



Republika e Kosovës
Republika Kosova - Republic of Kosovo

Agjencia e Kosovës për Akreditim
Agencija Kosova za Akreditaciju
Kosovo Accreditation Agency



Nr.270/25, Datë: 20.03.2025

Në mbështetje të nenit 11 të Ligjit nr. 08/l-110 për Agjencinë e Kosovës për Akreditim (GZ.nr. 13 / 29 qershor 2023, Prishtinë, nenit 7 të Ligjit për Arsimin e Lartë në Republikën e Kosovës Nr. 04/L-037 (GZ, Nr.14/9 Shtator 2011), Ligjit për Procedurën e Përgjithshëm Administrative Nr.05/L-031 (GZ.Nr.20/12 Qershor 2016), Rregulloren e Punës së Këshillit Shtetëror të Cilësisë, si dhe procesverbalit të mbledhjes 135 të mbajtur më 10.03.2025, mori:

V E N D I M

- I. Aprovohet Rregullorja (AKA) Nr. **01/2025** për Procedurat dhe Kriteret për Vlerësim të Jashtëm nga Agjencia Ndërkombëtare e Akreditimit.
- II. Ky dokument hyn në fuqi me nënshkrimin e tij.

ARSYETIM

Bazuar në dispozitat ligjore të cekuar më lart Agjencia e Kosovës për Akreditim (tutje AKA) ka zbatuar në procedurat ligjore për hartimin e akteve ligjore dhe nënligjore duke përfshirë konsultimet paraprake dhe konsultimet publike. Në zbatim të Ligjit nr. 08/l-110 për Agjencinë e Kosovës për Akreditim (GZ.nr. 13 / 29 qershor 2023, Prishtinë, kompetencat ligjore dhe duke ju referuar procesverbalit të mbledhjes së 135-të, mbajtur me datë 10.03.2025, Këshilli Shtetëror i Cilësisë vendosi si në dispozitiv të këtij vendimi.

Vendimi iu dërgohet:

- Publikohet në ueb faqe të AKA-së;
- Arkivit të AKA

Prof. Asoc. Dr. Hasnija Ilazi

Kryetare e Këshillit Shtetëror të Cilësisë





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REGULATION (KAA) No.01/2025 ON PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA FOR EXTERNAL EVALUATION BY INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION AGENCIES

Pristina, Mars 2025

Pursuant to Article 39, Article 40, paragraph 1, subparagraph 1.9. and paragraph 3 of the Law No. 08/L-110 on Kosovo Accreditation Agency (Official Gazette of the Republic of Kosovo No. 13, 29 June 2023), State Council of Quality (hereinafter: SCQ) at its session on _____2025, adopted the following

REGULATION (KAA) No.01/2025 ON PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA FOR EXTERNAL EVALUATION BY INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION AGENCIES

Article 1

Aims of the Regulation

This Regulation aims to define the KAA procedure and criteria for external evaluation of Higher Education Institutions or programs by international accreditation agencies.

Article 2

Scope of the Regulation

1. The scope of the Regulation includes the validation procedure and criteria in case:
 - 1.1. a higher education institution requests external evaluation at the institutional level and/or study programs from an international accreditation agency
 - 1.2. a higher education institution accredited by the KAA in cooperation with an international partner university decides to bring to Kosovo study programs which in their country of origin are accredited by the international accreditation agency.

Article 3

Glossary

1. For the purposes of this document, the abbreviations used have the following meanings:
 - 1.1. **KAA** - “Kosovo Accreditation Agency”;
 - 1.2. **HEI** - “Higher Education Institution”;
 - 1.3. **SCQ** - “State Council of Quality”;
 - 1.4. **Ministry** - Ministry responsible for higher education in Kosovo;
 - 1.5. **EQAR** - “European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education”;
 - 1.6. **USDE** - “US Department of Education”;
 - 1.7. **CHEA** - “Council for Higher Education Accreditation”;
 - 1.8. **ESG** - “European standards and guidelines for quality assurance in higher education”.
2. If eventually the abbreviations are not clarified, the definitions defined by the law on KAA apply.

