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**THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND SPORT OF THE REPUBLIC OF
LITHUANIA
ORDER**

**ON THE APPROVAL OF THE PROCEDURE FOR THE EXTERNAL EVALUATION
AND ACCREDITATION OF STUDIES, EVALUATION AREAS AND INDICATORS**

No. V-835 of 17 July 2019

Vilnius

Having regard to paragraph 5 of Article 48 and paragraph 3 of Article 2 of the Republic of Lithuania Law on Higher Education and Research:

1. I approve the procedure for the external evaluation and accreditation of studies, evaluation areas and indicators (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Procedure’) (attached).

2. I assign the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education the following tasks to be implemented before 31 December 2019:

2.1. to prepare the Methodology for External Evaluation of Study Fields and the Methodology for Evaluation of New Study Programmes, coordinate them with the Ministry of Education, Science and approve them;

2.2. to approve the external evaluation plan of study fields.

Amendments to the paragraph:

No. [V-1535](#) as of 20/12/2019, announced in the Register of Legal Acts on 20/12/2019, identification number 2019-20940

3. I e s t a b l i s h that:

3.1. study fields of all higher education institutions shall be considered accredited until they have been evaluated and accredited in accordance with the procedure established by this Order;

3.2. the procedures for the external evaluation and accreditation of the ongoing studies shall be launched on 1 January 2020 according to the external evaluation plan of study fields approved by the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education;

3.3. the procedures for external evaluation and accreditation of studies commenced prior to the entry into force of this Order shall be completed in accordance with the provisions of legal acts in force prior to the entry into force of this Order;

3.4. The provisions of Chapter VI of the Procedure shall be applied as of 1 January 2025.

3.5. *Repealed on 21/12/2019.*

Repeal of sub-paragraph:

No. [V-1535](#) as of 20/12/2019, announced in the Register of Legal Acts on 20/12/2019, identification number 2019-20940

4. I h e r e b y r e p e a l Order No. ISAK-1652 of the Minister of Education and Science of 24 July 2009 “On the Approval of the Procedure for the External Evaluation and Accreditation of Study Programmes” with all amendments and supplements.

5. Paragraph 4 of this Order shall enter into force on 1 October 2019.

Acting Minister of Education, Science and Sport
Algirdas Monkevičius

APPROVED BY
Order No. V-835 of 17 July 2019
of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport
(Amendment of Order No. V-1535 of 20 December 2019 of the
Minister of Education, Science and Sport)

PROCEDURE FOR THE EXTERNAL EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION OF STUDIES, EVALUATION AREAS AND INDICATORS

CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Procedure for the External Evaluation and Accreditation of Studies (hereinafter referred to as 'the Procedure') shall regulate the objectives and principles of implementation of the external evaluation of higher education institutions established and authorised to conduct studies and activities related to studies in the Republic of Lithuania, as well as higher education institutions in exile (hereinafter referred to as 'higher education institutions'), ongoing studies and new studies conducted the Republic of Lithuania and abroad, the aims of accreditation and the procedure for implementation thereof.

2. The Procedure has been drafted in accordance with the Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania and the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area.

3. The terms used in the Procedure shall be those defined in the Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania.

4. The Procedure shall be applicable to the external evaluation and accreditation of short, first, second cycle, integrated and professional (except residency) higher education field studies (hereinafter referred to as the 'field studies').

Amendments to the paragraph:

No. [V-2284](#) as of 21/12/2021, announced in the Register of Legal Acts on 21/12/2021, identification number 2021-26358

5. The external evaluation and accreditation of the ongoing field studies of a higher education institution shall be performed at least once every 7 years. When implementing the external evaluation and accreditation of the field studies, short cycle, first cycle, second cycle, integrated, professional studies (except residency) of a higher education institution shall be evaluated and accredited separately.

Amendments to the paragraph:

No. [V-2284](#) as of 21/12/2021, announced in the Register of Legal Acts on 21/12/2021, identification number 2021-26358

CHAPTER II EXPERT EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF ONGOING STUDY FIELDS

6. The expert external evaluation of ongoing field studies shall be carried out according to the evaluation areas and indicators defined in Annex 2 to the Procedure (excluding those which are not specific to short cycle studies).

Amendments to the paragraph:

No. [V-2284](#) as of 21/12/2021, announced in the Register of Legal Acts on 21/12/2021, identification number 2021-26358

7. The expert external evaluation of the study field shall be carried out according to the external evaluation plan of study fields approved by the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (hereinafter referred to as 'the Centre') not later than 6 months before the beginning of the external evaluation. All studies of one field conducted in all Lithuanian higher education institutions shall be evaluated at the same time.

8. The expert external evaluation of field studies of a higher education institution shall be carried out by the Centre or by any other higher education quality assessment agency listed in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education or by agencies specified in cross-border contracts (hereinafter referred to as 'the Agency').

9. A higher education institution shall apply to the Centre for evaluation of the field studies in accordance with the procedure established in the Centre's methodology. If a higher education institution seeks to conduct an expert external evaluation of its field studies in the Agency, it shall apply to the Agency in accordance with the procedures laid down by the Agency.

