



**Republika e Kosovës**  
**Republika Kosova – Republic of Kosovo**

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



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**REGULATION ON PROCEDURES AND  
CRITERIA FOR EXTERNAL  
EVALUATION BY THE  
INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION  
AGENCY**

Pristina, January 2025

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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 ON PROCEDURES AND CRITERIA FOR EXTERNAL EVALUATION BY THE INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION AGENCY**

### **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 the international accreditation agency.

### **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**

### **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 5**

### **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 the methodology 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/programmes 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 6**

### **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, \_\_\_\_\_2025

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The President of SCQ