Material for Assessment of Applications from Non-European HEIs for Permission to Carry Out Educational Activities in the Czech Republic** was revised in cooperation with the Ministry, which decides on these matters.

NAB also updated **Methodological Material for External Evaluation of Activities of HEIs** where, because of the amendment to the Statute, for example deadlines for carrying out the evaluation or for submissions of the respective HEI's objections were extended.

Internal evaluation

NAB conducts a long-term internal evaluation of its activities; the outputs are described in internal evaluation reports and their updates. In 2022, an internal evaluation was carried out as

part of activities related to the SEQA-ESG (Supporting European QA Agencies in meeting the ESG) project, in which NAB was involved. The project was funded by the European Commission and was aimed at supporting accreditation agencies in meeting the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG). NAB focused on the analysis of its own activities in relation to these standards and conditions for joining the European structures ENQA and EQAR. In order to outline priority areas and specific measures necessary to achieve compliance with the ESG, NAB established an action plan which serves as a guide for further development of the activities carried out by NAB.

Training of evaluators

There was no training for evaluators in 2022 because of only small changes in the Pool of Evaluators. During this period, NAB was preparing a new training system, which consists of self-study training materials and webinars. A new information brochure for evaluators provides a comprehensive overview of the legal basis for evaluation activities, of the process for evaluating applications for accreditation and basic principles of evaluation according to the accreditation standards.

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 this 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: 4
- Number of issued refusal decisions: 1
- 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 the Act No. 106/1999 Coll.: In accordance with its Section 5 (3), the obliged entity publishes the provided information on its official notice board.

Other activities

The Chair, the Vice-Chairs and other members of the Board held meetings with **members of the representative bodies of HEIs** (Czech Rectors Conference, Council of HEIs), **representatives of MEYS and other partners**. NAB's representatives were also involved in discussions especially in regard to the preparation of the draft amendment to the Higher Education Act and participated in thematic meetings and seminars focused on accreditations and quality assurance of higher education.

In 2022, the work of **permanent committees for evaluation methodology** continued. These committees had so far been appointed in 36 fields of study. In 2022, meetings of permanent committees were held in 8 fields of study. These were initial meetings in some cases, but

several permanent committees discussed specific topics, such as minimum standards for the given field of study.

Audits of compliance with legal provisions

In 2022, NAB launched an audit of compliance with legal provisions in the implementation of accredited activities at Mendel University in Brno, which focused on the course of study in selected degree programmes at the faculties of Mendel University in Brno. This audit was completed in 2022.

NAB also launched an audit of compliance with legal provisions in the implementation of accredited activities at the Faculty of Physical Culture of Palacky University in Olomouc.

In the reporting period, some audits launched in 2021 were completed, namely at The Police Academy of the Czech Republic in Prague, Technical University of Liberec, University of New York in Prague, s.r.o., Prague School of Creative Communication, and University of West Bohemia.

At the audited entities, NAB stated, for example, deficiencies in regard to the internal quality assurance of the respective HEI's activities, to staffing of the degree programme or to creative activities of teachers and degree programme guarantors. NAB also pointed out a non-standard procedure related to termination of study in a degree programme implemented in cooperation with foreign HEIs or confusing information about degree programmes offered on the respective HEI's websites. In some cases, deficiencies in keeping protocols on the defence of the qualification thesis and on the state final examination were noted. Furthermore, NAB discovered repeated transitions between lifelong learning courses and study in accredited degree programmes, or admissions of study applicants based on a point bonus for completing a lifelong learning course in cases where, without this bonus, they would not have reached the minimum point threshold for admission. NAB also found admissions of some study applicants that formally violated the Higher Education Act, and in several cases, it noted non-compliance with the provisions of the Government Regulation on Standards for Accreditation in Higher Education. This concerned completion of a part of doctoral studies at a foreign institution, exceeding the maximum period of interruption of study, carrying out acts related to study at a time when the HEI was not authorized to do so, or non-compliance with procedural deadlines for the defense of a dissertation.

External evaluations of educational, creative, and related activities

In 2022, the Board launched external evaluations of educational, creative, and related activities at the Czech University of Life Sciences Prague and at the Jan Evangelista Purkyně University in Ústí nad Labem in connection with the institutional accreditation granted to them. These external evaluations were not completed.

The external evaluations at the University of South Bohemia in České Budějovice, the University of Ostrava and Tomas Bata University in Zlín, launched in 2021, were completed.

Administrative proceedings

Application-based administrative proceedings

a) Accreditations of degree programmes:

In the reporting period from 1 January to 31 December 2022, NAB received **194** applications for accreditation (e.g. granting, extension and expansion of accreditation) of degree programmes.

It conducted administrative proceedings on the following number of 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.