10. The Centre shall conduct the expert external evaluation of field studies in accordance with this Procedure and the methodologies approved by the Centre. The Agency shall carry out the evaluation under the contract with the higher education institution and in accordance with the evaluation procedures and criteria established by the Agency and published on its website. The Agency shall submit the evaluation report to the higher education institution and the Centre. The Agency carrying out the evaluation shall provide the Centre with the possibility to familiarise with the evaluation methodology, the planned procedures to be applied and to monitor the visit of the experts.

11. On the basis of the expert external evaluation of the field studies, a decision on the accreditation of the field studies shall be adopted. The decision on the accreditation of the field studies shall be adopted by the Centre.

12. The expert external evaluation of the field studies shall be carried out in the following stages:

12.1. self-evaluation of the field studies performed by a higher education institution conducting those field studies and preparation of a self-evaluation report in accordance with the requirements specified in the methodology of the Centre (Agency);

12.2. examination of the self-evaluation report of the field studies carried out by an expert team employed by the Centre or the Agency;

12.3. visit of an expert team at a higher education institution conducting the field studies;

12.4. preparation of the evaluation report, discussion in the Centre's advisory Study Evaluation Commission, adoption and public announcement of the decision on the evaluation and accreditation;

12.5. follow-up activities aimed at improving the field studies with regard to the evaluation report and the recommendations provided therein on the improvement of the field, and monitoring.

13. The evaluation report shall provide a general analysis and evaluation of the field studies according to the evaluation areas defined in Annex 2 of the Procedure and the grading scale defined in Annex 3 of the Procedure.

14. The evaluation report performed by the Agency shall include the evaluation of the evaluation areas listed in Annex 2 of the Procedure or their corresponding evaluation areas applied by the Agency according to the grading scale set out in Annex 3 of the Procedure.

15. The deadlines for the expert external evaluation of the field studies, the self-evaluation and the submission of the self-evaluation report shall be governed by the Methodology for External Evaluation of Study Fields approved by the Centre.

CHAPTER III ACCREDITATION OF ONGOING STUDY FIELDS

16. For the accreditation of a study field, a higher education institution must submit to the Centre an application for the evaluation and accreditation of studies of a particular field.

17. Where the external evaluation of the field studies has been carried out by the Agency, the higher education institution shall submit the following to the Centre at least 2 months before the expiry date of the field study accreditation:

17.1. an application for accreditation of the field studies;

17.2. an evaluation report of the field studies evaluation not older than 1 year.

18. The Centre, having received the documents specified in paragraphs 16 and 17 of the Procedure, shall, within 30 calendar days (where the evaluation is performed by the Centre, the term shall be calculated from the date of the dispatch of the decision on the evaluation to the higher education institution), adopt one of the following decisions regarding the accreditation of the ongoing field studies:

18.1. to provide accreditation for the term of 7 years, provided that all the evaluation areas are evaluated with at least 3 points according to the evaluation areas provided in Annex 2 of the Procedure and the grading scale established in Annex 3 of the Procedure;

18.2. to provide accreditation for the term of 3 years, provided that at least one of the evaluation areas is evaluated as “satisfactory” – 2 points according to the evaluation areas provided in Annex 2 of the Procedure and the grading scale set out in Annex 3 of the Procedure. Such a decision to accredit may not be adopted for the second time in succession;

18.3. To provide no accreditation, if at least one of the evaluation areas has been evaluated as “unsatisfactory” – 1 point according to the evaluation areas provided in Annex 2 of the Procedure and the grading scale set out in Annex 3 of the Procedure or when at least one of the evaluation areas has been evaluated as “satisfactory” for the second time in a succession – 2 points according to the evaluation areas provided in Annex 2 of the Procedure and the grading scale set out in Annex 3 of the Procedure, or when it has been determined that the Master degree studies do not meet the threshold evaluation indicator for study fields specified in Chapter VI of the Procedure for the fields of scientific research and experimental development or artistic activities (art) of the University (hereinafter referred to as the ‘threshold evaluation indicator’).

19. The decision on the accreditation of the field studies, based on the Agency’s evaluation report, shall be adopted after the evaluation conclusions are examined by the Study Evaluation Commission and the following is determined:

19.1. the field study evaluation covers all ongoing field and cycle studies conducted by the higher education institution;

19.2. the evaluation has been carried out in accordance with the evaluation areas specified in Annex 2 of this Procedure or their equivalents and the grading scale specified in Annex 3;

19.3. the evaluation report is not older than 1 year;

19.4. the evaluation has been carried out by the Agency;

19.5. the evaluation report is reasonable, comprehensive and objective.

20. If a decision has been adopted to accredit the field studies for a term of 3 years, an expert external re-evaluation of the study field shall be organised not earlier than after 2 years.

21. The expert external re-evaluation of the field studies shall be performed in accordance with the procedure set out in Chapter II of this Procedure.

