



IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BOLOGNA PROCESS IN SLOVAKIA

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NATIONAL BOLOGNA STRATEGIES

The implementation of principles of the Bologna Declaration is one of the key elements of the extensive and deep reform of higher education in the Slovak Republic.

This reform was launched due to several internal and external reasons.



NATIONAL BOLOGNA STRATEGIES

The internal reason may be characterized

- *as permanent under-financing of higher education,*
- *non - solved property relations of HEIs,*
- *the methods of financing not considering appropriately the quality and quantity of performances of provided HE,*
- *low access to higher education,*
- *decreasing quality of provided education in HEIs and other reasons.*



NATIONAL BOLOGNA STRATEGIES

The external reasons of starting the reform

- *all legal regulations ensuing from the accession process of the Slovak Republic to the EU concerned,*
- *the acknowledgement of the Slovak Republic concerning the all- Europe Bologna process with the purpose to involve the Slovak higher education in the emerging European higher education area.*



IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS – LEGISLATIVE REFORMS

Strategy of implementation of the Bologna Declaration principles was established by the program document:

„Concept of the Further Development of Higher Education in Slovakia for the 21st Century“

- ***approved*** by the Government of the SR in August 2000,
- ***confirmed*** by the Program Declaration of the SR Government of 2002.



IMPORTANT DEVELOPMENTS – LEGISLATIVE REFORMS

- *Based on this Concept a new Act was developed - **Act No. 131/2002 of Law Code on Higher Education.***
- *In this Act **all the principles of the Bologna Declaration are contained** and the Act enables their practical implementation.*



NATIONAL BOLOGNA GROUP

- *The responsibility for practical implementation of the **Bologna principles** in higher education policy is upon the organization unit of Section for Higher Education at the Ministry of Education of the SR, the Director General of which is a representative of the SR in the Bologna **Follow-up Group**.*
- *The **National Group of Bologna Promoters** was established in the Slovak Republic, being composed of professors of higher education institutions.*



NATIONAL BOLOGNA GROUP

- *Membership of the National Group of the Bologna Promoters also consists of **national advisers for ECTS and Diploma Supplement** and a representative of the Slovak Republic in the Bologna Follow Up Group.*



NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

*In the SR the **responsibility** for higher education as regards the competences of the State administration bodies falls under the **Ministry of Education of the Slovak Republic***

- ***creates conditions** for development of HEIs,*
- ***takes responsibility** for updating an development of legislation in the field of higher education.*



NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

The SR Government establishes the Accreditation Commission (AC) as its advisory body

- *its task is to monitor, assess and independently evaluate the quality of educational, developmental, artistic activity of HEIs,*
- *to promote its improvement.*



NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

AC gives its opinion on capacity of the higher education institution to:

- ***implement the study programme with the right to award to its graduates the academic degree,***

In the accreditation of the study programme, an assessment is carried out of the curriculum, student profile, applicant requirements, selection of students, graduation requirements, personnel, material, technical and information provision for the programme, and the educational level of graduates and students of the programme.



NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

- *proposal for granting the State consent for a legal entity wishing to act as a HEI,*
- *to conduct the habilitation procedure and procedure for nomination of professors,*
- *proposals of establishment, merger, affiliation, split, dissolution, change of name or change of seat ,*



NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

- *proposal for classification of higher education institutions as research universities, universities and professional higher education institutions,*
- *proposal for change in the system of fields of study,*
- *other proposals with regard to the system of higher education presented by the Minister.*

Source [1]: <http://www.akredkom.sk/en/>



Slovak Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)

- *are autonomous and self-governing*
- *the Act on Higher Education defines the area of competence of various self-governing bodies*
- *HEIs are divided into:*
 - *professional-type (21) and university-type (18)*
 - *public (20), state (3), private (12), foreign (4)*



Slovak Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)

- ***Public HEIs***

- *are the basic case,*
- *established by law,*
- ***they are financed by the government and possible business activities.***



Slovak Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)

- ***State HEIs***

- *are all military, police and medical schools,*
- *they are established through the corresponding ministries of the government,*
- ***are financed by the government and possible business activities.***



Slovak Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)

- ***Private HEIs***

- *are established and **financed by non-government institutions,***
- *approved by the Ministry of Education.*



