



State Council of Quality (SCQ)

Agenda SCQ Meeting 135

Date: 10.03.2025

Regular Meeting

Time: 10:00

Meeting Minutes

Present in the meeting:

Hasnije Ilazi – President

Klemen Miklavic – Vice president

Maja Martinovic – Member

Gezim Tosuni – Member

Jaakko Kauko – Member

Mirlinda Batalli – Member

Avni Berisha – Member

Jetmir Haxhibeqiri – Member

Shkurta Bajgora – Member

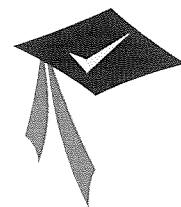
Naim Gashi – Member ex officio

Arianit Krasniqi – KAA staff

Fjolle Ajeti – KAA Staff

Liridona Ademaj – ORCA Monitoring

Sadik Bytyqi – KAA Staff



1. Approval of agenda

The SCQ approved the agenda with the addition of late-submitted appeals and a discussion on cooperation with WUS Austria and the SHER Project. All members voted in favour.

2. Approval of minutes from SCQ 134

The minutes of SCQ Meeting 134 were unanimously approved, with a note to record any instance of an SCQ member leaving the room due to a conflict of interest.

3. Revision of expert reports for institutional and program accreditation

- The final institutional report on Rezonanca College was postponed due to a technical error and will be sent back to the experts.

Professor Avni left the meeting due to a conflict of interest during discussions on FSHMN programs.

- The report for the Computer Science, MSc program at UP FSHMN was unanimously approved.
- The report for the Mathematics, BSc program at UP FSHMN was unanimously approved.

Professor Avni rejoined the meeting.

- The report for the Agriculture and Food Economics, MSc program at the UP Faculty of Agriculture was unanimously approved.
- The report for the Agriculture and Food Economics, BSc program at the UP Faculty of Agriculture was unanimously approved.
- The report for the Animal Production, BSc program at the UP Faculty of Agriculture was unanimously approved.
- The report for the Applied Animal Sciences, MSc program at the UP Faculty of Agriculture was unanimously approved with the quota requested by the institution, rather than the one proposed by the expert team.
- The report for the Food Technology and Biotechnology, BSc program at the UP Faculty of Agriculture was unanimously approved.
- The report of UP Faculty of Agriculture, Food Science, MSc was unanimously approved.
- The report for the Applied Economics and Management, BSc (English) program at the UP Faculty of Economy was unanimously approved. The SCQ proposed extending the program duration to five years, with seven members in favor and two abstaining.



- The report of Technology, BSc (2 specializations) at the University of Mitrovica was unanimously approved.
- The report for the Technology, MSc (specialization in Environmental Protection Engineering) program at the University of Mitrovica was unanimously sent back to the experts for clarification, as it referenced the BSc program instead of the MSc.
- The report for the Mathematics Education, MA program at the University of Gjakova was unanimously approved for rejection.
- The report for the Primary Education, BA program at the University of Prizren (offered in Albanian, Bosnian, and Turkish: 50 Albanian, 25 Bosnian, 25 Turkish) was unanimously approved with a reduction in duration from five years to three years due to unmet standards. The SCQ also recommended that the Monitoring Department visit the institution, with a focus on teaching staff and the multilingual aspects of the education process.

4. Discussion of Nursing programs

This agenda item was postponed.

5. Regulation on Monitoring and Post-Accreditation procedures

The SCQ decided to initially approve the draft in principle and submit it for public debate, allowing agency staff and institutions to provide feedback before further review. The decision was unanimously approved.

6. Regulation on Validation

The regulation was put for public debate, and institutions provided feedback. The submitted comments were reviewed by the board. The Regulation on Validation was approved unanimously.

7. Discussion for English Language Procedures

During the annual HEI meeting, institutions requested to submit materials in English only. However, per Article 5 of the Kosovo Constitution, all communication must be in an official language. Therefore, the SER must be submitted in both languages to ensure compliance and enhance transparency for wider accessibility.

8. Requests

8.1. Evolution Academy

The institution requested the Board to review the list of program holders for the Communication Design, BA study program. Additional documentation was submitted for holders who were previously not approved. The SCQ reviewed the submitted materials and unanimously approved two additional



program holders. As the institution now meets the required number of holders, the SCQ also unanimously approved the study program application.

8.2. Faculty of Medicine

The institution submitted one additional program holder, as requested by the Board in the previous meeting. The SCQ reviewed all program holders for the *Preclinical Medicine, PhD* study program. Following the review, the SCQ unanimously decided to reject two program holders due to an insufficient number of publications within the last five years. The program was unanimously rejected. It was also noted that the institution may no longer submit new requests for this program, but may proceed with an appeal.

