

## Decision on the Substantive Change Report by Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (SKVC)

**Register Committee**  
26 – 27 November 2024

Ref. RC45/C125

Ver. 1.0

Date 2024-12-15

Page 1 / 2

<b>Decision of:</b>	2024-11-28
<b>Result:</b>	Take note
<b>Report received on:</b>	2024-06-30
<b>Agency registered since:</b>	2012-06-01
<b>Last external review report:</b>	2022-10-25
<b>Registration until:</b>	2027-06-30
<b>Absented themselves from decision-making:</b>	Eltjo Bazen, Irina Duma, Inga Lapina
<b>Attachments:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">Substantive Change Report, 2024-06-30</a></li> <li>2. <a href="#">Minuted clarification of 2024-10-01</a></li> </ol>

1. The Register Committee considered the Substantive Change Report of 2024-06-30.
2. The Register Committee sought and received a clarification from the agency on 2024-10-01.
3. The Register Committee took note of the legislative changes made in Lithuania for the appointment of the director of SKVC. The Committee learned that with these legislative changes, the current practice of including SKVC Council in the selection process for the SKVC Director is being discontinued and in the future the SKVC Council will be completely excluded from this selection process.
4. The Committee learned that with these changes the full responsibility for the appointment of SKVC Director in the future will lay solely with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports (the founder of SKVC) and that the SKVC Council does not need to be consulted nor involved in the process (see minuted clarification of 2024-10-01).
5. Given the severity of changes and that these changes could impact and weaken the operational and organisational independence of SKVC in the future, the Register Committee concluded that the agency no longer complies with ESG 3.3 and finds the agency to be only partially compliant with the standard.
6. Nevertheless, the Register Committee is of the opinion that SKVC continues to comply substantially with the ESG as a whole.

7. The Register Committee expects that in the next review, for renewal of registration, the impact and implementation of these changes will be looked into and analysed in depth.

**Register Committee**  
26 – 27 November 2024

**Ref.** RC45/C125

**Ver.** 1.0

**Date** 2024-12-15

**Page** 2 / 2



## EQAR Substantive Change Report

Reference #	27239041
Status	Complete
Agency #1	Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education
Agency acronym	SKVC
Expiry date #1	30/06/2027
Contact #1	Aurelija Valeikienė
Phone #1	+3705215402
Email #1	<a href="mailto:aurelija.valeikiene@skvc.lt">aurelija.valeikiene@skvc.lt</a>
Other organisations?	No
A. Has the organisational identity of the registered agency changed?	No
B. Has the organisational structure changed?	Yes
Description	<p>As of 25 April 2024, the provisions regarding the Council of SKVC has changed as per changes in the Law on Higher Education and Research. Namely, article 22, point 3 established that the members of the Council shall be remunerated for their work in accordance with the Law on Remuneration of Employees of Budgetary Institutions of the Republic of Lithuania and Remuneration of the Members of the Commissions for Their Work. in addition, point 4 was abolished; it earlier established that the Director of SKVC shall be the sole governing body and that the Director shall be appointed for a 4-year term of office by a competitive selection procedure in accordance with the procedure laid down by the Law on the Civil Service of the Republic of Lithuania, in such a way that at least</p>

half of the members of the selection panel shall be members of the Council and tath the same person may not be appointed Director for more than two consecutive terms. From now on, only provisions of the Law on the Civil Service shall apply. Also, point 1 was amended earlier it said that SKVC is established by the Ministry of Education and Science; now it says that the rights and obligations of the owner of SKVC shall be excercised by the Ministry.

---

**C. Changes in EQA activities**

4. Not applicable, no new activities/no changes

---

**D. Activity outside the scope of the ESG**

Yes

---

**Context**

SKVC is authorised to issue, amend or withdraw licences for provision of VET as of 1 September 2023. This activity was transfered from the Ministry.

