

## Decision on the Substantive Change Report by Slovak Accreditation Agency for Higher Education (SAAHE)

Register Committee  
21 – 22 September 2026

Ref. RC51/C182

Ver. 1.0

Date 2026-09-23

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|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| Decision of:                              | 2026-09-22                                               |
| Result:                                   | Take note                                                |
| Report received on:                       | 2026-07-27                                               |
| Agency registered since:                  | 2023-09-01                                               |
| Last external review report:              | 2023-12                                                  |
| Registration until:                       | 2028-09-30                                               |
| Absented themselves from decision-making: | Peter Ondreička (RC observer)                            |
| Attachments:                              | 1. <a href="#">Substantive Change Report, 2026-07-27</a> |

1. The Register Committee considered the Substantive Change Report of 2026-07-27.
2. The Register Committee noted that SAAHE started to implement the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes.
3. Given that SAAHE uses the European Approach or Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes without substantial modifications as it related to ESG compliance, the Register Committee had no prima facie concern that the ESG are complied with.
4. The Register Committee nevertheless expect that this activity will be analysed in full as part of SAAHE's next review for renewal of registration against Part 2 of the ESG.

## EQAR Substantive Change Report

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| Agency #1                                                            | Slovak Accreditation Agency for Higher Education                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Agency acronym                                                       | SAAHE                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Expiry date #1                                                       | 30/09/2028                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Contact #1                                                           | Dušan Faktor                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| Other organisations?                                                 | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| A. Has the organisational identity of the registered agency changed? | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| B. Has the organisational structure changed?                         | No                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| C. Changes in EQA activities                                         | 1. One or several new external QA activities were introduced                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Description new/changed                                              | <p>The amendment to the Quality Assurance Act effective from 1 February 2025 introduced, among other technical changes, the conditions and procedures for accrediting a cross-border joint study programme by the European Approach (see the translated Quality Assurance Act on the Agency website, also attached). This new paragraph (§ 30a) sets out, in seven sections, the procedural rules and steps to be taken by the involved higher education institutions when jointly submitting the application for accreditation of a cross-border joint study programme. In § 30a sec. (4), the Quality Assurance Act directly provides that this procedure when applied by the Agency shall follow the documents regulating the procedures and standards of the European Approach to the</p> |

Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes adopted within the European Higher Education Area. The Quality Assurance Act therefore provides the Agency with a strong mandate to carry out this procedure.

This newly introduced activity is substantially based on the Agency's existing procedures that were subject to the last review and the use of the Agency's information system. No entirely new activities were introduced. However, § 30a sec. (5) of the Quality Assurance Act provides that Part III of the Act, concerning the Agency's exercise of its powers, shall apply *mutatis mutandis* to the Agency's procedure for the accreditation of cross-border joint study programmes under the European Approach. This is mainly due to the need to verify eligibility, apply specific standards, and reflect the fact that the procedure may result in different types of decisions, including conditional accreditation. In order to address all *mutatis mutandis* adaptations and the specific features of this procedure, ...

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...the Agency adopted a new internal regulation - Directive of SAAHE on the Procedure for the Accreditation of a Cross-border Joint Study Programme by the European Approach (attached). This new regulation mainly governs the procedural differences in the Agency's actions concerning the accreditation procedure for cross-border joint study programmes under the European Approach pursuant to § 30a of the Quality Assurance Act. In addition, the regulation also provides guidance for higher education institutions by setting out the steps to be taken after the application has been submitted. Furthermore, as part of the preparation for this type of procedure, the Agency has published on its website an application template and opened

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the possibility to record the application in the Agency's information system. In addition, a new item was introduced into the Agency's Fee schedule.

All of the steps listed above are a technical upgrade of existing Agency's procedures and should ensure that the new activity is handled systematically, transparently, and in accordance with the law and related rules.

**Focus**

joint programmes using the European Approach for the Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes

**ESG 2.6**

**1**

<https://saavs.sk/sk/>

**2**

<https://saavs.sk/en/>

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

No

**File #1**

[Law-No.-269-on-quality-assurance-of-higher-education\\_effective-from-1.3.2026.pdf \(614 KB\)](#)

**File #2**

[Directive-of-SAAHE-on-the-Procedure-for-the-Accr.-of-a-Cross-Border-Joint-Study-Prog.-by-the-EA.pdf \(266 KB\)](#)

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