8.3. Faculty of Mechanical Engineering

The institution requested the SCQ to review the Manufacturing and Industrial Engineering with Management, BSc study program application which was rejected due to the absence of a program holder with a background in the field of Management. The institution explained that the term "Management" refers to the management of production processes and the achievement of required quality standards and has nothing to do with the management of the field of economy.

The SCQ partially accepted the request, with the recommendation that the institution propose a revised program title that excludes the term "Management". The decision was unanimously approved by all Board members.

8.4. Faculty of Arts

The institution submitted additional documents related to the programs that were postponed/rejected in the previous meeting.

The Bachelor of Music, BMus program, with two specializations—1) General Music Pedagogy and 2) Composition was previously postponed because due to none of the proposed program holders meeting ESAC requirements regarding the first specialization. The institution submitted a new program holder; however, the issue persisted, as the individual expertise does not match an ESAC code covering the pedagogy component. While the overall program was approved, the SCQ unanimously rejected the General Music Pedagogy specialization.

The study program Visual Arts, BA application with 6 specializations was postponed because they need 9 program holders to cover all specializations. The institution submitted additional documentation to



demonstrate the international experience of the holders. However, it was determined that the institution still does not meet the requirement to cover all specializations. The SCQ unanimously decided to postpone this program, along with the remaining programs, to the next meeting, pending a consultation between agency representatives and the institution.

8.5. University of Peja

The institution's request concerning the Faculty of Arts was unanimously rejected, as they no longer have the right to submit new requests and may only proceed through the appeal process.

8.6. AAB College

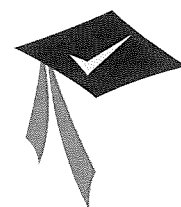
The institution submitted a request for review of the Musicology, BA program, previously rejected due to non-compliance with the ESAC Code and Learning Outcomes. The revised request included the removal of the Music Theory specialization and the restructuring of the curriculum into a single artistic program focused on Musicology and Music Production, with an updated ESAC code aligned to the study program. The Board reviewed the submission and rejected program holders due to insufficient evidence of international experience and due to a mismatch between the surname on the ID and the diploma of a program holder.

8.7. Heimerer College

The Rehabilitation Health Science, MSc study program application was rejected due to misalignment between the intended Learning Outcomes and the accreditation standards outlined in the relevant ESAC code. The institution explained that, as a new multidisciplinary program, they were uncertain which ESAC code to apply. Upon review, the Board unanimously rejected the request, noting that none of the proposed program holders have a background in the field of education. Given that the program is categorized under Special Education, it is required to include at least one program holder with expertise in education. Furthermore, in accordance with the Law on Higher Education, study programs in the field of education may only be offered by public institutions.

8.8. Iliria College

For this point during discussion the Head of Division for Legal Affairs of KAA, Mr. Sadik Bytyqi joined the meeting. He performed a short summary of the Court decision and history of the case. Please see Annex nr.1 for more details.



The Basic Court ruled to return the SCQ's decision for re-evaluation, citing procedural violations in the accreditation process. In its final paragraph, the Court required that all identified violations be addressed.

The case concerns the institutional reaccreditation of Iliria College in 2018, with the evaluation process carried out in 2019. Following the SCQ's rejection of the reaccreditation request, the institution appealed. However, due to the Appeals Commission being non-functional at the time, the appeal was not reviewed. As a result, the SCQ advised institutions to take their concerns to the competent court.

The Court partially upheld Iliria College's claims and instructed that the procedure be taken back to the stage where the agency submitted the draft report to the institution. This was based on the institution's claim that it was not granted sufficient time to comment on the draft, as required by the applicable administrative instruction.

KAA acknowledged that, in line with the court's instructions, institutions must be given adequate time to provide feedback. Accordingly, the draft report was resent to Iliria College, allowing two weeks for comments. However, the institution declined to submit written feedback and instead requested a meeting with the SCQ. Additionally, the institution reiterated its dissatisfaction with the Expert Team and requested a full restart of the evaluation process with a new team. It was noted that the institution had the opportunity to object to the Expert Team prior to the evaluation but did not exercise that right. In conclusion, based on the legal opinion from the KAA Legal Affairs, SCQ unanimously voted to proceed with the instructions given by the court. KAA will draft a decision that will be shared with the SCQ to be reviewed. The legal opinion of the KAA Legal Affairs is attached with these meeting minutes.

Mr. Bytyqi left the meeting after this point was discussed.