---

**Submit form?**

I am ready to submit the change report form

---

**Last Update**

2024-06-30 22:59:44

---

**Start Time**

2024-06-30 22:39:18

---

**Finish Time**

2024-06-30 22:59:44

---

**IP**

193.219.135.181

---

**Browser**

Chrome

---

**Device**

Desktop

---

**Referrer**

<https://www.eqar.eu/>

---

## Substantive Change Report by SKVC

Clarification provided by the Agency

Register Committee

<b>Date of the conversation:</b>	2024-10-01
<b>Agency representative:</b>	Aurelija Valeikienė
<b>Representative of EQAR:</b>	Blazhe Todorovski

<b>Ref.</b>	RC44/C125
<b>Date</b>	2024-10-01
<b>Page</b>	1 / 2

1. SKVC has submitted on 2024-06-30 its substantive change report.
2. In order to prepare the deliberations of the Register Committee on SKVC's change report EQAR contacted the Agency to clarify the matter(s) below.

### ESG 3.3 – Independence

3. EQAR representative asked the agency to further elaborate on the differences between what the previous rules prescribed *vis-a-vis* the provisions of the Law on the Civil Service applicable now.
4. SKVC representative elaborated that prior the new provisions of the Law on the Civil Service the process of selection for Director of SKVC followed dual provisions – provisions prescribed in the Higher Education and Research law and the Law on Civil Service.
5. SKVC representative elaborated that in the past the arrangements were such that SKVC Council representatives were involved in the selection process of the Director, and at least half of the selection committee were Council members, involving the student and labour market representative, alongside with representatives appointed by the ministry and the Public Management Agency (in charge of organisation of the selection). It is defined in the Law on Higher Education and Research that the Council of SKVC consists of representatives of academia, students, labour market, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports (the founder of SKVC), the Government and the Parliament. As noted the previous process followed clear three stage process, which was finalised by submission of two short listed candidates by the selection committee to the responsible Minister who had the mandate to select the SKVC Director out of the two candidates.
6. SKVC representative described the new provisions, which were passed on 25 April 2024 and are in place as of 3 May 2024, when the Parliament amended the law for Higher Education and Research and removed the provisions for the selection of SKVC Director. The new provisions for selection of SKVC Director are now only in the provisions of the Law on Civil Service and the Regulations on the Implementation of the Civil

Service Law (the latter approved by the Government), and excluded SKVC Council completely from the selection process.

## Register Committee

Ref. RC44/C125  
Date 2024-10-01  
Page 2 / 2

7. Furthermore, SKVC representative elaborated on the new provisions and how the selection process will go (it is being organised at the moment). The selection process for new director, based on the new provisions, is organised fully by the Public Management Agency (PMA) in Lithuania on behalf of the Ministry, who decides on the procedure and the selection committee composed of at least five individuals appointed by the Ministry.
8. As noted by SKVC representative, the agency wrote a letter related to the procedure to the PMA, asking for the procedure to be reconsidered and SKVC to be involved in the process. However, the PMA (after a consultation with the Ministry) responded negatively. SKVC Council held a meeting, dedicated to the issue of the election of SKVC Director and issued a written letter to the Ministry stating their concerns over independence of SKVC and the objectivity and transparency of the selection process. In response the Minister offered that SKVC Council can nominate two representatives to observe the selection process by the selection committee and can formulate their expectations for the profile of the SKVC Director, and also offered to hold a dedicated meeting to discuss concerns raised. The SKVC Council then delegated two members among themselves who then had to be nominated by their respective employer institutions to observe the selection committee work and proposed competence profile of the director, also suggested to hold a dedicated meeting at the end of October.
9. Finally, SKVC representative clarified that with these legal changes, the mandate of SKVC Director has been changed from four years (as was defined in the Law on Higher Education and Research) to five years (as is defined by the Law on Civil Service) with maximum two successive terms.
10. EQAR representative further asked the agency to clarify how these changes would affect the work of the agency.
11. SKVC representative noted that at the moment the current Director is still serving his term, valid until 20 November 2024. The selection process for the [new] Director is ongoing and should be completed prior to the end of the term of the current.
12. SKVC representative clarified that there are no concerns that the regular work of the agency will be affected, since the agency is following its Strategic Plan (2023-2026) which has been endorsed by the Ministry and adopted by SKVC Council in July 2023, and yearly activity plans which are based on it.