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### Concept of Institutional Accreditation in Latvia

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### Content insight

**Existing system** - strengths / weaknesses Principles and purpose of developing an institutional accreditation model Institutional accreditation process and areas to be assessed Results of institutional accreditation Next steps



### Current quality assessment system

Licensing of study programs

Inclusion of the licensed study program in the accreditation form of the study field

Evaluation of substantial changes in the study field and corresponding study programs

Assessment and accreditation of study fields

Accreditation of HEIs / Colleges



### Existing system

#### Licensing of a new study program

The right to start implementing the study program

#### Assessment / accreditation of study fields

- The right to issue a staterecognized diploma
- Evaluation of study fields and programs

Inclusion of a licensed study program in the accreditation form of the study field

study fields

Evaluation of significant changes in accredited The study

The study program, its parameters and / or content have been changed/specified

The study program is included in the

accreditation form and is assessed

technical procedures

#### Accreditation of HEIs and Colleges

The right to issue a state-recognized diploma that the field of study, which includes the study program, is accredited

cyclical procedure



# Strengths and weaknesses of the existing system

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<ul> <li>Unified process management</li> <li>Independence and transparency</li> <li>Evaluation coordinators</li> <li>Methodologies and guidelines for evaluation procedures</li> <li>Competent evaluation experts</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Regulatory burden</li> <li>Administrative burden</li> <li>Large amount of work and time, and human resources consumed by both HEIs and AIKA</li> <li>Costs</li> <li>Usefulness of evaluation procedures</li> </ul>



# Comments from the workshops for HEIs and Colleges

- It is worth moving in the direction of progress and autonomy
- High administrative burden
- A preparatory phase is required
- The 2-year accreditation period is too short, as the accreditation process takes at least 1 year
- Experts do not have to assess compliance with regulations
- Accreditation should be an added value for institutions not an external setting but an internal need

## Benefits of assessment and accreditation of study fields[1]

All study programs in Latvia, their sustainability and topicality have been evaluated

The compliance of the study programs with the external regulatory framework has been examined in detail

Areas of strengths and areas for improvement have been identified

Study fields and corresponding study programs are evaluated according to a common standard - comparable and publicly available data on study programs are obtained on a national scale

## Benefits of assessment and accreditation of study fields[2]

HEIs have had an additional incentive to review and update internal processes and internal regulations

HEIs have carefully evaluated the sustainability and topicality of study programs, closing the study program if necessary

In most cases, HEIs improved the English language sections of the website, which in general promotes greater accessibility of HEIs to the international environment

The evaluation was performed by an external group of independent experts, providing an evaluation of the study field and study programs, proposals for further improvement of the study quality



### Principles of the development of cyclic institutional accreditation model for HEIs in Latvia

Fit for purpose - evaluations

Relevance vs quality

Discussed with all parties involved

Promoting a culture of quality

Sequential and comprehensible evaluation procedures

Reduction of administrative burdens

Reliable results

Autonomy and accountability of HEIs



#### Purpose of institutional accreditation

To support the improvement of the internal quality assurance system of higher education institutions and to promote the continuous improvement of the operation of HEIs and Colleges

