

At its 227th session on 29 January 2026, the Council of the Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, on the basis of point three of paragraph one of Article 68 and point three of paragraph fourteen of Article 70 of the Higher Education Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [Uradni list RS], No 56/2025), adopted the following

CRITERIA FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 1

(Content and purpose)

(1) According to the Criteria, the Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (hereinafter: NAKVIS) shall assess the compliance with the conditions for:

- the accreditation of study programmes delivered by higher education institutions accredited in the Republic of Slovenia in collaboration with one or more higher education institutions from abroad (hereinafter: international joint study programmes);
- transnational higher education (hereinafter: THE);
- notification of study programmes of foreign institutions delivered by an international federation of universities with the head office in the Republic of Slovenia referred to in Article 20 of the Higher Education Act (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia, No 56/2025; hereinafter: ZViS-1) (hereinafter: the international federation of universities referred to in Article 20 of the ZViS-1);
- familiarisation with international joint study programmes that have been accredited in accordance with the procedures and standards set forth in the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes by one of the agencies listed in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (hereinafter: EQAR).

(2) The Criteria shall also specify the procedure for notifying NAKVIS of state-approved international joint study programmes that a university adopts on its own under the European approach.

(3) The purpose of the Criteria shall be to ensure the following:

- appropriate quality of international joint study programmes;
- a comprehensive list of international joint study programmes accredited under the European approach by agencies registered with EQAR;
- equivalence of the offered THE and delivered THE – the delivered THE must be equal to the study programme or part thereof that has been accredited or state-approved in the country where the institution offering THE is based;

- comparability and quality of notified study programmes of foreign institutions delivered by an international federation of universities referred to in Article 20 of the ZViS-1.

Article 2

(NAKVIS' decision-making)

(1) NAKVIS shall decide on the following:

- accreditation of an international joint study programme under the European Approach;
- compliance with conditions for the entry of a THE agreement in the public register;
- notification of a study programme offered by a foreign institution delivered by an international federation of universities referred to in Article 20 of the ZViS-1.

(2) NAKVIS shall familiarise itself with an international joint study programme accredited by one of the agencies entered in EQAR under the European Approach.

Article 3

(Definition of terms used in the regulation)

(1) For terms not defined below, definitions from the legislation on higher education and European recommendations shall apply.

(2) For the purposes of the Criteria, the following definitions shall apply:

1. **ESG:** Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (hereinafter: ESG),
2. **European Approach:** The European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes adopted by European ministers responsible for higher education and developed to facilitate the external quality assurance of international joint study programmes defines standards based on the agreed-upon tools of the European Higher Education Area (hereinafter: EHEA) without the use of additional national criteria. The European approach shall be applied when participating higher education institutions wish to design, adopt and deliver a joint study programme, which must be accredited or appropriately recognised in at least one of the countries of the participating higher education institutions. In this case, the participating higher education institutions shall select one of the agencies listed in EQAR to accredit the international joint study programme in accordance with the European Approach, and the accreditation shall be valid in all countries of the participating higher education institutions. If all participating higher education institutions have the authority to adopt study programmes themselves, they may use the European Approach to develop common internal adoption and monitoring procedures. In such cases, no specific accreditation procedure for this joint study programme shall be required by any of the agencies listed in the EQAR.
3. **International Federation of Universities referred to in Article 20 of the ZViS-1:** an international federation of universities headquartered in the Republic of Slovenia and established in accordance with Article 20 of the ZViS-1.

4. **International joint study programme:** a study programme for obtaining education delivered by a higher education institution accredited in the Republic of Slovenia in collaboration with one or more higher education institutions from abroad.
5. **Criteria for the Accreditation and External Evaluation of Higher Education Institutions and Study Programmes:** the criteria for the accreditation and external evaluation of higher education institutions and study programmes valid upon the entry into force of the Criteria for International Cooperation in Higher Education.
6. **THE agreement:** a legally binding documents between the institution offering THE and the institution delivering THE that contains the elements determined by the Criteria and regulates the relations, rights, obligations, competences and relationships between the institutions participating in THE. The delivery of study programmes or parts thereof is based on close and continuous cooperation between the institution offering THE and the institution delivering THE. In accordance with the concluded agreement for the delivery of THE, the institution offering THE shall grant the right to use and deliver a study programme or part thereof to the institution delivering THE. The institution delivering THE shall undertake to perform higher education activities and fulfil all obligations under the agreement.
7. **Notified study programme:** a study programme of a foreign higher education institution delivered by an international federation of universities referred to in Article 20 of the ZViS-1 on the basis of a cooperation agreement concluded with that institution, for which NAKVIS, subject to the conditions laid down in paragraph thirteen of Article 41 of ZViS -1, permits notification and enters the programme in the register of notified study programmes referred to in Article 95 of the ZViS-1.
8. **Joint diploma supplement:** a uniform document determined (harmonised) by all higher education institutions participating in the delivery of an international joint study programme. It shall be a compulsory diploma supplement regardless of whether the institutions award a joint diploma or their own separate diplomas.
9. **Institutions participating in THE:** institution offering THE and institution delivering THE that participates in THE.
10. **Agreement:** a written agreement, contract or other legal form on cooperation between higher education institutions that deliver an international joint study programme. An agreement shall contain the elements determined by the Criteria and regulate the relations, rights, obligations, competences and relationships between participating higher education institutions.
11. **THE students:** students enrolled in an institution offering THE.
12. **Appropriately recognised study programme:** a study programme that is state-approved under national legislation.
13. **Higher education institution that will deliver THE (hereinafter: institution delivering THE):** a higher education institution accredited in the Republic of Slovenia or a foreign higher education institution delivering state-approved study programmes and issuing public documents in the country in which it has been established and seeking to deliver a study programme or part of a study programme of another country; or a foreign higher education institution or other foreign institution if competent authorities of the country where the institution responsible for the higher education study programme is based recognise that, for a transnationally delivered