22. Following the expert external re-evaluation of the field studies, the Centre shall adopt one of the following decisions regarding the accreditation of the ongoing field studies:

22.1. to provide accreditation for the remaining term until the nearest evaluation of the study field in question, but for no more than 4 years, if all evaluation areas are evaluated with at least 3 points– “good” – according to the evaluation areas provided in Annex 2 of the Procedure and the grading scale established in Annex 3 of the Procedure;

Amendments to the paragraph:

No. [V-903](#) as of 15/06/2020, announced in the Register of Legal Acts on 15/06/2020, identification number 2020-13013

22.2. to provide no accreditation if at least one of the evaluation areas has been evaluated as “unsatisfactory” – 1 point or “satisfactory” – 2 points according to the evaluation areas provided in Annex 2 of the Procedure and the grading scale set out in Annex 3 of the Procedure, or when it is established that the Master degree studies do not meet the threshold evaluation indicator specified in Chapter VI of the Procedure.

23. When the decision to provide no accreditation is adopted, the admission of students to such field studies shall not take place.

24. If there are undergraduate students in the field of study for which the decision to provide no accreditation has been adopted, the higher education institution shall, within 2 months (except July and August) as of the date of the decision not to accredit the field study:

24.1. draft a plan for the implementation of means aimed to ensure the completion of quality studies by undergraduate students in the field studies (hereinafter referred to as ‘the plan of means’) (i.e. specify the means which the higher education institution will take to remedy the fundamental shortcomings of the field studies). The plan of means shall also include suggestions for further study opportunities for undergraduate students, which must be harmonised with the students’ representation;

24.2. submit to the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Ministry’) the plan of means and to inform the Ministry about the number of students studying in this field.

25. The plan of means of the higher education institution shall be considered by a commission including representatives of the Ministry, representatives of Lithuanian higher education institutions and students’ representations, social partners of higher education institutions, which shall, within 3 months after the day of receipt of the plan of means, submit proposals to the Minister of Education, Science and Sport regarding further study opportunities for undergraduate students. The Minister of Education, Science and Sport shall decide on the possibilities for further studies of students studying in a higher education institution. The Ministry shall inform the Centre and the higher education institution of the decision adopted. Subject to the decision of the Minister for Education, Science and Sport, the Centre shall decide on the extension of the term for accreditation of the field studies and the duration of the accreditation term.

26. The term of accreditation of the field studies may be extended without an evaluation procedure when:

26.1. all studies in a particular field are completed, i.e. no new students are admitted or intended to be admitted, and the accreditation term for the study field expires before the field study programmes in question are completed by the last admitted graduates, but not for more than 5 years;

Amendments to the paragraph:

No. [V-903](#) as of 15/06/2020, announced in the Register of Legal Acts on 15/06/2020, identification number 2020-13013

26.2. after the evaluation is performed, the decision not to accredit the field studies is adopted, however, in accordance with the decision of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport regarding further study possibilities for undergraduate students, it is necessary to extend the accreditation term for the field studies until the field studies are completed by all students admitted before the decision not to accredit the field studies was adopted, but for the period not exceeding 5 years;

26.3. it is necessary for completion of the statutory procedures for the evaluation and possible appeal against the evaluation results, but for the period not exceeding 6 months;

26.4. those field studies were commenced, upon a registration of a new study programme, at least three years before the evaluation of the studies in the relevant field.

Amendments to the paragraph:

No. [V-903](#) as of 15/06/2020, announced in the Register of Legal Acts on 15/06/2020, identification number 2020-13013

27. The Centre, which has adopted a decision to accredit or not to accredit the field studies, shall, within 3 working days as of the effective date of the decision, enter the accreditation data into the Register of Studies, Learning Programmes and Qualifications (hereinafter referred to as 'the Register') approved by the Minister of Education, Science and Sport under the procedure specified in the Procedure of Registration in the Register of Studies, Learning Programmes and Qualifications.

CHAPTER IV EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION OF NEW STUDIES

28. New study programmes shall be registered in the Register before they are launched.

29. New study programmes shall be registered in the Register after they are evaluated in accordance with the procedure established by the higher education institution in cases when the new study programme, which the higher education institution intends to carry out, is in the same field and cycle, which is accredited in accordance with paragraph 18.1 of the Procedure. The higher education institution shall send the data of registration of the new study programme and the data of the study programme to the Centre. The Centre shall forward the data of the new study programme to the Register in accordance with the procedure established in the evaluation methodology.

30. Where a higher education institution intends to carry out studies of a field and cycle not accredited in accordance with sub-paragraph 18.1 of the Procedure, or it is not conducting studies of that field or cycle, the new study programme (field) may be registered in the Register only after an expert external evaluation of it is conducted and the Centre adopts a decision to evaluate this programme positively. A higher education institution which does not carry out studies in this field and cycle may submit only one study programme in the same field and cycle for the

external evaluation. Short-cycle study programmes may be launched if the college runs collegiate studies in the relevant field of study.

Amendments to the paragraph:

No. [V-2284](#) as of 21/12/2021, announced in the Register of Legal Acts on 21/12/2021, identification number 2021-26358

31. New joint study programmes may be evaluated according to the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes. Upon entry into force of provisions of Chapter VI, prior to the evaluation of the Master degree joint programme, it shall be determined whether the level of the scientific (artistic) activity of the university in the field (according to the correspondences of study and science fields set out in Annex 6 of the Procedure) corresponds to the threshold evaluation indicator set out in Annex 1 of the Procedure.

