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External evaluation of Academic Ethics - is it possible?

2017

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Activities of SKVC

✓ to contribute to creation of favorable conditions for free movement of persons

- assessment of foreign qualifications
- provision of info and consultations

✓ to encourage quality of activities of HEI

- review and accreditation of HEI (institutional review)
- evaluation and accreditation of HE study programs (new and in operation)
- assessment of (new) establishing HEI

MISSION

To create favourable conditions for the improvement of higher education quality in Lithuania and the free movement of persons in the world with the aim of enhancing competitiveness of Lithuanian higher education and clarity of its qualifications

VISION

SKVC is an influential generator, implementer and disseminator of ideas on improvement of quality and enhancement of internationalisation in higher education - in both Lithuania and the rest of Europe

External Quality Assurance

At least once every 6 years:

- Institutional Review and accreditation
- Study programme evaluation and accreditation

Involvement of international experts

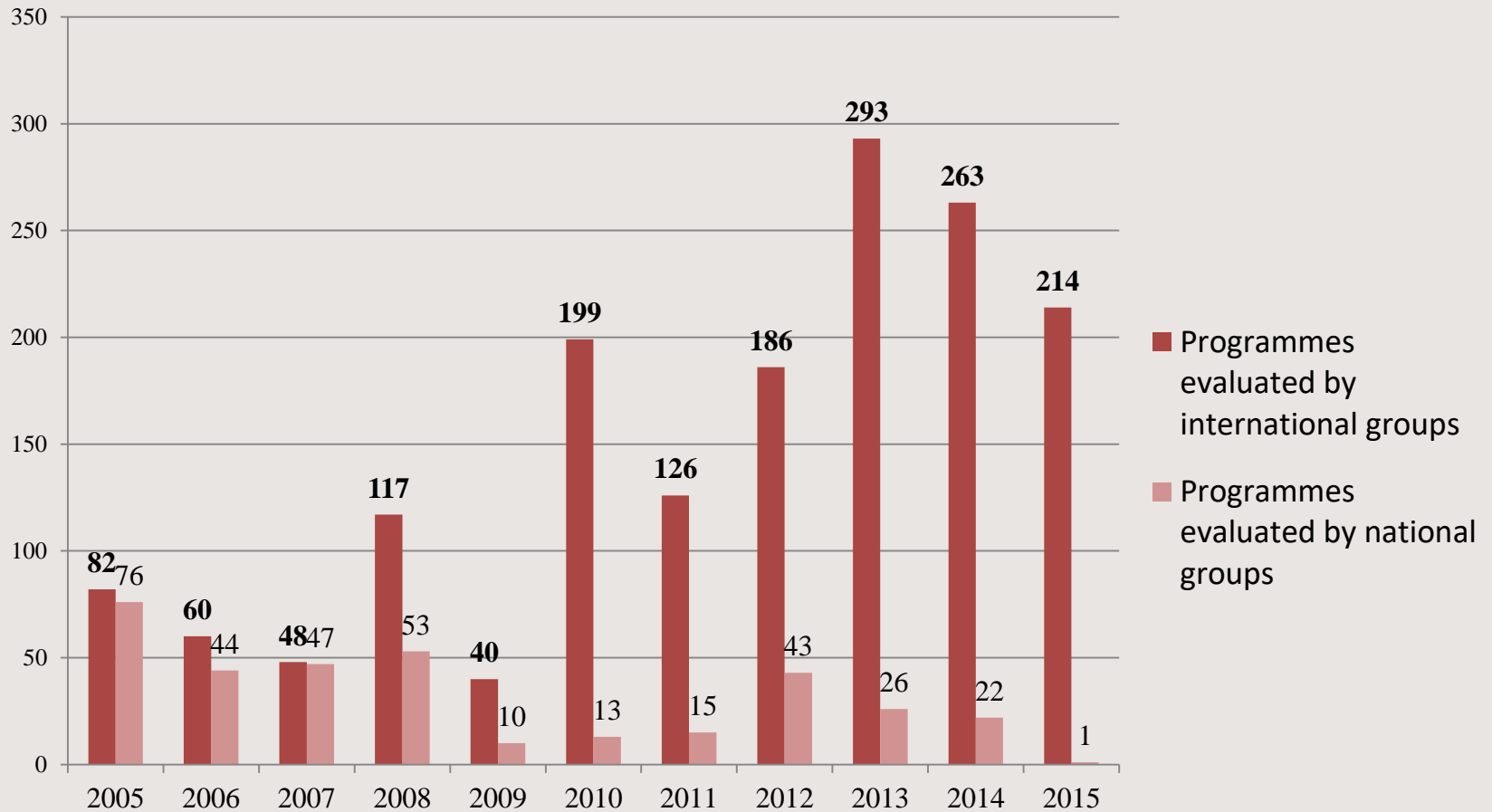
Study programme evaluation (from 1998):

