

Education and management of HEIs according to the Higher Education Act in SR

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Political targets and aims of the HEIs' reform

- Main aim of the reform - **to provide students with more open and attractive higher education institutions ("HEIs")**.
- *„The approval of the amendment of the HE Act is an important part of the change of HEIs in Slovakia. Thanks to it, Slovak students **will receive higher quality university study** and will have significantly more motivation **to stay and study in Slovakia**. It is the young people and the next generations who will participate in the historical changes of Slovakia “... State Secretary Ľudovít Paulis, TASR 23.03.2022*
- *"The priority goal of reforms in education is to **improve the quality and conditions of study for students**. This will bring our universities closer to the **standards of Western countries** and **will open them up to the labour market and to the public** so that they can respond better to changes in the world. The reform brings a number of necessary measures that will help our HE system to be more **attractive and competitive**. In addition, all these measures will be supported through the investments of the Recovery and Resilience Plan" ... minister of education, science, research and sports Branislav Gröhling, TASR 23.03.2022*

Amendment of higher education legislation - process

- Recovery and Resilience Plan - European Parliament and Council of the EU **12/02/2021**, Slovak government **16/06/2021** (SR EUR 6 billion, for education EUR 892 million, of which for HEIs EUR 213 million).
- Beginning of the discussion on the amendment of the Higher Education Act (131/2002 Coll.) with HEIs' representations: **SRK's principally disagreed** with the draft amendment due to limits posed on institutional autonomy and academic self-governance of HEIs, **SRC 97th session on 23/02/2021** .
- Start of negotiations of the contact group at the Ministry of education, science, research and sports in SR: **05/03/2021**.
- Inter-departmental commenting procedure LP/2021/596: **22/10/2021 – 12/11/2021**.
- **Public protest** against the amendment of the Higher Education Act <https://protest.uniba.sk/> **16/11/2021**.
- Draft law approved by the Government of the SR: **22/12/2021**.
- Draft law approved by the Parliament: **23/3/2022**.
- Valid from **25/4/2022**.

What new did the amendment of the Higher Education Act bring in the field of education?

- Unification of the standard length of full-time and part-time studies in 1st and 2nd cycles.
- Changes in educational SP - scientifically or professionally oriented; subject combination or educational areas.
- Prevention/sanctions against academic fraud.
- Special provisions for accepting applicants from UA.
- Scholarships for talented and above-average 1,000 students

EUR 3,000 + EUR 2,000 per year for a Slovak university during the first three years of study in Slovakia.

What new did the amendment of the Higher Education Act bring in the labour law field and for Docent and Professor degrees?

- Functional places of a Docent and of a Professor
 - cancellation of attachment to the scientific/artistic-pedagogical degree Docent and Professor,
 - the following must be fulfilled for the position of a teacher and a functional place of a Docent and a Professor:
 - general criteria - approved by the Scientific Council („SC“) of the university in accordance with the Standards for Hal proceedings,
 - minimum criteria for pedagogical, research, development or artistic activity (published by the ministry),
 - Docent and Professor degrees cannot be pre-conditions,
 - the composition of the Selection Committee is determined by the Higher Education Act.
- Habilitation and inauguration proceedings (Hal proceedings)
 - awarding of degrees remains,
 - the university's rights to Hal proceedings are separate for Docent and for Professor.

What new did the amendment of the Higher Education Act bring in the field of management?

1.

- Rector's appointment procedure:
 - election of the rector announced 8 months before the end of the term, announcement in both SK and EN languages,
 - public hearing, elected by the Electoral Assembly, which consists of all members of the Academic Senate ("AS") and the Board of Trustees („BoT”),
 - max. 2 consecutive 4-year terms.
- BoT composition:
 - min. 1/4 AS and min. 5 members, an odd number,
 - nominations can be submitted only by legal entities, which are determined by the law,
 - 1/2 of the members are chosen by the minister + 1/2 of the members are proposed by the AS of the university, public hearing, cross-examination of the proposals, then the AS elects and the minister chooses,
 - 1 member is selected by the BoT or Slovak Academy of Sciences,
 - 5-years term, financial compensation for the performance of the function.
- BoT approves the budget, the methodology of the subsidy breakdown from state budget, the subsidy breakdown, long-term plan, merger, amalgamation, cancellation, division of universities/faculties and units, establishment of components, change of name or seat, principles of election of a candidate for rector and acceptance of a motion to dismiss the rector, legal acts regarding movable and immovable property (if it is more than EUR 510,000) - written consent determines the rector's salary - remuneration only for meeting measurable indicators and goals.

What new did the amendment of the Higher Education Act bring in the field of management? 2.

- Academic Senate
 - Composition
 - 15 - 66 members and of whom at least 1/3 are students,
 - abolished mandatory parity representation of faculties.
 - Approves the internal regulations of the university/faculty, proposals for the appointment/dismissal of members of the Scientific Council, 1/2-1 members of the BoT, terms of admission to study.
 - Approves prior to BoT: long-term plan of development, budget, methodology for breakdown of subsidies from the state budget, breakdown of subsidies for faculties and units, merger, integration, cancellation, division of universities/faculties and units, establishment of faculties and units, change of name or registered office, legal acts concerning movable and immovable property (if more than EUR 510 K), the principles of electing a candidate for rector and accepting a motion to dismiss the rector.
 - Approves after the statement of the BoT: the annual activity report and the annual economical report.
 - Co-elects the rector.

Open topics

- Changes in the funding of public HEIs: a combination of methodology and performance contracts.
- The future of HEIs funding.
- HEIs mergers.
- Accreditation and quality assurance at HEIs.
- (Cross-sectional) periodic evaluation of research, development, artistic and other creative activities.

Some additional data and information at the end

- There are 20 public, 3 state and 10 private HEIs in Slovakia.
- A total of 139,168 students are studying at all HEIs in Slovakia in the academic year 2022/2023.
- 117,287 of them study at public HEIs (86.13%), 3,903 at state HEIs (2.87%) and 14,978 at private HEIs (11.00%).
- By December 31, 2022, each HEI had to apply to the Slovak Accreditation Agency for Higher Education for accreditation of the internal quality system.
- All accreditations are ongoing now and should be completed by the end of 2023.



Thank you for attention

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