higher education study programme, the institution responsible for the programme and the programme are suitable for its higher education system.

14. **Higher education institution offering THE (hereinafter: institution offering THE):** a higher education institution accredited in the Republic of Slovenia or a foreign higher education institution delivering state-approved study programmes and issuing public documents in the country in which it has been established and seeking to offer a study programme or part of a study programme to an institution delivering THE in another country.
15. **Applicant for THE:** a higher education institution accredited in the Republic of Slovenia which concludes a THE agreement with a foreign higher education institution delivering state-approved study programmes and issuing public documents in the country of its establishment.
16. **THE:** transnational higher education in accordance with Article 47 of the ZViS-1. It may be delivered on the basis of a THE agreement or without an agreement.

Article 4

(Responsibility for monitoring and ensuring the quality of the study programme)

(1) Higher education institutions and the international federation of universities referred to in Article 20 of the ZViS-1 shall be fully responsible for the monitoring and assurance of quality of the international joint study programme accredited under the European Approach by NAKVIS or another agency entered in the EQAR.

(2) The international federation of universities referred to in Article 20 of the ZViS-1 shall be fully responsible for the monitoring and assurance of quality of the notified study programme.

(3) The institution offering THE and the institution delivering THE shall be fully responsible for the monitoring and assurance of the quality of THE.

II. INTERNATIONAL JOINT STUDY PROGRAMME

Article 5

(International joint study programme)

(1) International joint study programme shall be a study programme for obtaining education delivered by a higher education institution accredited in the Republic of Slovenia in collaboration with one or more higher education institutions from abroad.

(2) The study programmes referred to in the preceding paragraph shall not include a study programme that:

- enables partial study abroad by the principle of exchanges of students or higher education teachers according to a study programme that is not accredited as a joint one;

- is delivered by a higher education institution accredited in the Republic of Slovenia in collaboration with one or more higher education institutions from abroad and is not accredited or appropriately recognised, where students receive double or multiple diplomas;
- is delivered as transnational higher education.

(3) Before it is delivered in the Republic of Slovenia, an international joint study programme must be duly recognised or accredited in all countries from which the higher education institutions that will participate in its delivery and award the diploma are located.

Article 6

(Accreditation of an international joint study programme)

(1) NAKVIS shall conduct the accreditation procedure for an international joint study programme when an application for accreditation is submitted to NAKVIS by a higher education institution accredited in the Republic of Slovenia or by an international federation of universities referred to in Article 20 of the ZViS-1 that intends to deliver an international joint study programme with one or more higher education institutions from abroad, provided that the international joint study programme has not yet been accredited under the European approach by one of the agencies on the EQAR list.

(2) The assessment standards agreed upon in the European Approach shall apply to the accreditation of an international joint study programme.

Article 7

(European Approach – standards for the assessment of an international joint study programme)

NAKVIS shall consider the following standards when evaluating international joint study programmes:

1. Eligibility

1.1 Status

Higher education institutions delivering international joint study programmes must be accredited or appropriately recognised by the competent authorities of the country in which they are based. Their national legislation must allow them to participate in the joint study programme and award a joint diploma, where applicable. Higher education institutions that award diplomas must ensure that the diploma is part of their higher education system and confers a publicly recognised qualification in the country where they are based.

1.2 Joint design and delivery

An international joint study programme must be announced as a joint programme. All participating higher education institutions must collaborate in the design and delivery of the international joint study programme.

1.3 Cooperation agreement

The rules and conditions of cooperation of higher education institutions in the delivery of an international joint study programme must be detailed in the agreement. The latter must contain especially the provisions on the following:

- content and form of the diploma awarded in an international joint study programme;
- manner of cooperation in the management and delivery of an international joint study programme and responsibilities of participating higher education institutions regarding financial sources (including financing, division of costs and income, etc.);
- enrolment conditions and selection criteria in the event of limited enrolment;
- student and teacher mobility;
- rules and procedures for evaluating students, awarding credits and conferring diplomas among participating higher education institutions.