Amendments to the paragraph:

No. [V-903](#) as of 15/06/2020, announced in the Register of Legal Acts on 15/06/2020, identification number 2020-13013

32. The expert external evaluation of the new study programme (field) shall be performed in accordance with the evaluation areas and indicators specified in Annex 2 of this Procedure (excluding those which are not characteristic (cannot be evaluated) in case of a new programme (field) or in case of short cycle study programmes).

Amendments to the paragraph:

No. [V-2284](#) as of 21/12/2021, announced in the Register of Legal Acts on 21/12/2021, identification number 2021-26358

33. A higher education institution intending to carry out a new study programme (field) shall, in the case specified in paragraph 30 of the Procedure, submit to the Centre:

33.1. an application for evaluation of the study programme (if the higher education institution does not carry out accredited studies in the respective field, the application for the accreditation of studies in the respective field shall also be submitted);

33.2. the description of the new study programme drafted in accordance with the procedure established in the methodology approved by the Centre.

34. The procedure for expert external evaluation of the new study programme (field) is performed in the following stages:

34.1. submission of the description of the new study programme (field) to the Centre and evaluation of its compliance with the provisions of the Centre's methodology;

34.2. assembling of an expert team and examination of the programme (field) description;

34.3. visit of an expert team at a higher education institution intending to carry out a study programme (field);

34.4. preparation of the evaluation report of the new study programme (field), discussion in the Study Evaluation Commission, adoption of the decision on the evaluation and public announcement thereof;

34.5. follow-up activities aimed at improving the studies of the study programme (field), taking into account the evaluation report and recommendations for study improvement submitted therein, and monitoring.

35. The higher education institution shall apply to the Agency for the expert external evaluation of the new study programme (field) in accordance with the procedure established by the Agency.

36. After examining the evaluation report drawn up by the experts, the Centre shall take one of the following decisions:

36.1. to evaluate the study programme (field) positively, if not more than one of the evaluation areas of the new study programme provided in Annex 2 of the Procedure is evaluated not less than “satisfactory” – 2 points according to the grading scale specified in Annex 3 to this Procedure;

36.2. to evaluate the study programme (field) negatively, if at least one of the evaluation areas of the study programme provided in Annex 2 of the Procedure is evaluated as “unsatisfactory” – 1 point – or at least two evaluation areas are evaluated as “satisfactory” – 2 points according to the grading scale specified in Annex 3 of the Procedure.

37. Where the higher education institution does not carry out accredited studies in the respective field and the new study programme is evaluated positively, the studies of the respective field are accredited for the period up to the nearest planned evaluation of studies in the respective field in other higher education institutions. If the studies of the relevant field or cycle are not carried out in other higher education institutions, the new field studies of the higher education institution are accredited for 3 years.

38. The Centre, having adopted the decision referred to in paragraph 36.1 of the Procedure, shall submit the data of the new study programme to the Registrar within 3 working days after the decision is adopted.

39. Where an expert external evaluation of the new study programme has been carried out by the Agency, the higher education institution shall submit to the Centre:

39.1. an application for the registration of a study programme if the higher education institution is carrying out studies in the relevant field, or an application for the registration of a study programme and the accreditation of field studies if the higher education institution is not carrying out studies in the relevant field;

39.2. the evaluation report of the expert external evaluation of the new study programme together with the evaluation points under the evaluation areas specified in Annex 2 of this Procedure and the grading scale specified in Annex 3 of the Procedure. If the evaluation report of the expert external evaluation of the new study programme has been drafted in a language other than the official language, a translation of the evaluation report of the expert external evaluation into the state language confirmed under the statutory procedure shall be submitted to the Centre;

39.3. data required by legal acts necessary for the registration of the new study programme in the Register.

40. Upon adopting the decision provided for in sub-paragraph 36.2 of the Procedure, the higher education institution may submit another new study programme of the same field and cycle for evaluation not earlier than one year after the decision on negative evaluation of the new study programme specified in sub-paragraph 36.2 of the Procedure was adopted.

41. After adopting the decision referred to in sub-paragraph 36.1 of the Procedure regarding the new study programme, which is the only study programme of the higher education institution in the respective study field, the higher education institution shall not submit new study programmes of the same field and cycle within the period of accreditation validity. In this case, the Centre shall adopt a decision regarding the accreditation of the newly started field and cycle studies in accordance with the procedure established in this Procedure.

42. Where, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter II of the Procedure, the decision is adopted in accordance with sub-paragraph 18.3 of the Procedure not to accredit the ongoing field

studies, the new study programme of the relevant field may be submitted for evaluation not earlier than one year after the effective date of the decision specified in sub-paragraph 18.3 of the Procedure.

43. In case of a positive evaluation of the new study programme, the follow-up activities shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure laid down in Chapter V of the Procedure.

