Slovak Accreditation Processes and European Standards

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Current state

- No Slovak university in Top 500
- System of tertiary education is underfinanced
- Key decisions are concentrated in hands of the Ministry
- There are serious internal problems
  - Too complex organizational structures
    - Rector has responsibility but no power
    - Senate has power but no responsibility
  - The system remains isolated from international trends
    - No ENQA membership
    - Habilitations and inaugurations required
  - Plagiarism is tolerated
Current state

- No Slovak university in Top 500
- System of tertiary education is underfinanced
- Key decisions are concentrated in hands of the Ministry
- Some problems are caused by the University Act
  - Too complex organizational structures
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Our subject
Lessons from the Recent “Complex Accreditation”

- The universities are licensed for 6 years
- The must be evaluated again („re-accredited“)
- Criteria are not known in advance:
  - Period 2008-2013 – April 2013
- 20 public and 2 private universities:
  - 4,877 study programs
  - 439 approvals to organize habilitations and inauguroation
  - 8 sessions = 590 approvals per session (!!!)
Problematic Sides of the Process

- There is no interest in making the system better:
  - The criteria should be announced PRIOR TO the evaluated period
  - The criteria addressed RESEARCH only
  - No time for a serious ANALYSIS
  - Absence of an INTER-UNIVERSITY comparison

- The process is not transparent
  - The university have a limited chance to discuss the preliminary outcomes
  - The outcome is made by voting (!) of 21 members in which hardly one is from the evaluated field
  - The final decision in the hands of the Minister of Education
Areas to be improved

- Criteria should be announced in advance and remain unchanged
- Less paperwork (32,000 characters + dozens of attachments)
- Take into account the long-term university strategy
- Do not evaluate all universities in the same moment
- More foreign experts
- Evaluation to be done by foreign/international agencies
Our efforts

- Forming a non-profit organization
- Named Initiative for Living Universities
- Preparation of in-depth analyses
- Waking-up Slovak academic community
- Addressing public opinion (e.g. by blogs)
- „Infiltrating“ into decision-making bodies
Thank you for your attention!

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