The minimum duration of the agreement must be equal to the duration of the study under the international joint study programme extended by one year.

The higher education institution must notify the Agency on all amendments to the agreement within 30 days of their entry into force.

2. Learning outcomes

2.1 Level (ESG, Standard 1.2)

The intended learning outcomes must correspond to the levels set out in the Framework for Qualifications of the European Higher Education Area (hereinafter: FQ-EHEA) and to the applicable national qualifications frameworks.

2.2 Field of study and scientific research or artistic discipline

The intended learning outcomes must encompass the knowledge, skills and competences in the relevant professional field and scientific, research or artistic discipline.

2.3 Achieving (ESG, Standard 1.2)

An international joint study programme must have effective mechanisms in place to ensure, monitor and verify the achievement of the intended learning outcomes.

2.4 Regulated professions

In the case of an international joint study programme leading to a regulated profession, the minimum training requirements set forth in European Union Directive 2005/36/EC or the corresponding common training frameworks defined in that Directive shall apply.

3. Study programme (ESG, Standard 1.2)]

3.1 Curriculum

The structure and content of an international joint study programme should be such as to provide students with comprehensive knowledge and help them achieve the objectives set and the planned competences or learning outcomes.

3.2 Credits

The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) must be applied consistently and appropriately, and the allocation of credits must be transparent and justified in light of the scope and difficulty of individual learning units.

3.3 Workload

A joint undergraduate study programme shall comprise a total study load of 180 or 240 credits, a joint master's study programme shall comprise 60 or 120 credits, and the joint integrated master's study program shall comprise 300 or 360 credits (credit ranges in accordance with the FQ-EHEA); for joint doctoral study programmes, the credit range is not specified. Higher education institutions shall monitor the workload and the average time required to complete a study programme.

4. Admission requirements and academic recognition (ESG, Standard 1.4)

4.1 Admission requirements and selection criteria in the event of limited enrolment

The admission requirements for a study programme and the selection criteria in the event of limited enrolment must be appropriate to the level and field of the study programme.

4.2 Academic recognition

The recognition of qualifications and periods of study (including the recognition of prior learning) must be in accordance with the Lisbon Recognition Convention and its supplementary documents.

5. Learning, teaching and assessment (ESG, Standard 1.3)

5.1 Learning and teaching

The programme must be designed to align with the intended learning outcomes, and the approaches to learning and teaching used must enable those outcomes to be achieved. The diversity of students and their needs must be respected and taken into account, particularly in light of their potentially different cultural backgrounds.

5.2 Assessment of students

The criteria and methods for assessing learning outcomes must be aligned with the intended learning outcomes and applied consistently across all partner institutions.

6. Support to students (ESG, Standard 1.6)

Student support services must help students achieve the intended learning outcomes. They must take into account the specific challenges faced by students in the international joint study programme.

Appropriate support must be provided to students before and during their studies, including information and assistance with insurance, housing, visas and orientation to the academic environment as well as tutoring.

7. Resources (ESG, Standards 1.5 and 1.6)

7.1. Human resources

Sufficiently qualified staff (based on scientific, professional, research or artistic achievements, the validity of their habilitation, the relevance of their field of habilitation and international experience) shall be available to deliver the international joint study programme.

7.2 Premises and equipment

Sufficient and appropriate facilities and equipment shall be provided in accordance with the intended learning outcomes.

If practical training and clinical practice are mandatory components of an international joint study programme, the participating higher education institutions must ensure their smooth delivery (agreements concluded with external partners, guaranteed places for practical training and appropriate and qualified mentors).

8. Information on programme and documentation (ESG, Standard 1.8)

Relevant information about the programme, such as admission requirements and procedures, selection procedures in the event of limited enrolment, the course catalogue, examination and grading procedures, etc., must be documented and published. In doing so, the specific needs of students in the international joint study programme must be taken into account.

9. Quality assurance (ESG, Standard 1.1 and Part I of the ESG)

Participating higher education institutions must apply common internal quality assurance procedures in accordance with Part I of the ESG.

Article 8

(External evaluation of an international joint study programme)

(1) The external evaluation of an international joint study programme accredited by NAKVIS shall be performed every six years in accordance with the European Approach in the procedures of reaccreditation of a higher education institution, extraordinary evaluation of an international joint study programme or evaluation of a sample of study programmes.

(2) The assessment standards under the European Approach (Article 7) shall apply to the external evaluation of an international joint study programme; the assessment shall also cover the following:

- delivery in accordance with the recognised or accredited situation and updating of the international study programme;
- adequacy and effectiveness of the internal quality assurance system (closure of the quality loop);
- adequacy of the system for monitoring the achievement of competences and learning outcomes;
- implementation of tasks based on the findings from the self-evaluation report for the last completed self-evaluation period and a plan of measures for the following self-evaluation period;

- compliance with obligations under the valid agreement concluded between the participating higher education institutions.