Article 4

Basic Principles

1. This Regulation is built on top of the core principles of the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area which are:
 - 1.1. Higher education institutions have primary responsibility for the quality of their provision and its assurance;
 - 1.2. Quality assurance responds to the diversity of higher education systems, institutions, programs and students;
 - 1.3. Quality assurance supports the development of a quality culture;
 - 1.4. Quality assurance takes into account the needs and expectations of students, all other stakeholders and society.
2. Secondly, the Regulation is being built on the following principles:
 - 2.1. Public accountability: Higher education institutions need to demonstrate the quality of the education to all stakeholders and public at large, through the following:
 - 2.2. achieving quality levels that respond to the expectations of students and employers;
 - 2.3. underlining higher education as a public good;
 - 2.4. communicating consistent, clear, and coherent information to the public at large about the real results obtained and the intentions of improvement.

3. European reference: the higher education system and higher education institutions in Kosovo adhere to the European Higher Education Area standards and strive to ensure quality levels in line with, and competitive at the European and international level. For this purpose, both the recognized accreditation providers, as well as higher education institutions commit to benchmark their institutional processes against comparable institutions at European and international level;
4. Institutional responsibility: the responsibility for quality and quality management lies with each HEI, in accordance with institutional autonomy;
5. Improving quality: quality is not an end in itself. Continuous improvement and institutional management of quality is the primary objective of the external evaluations;
6. Fit for purpose: quality assurance process should be defined and designed specifically to ensure their fitness to achieve the aims and objectives set for them;
7. Institutional diversity: diversity of institutions, their mission and goals are respected and encouraged by external quality assurance;
8. Transparency: a key concept helping to build mutual trust and better recognition of qualifications, programs, and other provision. At systemic level, transparency does not only increase the trust in the quality assurance structures operations, but also in the education itself. Institutionally, transparency encourages engagement of the entire academic community and development of quality culture.
9. Focus on results: learning outcomes and performance in research lie at the core of quality assurance. External quality assurance implies that higher education institutions demonstrate their results and performance in learning and in research as well as their correspondence with the actual reality of the institution, including verification of student activity in relation to the stated standards;
10. Stakeholder engagement: internal stakeholders should develop and implement quality assurance policies through appropriate structures and processes, while involving external stakeholders;
11. Quality enhancement: continuous improvement of quality and institutional management is the primary objective of the external evaluation. Every self-evaluation document must present the particularities of quality culture across the higher education institution and ensure the continuous performance improvement.
12. Ethics and integrity - KAA ensures that all evaluation and quality control processes, which lead to a formal result, are credible and professional processes based on value.

13. Objectivity and Impartiality: Accreditation processes of HEI should be conducted with objectivity and impartiality, free from bias (prejudice), undue influence, or conflicts of interest. Decisions should be based on evidence, data, and recognized criteria.
14. Efficiency and effectiveness: Are fundamental principles to the standards of accreditation for higher education institutions as they promote quality assurance, continuous improvement, student success, accountability, transparency, and global competitiveness.
15. These principles provide a reference framework for KAA activity and the present manual. Their aim is to promote a quality culture that consistently contributes to the achievement of a qualitative higher education system.

Article 5

Application for validation of international accreditation

1. SCQ handles and decides on applications for validation of international accreditation of higher education institutions which operate within the territory of the Republic of Kosovo and their diplomas are subject to verification by relevant ministry for education.
2. Application for validation of international accreditation is required in the following cases:
 - 2.1 if a higher education institution requires external evaluation at the institutional level and/or study programs from an international accreditation agency;
 - 2.2 if an institution accredited by KAA, in cooperation with an international partner university, decides to bring to Kosovo study programs which in their country of origin are accredited by the respective Agency for Accreditation.
3. In both cases, the validation procedure is initiated only if the relevant international accreditation agencies are listed in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) or recognized by the US Department of Education (USDE) or the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA).
4. The HEI that submits a request for validation will undergo a pre-check from the State Council of Quality (SCQ), to ensure the minimum criteria set by the legislation and evaluation regulations are met.
5. Timelines and application procedures are defined by article 30 of the Law on Accreditation Agency.