- International experts - from 2002

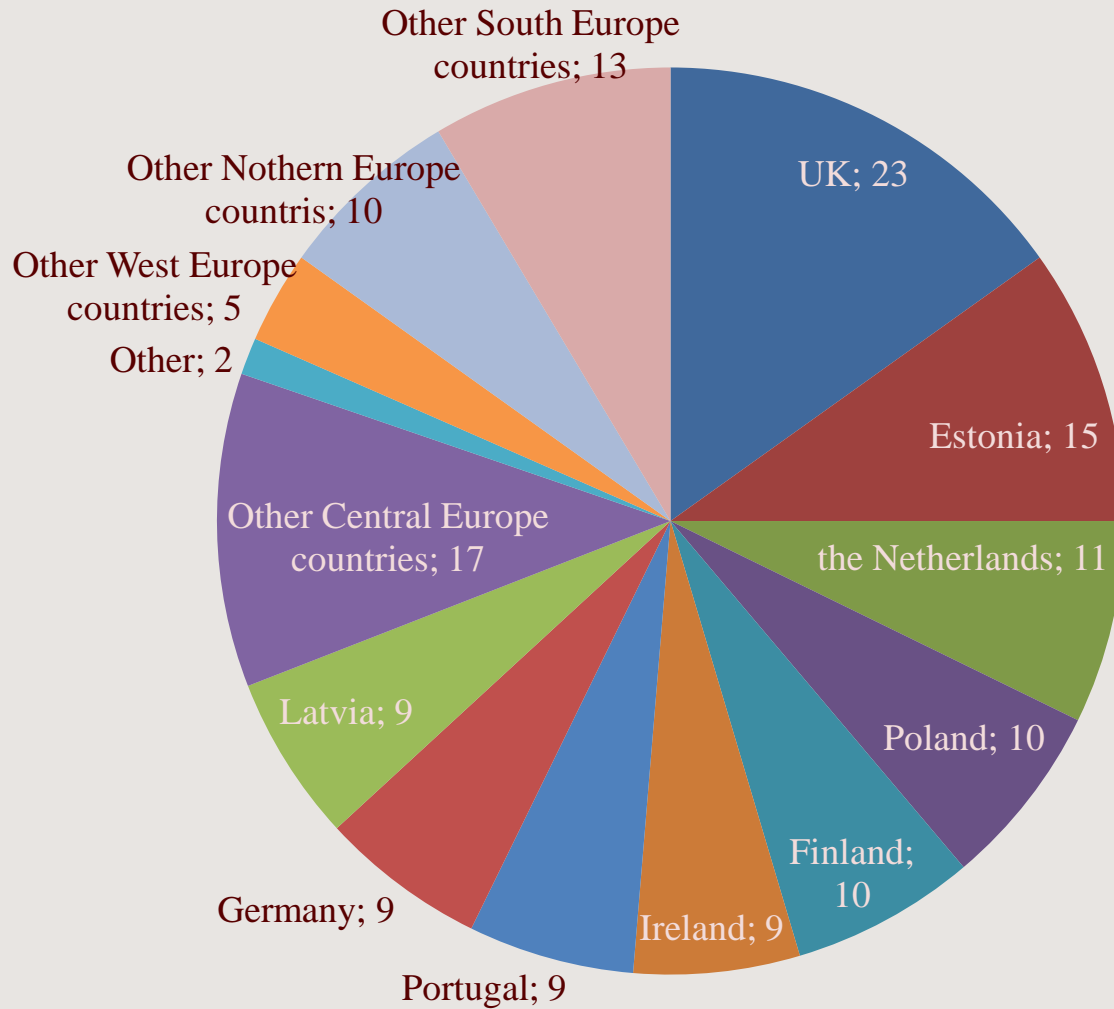
Institutional review (from 2011):