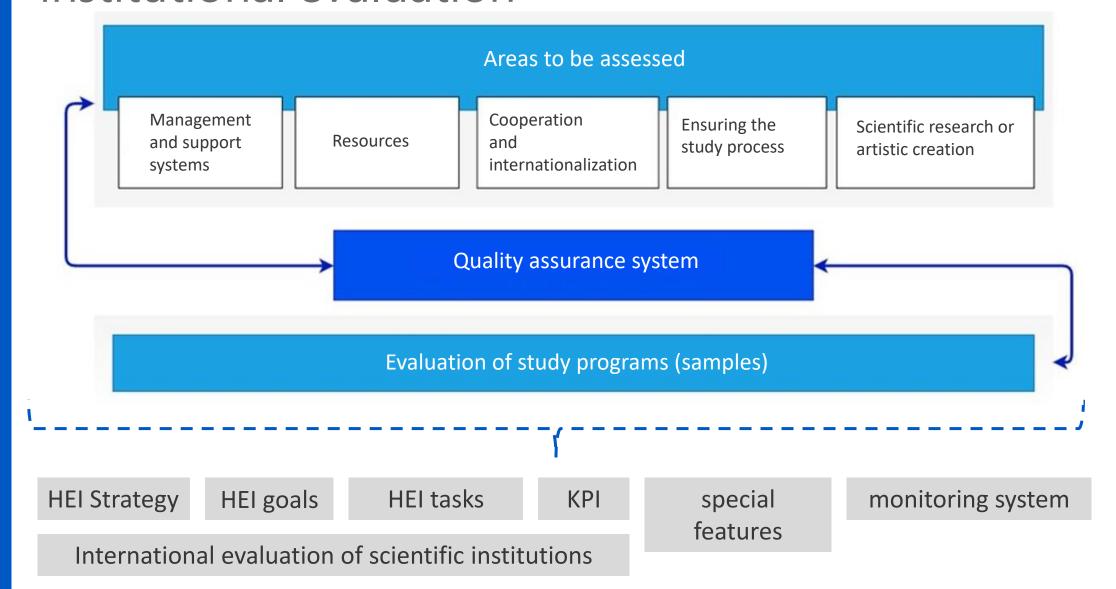
#### **Education law**

Quality of education - educational process, content, environment and management, which provides inclusive education for everyone and the opportunity to achieve high-quality results in accordance with the goals set by society and the state;

The national system for ensuring the quality of education is a systematic set of policies, guidelines, procedures, activities and resources for planning, achieving, maintaining, monitoring and continuously improving the quality of education



## Areas to be assessed in the framework of institutional evaluation





## Questions within the assessment of institutional accreditation

What does HEIs want to achieve?

To what extent do HEI plans meet industry needs and / or scientific trends?



What are the actions of HEIs to achieve this?



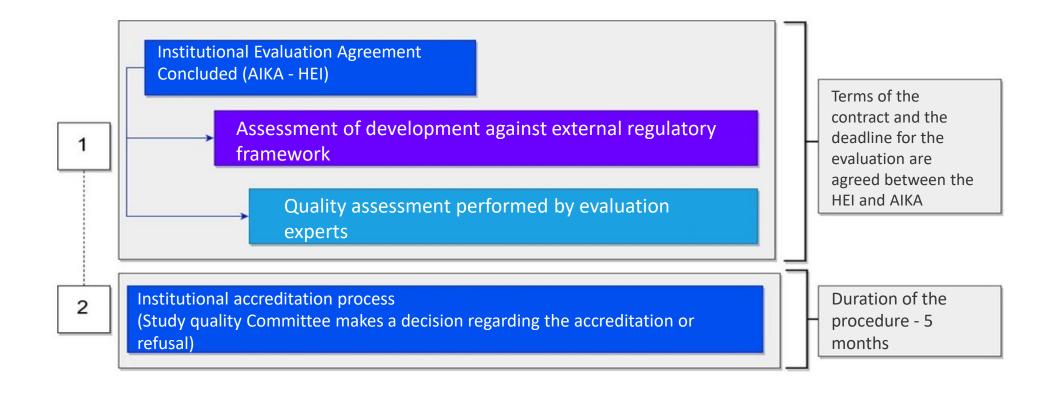
What is the result and is it in line with what the HEI is planning?

Documentary evidence is available

Stakeholders use a common approach and are aware of the availability of documents



#### Institutional accreditation process[1]





#### An agreement on institutional evaluation has been concluded (AIKA – HEI)

Conformity assessment against external regulatory framework

HEIs provide the information required for conformity assessment

AIKA performs conformity assessment

HEIs receive the results of conformity assessment

Quality assessment performed by evaluation experts

HEIs submit a self-assessment report, make adjustments upon AIKA's request

An evaluation expert group is agreed

Expert preparation for evaluation, training

First visit of the expert group to HEIs

The draft opinion of the expert group was submitted to the HEI for comments on the factual errors

