Case study I: Hungary
External Quality Assurance of Informatics Higher Education in Hungary

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Hungarian Accreditation Committee (HAC): established by law (Act on Higher Education)

Main tasks:

- Contribute to the formulation of principles for sectorial quality policy
- Carry out accreditation in connection with establishment and operation of HEI

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- Deliver expert opinions on the introduction of undergraduate and graduate courses, the establishment of doctoral schools

- Express, upon request of the HEI, an opinion in respect of awarding the title of university professor.

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Composition of HAC (19 members):

- 11 delegates from the Hungarian Rectors Conference (one international expert included)
- 3 delegates from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences
- 1 student
- 4 delegates from different stakeholders

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Structure of the HAC:

- Standing committees in each larger area of teaching fields (8 fields, one of them is Engineering). Informatics belongs to Engineering.

- List of experts in each subject field

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Parallel accreditation of programs: previously done for law, history, arts.

Bologna system was introduced in Hungary in 2006. But in informatics: experiments with Bologna programs in 2004 and 2005.

Main purpose: how succesfull was the introduction of the new Bachelor programs in informatics?

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Only three Bachelor programs of Informatics in Hungary:

- Computer Engineering (3040)
- Computer Science (1420)
- Information Sciences (? Informatics and economy) (780)

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There are altogether 29 informatics programs in Hungary, in 16 institutions

An expert committee was established, having 23 members. This ad hoc committee is responsible for parallel accreditation.

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Main steps

- Self evalution handbook made by the institutions for different programs
- Site visit of 3-4 members of the ad hoc committe to get a personal impression

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Guidelines for the self evaluation

- Content of the program
- Personal
- Connected research
- Infrastructure
- Output (methods, feedback)
- Coordination
- Opinions taken in account (students, …)

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Site visit

General questions

- Structure within the university
- Laboratories, infrastructure
- Content of the lectures
- Quality assurance

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- Industrial connections
- Final examination
- Quality of theses
- Preparation for MSc, PhD
- Meeting with the students

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Specific questions

- Changes since the last accreditation
- Changes in course choice
- Library
- Follow up of graduates
- Research

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Final result: report submitted to HAC

- Details about all programs
- General summary, best practices