- International experts - from the beginning

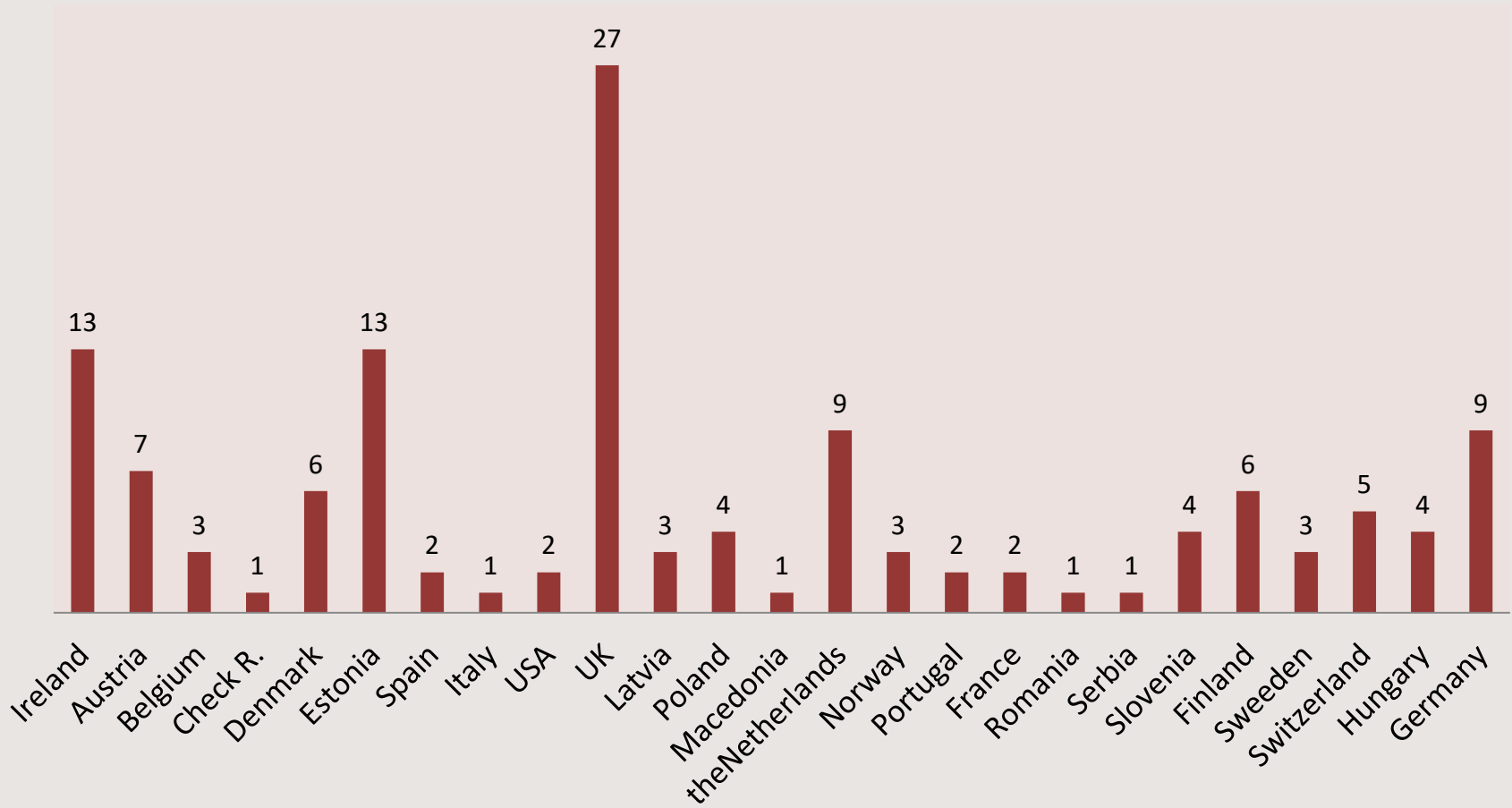
Number of evaluations by international/national experts' groups



Countries of experts (programme evaluation 2016)



Countries of experts (Institutional review 2011-2016)



Academic ethics and Quality Assurance

Honest
striving for
knowledge

Unpolluted
space for
materealization
of talent

Respect to
colleagues

Respectable
and honest
behaviour of
lecturers and
students

Mutual
respect
between
students and
lecturers

Culture

Academic
freedom and
opportunity to
express ideas

Paper work
(cribed from
other sources)

Honesty

Irreproachable
character of
those involved
in academic
activity

Anti-
plagiarism

Somewhere
far away

Academic ethics is an umbrella concept which encompasses many issues



- **Individual level** (academic integrity, the need to maintain a culture of honesty in all aspects of teaching and research)
- **Institutional level** (the nature of a university, how it is affected)

- Davis (1993) quoted surveys indicating that between 40 and 70 per cent of all students have reported cheating at some point in their career;

- Publication of Lithuanian Student union (2014) – survey results and recommendations to HEIs and Student Unions on the tools that could be used for minimizing the dishonest behaviour
- The results of 2017 will be presented in November

10/18/2017



- Education systems can be as corrupt as other parts of government and the economy;
- Higher education can be corrupt through:
 - the illegal procurement of goods and services;
 - cheating in the provision of its normal functions (admissions, grading, graduation, academic products);
 - professional misconduct (favouring of family members, research plagiarism etc);
 - cheating in the paying of taxes and the use of university property.

- If QA is meant to support enhancement of higher education, QA is also a tool for control and accountability
- QA provides public information on the quality of HEIs and their activities
- QA analyses internal processes of HEIs
- QA examines whether HEI has policies and practices to ensure academic integrity

1.1 Policy for Quality Assurance

Standard. Institutions should have a policy for quality assurance that is made public and forms part of their strategic management. Internal stakeholders should develop and implement this policy through appropriate structures and processes, while involving external stakeholders.

1.1 Policy for Quality Assurance

Guidelines:

...Quality assurance policy supports:
- academic integrity and freedom and is vigilant against academic fraud...

- Methodology for Institutional review (2011):

8.2.8. procedures to ensure adherence to academic ethics.

Academic ethincs in QA in Lithuania

- Codex of Academic Ethics of HEI;
- How principles of Academic Ethics are secured;
- What are the procedures for disputes solving.

- Cases investigated by the office of The Ombudsman for Academic Ethics and Procedures

„Integrity within the University is at the heart of the ethical relationship that the professor and university have toward the community and each other. Without personal integrity, trust is absent. Without institutional integrity, we cannot rely on the organization. Without program integrity, the university cannot deliver what it promises. In essence, integrity makes ethics authentic by establishing a climate of trust.”

Calabrese & Barton (2000)



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