Applications¹	Accreditation granted	Accreditation denied	Proceedings terminated	Proceedings unfinished as of 31/12/2022	Total
Bachelor	60 74	1 0	8 15	43 62	112 151
Short-Master	46 59	0 0	9 17	37 43	92 119
Long-Master	3 1	0 0	0 0	2 2	5 3
Doctoral	22 65	0 0	6 5	29 24	57 94
Cooperation with another legal entity	21 9	0 0	1 0	10 3	32 12
Total	152 208	1 0	24 37	121 134	298 379

Of this number, NAB granted accreditation to the following number of professionally oriented degree programmes:

Professionally oriented	Accreditation granted
Bachelor	21 36
Short-Master	5 12
Long-Master	1 0
Total	27 48

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

NAB received **112** applications for accreditation of fields for habilitation procedures and procedures for appointment of professors.

It conducted administrative proceedings on the following number of 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.

¹ Data for the reporting period are given in bold. Data for the previous period, i.e. 1 January – 31 December 2021, are given in plain text for comparison.

Applications¹	Accreditation granted	Accreditation denied	Proceedings terminated	Proceedings unfinished as of 31/12/2022	Total
fields of habilitation procedure	35 30	0 1	0 0	83 14	118 45
fields of procedure for appointment of professors	33 27	0 1	0 0	84 13	117 41
Total	68 57	0 2	0 0	167 27	

c) Institutional accreditations:

NAB received **2** applications for granting and 1 application for expansion of institutional accreditation.

It decided on the following number of applications (e.g. for granting or expansion of the institutional accreditation). 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 accreditation¹	Accreditation granted	Accreditation expanded	Accreditation denied (application rejected or narrowed)	Proceedings terminated	Proceedings unfinished as of 31/12/2022	Total
HEIs	1 1	0 1	0 0	0 0	3 1	4 3
fields of study – Bachelor type	9 5	0 1	0 1	0 0	3 9	12 16
fields of study – Master type	9 5	0 1	0 1	0 0	3 9	12 16
fields of study – Doctoral type	9 3	0 1	0 2	0 0	1 9	10 15

The Board took note of **197** degree programmes approved by HEIs under their institutional accreditation.

Administrative proceedings instigated by NAB

a) Proceedings towards revocation of accreditation:

In the reporting period, NAB conducted the following number of administrative proceedings towards revocation of accreditation of degree programmes. The figures relate to the number of degree programmes (or areas of study in the cases where the degree programme was divided into areas of study) that were subject of the proceedings towards revocation.

Proceedings¹	Accreditation revoked	Proceedings terminated	Proceedings unfinished as of 31/12/2022	Total
Revocation of accreditation	1 11	0 0	3 0	4 11

b) Proceedings towards restriction of accreditation:

NAB conducted the following number of administrative proceedings towards restriction of accreditation of degree programmes. The figures relate to the number of degree programmes (or areas of study in the cases where the degree was divided into areas of study) that were subject of the proceedings towards restriction.

Proceedings¹	Accreditation restricted	Proceedings terminated	Proceedings unfinished as of 31/12/2022	Total
Restriction of accreditation	0 0	1 13	4 0	5 13

c) Proceedings towards revocation of institutional accreditation:

NAB conducted administrative proceedings towards revocation of institutional accreditation with 1 HEI. The following data refer to the number of fields of study and types of degree programmes that were the subject of the proceedings.

Proceedings¹	Accreditation revoked	Proceedings terminated	Proceedings unfinished as of 31/12/2022	Total
field of study – Bachelor type	0 0	1 0	0 0	1 0
field of study – Master type	0 0	1 0	0 0	1 0
field of study – Doctoral type	0 0	0 0	1 0	1 0

Standpoints

Standpoints on applications for state approval

The Board did not receive any application for state approval to operate as a private HEI.

Standpoints on granting domestic permits/authorisations to non-European HEIs and their branches

The Board did not receive any application for granting or extending a domestic authorisation to operate either as a branch of a non-European foreign HEI, or as a foreign HEI. While NAB had received an increased number of such applications in the previous year due to the withdrawal of Great Britain from the European Union, this trend did not continue in 2022.

Standpoints on determination of the type of HEI

The Board received 1 application for determination of the type of HEI but did not issue any standpoint on it in the reporting period. It issued one standpoint on an application submitted in 2021, stating that the HEI in question was a non-university type institution. 1 application for determination of the type of HEI delivered in 2021 had been withdrawn by the HEI before the Board issued a standpoint on it.

Standpoints on follow-up reports and reports on changes

The Board discussed 290 follow-up reports and their supplements related to degree programmes (or areas of study in the cases where the degree programme was divided into areas of study) and follow-up reports / supplements related to the fields of habilitation procedures and procedures for appointment of professors. These follow-up reports were requested by NAB as part of its activities. The mechanism of submitting and discussing 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 their accreditation.

The Board also discussed 13 follow-up reports related to institutional accreditation, which serve mainly to verify the implementation of the recommendations made to the respective HEI when granting the institutional accreditation.

It also discussed 2 follow-up reports on the institutional environment of HEIs, which were requested by the Board on the basis of audits of compliance with legal provisions in the implementation of accredited activities, and 2 follow-up reports on the institutional environment, requested on the basis of external evaluations of educational, creative, and related activities of HEIs.

