



GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

RESOLUTION

AMENDING RESOLUTION NO 149 OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA OF 1 MARCH 2017 ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAW ON HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA

12 February 2020, No. 113
Vilnius

The Government of the Republic of Lithuania *r e s o l v e s*:

To amend Resolution No 149 of the Government of the Republic of Lithuania of 1 March 2017 on the implementation of the Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania:

1. To amend the preamble and to read as follows:

Pursuant to Paragraph 1 of Article 42, Paragraph 1 of Article 44, Paragraph 2 of Article 49, Paragraph 10 of Article 52, Paragraphs 8 and 13 of Article 53, Paragraph 3 of Article 54, Paragraphs 2,3, and 4 of Article 75, Paragraphs 7, 13 and 14 of Article 77, Paragraph 1 of Article 79, Paragraphs 4, 5, 51 and 9 of Article 82 and Paragraphs 4 and 6 of Article 83 of the Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania, the Government of the Republic of Lithuania *r e s o l v e s*;

2. To supplement with sub-clause 3.17:

‘3.17. Description of the procedure for the external evaluation of higher education institutions operating in exile conditions‘.

Prime Minister

Saulius Svernelis

Minister for Education, Science and Sport

Algirdas Monkevičius

APPROVED BY
Resolution No 149
of the Government of the Republic of
Lithuania of 1 March 2017
(version of Resolution No 113
of the Government of the Republic of
Lithuania of 12 February 2020)

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROCEDURE FOR THE EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS OPERATING IN EXILE CONDITIONS

SECTION I GENERAL PROVISIONS

1. The Description (hereinafter referred to as the 'Description') of the Procedure for the External Evaluation of Higher Education Institutions Operating in Exile Conditions (hereinafter referred to as 'the Higher Education Institution in Exile') governs the procedure for executing external evaluation of activities carried out by higher education institutions in exile (hereinafter referred to as 'external evaluation'), areas of evaluation and indicators.

2. The Description has been drawn up in accordance with the Law on Higher Education and Research of the Republic of Lithuania and the provisions and guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area.

3. The external evaluation shall be initiated by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania. The external evaluation shall be carried out at least once every seven years.

SECTION II EXTERNAL EVALUATION OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN EXILE

4. The external evaluation shall be organised by the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher education (hereinafter referred to as the Centre) in accordance with the Law on Higher Education and Research, this Description and the Methodology for Conducting Institutional Review of a Higher Education Institution in Exile (hereinafter referred to as 'the Institutional Review Methodology') harmonised with the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, approved by the Director of the Centre and other legal acts regulating the activities of higher education institutions.

5. The external evaluation shall be carried out in accordance with the areas under evaluation and indicators set out in Paragraph 10 of the Description. The external evaluation may not take more than six months from the submission of the self-evaluation report of the higher education institution in exile to the Centre.

6. The external evaluation shall be performed in the following steps:

6.1. Submission of self-evaluation report to the Centre prepared by the higher education institution in exile;

6.2. Formation of an expert group and examining the self-evaluation report;

6.3. Visit of the expert group to a higher education institution in the exile;

6.4. Preparation and publication of the findings of the external evaluation;

6.5. Follow-up activities to improve the functioning of a higher education institution in exile, considering the findings of the external evaluation.

7. The Centre shall publish the deadlines for submitting self-evaluation reports of higher education institutions in exile to the Centre at least twelve months before the start of the external evaluation.

8. The form of the self-evaluation (a document containing the aggregated results of the self-evaluation) shall be established in the Institutional Review Methodology.

9. A higher education institution in exile shall create conditions for external evaluation as follows:

9.1. Shall organise meetings of an expert group set up by the Centre with the administration of the higher education institution in exile, compilers of the self-evaluation report, teaching staff, students and review of the material resources used;

9.2. At the request of the Centre, shall present additional documents and other information required for external evaluation.