(3) Non-compliance with or violation of the provisions of the agreement shall be considered a major deficiency or non-compliance in accordance with Article 31 of the Criteria for the Accreditation and External Evaluation of Higher Education Institutions and Study Programmes; in assessing such non-compliance or violation, points 2 to 7 of paragraph two of Article 31 shall be taken into account.

(4) An external evaluation of an international joint study programme accredited by NAKVIS may also be conducted in accordance with the European Approach by another agency listed in the EQAR.

Article 9

(Withdrawal from cooperation)

When an individual higher education institution no longer participates in the delivery of an international joint study programme (is left without a valid accreditation, does not wish to participate etc.), the remaining participating higher education institutions must, within three months, redefine their mutual relations, rights and obligations in accordance with Article 7 of the Criteria by an agreement. NAKVIS must be notified of any amendments to the agreement within 30 days of their entry into force. If a new agreement is concluded, it must be attached to the notification.

Article 10

(Amendments to an international joint study programme)

(1) A higher education institution accredited in the Republic of Slovenia shall adopt amendments to an international joint study programme accredited in the Republic of Slovenia in consultation with the participating higher education institutions that have entered into the agreement. The higher education institution shall inform NAKVIS within 30 days of the confirmation of the changes of compulsory components of the international joint study programme by the competent authorities of the participating higher education institution by transferring these changes through a web interface to the eNakvis information system or entering them in the electronic form "Form for reporting modifications of a study programme" (Annex 7, which forms an integral part of the Criteria), and attach in the enclosures printouts of the decisions of the senates (or competent decision-making bodies at the level of participating higher education institutions) by which the changes have been adopted.

(2) NAKVIS shall promptly review the modifications of international joint study programmes accredited in the Republic of Slovenia and determine whether the higher education institution has complied with the statutory provisions and provisions of the Criteria. If the circumstances indicate that modifications entail major deficiencies or non-compliances with the ZViS-1 and the Criteria, the NAKVIS Council shall initiate an extraordinary evaluation procedure for that study programme and, within 30 days of initiating the procedure, notify eVŠ of this. The higher education institution may not publish a call for enrolment in the modified international joint study programme or deliver it until the decision in the extraordinary evaluation procedure becomes final. The same shall apply to a state-approved international joint study programme adopted by the university itself under the European

Approach and an international joint study programme accredited under the European Approach by one of the agencies entered in EQAR.

Article 11

(Familiarisation with an accredited international joint study programme)

(1) An international joint study programme may also be accredited by one of the agencies entered in the EQAR, which shall do so in accordance with the European approach.

(2) The participating higher education institutions shall, by mutual agreement, select one of the agencies referred to in the preceding paragraph to accredit the international joint study programme. If the accreditation procedure is not conducted by NAKVIS, the higher education institution accredited in the Republic of Slovenia or the international federation of universities referred to in Article 20 of ZViS-1 shall notify NAKVIS of the study programme that has been accredited in this manner.

(3) NAKVIS may also conduct an external evaluation of the international joint study programme referred to in paragraph one of this Article, specifically as part of the procedure of reaccreditation of a higher education institution, an extraordinary evaluation of a study programme or an evaluation of a sample of study programmes, and shall notify the agency that accredited it of the findings.

Article 12

(Termination of the international joint study programme of which the Agency was notified)

(1) A higher education institution accredited in the Republic of Slovenia or an international federation of universities referred to in Article 20 of the ZViS-1 must cease to deliver the international joint study programme referred to in Article 11 of the Criteria if:

- the study programme ceases to be delivered in the country of accreditation;
- it is no longer being delivered by an accredited higher education institution in the country where it was accredited;
- it is no longer state-approved.

(2) A higher education institution accredited in the Republic of Slovenia or an international federation of universities referred to in Article 20 of the ZViS-1 must notify NAKVIS of the circumstances referred to in the preceding paragraph within 30 days of their occurrence. The notification must be accompanied by proof of the cessation of validity of accreditation or state-approved status referred to in the preceding paragraph of this Article.

Article 13

(Cessation of validity of accreditation of an international joint study programme)

The accreditation of an international joint study programme accredited in accordance with the European Approach by NAKVIS or another agency listed in EQAR shall cease to be valid in accordance with Article 83 of the ZViS-1.

Article 14

(State-approved international joint study programme)

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph one of Article 6 of the Criteria, a university reaccredited twice in a row for the full term may adopt an international joint study programme on its own, under the European Approach, without accreditation by NAKVIS or an agency registered with EQAR, provided that it is an international joint study programme to be delivered in collaboration with higher education institutions from abroad, all of which have the authority to independently adopt or accredit study programmes. In doing so, they shall take into account the European Approach set forth in Article 7 of the Criteria and the second and third sentences of paragraph three of Article 41 of the ZViS-1.