In addition, the Board discussed 194 reports on changes in degree programmes (or areas of study where the degree programme was divided into areas of study) and 114 reports on changes in the field of habilitation procedures and procedures for appointment of professors, which NAB received on the basis of information duty stipulated for HEIs by the Higher Education Act.

IV. International Cooperation

Membership in international associations

In 2022, NAB was 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, seminars, and other events as well as to benefit from opportunities to exchange good practice and experiences with its member agencies. One of NAB's Vice-Chairs and the Office's staff members 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 meetings of accreditation agencies in the Central and Eastern European region. Representatives of NAB took part in its General Assembly, as well as in virtual meetings of members during the year.

Other international activities

A key activity was again the involvement in the **SEQA-ESG (Supporting European QA Agencies in Meeting the ESG) project**. It was funded by the European Commission and ended in November 2022. Its aim was to support NAB and other European accreditation agencies that are not yet full members of ENQA to fully implement the ESG standards and to prepare for external evaluation of compliance with these standards in order to achieve full membership in ENQA and registration in the European Register of Accreditation Agencies (EQAR). NAB participated through MEYS, the institutional partner of the project in the Czech Republic. In 2022, the third and fourth **Thematic Peer Learning Workshops** were held; the topics addressed were **peer review experts and stakeholder engagement**. The project culminated in the preparation of the **Action Plan for the External Review of NAB**. It contains priority areas related to the National Action Plan for the Quality Assurance Development in the Czech Republic, which NAB will emphasize in terms of the ESG implementation. For each priority area, objectives, tasks necessary to achieve them, risks and their elimination were elaborated in detail. NAB will focus on complying with the ESG in regard to its independence and procedures for external quality assurance of HE, as well as on revising standards for accreditation and conducting thematic analyses, and last but not least on professional development and building its Pool of Evaluators. NAB's position and plans for aligning with ESG were discussed with representatives of ENQA and EQAR management as part of a **progress visit** that took place in Prague in October 2022.

In September 2022, the second **forum of the accreditation agencies of the Visegrad four countries (V4QA)** was held in Bratislava. The accreditation agencies discussed common problems and prospects for further development of quality assurance systems at national and European levels. One of the main topics was the external evaluation of agencies by ENQA and the World Federation for Medical Education, which the participating agencies undergo. The representatives agreed to work more closely together to share experiences and support each other in these evaluation processes.

NAB continued to develop its international activities related to recognition of the Czech medical education in the USA. It formally initiated the process of obtaining recognition status from the **World Federation for Medical Education (WFME)**, which had been determined by the US side as a necessary condition so as Czech medical school diplomas would continue to be recognized in the US from 2024. Therefore, NAB entered into negotiations with WFME and arranged the terms for the WFME panel evaluation in 2023. Although the US requirements changed during 2022 so that the WFME recognition status will not be a pre-condition for the acceptance of Czech diplomas in the US, NAB continues to implement the WFME criteria in its activities and to prepare for evaluation by the WFME panel. It will strive for a successful conclusion of the process in 2024.

In 2022, NAB participated as a consultant in the implementation of a central development project (funded by MEYS), which was undertaken by HEIs with medical faculties. The project aimed to implement the WFME requirements in the environment of Czech medical faculties and to create a functional framework for their verification by NAB.

In June 2022, **an online meeting was held between representatives of NAB and Zonguldak Bülent Ecevit University (Türkiye)**. NAB representatives presented the Czech system of quality assurance in higher education with an emphasis on institutional accreditation. Representatives of Zonguldak Bülent Ecevit University talked about the specifics of the Turkish academic environment and the university's experience with the application for institutional accreditation. In the final part of the meeting, a discussion took place about current trends and issues in the field of internationalisation of education and related challenges. Both sides agreed on possible further sharing of experiences from the Czech and Turkish academic environments.

In 2022, there were two meetings of the Europe-wide **Peer Support Group C on Quality Assurance**, which was created as one of the three support groups established as part of the implementation of the Bologna Process. The group brings together most countries from the European Higher Education Area and provides a platform for coordinated activities of individual groups of countries towards better implementation of the objectives of the Bologna Process.

At the first meeting of this working group in Leuven in May 2022, **national standards in assessing the quality of higher education in the member countries of the working group were compared**, and the group's future agenda was discussed. The meeting also included several thematic workshops on quality assurance in Joint-degree programmes, the digitisation of processes in quality assurance in education, as well as the overall internationalisation of quality assessment in European Higher Education Area.

The second meeting of this working group took place in Brussels in September 2022 with thematic seminars on the agenda. The first seminar focused on **aligning the legislative framework for quality assurance in higher education with ESG**, specifically on problematic areas of ESG and the role of accreditation agencies in setting standards for external quality assurance. Differences in the implementation of ESG regarding accreditations of degree programmes and institutional accreditations were also discussed. The following seminar addressed **microcredentials and the establishment of a unified European framework for their implementation**. During this meeting, NAB joined a preparatory group aimed at analysing and mapping the state of national policies of European countries in the area of microcredentials.