10. During the external evaluation, the activities of the higher education institution in exile shall be assessed on the basis of the following areas under evaluation and indicators:

10.1. Governance:

10.1.1. Compliance of the strategic activity plan of a higher education institution in exile with the mission of the higher education institution in exile, assurance of the implementation thereof;

10.1.2. The effectiveness of the governance of higher education institution in exile;

10.1.3. The publicity of information on the activities of the higher education institution in exile and the effectiveness of the governance thereof;

10.1.4. The efficiency of personnel management;

10.1.5. The efficiency of the management of financial and material resources;

10.2. Quality assurance, which shall be measured according to the indicator of functionality and effectiveness of the quality assurance system for internal activities;

10.3. Study and research (art) activities:

10.3.1. Compatibility of studies and research (art) activities and compliance with strategic activity objectives;

10.3.2. Internationality of studies, research and/or arts;

10.4. The effect on the state of origin and the region of the higher education institution in exile, which shall be measured by an indicator of the effectiveness of the effect of the higher education institution in exile on the state of origin and the region.

11. The external evaluation of the area under evaluation of the higher education institution in exile on the state of origin and the region shall be carried out by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Upon receipt of the self-evaluation report drawn up by the higher education institution in exile, the Centre shall submit it to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs within ten working days, which shall evaluate the effect of the higher education institution in exile on the state of origin and the region and submit the conclusions of the external evaluation of the area under evaluation to the Centre and higher education institution in exile within two months from the date of receipt thereof. The conclusions of the external evaluation of the area under evaluation of the effect of the higher education institution in exile on the state of origin and the region shall present an overall analysis of the activities of the higher education institution in exile in accordance with the area under evaluation set out in clause 10.4. of the Description and proposals and recommendations for the higher education institution in exile regarding the development of the area under evaluation, as well as a summary evaluation according to the rating scale set out in Paragraph 14 of the Description.

12. The external evaluation shall be carried out in accordance with the areas under evaluation and indicators set out in clauses 10.1 to 10.3 of the Description by an expert group formed by the Centre on the basis of the Description of the Selection of Experts approved by the Director of the Centre and published in advance. The external evaluation shall involve experts from foreign states.

13. When performing the external evaluation, the expert group shall base on the information gathered by the Centre on the results of the comparative evaluation of peer research and experimental development activities, the results of the annual formal evaluation of research and experimental development and art activities, the results of the evaluation of ongoing study fields (programmes) and the self-evaluation report prepared by the higher education institution in exile, other documents of higher education institution in exile, the data obtained during the visit to the higher education institution in exile, the findings and recommendations of the previous external evaluation, if any, and the data on the progress and results of the implementation of the recommendations, the data on the activities of the higher education institution obtained from the state registers and other information about the activities of the higher education institution in exile.

14. In evaluating the activities of a higher education institution in exile, each area under evaluation must be evaluated by one of five evaluations:

14.1. Excellent – 5 points – the area is exceptionally good;

14.2. Very good – 4 points – the area is very good without any shortcomings;

14.3. Good – 3 points – the area is developed in a systematic manner, without major shortcomings;

14.4. Satisfactory – 2 points – the area meets the minimum requirements, there are substantial shortcomings which need to be addressed;

14.5. Unsatisfactory – 1 point – area does not meet the minimum requirements.

15. The expert group shall draw up conclusions from the external evaluation of the areas under evaluation set out in clauses 10.1 to 10.3 of the Description within two months of the end of the visit to the higher education institution. The conclusions of the external evaluation shall include an analysis of the activities of the higher education institution in exile in accordance with the areas under evaluation and indicators set out in clauses 10.1 to 10.3 of the Description, proposals and recommendations for a higher education institution in exile for improvement of activities, as well as a generalising evaluation by areas under evaluation and according to the rating scale set out in Paragraph 14 of the Description.

16. The Centre shall, on the basis of the conclusions of the external evaluation drawn up by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the expert group, take one of the possible decisions on the external evaluation within 30 working days of receipt of the findings of the external evaluation:

16.1. Provide a positive assessment of the activities of the higher education institution in exile;

16.2. Provide a negative assessment of the activities of the higher education institution in exile.

17. A decision to evaluate positively shall be taken when none of the areas under evaluation is assessed as unsatisfactory (1 point).