Slovak Higher Education Institutions (HEIs)

The representative bodies are:

- **Slovak Rectors' Conference** (*association of university rectors*)
- **Higher Education Council** (*its bodies are elected by the academic senates of HEIs*)
- **Student Higher Education Council** (*members are elected by the student parts of the academic senates*)

Source [2]: <http://www.minedu.sk/index.php?lang=en&rootId=17>



Slovak Higher Education System

- *The Bologna Three Cycle Structure*

- *One of the main components of the Bologna Process is the division of higher education programmes into **three sequential levels** namely first, second and third cycles, leading to three main kinds of qualifications and degrees: **Bachelor**, **Master** (Engineer, Doctor) and **Doctorate**.*



Slovak Higher Education System

- *The Bologna Three Cycle Structure*

- *At Bachelor level, programmes designed on the basis of **180 ECTS credits** (lasting **3 academic years**) and programmes of **240 ECTS credits** (**4 years**).*
- *At Master level, the **120 ECTS** credit model (**2 years**) is used.*
- *The study of the third level carried out in the PhD study programs (**3 or 4 years**).*



Slovak Higher Education System

- *European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS)*

- *ECTS is a tool which enables students to collect credits for learning achieved through higher education. It aims to increase **transparency of learning outcomes and learning processes** and **facilitates the recognition of studies**. In practice, 60 ECTS credits are attached to the workload of a full-time year of formal learning (academic year) and the associated learning outcomes.*



Slovak Higher Education System

- ***Bologna Diploma Supplement***

- *The Bologna Diploma Supplement is a document attached to a higher education diploma that aims to improve **international transparency and facilitate academic and professional recognition of qualifications**. It consists of eight sections describing in particular the nature, level, context, content and status of the studies that were successfully completed. It also includes a description of the higher education system in the country.*



Slovak Higher Education System

- *National Qualifications Frameworks*

- *A National Qualifications Framework is an instrument for the **classification of qualifications according to a set of criteria for specified levels of learning achieved, which aims to improve the transparency, access, progression and quality of qualifications in relation to the labour market and civil society. It describes the different qualifications and other learning achievements that can be obtained in a given country and relates them coherently to each other.***



National Quality Assurance

- *System of quality assurance of higher education is based on:*
 - ***internal quality assessment,***
 - ***external evaluation and***
 - ***accreditation***



National Quality Assurance

- ***Internal quality assessment***

The scientific boards of assess regularly, once a year at least, the level of higher education institution in educational activity and in the field of science, technology or art.



National Quality Assurance

- ***External evaluation***

*is a part of **accreditation** of higher education institutions and is carried out by the **Accreditation Commission**, which during verification of results of educational activity and higher education institutions' activities in science, technology and art, makes use of internal quality assessment of higher education institution.*



Implementation of Principles of the Bologna Declaration

- *The implementation of principles of the Bologna Declaration shall bring to the Slovak higher education:*
 - *its international dimension which will mean in the future an increase of mobility of Slovak students and teachers in foreign HEIs,*
 - *recognition of results of study or a period of the study completed in a foreign institution, namely, in the form of double diplomas or joint diplomas using the Diploma Supplement and ECTS,*



Implementation of Principles of the Bologna Declaration

- *The implementation of principles of the Bologna Declaration shall bring to the Slovak higher education:*
 - *enable involvement of the Slovak Republic into European cooperation at quality assurance of provided higher education.*



Main Challenges Ahead

The main challenge ahead for the Slovak Republic today is:

- *the completion of introduction of the main reform measures into everyday practice of the Slovak HEIs including the enforcement of **the act on student loans** strengthening the **system of social support** of students and introducing the student's contributions for covering their study.*



Main Challenges Ahead

The main challenge ahead for the Slovak Republic today is:

- *the substantially strengthened system of social support of students shall simultaneously **remove the economic barriers of access to higher education,***
- *enable the HEIs to transfer the major part of its efforts to **improvement of quality of provided education.***

A decorative vertical bar on the left side of the slide, composed of various colored segments (blue, yellow, black, light blue) in a wavy, stacked pattern.

- **Thank you very much for your attention.**

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