Article 6

Accreditation validation procedure and criteria

1. When a higher education institution requires external evaluation at the institutional level and/or study programs from an international accreditation agency, the following procedure and criteria must apply:
 - 1.1 The higher education institution should submit the terms of reference agreed with the chosen international accreditation agency.
 - 1.2 The terms of reference must be developed and agreed by the HEI and the international accreditation agency and drafted in full compliance with this regulation, the European standards and guidelines for quality assurance in higher education (ESG) and the US accreditation standards.
 - 1.3 It is mandatory for the terms of reference to also reflect:
 - 1.3.1. the transparency of the evaluation procedure;
 - 1.3.2. the independence of the expert panel in relation to the HEI under evaluation;
 - 1.3.3. the selection and experience of the experts;
 - 1.3.4. the contractual rights and obligations agreed between the HEI and the international accreditation agency.
 - 1.3.5. provisions regarding the appeal procedure in line with standard 2.7 of ESG.
 - 1.3.6. provisions regarding fulfillment of Article 9, paragraph 3 and 4, and article 12 of KAA regulation Nr. 04/2024.
 - 1.3.7. the commitment of the international accreditation agency to carry out follow-up procedures if required by KAA.
 - 1.4. The external evaluation methodology by an international accreditation agency must include criteria, standards, and indicators complementary to the national ones, but they must in no case contradict Kosovo's legislation and KAA regulation Nr. 04/2024.
 - 1.5. The international accreditation agency must appoint at least one expert who is familiar with the Kosovo system of higher education and science as well as the KAA external quality assurance procedures.
 - 1.6. The SCQ must analyze and the terms of reference, and only if the SCQ approves it, the HEI has the right to proceed with the external evaluation with the international accreditation agency.
 - 1.7. Upon approval KAA must publish on its website the terms of reference and the methodology of external evaluation.
 - 1.8. A representative of KAA staff participates in the site visit as an observer and in that case must sign a *Confidentiality Statement*.

- 1.9. The international accreditation agency should inform the KAA on the entire procedure (e.g drafting of the report, receiving of feedback, and the final report)
 - 1.10. The external expert final report must include the recommendation in relation to the evaluation of the institution and/or of the study program, the length of the accreditation period according to Kosovo's legislation, as well as the maximum number of students that can be enrolled in that particular study program per academic year, in case the accreditation decision is positive.
 - 1.11. The final report and accreditation decision must be submitted to the SCQ.
 - 1.12. The accreditation decision of the international accreditation agency must include
 - 1.12.1. Final recommendation,
 - 1.12.2. Accreditation duration in line with the Law on KAA,
 - 1.12.3. Number of students per academic year.
 - 1.13. The SCQ decision on validation is final and the party dissatisfied with the final decision of the SCQ may file an appeal to the Appeals Committee of KAA according to the provisions of the Law on KAA.
 - 1.14. KAA must publish on its website evaluation report and the decision on validation
 - 1.15. Validated institutions/programs are subject to monitoring procedures as set out with the Kosovo legislation and KAA's regulations.
2. In case an institution that is accredited by the KAA in cooperation with an international partner university decides to bring to Kosovo study programs which in their country of origin are accredited by the international accreditation agency, the program must undergo the accreditation or validation procedures based on KAA's regulations.

Article 7

Final provision

This Regulation on Procedures and Criteria for External Evaluation by the International Accreditation Agency must enter into force upon its approval by the State Council of Quality. This Regulation on Procedures and Criteria for External Evaluation by the International Accreditation Agency must be published on the KAA's official website upon its signing by the President of the SCQ.

Pristina, 20.03.2025

The President of SCQ