44. When a higher education institution intends to start a registered programme of the accredited field in a subdivision located in another municipality (except in the case of city and district municipalities of the same name) and those field or cycle studies are not accredited following provisions of sub-paragraph 18.1 of the Procedure, it must provide a description of the programme in accordance with the procedure specified in the Centre's methodology. The programme description is evaluated according to the grading scale provided in Annex 3 of the Procedure and the following evaluation areas and indicators defined in Annex 2 of the Procedure: student admission and support, student performance and graduate employment, teacher research and/or artistic and didactic activities, learning facilities and resources, internal evaluation, development and publicity of studies. If the field of study or level of study has been accredited in accordance with Sub-paragraph 18.1 of the Procedure, the higher education institution shall submit the information on the study programme to be carried out in a unit located in the territory of another municipality (except for the municipalities of the city and the district of the same name) to the Registry and the Centre.

Amendments to the paragraph:

No. [V-903](#) as of 15/06/2020, announced in the Register of Legal Acts on 15/06/2020, identification number 2020-13013
No. V-1126 as of 03/08/2020, announced in the Register of Legal Acts on 03/08/2020, identification number 2020-16827

44¹. When a higher education institution intends to launch a registered study programme of an accredited field of study in a foreign branch, it shall submit a programme description in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Centre's methodology. The programme description shall be evaluated in accordance with the procedure set out in points 34 and 36 of the Procedure in accordance with the evaluation scale set out in Annex 3 and the evaluation domains and indicators set out in Annex 2 to the Regulations.

Paragraph added:

No V-903, 15 June 2020, published in the TAR on 15 June 2020, identification number 2020-13013

Amendments to paragraph:

No V-1126, 03.08.2020, published in the TAR on 03.08.2020, identification number 2020-16827

CHAPTER V FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES AND MONITORING

45. Following the entry into force of the Centre's decision on the accreditation of field studies, follow-up activities are commenced.

46. Follow-up activities include a set of actions and means as well as annual monitoring of the indicators of the field studies and are intended to implement the recommendations made during the evaluation, to improve the quality of studies, and to ensure that the shortcomings identified during the evaluation are eliminated.

47. Follow-up activities shall be carried out in the following stages:

47.1. provision of improvement means – having received the Centre’s decision shall provide for the means of development of the field studies according to the recommendations provided in the evaluation report;

47.2. implementation of the planned means – the higher education institution shall implement the planned means of improvement of the field studies;

47.3. monitoring of the implementation of the means – – the Centre shall monitor the improvement of the field studies and the implementation of the recommendations.

48. The Centre shall annually monitor the indicators of the field studies set out in Annex 4 and described in Annex 5 of this Procedure. The Centre shall publish the monitoring indicator data for each study field (by cycle) on its website and submit it to the Ministry.

49. The Centre shall conduct the annual monitoring of indicators (by study year) in the first quarter of each year. After analysing the data and finding a significant change (at least 30% or more) in the monitoring indicators of at least three study fields within the institution over the past 3 years, the Centre may, after examining the explanation of the higher education institution regarding the changes, submit to the Ministry a proposal regarding the initiation of an extraordinary expert external evaluation of the study field, which shall be carried out in accordance with the procedure set forth in Chapter II of this Procedure. The Minister of Education, Science and Sport shall decide on the extraordinary evaluation.

CHAPTER VI

EVALUATION OF FIELD STUDIES BY THE THRESHOLD EVALUATION INDICATOR

50. Upon entry into force of the provisions of this Chapter, prior to the commencement of the expert external evaluation of the ongoing study fields, Master degree study fields (except General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy study programmes) shall be evaluated according to the threshold evaluation indicator (according to the correspondences of study and science (art) fields set out in Annex 6 of the Procedure).

51. The description of the threshold evaluation indicator is provided in Annex 1 of the Procedure.

52. The Centre shall analyse the Master degree studies carried out at universities according to the threshold evaluation indicator at least 15 months prior to the completion of the accreditation of the field studies and inform the university thereof, indicating whether the Master degree studies meet the established threshold evaluation indicator and an expert external evaluation of the ongoing Master degree study field can be initiated.

53. The Centre shall announce on its website the results of the evaluation of the Master degree study field according to the threshold evaluation indicator.

54. The expert external evaluation of the Master degree study shall be commenced only after it has been determined that the field studies conducted by the university meet the threshold evaluation indicator. If the Master degree studies do not meet the threshold evaluation indicator, these studies shall not be evaluated and a decision not to accredit shall be adopted. The decision on the students enrolled in these Master degree studies shall be adopted in accordance with the procedure laid down in paragraph 25 of the Procedure.

55. Where the new Master degree study programme can be registered in accordance with paragraph 30 of the Procedure, it shall be first established whether the new study field meets the prescribed threshold evaluation indicator. Having established that the new Master degree study field

meets the established threshold evaluation indicator, an external expert evaluation of the new study programme (field) shall be launched.

CHAPTER VIII FINAL PROVISIONS

56. The Ministry may initiate an extraordinary evaluation of studies of the accredited field before the expiry of the accreditation term for studies in this field when it receives information about non-compliance of the ongoing studies with the legal requirements.

57. Appeals against evaluation shall be dealt with in accordance with the procedures laid down by the Centre or the Agency.