8.9. University of Applied Sciences in Ferizaj

The institution requested the SCQ to review its previous decision regarding the Management and Innovation in Tourism, MSc study program application, which had been rejected due to the expiration of one program holder's contract prior to the start of the academic year.

The institution submitted a new contract along with an explanation stating that, according to the University of Applied Sciences in Ferizaj statute, one-year contracts are issued when staff members are undergoing the advancement process. They clarified that the advancement process has been completed and the program holder now holds an indefinite contract.



Following the review, the SCQ unanimously approved the program holder and the study program application.

8.10. Fama International College

The institution has submitted a request to review the decision regarding the study program General Psychology, BA application that was rejected because one of the program holders didn't have enough publications. The institution provided additional documents that were reviewed by SCQ. The SCQ unanimously accepted the program holder and the study program application.

9. Appeals

9.1. AAB College

9.2. University of Peja

9.03. University of Gjakova

The SCQ unanimously agreed to forward these appeals to the Appeals Committee.

9.4. Decision of Appeals Committee on University of Mitrovica

The Primary Education, BA study program was initially rejected by the SCQ due to one program holder lacking publications and another not being in the relevant field. The Appeals Committee later approved the appeal, stating that one of the program holders had a publication listed in Scopus at the time of application. However, the SCQ found that the article was published after program application date. Based on this, the SCQ unanimously rejected the Appeals Committee's decision, citing that the publication did not exist at the time the application was evaluated.

10. Other

10.1. Cooperation with WUS Austria

SCQ representatives met with representatives from WUS Austria and the SHER Project to discuss potential areas of support. The SCQ requested assistance in reviewing PhD standards, developing a new strategic plan, organizing an international conference, and facilitating study visits for board members to ENQA member countries. WUS Austria and SHER Project responded positively and proposed immediate support for the review of PhD standards. They suggested engaging external expert Melita Kovačević to draft the initial version, which would later be reviewed by the SCQ. They also committed to supporting the development of the new strategy, proposing internal expert Blerim Saqipi for this task. Additionally, they plan to propose another expert—internal or external—to assist with the methodology. Regarding the international conference, they recommended that the agency serve as the main organizer, with WUS and SHER providing additional support as needed. The study visit is tentatively planned for



early 2026. The SCQ unanimously agreed with the proposed points while reserving the right to intervene in the process if necessary.

10.2. Conference

The SCQ discussed the title of the upcoming conference as well as the list of participants. It was also noted that strategies should be developed to enhance the conference's appeal and attract high-level participants.

11. Conclusion

The meeting was adjourned. The next SCQ meeting is scheduled for a continuation on 18.03.2025 at 6:00 PM.



State Council of Quality (SCQ)

Agenda SCQ Meeting 135

Date: 18.03.2025

Continuation of the meeting

Time: 18:00

Present in the meeting:

Hasnije Ilazi – President

Klemen Miklavic – Vice president

Maja Martinovic – Member

Gezim Tosuni – Member

Mirlinda Batalli – Member

Avni Berisha – Member

Jetmir Haxhibeqiri – Member

Naim Gashi – Member ex officio

Arianit Krasniqi – KAA staff

Fjolle Ajeti – KAA Staff

1. Revision of expert reports for institutional and program accreditation

The final institutional report for Rezonanca College was postponed at the previous meeting due to technical errors. During the continuation of the meeting, the report was reviewed and unanimously approved.

2. Nursing Programs

It was decided that program holders must be verified for publications in Scopus and/or Web of Science, possession of a valid professional license, and a minimum of five years of professional experience following the issuance of the license.

SCQ Reviewed the program holders of the Nursing Programs:

UBT College; Nursing study program -The SCQ unanimously requested clarification on whether the institution is applying for a BSc or BA Professional program.



Universum College; Nursing, BA Professional – Two program holders were rejected due to the absence of publications as first or corresponding authors. An additional program holder was rejected for not being in the relevant field. As a result, the program application was unanimously rejected by the SCQ.

3. Requests

3.1. Faculty of Arts: The institution submitted a request to the SCQ to review its previous decisions on the following program applications:

Bachelor of Music, BMus (Specializations: 1. General Music Pedagogy, 2. Composition): The institution proposed a new program holder for the General Music Pedagogy specialization and submitted a previously missing document for another holder. After review, the SCQ decided to uphold its original decision and reject the request. All members voted in favor.

Visual Arts, BA: Missing documentation was submitted. Upon review, the SCQ unanimously approved the program application.

Visual Arts, MA: The institution submitted the required additional documents. The SCQ unanimously approved the program application.