(2) The university must notify NAKVIS of the adoption of the international joint study programme referred to in the preceding paragraph within 30 days of its adoption.

(3) Before commencing the study programme referred to in paragraph one of this Article, the university must submit to NAKVIS evidence of the state-approved status of the international joint study programme in all participating countries.

(4) If not all participating higher education institutions referred to in paragraph one of this Article have the authority to adopt or accredit study programmes independently, the international joint study programme shall be accredited in accordance with the European Approach by NAKVIS or by an agency registered with EQAR.

III. NOTIFICATION OF A STUDY PROGRAMME OF INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF UNIVERSITIES

Article 15

(Conditions for notification)

(1) An international federation of universities referred to in Article 20 of the ZViS-1 may, on the basis of a cooperation agreement, deliver study programmes of foreign institutions provided that the programmes are notified to NAKVIS.

(2) The NAKVIS Council shall decide on the notification of the study programme referred to in the preceding paragraph and shall approve the notification if:

- the institutions and study programmes have been accredited by the competent authority of the country from which they originate, and
- their diplomas have the status of public documents in the country of accreditation and confer a state-approved education in that country, with a level of education comparable to that in the Republic of Slovenia.

(3) Compliance with the condition set forth in the second indent of paragraph two of this Article shall be verified by NAKVIS through ENIC/NARIC.

(4) The NAKVIS Council shall enter a study programme of an international federation of universities referred to in Article 20 of the ZViS-1, which meets the conditions set forth in paragraph two of this Article, into the public register of notified study programmes of international federation of universities.

Article 16

(Revocation of notification)

(1) The international federation of universities referred to in Article 20 of the ZViS-1 must cease to deliver a study programme notified by a foreign institution if:

- its accreditation has been withdrawn or has expired or the study programme has not been reaccredited;
- the foreign institution's accreditation has been withdrawn or has expired or the institution has not been reaccredited.

(2) An international federation of universities referred to in Article 20 of the ZViS-1 must notify NAKVIS of the circumstances referred to in the preceding paragraph within 30 days of their occurrence.

(3) In the cases referred to in paragraph one of this Article, the NAKVIS Council shall revoke the notification of the study programme of an international federation of universities referred to in Article 20 of the ZViS-1 and remove the study programme from the public register of notified study programs.

IV. TRANSNATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION

Article 17

(Agreement for the delivery of THE)

(1) The THE referred to in paragraphs two and five of Article 47 of the ZViS-1 may be delivered or organised based on a THE agreement between a higher education institution accredited in the Republic of Slovenia and a foreign higher education institution delivering state-approved study programmes and issuing public documents in the country of its establishment.

(2) A THE agreement shall regulate all relationships between the institutions participating in THE.

(3) If evidence exists that the study programme offered has been state-approved in the country of the institution offering THE, the THE agreement must comply with national legislation in the field of higher education in the country of the institution offering THE as well as in the country of the institution delivering THE.

(4) A THE agreement shall be concluded in writing and shall include all components referred to in Article 18 and all annexes referred to in Article 25 of the Criteria.

(5) It must be clear from the THE agreement that the following shall be provided:

- information on programmes, public documents acquired, participating institutions and their roles in the participation in THE;
- appropriately qualified human resources and appropriate premises;
- internal quality assurance system mechanisms;
- appropriate registers on the cooperation and delivery of THE;
- regular external evaluations of a study programme.

The higher education institution must notify NAKVIS on all amendments to the THE agreement within 30 days of their entry into force.

Article 18

(Compulsory elements of the agreement for the delivery of THE)

The agreement for the delivery of THE must clearly define the following elements:

1. list of parties to the agreement (name and registered office or address of the higher education institution which delivers the study programme in another country, name and surname of a legal representative of this institution, and name and registered office or address of the higher education institution responsible for the study programme);
2. subject of the THE agreement (study programme or part of study programme and its name, type and cycle);
3. status of the institution offering THE and the institution delivering THE (public or private);
4. duration of the delivery of THE and duration of the THE agreement;
5. list of premises, equipment and appropriate infrastructure required for the delivery of THE (suitability of premises, equipment and infrastructure shall be evident from enclosures);
6. determination of the conditions for practice in work environment in the case of THE whose compulsory component is practical training;
7. form, manner of establishment and delivery of THE, type of recognition of qualifications acquired under THE (public documents, credits obtained);
8. position, rights and obligations of students included in THE, enrolment requirements and criteria for transfers, language of instruction, the contents of a public document issued on the basis of the successfully completed THE, recognition of prior learning;
9. manner of participation, provision of services, management of THE and clear delineation of responsibilities;

10. assurance of the institution offering THE that the quality of the THE delivered in another country (at the institution delivering THE) will be comparable to the quality of the delivery at the institution offering THE;
11. definition of mechanisms of internal and external THE quality assessment.