58. The higher education institution and the Centre which has carried out the evaluation shall, not later than within one month after the effective date of the decision on accreditation of the study field, announce on its website all the evaluation reports of the performed external evaluation and the decision on the accreditation of the study field.

DESCRIPTION OF THE THRESHOLD EVALUATION INDICATOR FOR STUDY FIELDS

Name of the indicator	The level of an ongoing university research and experimental development or artistic activity in the field of science (art)
Scope	The five best research and development or art works of the science (art) field of the last three years, which are used to identify the level of research and experimental development or art activities in the respective field of science (art)
Calculation method	<p>The indicator is calculated by using the total weighted estimates of the expert evaluation of five best scientific (artistic) works in the last three years, implemented under the procedure established by the Research Council of Lithuania.</p> <p>Where the study field is related to more than one field of science (art) (according to the correspondences of fields of science (art) and study fields presented in Annex 6 of this Procedure), estimates of all fields of science (art) are used.</p>
Significance	<p>Not less than 3 points in the relevant science (art) field (s). If the study field is related to more than one field of science (art), the evaluation of science (art) must be at least 3 points in at least one field.</p> <p>For higher education institutions in exile, the evaluation of the field (s) of science (art) must be at least 2 points, and this evaluation must be achieved no later than 3 years after the commencement of the field studies.</p>
Data source	Data of the Research Council of Lithuania.
The reference period	Data for the last three years.

EVALUATION AREAS AND INDICATORS OF FIELD STUDIES

<i>Evaluation area</i>	<i>Aims</i>	<i>Indicators</i>
1. Study aims, outcomes and content	<p>1.1. Field studies are based on the needs of the country's economy and the needs of the society as well as the strategy of the higher education institution.</p> <p>1.2. Field studies comply with legal requirements, while the curriculum design, content, teaching/learning and assessment methods enable students to achieve study aims and outcomes.</p>	<p>1.1.1. Evaluation of the conformity of the aims and outcomes of the field and cycle study programmes to the needs of the society and/or the labour market (not applicable to the higher education institutions in exile).</p> <p>1.1.2. Evaluation of the conformity of the field and cycle study programmes aims and outcomes with the mission, objectives of activities and strategy of the higher education institution.</p> <p>1.2.1. Evaluation of the compliance of the field and cycle study programmes with legal requirements.</p> <p>1.2.2. Evaluation of compatibility of aims, learning outcomes, teaching/learning and assessment methods of the field and cycle study programmes.</p> <p>1.2.3. Evaluation of the totality of the field and cycle study programme subjects/modules, which ensures consistent development of competences of students.</p> <p>1.2.4. Evaluation of opportunities for students to personalise the structure of field study programmes according to their personal learning objectives and intended learning outcomes.</p> <p>1.2.5. Evaluation of compliance of final theses with field and cycle requirements (not applicable in case of the new study programmes).</p>
2. Links between science (art) and study activities	<p>2.1. The field studies integrate the latest achievements of science (art) and/or technology and create conditions for the development of students' abilities to perform science (art).</p>	<p>2.1.1. Evaluation of the sufficiency of the science (applied science, art) activities implemented by the higher education institution for the field of research (art) related to the field of study.</p> <p>2.1.2. Evaluation of the link between the content of studies and the latest developments in science, art and technology.</p> <p>2.1.3. Evaluation of conditions for students to get involved in scientific (applied science, art) activities consistent with their study cycle (not applicable to new study programmes).</p>

3. Student admission and support	<p>3.1. The process of student selection and admission is consistent with the aims of the field studies and the outcomes of studies.</p> <p>3.2. There is an effective student support system in the study field enabling them to achieve maximum learning progress.</p>	<p>3.1.1. Evaluation of the suitability and publicity of student selection and admission criteria and process.</p> <p>3.1.2. Evaluation of the procedure of recognition of foreign qualifications, partial studies and prior non-formal and informal learning and its application.</p> <p>3.2.1. Evaluation of conditions for ensuring academic mobility of students (not applicable to the new study programmes).</p> <p>3.2.2. Evaluation of the suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the academic, financial, social, psychological and personal support provided to the students of the field.</p> <p>3.2.3. Evaluation of the sufficiency of study information and student counselling.</p>
4. Studying, student performance and graduate employment	<p>4.1. Field studies prepare students for independent professional activities.</p> <p>4.2. There is an effective and transparent system of student performance assessment, progress monitoring and academic integrity assurance in the study field.</p>	<p>4.1.1. Evaluation of the teaching and learning process that enables to take into account the needs of the students and enable them to achieve the intended learning outcomes.</p> <p>4.1.2. Evaluation of conditions ensuring access to study for socially vulnerable groups and students with special needs.</p> <p>4.2.1. Evaluation of the systematic nature of the monitoring of student study progress (not applicable to the new study programmes).</p> <p>4.2.2. Evaluation of the feedback provided to students in the course of the studies to promote self-assessment and subsequent planning of study (not applicable to the new study programmes).</p> <p>4.2.3. Evaluation of employability of graduates and graduate career tracking in the study field (not applicable to the new study programmes).</p> <p>4.2.4. Evaluation of the implementation of policies to ensure academic integrity, tolerance and non-discrimination.</p> <p>4.2.5. Evaluation of the effectiveness of the application of procedures for the submission and examination of appeals and complaints regarding the study process within the field studies.</p>
5. Teaching staff	<p>5.1. The academic staff of the field studies is suitable to ensure the achievement of the</p>	<p>5.1.1. Evaluation of the adequacy of the number, qualification and competence (scientific, didactic, professional) of teaching staff within a field study programme(s) at the higher education institution in order to achieve the learning outcomes.</p>

