Higher Education
Quality Assurance in Ukraine:
Peculiarities for International Double Degree Programs

Ukrainian- Bavarian Conference on Double Degree Programs
(4-5 May, 2023, Regensburg, Germany)

Nataliia Avsheniuk, NAQA
General overview

NAQA is the only accreditation agency in Ukraine responsible for higher education quality assurance and academic integrity issues

Legislatively established in 2014 and officially launched in January 2019

NAQA is a network of about 5000 people: 23 NAQA members, 65 Secretariat employees, 350 subject area experts, 4000+ accreditation experts
**NAQA values**

- Partnerships
- Innovativeness
- Responsibility
- Integrity
- Openness
- Transparency
- Independence
- Professionalism
- Trust

**NAQA strategic goals**

1. Quality of educational services
2. Recognition of the quality of scientific results
3. Ensuring the systemic impact of the National Agency’s activities
NAQA main achievements

- QA system launching
- 4000+ experts training
- 4000+ programs accreditation
- SAR piloting and reporting on HE QA
- Compliance with ESG
NAQA European integration and internationalization

1. Full membership – INQAAHE, CEENQA, ICAI, GAIN

2. Associate membership - ENQA

3. Cooperation with foreign agencies for quality assurance (QAA, ZeVA, ARACIS, ARQA, MAB) and consultations with international experts
Ukrainian higher education faces new reality:

- Daily alarms, bombing, missile attacks and strikes in the most regions of Ukraine
- Since 24th February 2022, 3198 educational institutions are damaged and 286 are totally destroyed
- Teaching and studying in bomb shelters
- Hundreds of thousands of teachers and students are forced to relocate to the Western regions of Ukraine and abroad
- Abductions, tortures and murders of Ukrainian researchers, educators and students by rushists
- Replaced Universities

February 24, 2022
– new unprecedented challenges due to russian war aggression
Since February 24, 2022

Supportive communication with HEIs

- Consultations on accreditation, internal QA, resuming study process
- Establishing consultative panels to support HEIs

Informing the society on the war consequences for HE

- Collecting and publishing information on the consequences of the war for HE through the official website, social media, appeals etc.
- Networking

Initiating and managing projects

- Searching for funding projects and initiatives to support HE QA in Ukraine (NAQA IT system, analysis of HE state, HEIs internal QA)
- International experts involvement
Self-Assessment and compliance with ESG

- Working at Self-Assessment Report
- National Action Plan
- Compliance with ESG even during wartime

Proceeding accreditation to the possible extent

- Acting according to the Cabinet of Ministers Resolution
- Finalizing the ongoing procedures
- Adjusting evaluation and external QA to the wartime conditions
On March 16, 2022 The Cabinet of Ministers issued a Resolution:

1. Certificates that were valid on February 24, 2022 last until July 1 of the year following the year of termination or abolition of martial law in Ukraine

2. NAQA is empowered to hold accreditations remotely

3. NAQA is empowered to grant conditional (one year) accreditation without or with partial conducting of accreditation expertise free of charge
For the period of 2022 NAQA approved 1485 decisions

- 836 decisions on conditional (delayed) accreditation
- 649 decisions according to the full procedure
NAQA European integration and internationalization

European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programs

Project “Supporting European QA agencies in meeting ESG II”

Recognition of accreditation of programs of Ukrainian higher education institutions by foreign agencies

Consultative meetings with foreign agencies on the peculiarities of accreditation of educational programmes in Ukraine
NAQA Cross-border quality assurance
https://en.naqa.gov.ua/?page_id=1768

General information for QA agencies accrediting study programmes in Ukraine

On official registration of the study programme

List of Foreign Agencies

NAQA Letter to Foreign QA Agencies conducting Higher Education Cross-Border Quality Assurance in Ukraine
**External QA Scheme**

- **Higher Education Institution**
  - Has the right to respond to the report of the expert group and the draft opinion of the sectoral expert council.
  - Has the right to participate in the meeting of the sectoral expert council and NAQA.
  - Has the right to appeal NAQA decision.

- **Expert Group**
  - Initiates a study programme and provides educational activities in accordance with it;
  - Improves the study programme;
  - Plans accreditation as a procedure for external assurance of educational quality.
  - Performs the necessary measures within the accreditation procedure:
    - Informs of the intention to accredit the study programme;
    - Prepares and submits an application for accreditation and self-assessment information;
    - Cooperates with the expert group.

- **Sectoral Expert Council**
  - Has the right to participate in the meeting of the sectoral expert council and NAQA.
  - Studies self-assessment information and other documents of the accreditation case;
  - Forms the visit programme and coordinates it with the higher education institution;
  - Visits a higher education institution;
  - Prepares and signs the report of the expert group.
  - Formulates advice of the sectoral expert council.

- **NAQA**
  - Approves the schedule for submitting accreditation applications and self-assessment information;
  - Develops an expert opinion of the sectoral expert council;
  - Approves the expert opinion of the sectoral expert council at the meeting;

**THE MAIN DOCUMENT**

**THE RESULT**

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Criteria for the Study Program Quality Evaluation

- Criterion 1. The design and objectives of the study program
- Criterion 2. The structure and content of the study programme.
- Criterion 3. Access to the study programme and learning outcomes recognition.
- Criterion 4. Teaching and learning under the study programme.
- Criterion 5. Control measures, evaluation of students and academic integrity.
- Criterion 6. Human resources
- Criterion 7. Educational environment and material resources.
- Criterion 8. Internal quality assurance of the study programme
- Criterion 10. Study through research (for PhD programme).
**QA CHANGING ROLE**

EQAF 2020 – Finding 1 - The consultancy and supportive functions of the QA Agencies and Networks are of the great importance in emergency times

**QA FLEXIBILITY**

QA should demonstrate flexibility and adoptability in the emergency situation

**QA SUSTAINABILITY**

- Consistent and sustainable QA during wartime
- Proceeding accreditations to the possible extent
- Compliance with European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programs

**QA SUPPORTIVE COMMUNICATION**

- Supportive communication is a key during wartime
- Platform for best practices and supportive networking
Thank you for your attention!