Article 19

(Entry of a THE agreement in the public register)

When a THE agreement is entered in the public register, the following shall be assessed:

- whether the THE agreement is concluded at least for the duration of THE delivery extended by one year,
- comparability of the method and quality of delivery of the offered THE in view of study programmes or parts of study programmes in the country of the institution delivering THE,
- rights, duties and obligations of students, their participation in decision-making bodies,
- content, method and structure of the delivered THE. The institution delivering THE must assure the comparison between the programme delivered at the institution offering THE and the programme delivered by the institution delivering THE in an agreed form,
- quality assurance system at the programme and institutional level and whether the responsibilities of all participating institutions in the THE are defined.

Article 20

(THE without agreement)

(1) In the Republic of Slovenia, THE may also be delivered by a foreign higher education institution or other foreign institution if the competent authorities of the country where the institution responsible for the higher education programme is based recognise that in the case of transnational delivery of higher education programme the institution responsible for that programme and the programme itself are suitable for their higher education system.

Prior to the beginning of the delivery of THE under the preceding paragraph, NAKVIS shall verify with the competent authority of the country where the institution responsible for the higher education programme seeking to deliver THE in the Republic of Slovenia is based whether the institution responsible for the programme and the programme itself are suitable for its higher education system.

Article 21

(Removal from the public register of concluded THE agreements)

An institution delivering THE must cease the delivery of the study programme or part thereof if its accreditation in the country of accreditation ceases to be valid. The same applies in the event of the cessation of validity of accreditation of an institution offering THE.

A higher education institution accredited in the Republic of Slovenia must notify NAKVIS of this within 30 days. In such cases the NAKVIS Council shall remove the THE agreement from the public register of THE.

V. PROCEDURES

Article 22

(Initiation of the procedure)

Procedures for the accreditation of an international joint study programme, the entry of the THE agreement into the Agency's public register, the notification of the study programme of an international federation of universities referred to in Article 20 of the ZViS-1 and the familiarisation with the international joint study programme accredited in accordance with the European Approach by an agency registered with EQAR shall be initiated at the applicant's request by submitting an electronic application to the Agency's eNakvis information system. The procedures of extraordinary evaluation and evaluation of a sample of international joint study programmes shall be initiated with the Agency's call for the submission of electronic applications via the Agency's eNakvis information system.

Article 23

(Applicant)

(1) An application for the accreditation of an international joint study programme and for the familiarisation with an international joint study programme accredited under the European approach by an agency registered with EQAR shall be submitted by a higher education institution accredited in the Republic of Slovenia (a university or an independent higher education institution), as well as the international federation of universities referred to in Article 20 of the ZViS-1.

(2) An application for the notification of a study programme offered by a foreign institution shall be submitted by the international federation of universities referred to in Article 20 of the ZViS-1.

(3) An application for the entry of a THE agreement into the public register shall be submitted by a higher education institution accredited in the Republic of Slovenia (a university or an independent higher education institution).

Article 24

(Application)

(1) The application shall be drafted in accordance with the ZViS-1 and the Criteria. It shall be completed in the electronic form, which is identical to the form in the annex to the Criteria, and signed with a qualified electronic signature. The applicant shall first register the certificate in the security scheme. The enclosures specified in the Criteria shall be attached to the electronic application form in electronic format.

(2) The application shall be in the Slovenian language. If the enclosures are in a foreign language, the Agency may require from the applicant to submit a translation of the enclosures or a part thereof.

(3) Notwithstanding the provision of the preceding paragraph, the summary of the application for the accreditation of an international joint study programme shall be submitted as an attachment in the English language as well.

(4) The application shall be submitted to the Agency. The Agency shall process applications in the order of their submission.

(5) Notwithstanding the provision of the preceding paragraph, procedures for extraordinary evaluation of international joint study programmes shall have priority.

Article 25

(Enclosures)

Applications for procedures under the Criteria shall be submitted using the following electronic forms accompanied by the required enclosures:

1. Accreditation of an international joint study programme

The electronic form "Form for the accreditation of an international joint study programme" (Annex 1, which forms an integral part of the Criteria) shall be completed, and the "Report on compliance with the European Approach" (Annex 1A, which forms an integral part of the Criteria) with required enclosures shall be attached.

The "Report on compliance with the European Approach" (Annex 1A, which forms an integral part of the Criteria) must contain comprehensive information on the compliance of the international joint study programme with the quality assurance standards set forth in the European Approach (Chapter B. Standards for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes in the EHEA; in the Criteria, Article 7). The Report must also include information on the national frameworks of the participating institutions that are relevant to the work of foreign agencies and experts, particularly for understanding the place of the international joint study programme within national higher education systems. The Report must also focus specifically on the characteristics of the joint programme as a form of international cooperation among higher education institutions from more than one national higher education system.