Second visit of the expert group to HEIs

Final version of the expert group's opinion is forwarded to the HEI



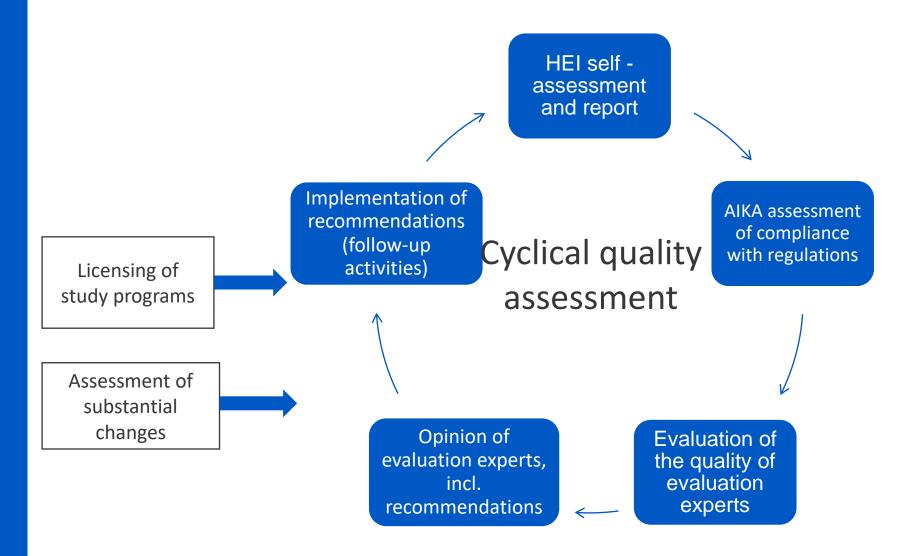
#### Results of institutional accreditation

- ✓ Accreditation of HEIs for 3 or 7 years or refusal to accredit
- √ The right to issue a state-recognized diploma
- ✓ AIKA recommendations in the framework of conformity assessment
- ✓ Recommendations of the evaluation expert group for the improvement of the operation of HEIs or elimination of the identified shortcomings

The quality of HEIs and Colleges is internationally recognized, information on the quality of HEIs is available to everyone



#### External evaluation cycle





### Future quality assessment system

Licensing of study programs

Inclusion of the licensed study program in the accreditation form of the study field

Assessment of substantial changes in the study programs (with amendments)

Assessment and accreditation of study fields

Accreditation of HEIs and Colleges

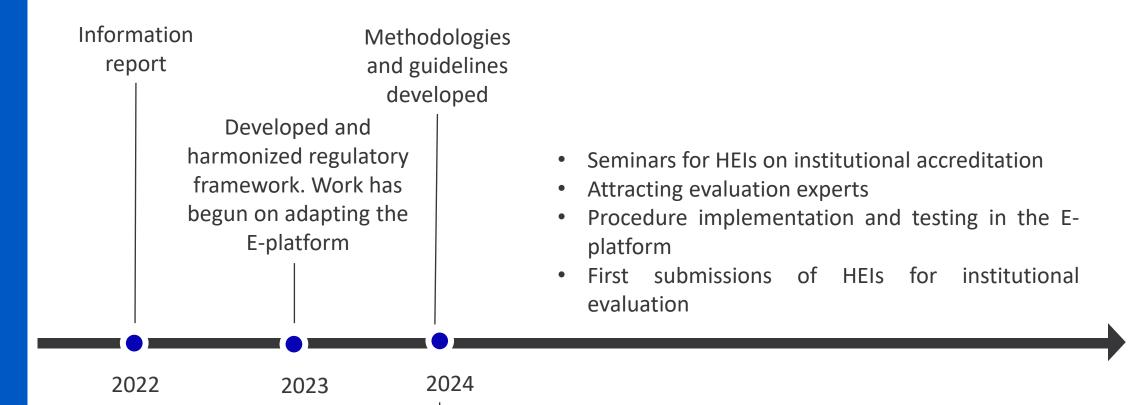


#### Benefits

- Reduced administrative burden
- The regulatory framework in order
- Clear and comprehensible evaluation procedures
- More efficient management of HEIs
- Greater autonomy for HEIs
- Improving a culture of quality based on mutual respect and trust



#### Next steps



Completion of the study field

evaluation and accreditation cycle





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