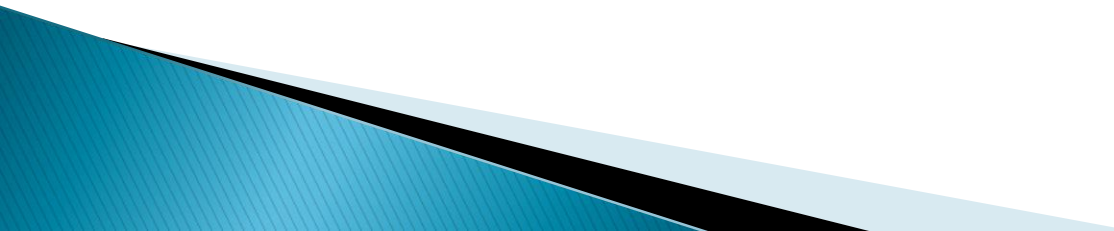


Existing B&H arrangements for quality assurance in HE

„Regional capacities for QA and their relation to development and implementation of NQF“

Biograd na Moru, June 2013

Content

- ▶ General Introduction
 - ▶ Regulations and QA procedures
 - ▶ HEA
- 

Bologna in B&H

- ▶ B&H signed Bologna declaration in 2003
- ▶ Formal base for introducing QA in higher education
- ▶ Standards and Guidelines for QA in BH HE
- ▶ Framework Law on Higher Education, 2007
- ▶ New state institutions for HE established by the FLHE:
 1. Center for Information and Recognition of Qualifications in HE
 2. HEA

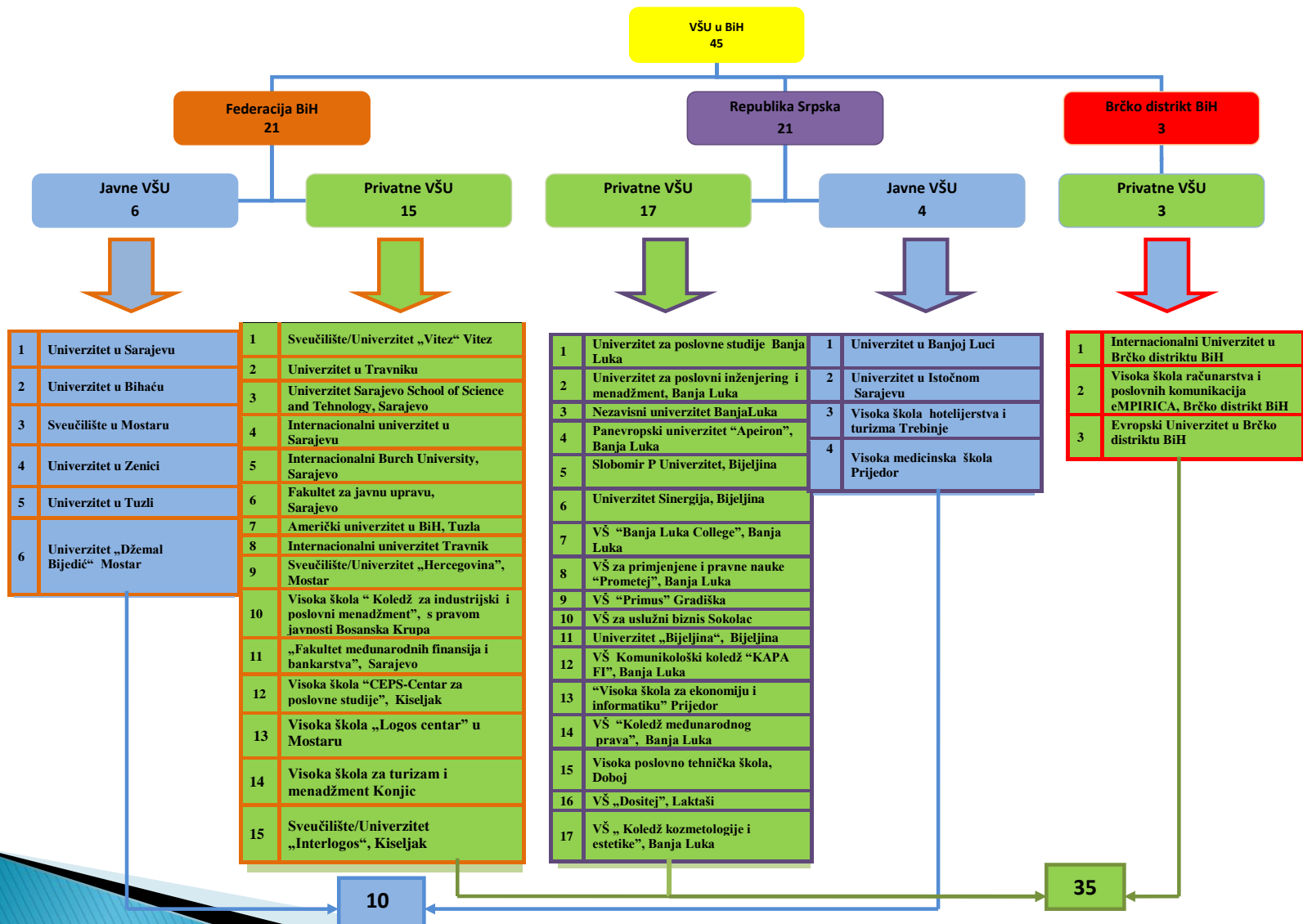
HEA

- ▶ Established in 2008 as a governmental institution of B&H
- ▶ Headquarter in Banja Luka
- ▶ Currently 20 employees, of totally 35
- ▶ Director and 2 deputies
- ▶ Governed by the Steering Board of 10 members
- ▶ making clear standards and regulations for HE, as basic criteria for activities which shall be undertaken by respective ministries and higher education institutions.