2. Evaluation of an international joint study programme

The electronic form "Form for the evaluation of an international joint study programme" (Annex 2, which forms an integral part of the Criteria) shall be completed and the following shall be attached:

- a) a self-evaluation report for the study programme that complies with Part I of the ESG for the past three years, and, if not evident from the self-evaluation report, documents demonstrating the following:
 - delivery in accordance with the recognised or accredited situation and updating of the international joint study programme;

- internal quality assurance system of the study programme and its functioning as well as stakeholder inclusion (closure of the quality loop);
 - transparent assessment of the achievement of competences and learning outcomes;
 - implementation of tasks based on the findings from the self-evaluation report for the last completed self-evaluation period and a plan of measures for the following self-evaluation period;
- b) report on the implementation of the agreement if it is not a part of the self-evaluation report;
 - c) report on compliance with the European Approach (Annex 1A) that demonstrates the changes since the accreditation of the international joint study programme;
 - d) report of a group of experts on accreditation of an international joint study programme in case of a study programme accredited under the European Approach by one of the agencies entered in EQAR.

3. Familiarisation with an international joint study programme

The electronic form "Form for the familiarisation with an accredited international joint study programme – European Approach" (Annex 5, which forms an integral part of the Criteria) must be completed and a certificate of accreditation for the international joint study programme, which demonstrates that the European approach was taken into account during the accreditation process, must be attached.

III. THE

The electronic form "Form for the entry of a THE programme in public register" (Annex 3, which forms an integral part of the Criteria) shall be completed and the following shall be attached:

- a) the THE agreement drawn up in accordance with Article 18 of the Criteria;
- b) compulsory attachments to the THE agreement :
 - a statement by the institution offering THE that the institution delivering THE treats the public document obtained under the THE agreement equally as the public document is treated in the country of the institution offering THE;
 - evidence that the offered study programme to be delivered in whole or in part within the THE is state-approved, and the date when its state-approved status expires, if such date exists;
 - evidence on the provision of suitable premises, equipment and infrastructure for the delivery of the THE;
 - evidence that the institution delivering THE is accredited to implement activities in academic and scientific fields according to the KLASIUS or Isced and Frascati classifications from which stems the offered study programme;

- evidence that the institution delivering THE delivers in the country of its registered office accredited study programmes from the same or related fields of study and of the same cycles and types as the offered study programme;
- evidence of appropriate human resources of the institution delivering THE for the delivery of the study programme or parts thereof;
- evidence or agreements on the delivery of practical training;
- financial plan, which also contains evidence of the financial resources provided for the successful completion of the THE for at least one generation of students, and an action plan for a successful delivery of the offered study programme or an individual part thereof;
- contents and form of the public document and the method of awarding (in the language of the institution delivering THE, Slovenian and English); all copies (translations) must be identical to the original;
- study programme or an individual part of the study programme offered within the THE, including specified general information on the programme, objectives of the programme and general and course-specific competences or learning outcomes, syllabi, enrolment requirements and selection criteria in case of limited enrolment, methods of assessment, conditions for advancement under the programme, information on the methods and types of delivery and indication of the obtained professional, scientific or artistic title;
- plan of delivery of the study programme with the announced method of implementation of contact hours and the explanation of the comparability of the method and quality of delivery of the offered THE in view of the study programmes or parts of the study programmes in the country of the institution delivering THE (when it is not part of the THE agreement).

If the offered study programme fails to contain all elements stated in the tenth indent of the preceding paragraph, compulsory components of the study programme complying with the national legislation of the institution offering THE must be attached.

5. Notification of a study programme of the international federation of universities referred to in Article 20 of the ZViS-1

The electronic form "Form for the notification of a study programme of international federation of universities" (Annex 4, which forms an integral part of the Criteria) shall be completed and the following shall be attached:

- a) certificate of accreditation by the foreign institution issued by the competent authority of the country in which the institution is located, containing information on the name, registered office, address and type of higher education institution;
- b) certificate on accreditation of the study programme issued by the competent authority of the country in which the study programme is located including information on the state approval of diploma, level of education and professional, scientific or artistic title in the country of accreditation of the study programme;

- c) notified study programme including specified general information on the programme, objectives of the programme and general and course-specific competences or learning outcomes, syllabi, enrolment requirements and selection criteria in case of limited enrolment, methods of assessment, conditions for advancement under the programme, information on the methods and types of delivery and indication of the obtained professional, scientific or artistic title.

If the notified study programme fails to contain all elements stated in the preceding paragraph, compulsory components of the study programme complying with the national legislation of the country of accreditation must be attached.

Article 26

(Completeness of the application)

(1) The application shall be deemed formally complete when the prescribed electronic form has been completed and all enclosures listed in the preceding paragraph of the Criteria have been attached.

(2) If the application is not formally complete, NAKVIS shall require it to be supplemented and shall set the time limit for remedying the deficiencies. If the applicant fails to remedy the deficiencies, NAKVIS shall issue a decision dismissing the application.