	<p>learning outcomes of the field study programmes.</p> <p>5.2. Teaching staff of the study field are provided with conditions for the development of competences, which are evaluated periodically.</p>	<p>5.2.1. Evaluation of conditions for ensuring teaching staffs' academic mobility (not applicable to studies carried out by higher education institutions operating under the conditions of exile).</p> <p>5.2.2. Evaluation of the conditions to improve the competences of the teaching staff.</p>
6. Learning facilities and resources	<p>6.1. The physical, informational and financial resources of the field studies are adequate and allow to achieve the intended learning outcomes.</p>	<p>6.1.1. Evaluation of the suitability and adequacy of the physical, informational and financial resources of the field studies to ensure an effective learning process.</p> <p>6.1.2. Evaluation of the planning and upgrading of resources needed to carry out the field studies.</p>
7. Study quality management and publicity	<p>7.1. The development of field studies is based on an internal quality assurance system involving all stakeholders and continuous monitoring and publicity.</p>	<p>7.1.1. Evaluation of the effectiveness of the internal quality assurance system of the studies.</p> <p>7.1.2. Evaluation of the effectiveness of the involvement of stakeholders (students and other stakeholders) in internal quality assurance.</p> <p>7.1.3. Evaluation of the collection, use and publication of information on studies, their evaluation and improvement processes and outcomes(not applicable to the new study programmes).</p> <p>7.1.4. Evaluation of the opinion of the field students (collected in the ways and by the means chosen by the Centre or the higher education institution) about the quality of the studies at the higher education institution.</p>

GRADING SCALE OF EVALUATION AREAS OF FIELD STUDIES

Points	Evaluation	Description
5	Exceptional quality	The area is evaluated exceptionally well in the national context and internationally.
4	Very good	The area is evaluated very well in the national context and internationally, without any shortcomings.
3	Good	The area is being developed systematically, without any fundamental shortcomings.
2	Satisfactory	The area meets the minimum requirements, and there are fundamental shortcomings that need to be eliminated.
1	Unsatisfactory	The area does not meet the minimum requirements, there are fundamental shortcomings that prevent the implementation of the field studies.

ANNUAL FIELD STUDY MONITORING INDICATORS

1. The number of field and cycle students in the last 3 years.
 2. The minimum entry score for students enrolled to first cycle and integrated studies who have signed a study contract, except for those who were exempt from school leaving examinations due to illness in the last 3 years.
 3. The share (%) of students enrolled to the field and cycle studies who terminated their studies during the first year of studies in the last 3 years (annually) according to the circumstances of termination of studies.
 4. The share (%) of students who completed their field and cycle studies on time in the last 3 years.
 5. The share (%) of students enrolled in part-time studies abroad (at least 15 credits) of the total number of students enrolled in field and cycle studies of that higher education institution for the last 3 years (annually) (not applicable to higher education institutions in exile).
 6. The share (%) of outgoing teachers carrying out research in foreign research and higher education institutions in the last 3 years from the total number of teachers. Data are provided for each study year separately.
 7. The share (%) of graduates of field studies working in 1–3 (for professional bachelors, bachelors) or 1–2 (graduates from Master degree studies, professional studies) main groups of the Lithuanian Classification of Occupations 12 months after graduation, also self-employed graduates of the total number all field and cycle study graduates who do not study further (not applicable to higher education institutions in exile).
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DESCRIPTIONS OF ANNUAL FIELD STUDY MONITORING INDICATORS

	1. Number of students enrolled and studying in the field and cycle studies in the last 3 years.
Scope	All field and cycle students of the higher education institution are evaluated.
Calculation method	The indicator is calculated by taking the number of students admitted to the field and cycle studies of the higher education institution and studying in these studies. Data are calculated separately by study field, study cycle and the type of the higher education institution (university, college). For the purpose of the indicator calculation, the numbers of part-time and full-time students are added together.
Significance	Change in the number of students enrolled in the field and cycle studies (%).
Data source	Student register
Reference period	Data as of October 1 of the calendar year for the last 3 years (annually).
Indicator	2. The minimum entry score for students enrolled to first cycle and integrated studies who have signed a study contract, except for those who were exempt from all school leaving examinations due to illness.
Scope	The entry scores of students enrolled to first cycle and integrated studies who have signed a study contract, except for those who were exempt from school leaving examinations due to illness.
Calculation method	In calculating the indicator, the lowest entry score calculated according to the procedure established by the Minister of Education, Science and Sport is taken. Data are calculated separately by study field and the type of the higher education institution (university, college). For the purpose of the indicator calculation, the numbers of part-time and full-time students are added together.
Significance	Change in the minimum entry score of students admitted to the first cycle and integrated studies, who signed a study contract (%).
Data source	Lithuania's association of higher education institutions for the organisation of general admission (LAMA BPO) Student register.
Reference period	Data as of October 1 of the calendar year (annually).
Indicator	3. The share (%) of students enrolled to the field and cycle studies who terminated these studies during the first year of studies in the last 3 years (annually) according to the circumstances of the termination of studies.
Scope	All students admitted to the evaluated field and cycle studies, who signed a

