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EUA to evaluate the university sector in Slovakia and Portugal

Today a contract was signed in the presence of European University Association (EUA) President Georg Winckler, Martin Fronc, the Slovak Minister for Education, and Vladimir Báleš, President of the Slovak Conference of Rectors, for the Association to carry out a sector-wide evaluation of higher education institutions in Slovakia. The review, which is part of EUA's Institutional Evaluation Programme (IEP), will take place over the next 2 years and focus on the development of Slovakia as a knowledge society.

The agreement to evaluate higher education institutions in Slovakia follows a similar call to review institutions in Portugal. On the request of the Portuguese government and with the agreement of the conference of rectors, EUA will undertake evaluations, starting with 10 institutions in 2006, with the possibility of a further 10 in 2007. At a launch ceremony in November, the Prime Minister of Portugal, José Sócrates, welcomed the evaluations, highlighting the importance of education and increasing the level of qualifications of the Portuguese population for national development.

The two sector-wide reviews scheduled for 2006-2007 follow the quality review of all universities in Ireland (2003-2004) and a series of evaluations in Catalonia (2004-2005) by EUA.

Each institution involved will complete a self-evaluation report and be visited by a team of international experienced evaluators (European institutional leaders and, in the

case of Portugal, of North American university presidents) who will focus on each institution's decision-making structures and processes and its internal quality arrangements. In addition, the evaluations in Portugal will examine such issues as students' access to higher education and lifelong learning provision while, in Slovakia, special attention will be paid to research activities.

As well as an individual report for each institution, which will identify specific strengths and ways to remedy weaknesses, an overall sector-wide report will be produced for Slovakia, which will present the issues common to all the institutions evaluated and an analysis of the Slovak research capacity.

Launched eleven years ago as a tool for strategic change, the Institutional Evaluation Programme has evaluated over 150 universities in Europe and worldwide. Based on the notion of mutual learning and peer evaluation in a supportive, yet critical, context,

The European University Association, as the representative organisation of both the European universities and the national rectors' conferences, is the main voice of the higher education community in Europe. EUA's mission is to promote the development of a coherent system of European higher education and research.

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the main aim of the Programme is to promote the capacity of institutions to adapt to a changing context, through increased capacity for strategic thinking and enhanced internal quality processes.

Evaluations are orientated toward improving the institutions and take into account the specific context of each institution and its mission.

More information

- [Institutional Evaluation Programme](#)