Article 27

(Procedure of accreditation of an international joint study programme)

The procedure of the accreditation of an international joint study programme conducted by NAKVIS shall be carried out in accordance with Articles 77 to 79 of the ZViS-1, taking into account the European approach, and must be completed within six months of the submission of a complete application for accreditation.

Article 28

(Procedure of external evaluation of an international joint study programme)

(1) The external evaluation of an international joint study programme shall follow the procedure of evaluation of individual programmes as part of a higher education institution reaccreditation procedure with a compulsory visit by a group of experts as determined in Article 80 of the ZViS-1.

(2) The external evaluation of an international joint study programme, as part of the evaluation of a sample of study programmes, shall be conducted in accordance with paragraphs two, six and seven of Article 88 of the ZViS-1.

Article 29

(Procedure of external evaluation of an international joint study programme)

(1) The procedure of extraordinary evaluation of an international joint study programme is set forth in Article 85 of the ZViS-1 and shall be conducted in the same manner as the procedure of external evaluation of a study programme in the context of the procedure of reaccreditation of a higher education institution, with the following exceptions:

- the procedure shall be initiated by NAKVIS on its own initiative or based on the received initiative to perform an extraordinary evaluation when it has reason to suspect major deficiencies or non-compliances in the organisation, delivery or modification of the international joint study programme and the operation of the quality assurance system relating to the programme;
- before initiating the procedure, NAKVIS shall invite the higher education institution accredited in the Republic of Slovenia to state its position on the statements in the received initiative without revealing the identity of the applicant; the higher education institution accredited in the Republic of Slovenia shall have one month from the receipt of the invitation to state its position;
- after the expiry of the time limit referred to in the preceding point, the NAKVIS Council shall adopt a decision on the implementation of the extraordinary evaluation, notify the higher education institution accredited in the Republic of Slovenia of this decision and request that it complete the electronic form "Form for the evaluation of an international joint study programme" (Annex 2, which forms an integral part of the Criteria);
- NAKVIS shall publish a notice on the extraordinary evaluation on its website.

(2) Even if a higher education institution accredited in the Republic of Slovenia fails to submit the prescribed form referred to in the third indent of the preceding paragraph of this Article, the NAKVIS Council shall appoint a group of experts and continue with the procedure.

Article 30

(Simple procedure)

(1) Familiarisation with an international joint study programme accredited by one of the agencies entered in EQAR under the European Approach, notification of an international joint study programme of the international federation of universities referred to in Article 20 of the ZViS-1 and the entry of a THE agreement in the public register shall be carried out without the appointment of a group of experts and without a visit of the higher education institution (hereinafter: the simple procedure).

(2) The NAKVIS Council shall:

- familiarise itself with an international joint study programme accredited under the European Approach by one of the agencies entered in EQAR;
- decide on the notification of an international joint study programme of the international federation of universities referred to in Article 20 of the ZViS-1;
- decide on the entry of a THE agreement in the public register.

(3) The decisions referred to in the preceding paragraph shall be adopted by the Agency Council no later than two months after receipt of the application.

Article 31

(Notice of the adoption of a state-approved international joint study programme)

A university that has independently adopted a state-approved international joint study programme in accordance with the European Approach, without accreditation from NAKVIS or another agency registered with EQAR, shall notify NAKVIS of the adoption of such a study programme by completing an electronic form "Form for a state-approved international joint study programme" (Annex 6, which forms an integral part of the Criteria) and attaching the resolutions of the senates of all participating higher education institutions that, in accordance with national legislation, have the right to adopt state-approved study programmes on their own.

VI. TRANSITIONAL AND FINAL PROVISIONS

Article 32

(End of validity)

From the date of entry into force of the Criteria, the Criteria for International Cooperation in Higher Education (Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia [Uradni list RS], Nos 69/17, 23/23 in 56/25 – ZViS-1) shall cease to apply; however, in accordance with paragraph three of Article 192 of the ZViS-1, they shall apply to the completion of procedures that were initiated after the entry into force of the ZViS-1 and before the adoption of the Criteria.

Article 33

(Entry into force)

The Criteria shall enter into force on the fifteenth day following their publication in the Official Gazette of the Republic of Slovenia.

No. 0072-6/2010/89
Ljubljana, 29 January 2026

Boris Dular, Ph.D.
president of the Council
of the Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency
for Higher Education

Annexes:

- Annex 1: [Form for the accreditation of an international joint study programme](#)
- Annex 1A: [Report on compliance with the European Approach](#)
- Annex 2: [Form for the evaluation of an international joint study programme](#)
- Annex 3: [Form for the entry of a THE agreement in the public register](#)
- Annex 4: [Form for the notification of an international joint study programme of an international federation of universities](#)
- Annex 5: [Form for familiarisation with an accredited international joint study programme – European Approach](#)
- Annex 6: [Form for a state-approved international joint study programme](#)
- Annex 7: [Form for reporting modifications of a study programme](#)