18. A decision to evaluate negatively shall be taken when at least one of the areas under evaluation is unsatisfactory (1 point).

19. The Centre shall send the decision on the external evaluation with the findings of the external evaluation to the higher education institution in exile, the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs within three working days of the adoption of the decision on the external evaluation.

20. If the activities of a higher education institution in exile is evaluated negatively and is accredited for a period of three years in accordance with clause 26.2 of the Description, the higher education institution in exile shall submit an action plan to the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport on how to strengthen its activities within three months of receipt of the findings of the external evaluation. The action plan shall be examined by a joint commission set up by the Minister of Education, Science and Sport and the Minister of Foreign Affairs, which shall evaluate it at least within three months from the date of receipt of the action plan and, if necessary, shall provide comments on the appropriateness of the measures of the action plan to strengthen the activities. As

part of its follow-up activities, the Centre shall monitor the implementation of the action plan at least once during the prescribed period of accreditation of the high education institution in exile and inform the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the results of the implementation of the action plan.

21. In the event of a negative assessment of the activities of a higher education institution in exile, a re-external evaluation shall be initiated in accordance with the areas under evaluation set out in clause 10 of the Description and the evaluation procedures provided for in the methodology for assessing activities within three years of the decision on the external evaluation.

SECTION III THE PROCEDURE OF MAKING AND HANDLING APPEALS

22. The higher education institution in exile may submit a reasoned appeal in writing to the Minister of Education, Science and Sport within ten working days of receipt of the decision of the Centre on external evaluation, and the latter shall set up an appeal commission for handling the appeal, acting in accordance with the Statute of Appeal Commission approved by the Minister for Education, Science and Sport.

23. At the request of the Appeals Commission, the Centre shall submit to the Appeal Commission explanations concerning the external evaluation of the higher education institution in exile and all documents relating to the external evaluation or certified copies thereof in accordance with the procedure laid down by legal acts within five working days of receipt of such a request. The appeal of the higher education institution in exile must be examined by the Appeal Commission within twenty working days from the date of receipt of the appeal by the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport. The Appeal Commission shall examine the merits of the appeal, the procedural irregularities of the evaluation process and submit proposals to the Minister of Education, Science and Sport regarding the appeal.

24. The Minister of Education, Science and Sport, acting on a proposal from the Appeals Board, shall adopt a reasoned decision to satisfy the appeal or not satisfy the appeal. The Ministry of Education, Science and Sport shall notify the high education institution in exile, the Centre and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the decision of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport within three working days from the date of the adoption of the decision.

25. Decisions of the Centre and of the Minister of Education, Science and Sport may be appealed in accordance with the procedure laid down in the Law on Administrative Proceedings of the Republic of Lithuania.

SECTION IV FINAL PROVISIONS

26. The Centre shall adopt one of the following decisions on accreditation of a higher education institution, at least within ten working days from the date of the adoption of the decision on the external evaluation:

26.1. To accredit for a period of seven years if the activities of the higher education institution in exile is evaluated positively;

26.2. To accredit for a period of three years if the activities of the higher education institution in exile is evaluated negatively;

26.3. Not to accredit if the activities of the higher education institution in exile is evaluated negatively during the external re-evaluation.

27. The Minister for Education, Science and Sport shall take a decision to repeal the authorisation of the higher education institution in exile to conduct studies and study-related

activities within twenty working days of the date of the adoption of the decision referred to in clause 26.3 of the Description.

28. The external evaluation shall be performed from the appropriations of the State budget of the Republic of Lithuania approved for the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport and/or other funds.

29. The Centre shall publish the decision on the external evaluation with the findings of the external evaluation within five working days of the adoption of the decision on the external evaluation on the website of the Centre. The higher education institution shall publish the decision of the Centre on the external evaluation with the findings of the external evaluation within five within five working days of receipt of the decision on the external evaluation on the website of the higher education institution in exile.