	study contract.
Calculation method	The indicator is calculated by taking into account the number of students who were enrolled to the studies of the study field and cycle and signed study contracts and the number of students who terminated the studies or were expelled from the higher education institution during the first year of studies. The latter component is divided by the total number of students who were enrolled and signed study contracts, and converted into a percentage. This indicator is calculated based on the data of the last 3 years (annually). The data for full-time and part-time studies are calculated collectively. The data are calculated separately according to the higher education institution, study field, cycle of studies and the circumstances of termination of studies.
Significance	The change in the number of students who were admitted to the field and cycle studies and terminated the studies in the first year of studies in the last 3 years (annually) (%).
Data source	Student register.
The reference period	Data as of October 1 of the calendar year for the last 3 years (annually).
Indicator	4. The share (%) of students, who completed the field and cycle studies on time.
Scope	All students in the evaluated study field and cycle.
Calculation method	When calculating the indicator, all students of the evaluated field and cycle are included. Students who completed their studies on time are grouped out. The share (%) of these students from the total number of students of this field and cycle is determined. Part-time and full-time students are counted collectively.
Significance	Change in the share of students who completed their studies on time from the total number of students studying in the evaluated field (%).
Data source	Student register.
Reference period	Data as of October 1 of the calendar year for the last 3 years (annually).
Indicator	5. The share (%) of students who left for part-time (at least 15 credits) studies abroad of the total number of students enrolled in the field studies for the last 3 years (annually).
Scope	All students in the evaluated study field and cycle.
Calculation method	When calculating the indicator, all students of the evaluated field and cycle are included. Students who have left for part-time studies (at least 15 credits) are grouped out. When calculating the indicator, the share (%) of these students from the total number of students of this field and cycle is determined. The data are calculated separately according to the field of studies and the cycle of studies.
Significance	Change in the number of students who left for part-time (at least 15 credits) studies abroad from the total number of students enrolled in the evaluated field.

Data source	Student register.
The reference period	Data as of October 1 of the calendar year for the last 3 years (annually).
Indicator	6. The share (%) of outgoing teachers carrying out research in foreign higher education institutions during the last 3 years from the total number of subject teachers of the field studies.
Scope	All teachers of the evaluated study field and cycle.
Calculation method	The indicator is calculated by including all teachers teaching study subjects of the evaluated field and cycle and excluding those who went to foreign higher education institutions in the last 3 years, and determining their share (%). Teachers teaching remotely and doing research at foreign higher education institutions are not included. Data are provided for each study year separately.
Significance	Changes in the share of field study outgoing teachers in foreign higher education institutions in the last 3 years (%).
Data source	Teacher register; Education Exchanges Support Foundation.
Reference period	Data as of October 1 of the calendar year for the last 3 years (annually).
Indicator	7. The share (%) of graduates of field studies working in 1–3 (for professional bachelors, bachelors) or 1–2 (graduates from Master degree studies and professional studies) in the main groups of the Lithuanian Classification of Occupations within 12 months after graduation, and self-employed graduates from the total number of all field and cycle study graduates who do not study further.
Scope	All graduates of the evaluated study field and cycle, who completed their studies and who do not continue their studies.
Calculation method	When calculating the indicator all graduates of the evaluated study field and cycle who completed their studies within the last 3 years and do not continue their studies are included, and graduates who have been employed in the main groups defined in Lithuanian Classification of Occupations (1–3 groups for professional bachelors, bachelors and 1–2 groups for graduates from Master degree studies, professional studies), as well as those who started self-employment within 12 months after graduation, determining their share (%). This indicator is based on the last 3 years' data (annually). The data are calculated separately according to the field of studies and the cycle of studies. Part-time and full-time graduates are counted collectively.
Significance	Changes in the share of graduates from the evaluated field and cycle studies who have been employed in the main groups established by the Lithuanian Classification of Occupations and who have started self-employment within 12 months after graduation (%).
Data source	Education Management Information System, Student Register.

Reference period	Data as of October 1 of the calendar year for the last 3 years (annually).
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Amendments to Annexes:

Interface 2019 final according to V-1535

Amendments to the Annex

No. [V-1535](#) as of 20/12/2019, announced in the Register of Legal Acts on 20/12/2019, identification number 2019-20940

Amendments:

1.

Order No. [V-1535](#) of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania,

20/12/2019, announced in the Register of Legal Acts on 20/12/2019, identification number 2019-20940

On the amendment of Order No. V-835 “On the approval of the procedure for the external evaluation and accreditation of studies, evaluation areas and indicators” of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport as of 17 July 2019