Dramatic Arts, MA: Additional documentation was submitted. One program holder was rejected. Nevertheless, the SCQ unanimously approved the program application.

3.2. Faculty of Mechanical Engineering: The institution submitted a request for reconsideration of the program application. In accordance with SCQ's prior recommendation, the faculty renamed the program and submitted it as a new accreditation rather than a reaccreditation. After reviewing the updated request, the SCQ unanimously approved the program application.

4. Update on the Conference and Working Group for development of a new strategy.

Meeting adjourned at 20:40. The following meeting will be held on the 14th of April 2025.

Minutes prepared by:

Fjollë Ajeti

F. Ajeti

Prof. Asoc. Dr. Hasnije Ilazi,

President State Council of Quality

[Signature]

Opinion of the Kosovo Accreditation Agency (KAA) Regarding the Implementation of Court Judgment KA.no.280/22, dated 22.02.2024

Procedural History at KAA:

On 31.10.2018, Iliria College applied for Institutional Reaccreditation at KAA. KAA engaged an expert team to evaluate the College for the institutional reaccreditation process. On 17 May 2019, an evaluation visit was conducted at Iliria College with international experts. The Draft Report from the international experts arrived at KAA on 01.07.2019, recommending that Iliria College did not meet the criteria for institutional reaccreditation. The Draft Report was sent to Iliria College on 08.07.2019 for comments. The final report from the experts arrived at KAA on 14.07.2019, again recommending that Iliria College should not be reaccredited at the institutional level.

In its 74th meeting on 15.07.2019, the State Council of Quality (SCQ) decided to reject the institutional accreditation request by decision Ref.1365/19D dated 29.07.2019.

Unhappy with the SCQ's decision, Iliria College filed an appeal with the Appeals Commission at KAA. However, since the Appeals Commission had resigned and was non-functional at the time, Iliria College's appeal was not reviewed. As a result, in a meeting on 16.09.2019, SCQ informed all colleges that had submitted appeals to address their concerns to the competent authority, specifically the court.

Procedural History in Court:

Iliria College filed a lawsuit against the SCQ decision Ref.1365/19D dated 29.07.2019 in the Basic Court in Pristina, now the Commercial Court, First Instance Chamber, claiming that the decision was unlawful and that the body had violated the law in the following ways:

- By failing to review the College's appeal due to the lack of a functioning KAA Appeals Commission;
- By engaging international experts who did not meet the criteria set by Administrative Instruction MASHT No.15/2018, arguing that they lacked experience in teaching and curriculum development;
- By not providing sufficient time to comment on the draft report submitted by the expert team;
- By failing to allow sufficient time for the College to adapt to legal changes, specifically the Administrative Instruction MASHT No.15/2018 on the Accreditation of Higher Education Institutions;
- By altering the agenda during the evaluation visit.

Initially, KAA was represented in court by the State Advocacy Office of the Ministry of Justice. Later, representation was transferred to KAA. KAA's representatives in court contested all of Iliria College's claims and provided counter-evidence.

The First Instance Court upheld the plaintiff's lawsuit and decided to return the matter for reconsideration to address procedural flaws identified by the court, which had occurred during the accreditation evaluation process of Iliria College.

Dissatisfied with the First Instance Court's judgment, KAA filed an appeal with the Commercial Court – Second Instance Chamber, Administrative Matters Department. However, the Second Instance Court upheld the First Instance Judgment.



KAA's Activities Following the Receipt of This Judgment:

KAA organized meetings involving all Divisions from both Departments to discuss how to implement the court's judgment.

After analyzing judgment KA.no.280/22, dated 22.02.2024, KAA concluded that, based on the court's findings and remarks stated in paragraph 52 of the judgment, which reads:

"...in the reconsideration procedure, the defendant is obliged, under Article 65 of the Law on Administrative Conflicts, within thirty (30) days, to act in accordance with the remarks given in this judgment and to correct the deficiencies of the contested decision, in such a way as to address and justify the plaintiff's objections in the evaluation procedure regarding institutional reaccreditation and claims, as stipulated by the legal provisions outlined in this judgment."

Following a detailed review of the judgment, KAA proposes that SCQ decide to return the administrative matter to the point where the court identified the violation. This means sending the expert team's draft report to Iliria College for comments and then proceeding with further review.

SCQ's Activities:

We consider that after submitting the Draft Report from the International Expert Evaluators, Iliria College must send its comments to KAA within the specified deadline. The report should then be returned to the experts for completion in accordance with the comments.

Once KAA receives the final report from the expert team, it will forward it to SCQ for review and decision-making.