Regulations on HE

- ▶ Upon the Constitution education is in the jurisdiction on cantonal and entities government and Brčko District
- ▶ Ministry of Civil Affairs has a coordination role
- ▶ Federation of BH (10 cantons), Republic of Srpska and Brčko = 12 laws on higher education
- ▶ All HE laws need to be harmonized with FLHE

HE in B&H



QA in B&H

- ▶ Licensing
(Quantitative evaluation)
 - In the jurisdiction of entity, cantons and BD

- ▶ Accreditation
(Qualitative evaluation)
In process are involved relevant educational bodies, HEA and experts

External evaluation = Accreditation

- ▶ Introduced by the FLHO, 2007
- ▶ Institutional and programmes
- ▶ Accreditation procedures are regulated by the documents issued by relevant authorities, in accordance with HEA documents and Criteria for accreditation
- ▶ Period of accreditation is not the same (from 4–6 years)
- ▶ Experts must be appointed from the HEA List of experts – at the moment 324

HEA and accreditation process

Creates a legislative for accreditation procedures defining duration, obligation etc.. In accordance with HEA documents

MINISTRY

Adopts criteria and standards, giving a statement on quality independently through the fulfillment of criteria

HEA

ACCREDITATION

(statement on the fulfillment of criteria given in the independent procedure)

HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTION

Sets up internal QA system by applying criteria and standards

Core HEA's documents



- ▶ In the field of development of higher education and quality assurance
 1. Criteria for accreditation of higher education institutions
 2. Criteria for accreditation of Study Programmes
 3. Decision on norms for determining Minimum standards in the field of HE (contains Rules for attaining standards and guidelines for internal and external QA)

9 Criteria for accreditation of higher education institutions



1. Development and strategy of HEI;
2. Management, internal quality assurance and quality culture;
3. Procedures for quality assurance of study programmes;
4. Student assessment;
5. Human resources;
6. Quality of physical resources;
7. Information systems;
8. Public information;
9. International relations

Criteria for accreditation of Study Programmes



- ▶ 7 Criteria:

1. Educational goals and Learning outcomes
2. Curriculum
3. Human resources
4. Students
5. Physical resources
6. Internal QA
7. Results achieved

Criteria for accreditation of Study Programmes



- ▶ Developed through Tempus ESABIH project and revised by HEA
- ▶ 33 study programmes were subject of pilot accreditation
- ▶ HEA's staff had the role of secretaries in site visits (coordination of whole process, technical assistance, writing external reports)

External evaluation–steps



4 MAIN STEPS

1. SELF–EVALUATION REPORT
2. SITE–VISIT
3. PUBLISHED EXTERNAL EVALUATION REPORT
4. FOLLOW–UP ACTIVITIES

Procedure in details

1. Self-evaluation report
2. Proposing and appointing the experts

Minimum :

- ▶ 1 representative of academic staff-domestic
 - ▶ 1 representative of academic staff-international
 - ▶ 1 representative of economy and practice
 - ▶ 1 student
3. Peer review (preparatory activities and site visit)

Procedure in details

4. External report
5. HEA's recommendation
6. Decision on accreditation (by relevant authorities)
7. Reviewing the Compliance of Decision on Accreditation with the Minimal Standards in Higher Education and Criteria for Accreditation of Higher Education Institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina
8. Entering in the Register of accredited HEIs

More about experts

- ▶ Committee makes decisions by consensus

The extent to which a criterion for accreditation has been fulfilled is assessed as:

- Completely fulfilled
- Substantially fulfilled
- Partially fulfilled
- Not fulfilled

228 experts and QA managers were trained –
14 trainings were organized

- ▶ Second public call for experts has just been closed and their selection is in the process

Current state in numbers



PROCES OF ACCREDITATION STARTED

- ▶ HEA appointed 10 commissions of experts
- ▶ Upon 4 decisions on accreditation HEA issued 4 recommendations on accreditation
- ▶ Appointed 4 commissions for conduction compliance of decision on accreditation with criteria and standards

None of these HEIs is still included in the State register of accredited HEIs (process is at the very end, but still not finished)

Our plans

- ▶ To become full member of ENQA and listed in EQAR
- ▶ To strengthen capacities of relevant educational bodies
- ▶ To continue with supporting institutions to foster quality culture
- ▶ To revised regulations on HE, specifically in the field of quality assurance
- ▶ To conduct analyse after 1st cycle of accreditation is finished

Upcoming project and new challenge



- ▶ IPA 2011 Twinning project
„Strengthening institutional capacities for quality assurance“ 2013–2015
Twinning partner – AQ Austria
Beneficiaries: higher education institutions, relevant educational bodies, HEA
– Implementation period 24 months



HEA in the international context

- ▶ *Full membership in CEENQA and INQAAHE*
- ▶ *Affiliate status in ENQA*
- ▶ Participated in numbers of Tempus projects
- ▶ Participated in study visits to other EU agencies
- ▶ Organized different kind of events – exchanging the best practice

QA & Quality culture



„Quality assurance mechanisms, either external or internal, would be merely mechanical processes if they did not imply development of culture of quality as well. The Agency dedicated its activities to promoting this vital element. „

HEA's documents, Banja Luka 2012



Thank you for your attention

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Assurance

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