

INVITATION

NAKVIS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

RETHINKING QUALITY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

BEYOND THE STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN THE EUROPEAN HIGHER EDUCATION AREA (ESG)

DATE	Tuesday, 10 November 2026
TIME	13.00 - 15.15
VENUE	Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts Novi trg 3, Ljubljana, Slovenia
FORMAT	Hybrid

The Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (NAKVIS) and the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SAZU) have the honour of inviting you to the 8th NAKVIS International Conference, Rethinking Quality in Higher Education - Beyond the ESGs.

The conference will explore university excellence, the role of academies, and diverse approaches to quality assurance, including non-mandatory standards of excellence along with European and American perspectives on external quality assurance.

Going beyond the ESGs, it will also consider how quality assurance agencies, through activities extending beyond their formal mandates, can contribute to strengthening quality cultures and advancing external quality assurance systems at both national and European levels.

Prof. Franci Demšar

Director
Slovenian Quality Assurance
Agency for Higher Education

Acad. Prof. Franc Forstnerič

President
Slovenian Academy of Sciences
and Arts

PROGRAMME

TUESDAY, 10 NOVEMBER 2026 | 13.00-15.15

- 13.00** ● **Welcome address**
Acad. prof. Franc Forstnerič
President of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SAZU)
- 13.05** ● **Opening remarks and introduction to the conference**
Prof. Franci Demšar
Director of the Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (NAKVIS)
- 13.15** ● **What Comes After Quality? The Road to NAKVIS Standards of Excellence**
Tatjana Horvat
Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (NAKVIS)
- 13.45** ● **Quality Assurance in Flanders and the Netherlands: Differences in Approaches, Activities and Working Methods**
Luut Kroes
Deputy Director of Accreditation Organisation of the Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO)
- 14.15** ● **A Comparative Analysis of External Quality Assurance in the United States and Europe: CHEA and the ESG**
Prof. Olgun Çiçek
Director of International Institute for Higher Education Excellence and Innovation
- 14.45** ● **What Makes a University Great and What Is the Role of Academies?**
Acad. prof. Franc Forstnerič
President of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts (SAZU)
- 15.15** ● **Reception at the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts**