

**HUNGARIAN ACCREDITATION COMMITTEE**  
**Report for the year 2020 until September 2021<sup>1</sup>**



Summarized for the 2021 Annual Meeting of the International Advisory Board

<sup>1</sup>Based on the MAB “Professional and Operational Report” for 2020 approved by the MAB Board in Resolution 2020/11/X, with updates until September 2021.



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## Introduction

Following the national lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic after mid-March 2020, the Hungarian Accreditation Committee (MAB) changed its modes of procedure, develop special rules and forms of operation and mode of communication to continue its work fully online.

A few physical meetings of the staff were held in the summer of 2020, but had to be discontinued again in autumn. In late spring and early summer 2021, the staff began to work in hybrid mode, with roughly half their time in home office and external meetings predominately, but not fully, online. Following the 2021 summer break, the hybrid mode continues but with the “fourth wave” of the pandemic approaching in September.

In spite of the pandemic-induced changes, the MAB’s long-term financial stability provided the reserves to funding its operations from 2020 January until July 1, with state financing received only in the second half of the year. In the first nine months of 2021 the state financing increased by 40%. It was important to the MAB’s finances, because the income of MAB decreased due to fewer procedures. In the first half of 2021, the universities initiated fewer new study programmes, programme establishment and institutional accreditation because of the pandemic and the university transformations. This tendency changed at the beginning of the academic year 2021/22, and the number of proceedings is expected to increase again.

The external circumstances experienced in 2020 synthesized the consistent transformation process of the past three-four years, as a result of which the MAB was able to respond dynamically to the challenges without interruption, both in its operations and financial situation.

A major transformation has been taking place in higher education in the past two years with the aim of increasing the efficiency and competitiveness of Hungarian higher education institutions. Twenty formerly state higher education institutions have undergone a change in their governance. One is now maintained by the Catholic Church, while 19 are governed by a Board of Trustees. One new university was established in 2021; it is Tokaj-Hegyalja University, which is also a public foundation-maintained higher education institution, governed by a Board of Trustees. The Board determines the budget, an annual report, the organisational and operational regulations, an institution development and asset management plan of the institution. With the exception of Corvinus University, the first to be changed and financed via a foundation, the institutions still receive state financing based on a determined number of students, set down in five-year and longer-term contracts. The Board also appoints the rector, with the senate confined to academic issues. The academic, research and administrative staff are no longer public servants but private sector employees.

The present report summarizes the MAB’s activities and challenges in 2020 and continuing until the third quarter of 2021.

### I. Expert activities

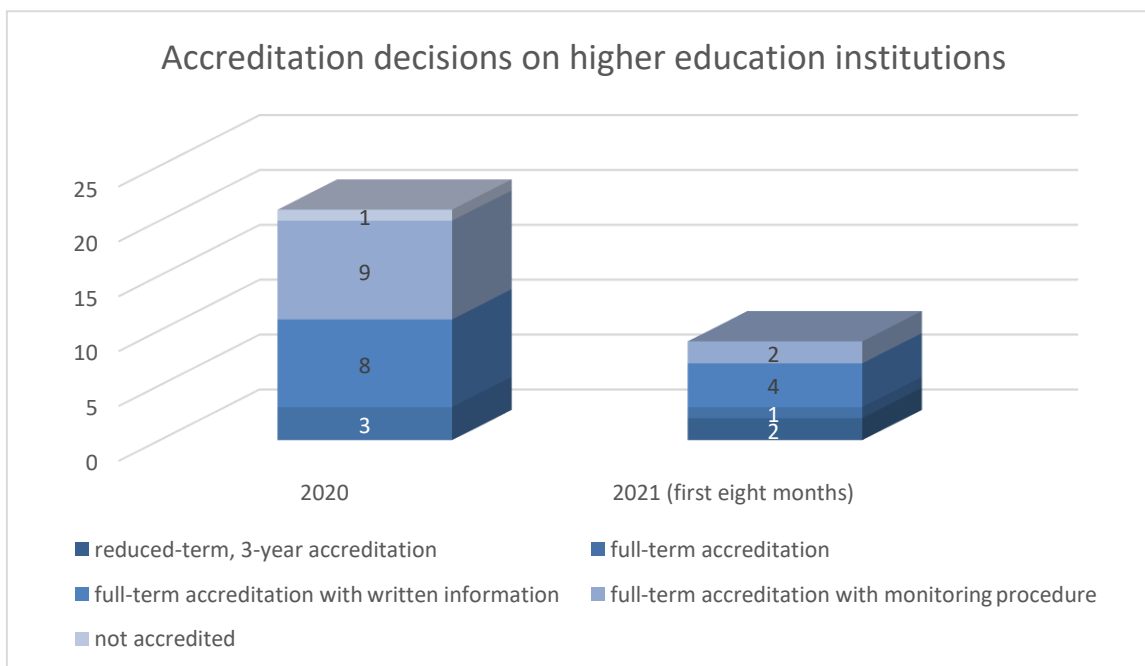
#### 1. Institutional accreditation

At the end of both 2019 and 2020, the MAB Board accepted the timetables for the institutional accreditation procedures for the following year, together with the deadlines of the institutions to submit the self-evaluation reports. In 2020, several institutions requested the extension of the deadline or postponement of the procedure. This had to do partly with the pandemic but also the ongoing



transformation of higher education in Hungary, described in the introduction, which changed the immediate oversight from the ministry to management boards, or, in one case, the church, of most of the institutions. All site visits took place online, with changes to the procedures, including prior questionnaires for the academic staff and for students. The responses helped the site visit teams to understand the institution and to produce their reports.

In 2020, twenty-two institutional accreditation processes were completed with board decision. In the first eight months of 2021, nine HEIs were evaluated.



Additionally, the MAB, as a member of ENQA, was invited for its first evaluation of a foreign institution, a Hungarian teaching language college in western Ukraine. The accreditation procedure is in progress the accreditation visit will be held on 4-5 November.

In summary it can be said that the new institutional accreditation procedure introduced in 2017 has reached a mature stage. The thematic analysis concluded in late 2020 (see section V) shows that the acceptance rate of the procedure is high, although the training of experts and increasing communication with participants need to be improved. According to plans, quarterly training will be held, the topics have already been developed.

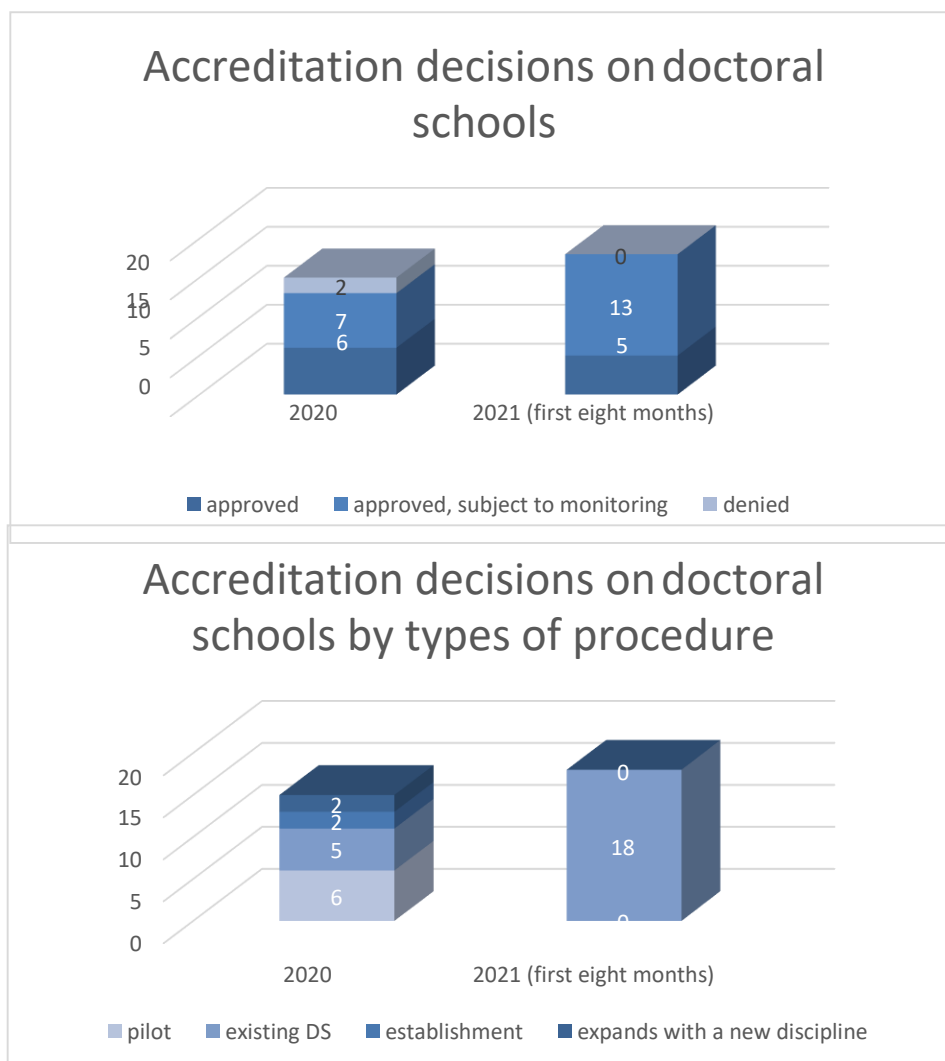
## 2. Accreditation of doctoral schools

The previously combined MAB expert committee for university professorship applications and doctoral school evaluations split, and the Doctoral Accreditation Committee (DOK) became a separate body. Together with academics, the DOK now includes two experienced quality assurance experts. Its initial task in early 2020 was to develop a new approach for evaluating doctoral schools. As a standing committee, the DOK continues to observe and if necessary improve the procedure as well as the indicators. Additionally, its members scrutinize site visit team reports prior and recommend decisions to the MAB Board. Further, they are charged with publishing analyses on the quality of doctoral schools.

In 2020 there were 20 site visits including 16 existing doctoral school evaluation, two establishment processes and two new discipline enlargement processes, with fifteen decisions passed before the end



of the year. Until September 2021, another eighteen decisions were passed.



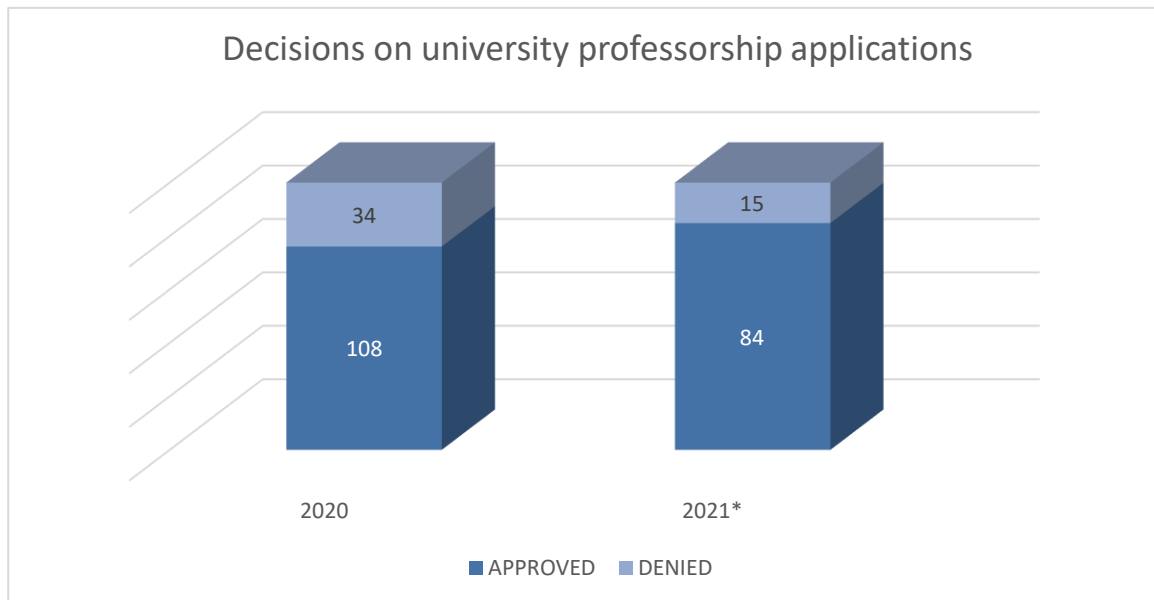
Based on the experiences and feedback received from the doctoral school evaluations conducted in 2020, the doctoral working group in the staff refined the procedure, including

- changes to the structure of the self-evaluation criteria and reflecting the order of the ESG standards;
- guidelines for training site-visit teams, including clarify questions for each ESG standard.

### 3. Evaluation of university professorship applications

One of the non-ESG-related tasks is the evaluation of university professorship applications, for which the MAB has developed a coherent quality framework. In November 2020, the MAB set up a permanent dedicated expert pool for professorship applications that includes foreign experts. Applications are submitted in both Hungarian and English.

In 2020 (1 January - 31 December 2020), the MAB evaluated 142 applications. In 2021 application period (between 1 September 2020 and 31 March 2021) that number was 99.



*\* between 1 September 2020 and 31 March 2021*

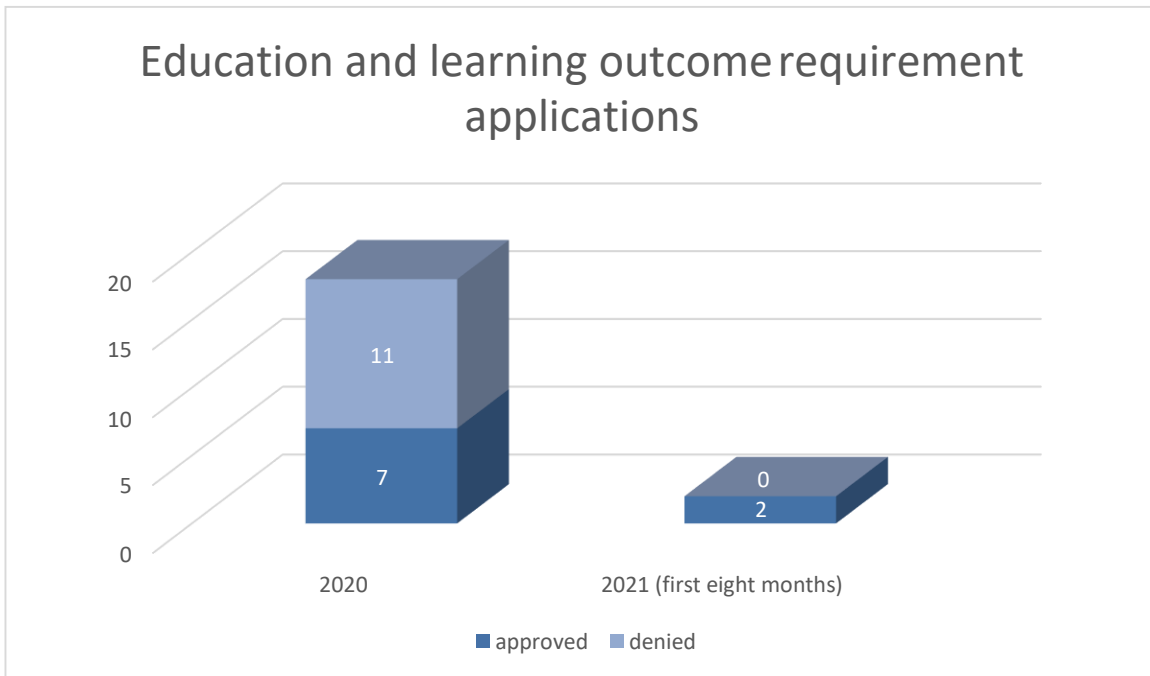
Professorship applications are submitted between 1 September and 31 March of the following year in order to be ready for the academic year. Decisions are sent both to the applicant institution and the ministry.

The rising recognition of the quality judgment of the MAB is indicated by the fact that for the first time in the new academic year 2021/22, no university professors were appointed who were not evaluated positively. Concurrently, fewer appeals against the MAB's decisions on university professorships were lodged in the first eight months of 2021.

#### 4. Evaluation of new study programme establishments

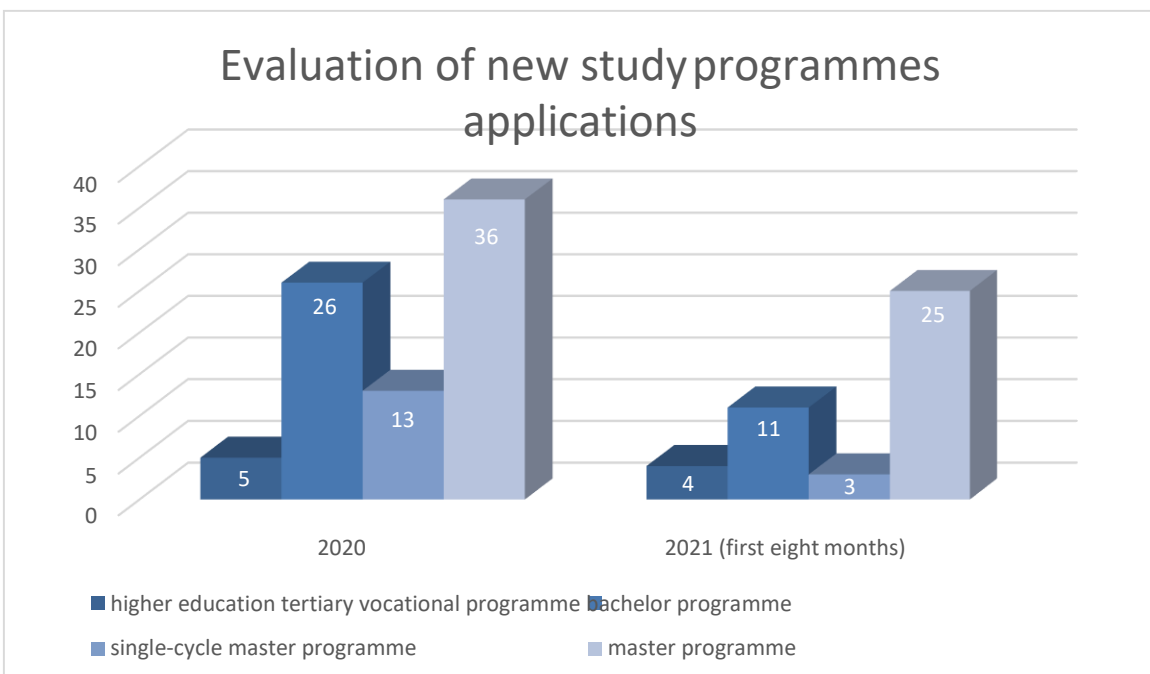
New study programme establishments in Hungary are evaluated in two stages. There are national-level education and learning outcome requirements, which are framework requirements for all degree programmes in Hungary and appear in a ministerial decree, and there are applications for individual new programmes to be launched by HEIs, which are based on the framework requirements. The MAB issues opinions to the Educational Authority for both types.

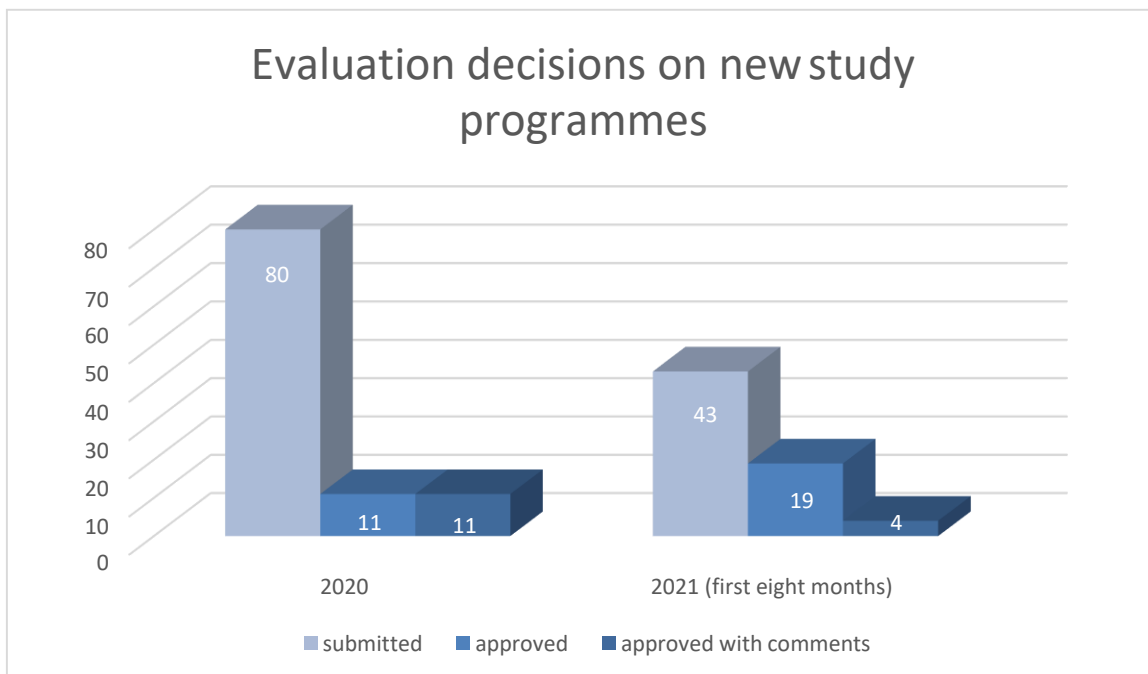
In 2020, 18 education and learning outcome requirement applications were submitted, five of them for bachelor and 13 for master programmes. In 2021, there were a total of two applications, one of bachelor and one for master programmes.



#### 5. Evaluation of new study programmes

In 2020, the MAB passed decisions on 80 applications for new programmes. They encompassed five higher education tertiary vocational programmes; 26 bachelor programmes; 13 single-cycle master programmes; and 36 master programmes. In the first eight months of 2021 these number were 43 new programmes, with 4 higher education tertiary vocational programmes; 11 bachelor programmes; 3 single-cycle master programmes; and 25 master programmes.





The proportion of new programme applications given negative decisions has been high for many years, for this reason the MAB has analysed the possible causes. The number of appeals submitted to the MAB Board of Appeals in 2020 showed that it granted the appeal of around 10%, that is, 4 of 40 challenged new programme decisions. The MAB Board discussed the issue repeatedly. Each analysis, including the thematic analysis commissioned to pinpoint the causes and completed at the end of 2020 (see section V), points to the fact that this is the least successful procedure of the MAB. It is complex and bureaucratic, produces extensive documentation whose processing in turn consumes many man-hours of the staff and expert committees. Moreover, there is no tracking system to see how successful the programme is after having been registered with the Educational Authority. There is no evidence either in how far the programme in fact meets the education and learning outcome requirements or the graduates' success in the labour market. The same is true regarding the persistent quality, including professional development and advancement, or the work distribution of programme heads, of the academic and support staff assigned to the programme.

The MAB needs to keep in mind that the quality evaluation of the education and learning outcome requirements, which are demanded by sector legislation, was required for compliance with the ESG and not by any internal demands of HEIs. In this procedure, too, institutional accreditation gains significance because several ESG standards drive the success of HEIs (their regional position, financing opportunities, international relations) by promoting them to align their strategy with the sectoral policy goals, and to meet these in a dynamic way. The MAB is able to prompt this change in the way of thinking with its quality evaluations by enabling the needs of internal stakeholders (students, academic staff, researchers, scientific developers) and external stakeholders to shape the qualification structure, quality and its development, rather than their being motivated exclusively by the financially-based institutional development plans HEIs have to submit to their supervising authority.

By the end of 2020, the institutional accreditation process of the MAB reached a developmental stage



whereby it is fully able to judge the maturity of the internal quality assurance systems at HEIs in alignment with the ESG. But with no regular and systematic ex post evaluation of qualifications, i.e. study programmes, in place from an outcome-based perspective, or digital teaching and learning, or considering the demands of the labour market, the development of such an ex post programme evaluation and accreditation system was a major task of the MAB in 2021. It set up a College (i.e. overarching expert committee) for Programme Accreditation in February 2021 to collect the evaluation results from the disciplinary expert committees and suggest decisions for the MAB Board.

## 6. Opinions to the Educational Authority on reviews of operating licenses of HEIs

One legislated task of the MAB is to provide its opinion on request by the Educational Authority for its periodic review of operating licenses of HEIs. The MAB opinions are based on existing quality evaluation results from the last regular institutional accreditation procedure together with information on negative new programme accreditation outcomes. In 2020, MAB provided seven, and in 2021 ten opinions on periodic review of operating licenses of HEIs.

## II. International Activities

In addition to its expert activities, it is a long-term mission of the MAB and its delegates to participate in international activities. It is necessary to strengthen the organization's reaction capabilities and to incorporate the new European trends that are useful for the country's higher education.

### 1. European Universities Initiative

In the two calls in 2019 and 2020 by the European Commission's European Universities Initiative, eleven Hungarian Universities were successful (five of 17 and six of 24 applicants, respectively). Negotiations regarding the joint educational programmes and their quality assurance started already in 2019 and continued in 2020. Although a quality assurance meeting for the CHARM-EU consortium (which includes one of the Hungarian universities, ELTE) organized at the time of the ENQA members' Forum in April 2020 had to be changed to an online format due to the pandemic, the framework for alliance accreditation was staked out.

In February 2020, Tempus Hungary organized a forum for both the universities in the first call and the applicants to the second call, with the participation of the Educational Authority and the ministry as well as the MAB. In addition to the presentation of the participating universities, the main focus here was on bridging the Hungarian legislative restrictions and the flexible approaches needed for the international university model. Further meetings by various consortia ensued.

On 9 July 2020, quality assurance and the CHARM-EU consortium representatives discussed concrete ex ante quality assurance measures, with the participation of MAB deputy director Péter Levente Lakatos. It became evident that the MAB was expected only to second the proposed experts and to recommend a Hungarian expert, with which it complied. On the legislative side, some changes were made based on the MAB's proposal.

An ENQA-organized online conference on the QA of European Universities, EUniQ, is scheduled to be held on 27 September 2021.

### 2. ENQA

The MAB prepared a follow-up report for the ENQA Board and submitted it in September 2020, two years after the last full review, as required by ENQA regulations. The report, drafted by the staff and overseen by a dedicated follow-up working group, was accepted by the ENQA Board in late October.

On 27 January 2021, the MAB took advantage of the opportunity offered by ENQA as an option for members to receive ENQA experts in a progress visit, designed to help members with issues identified in their external review reports. The MAB arranged the progress visit in the form of an online forum, with the chair and a member of the 2018 ENQA review panel, Norma Ryan, consultant and formerly at the University of Cork, Ireland, and Mark Frederiks of NAVAO, The Netherlands and Flanders, Belgium, participating. This was also the official launch of the MAB webinar series (see Section 14). The topic was “Involvement of Stakeholders in External QA”. There were lively discussions at the online event, with over 70 participants mostly from HEIs but also the Educational Authority, the ministry and MAB staff.

The MAB took part in a number of ENQA-organized events, which in both 2020 and 2021 were held online. The members’ forum and general assembly on 29 April 2020 was attended by MAB President Valéria Csépe, Deputy Director Péter Levente Lakatos and Christina Rozsnyai, programme officer for foreign affairs and ENQA Board member. The main outcome, in addition to accepting new members and affiliates as well as administrative and financial issues, was the adoption of the ENQA Strategy 2021-2025. At this meeting, too, discussion started on a key change to decision-making on ENQA membership, in order to avoid the double decision-making on ESG compliance for agencies wishing to be evaluated for ENQA membership as well as listing in EQAR. The proposal, finally adopted at the spring 2021 general assembly, is for ENQA to accept the decision of the EQAR Register Committee on an agency’s ESG compliance and acceptance into the Register as fulfilment of this criterion for ENQA membership. With agencies not wishing to apply to EQAR, the ENQA Board would decide directly as before. Additionally, an Agency Review Committee would be set up to scrutinize and validate the review panel reports on agencies, checking the thoroughness of the evidence and analysis provided for each ESG standard.

At the autumn general assembly on 22 October, in addition to the president and programme officer the newly appointed MAB Secretary General Ádám Kégler attended. This meeting focused on administrative issues, including the postponement of board and presidential elections to the spring 2021 assembly since it required votes in person.

At the 22 April 2021 forum and assembly, attended again by the MAB president, secretary general and programme officer, members elected two new Board members and a new president, Douglas Blackstock from QAA in the UK (<https://www.enqa.eu/structure/>). In addition to adopting the new agency review guidelines, the Board also proposed a new approach of targeted reviews, agreed on with EQAR, to focus on quality enhancement at agencies that had already had three or more full reviews against the ESG. The approach would be reviewed after a two-year pilot period. Moreover, the new Agency Review Committee was elected (<https://www.enqa.eu/structure/>).

The targeted approach was scheduled for adoption by the ENQA general assembly at the autumn meeting on 21 October 2021 were organized online. MAB president, the secretary general and deputy director attended the meeting.

ENQA offered a number of webinars on diverse QA topics. MAB staff members attended nine of these in 2020 and another seven so far in 2021. As ENQA Board member, programme officer Christina Rozsnyai gave presentations and took part in panel discussions at several ENQA project events.

### 3. CEENQA

The Central and Eastern European Network for Quality Assurance held its annual assembly online on 17 July 2020. The MAB president and secretary general participated. A new president, Franci Demsar, director of the Slovenian agency NAKVIS, subsequently introduced bi-monthly meetings, which both



MAB representatives attend whenever possible. CEENQA also produced guidelines for QA agencies for carrying out online evaluations.

The 2021 assembly is scheduled also online for October 13. [www.ceenqa.org](http://www.ceenqa.org)

#### 4. EQAR

The MAB applied for the first time and was admitted into the Register in April 2019, valid until 30 September 2023. In March 2020 the MAB supplied an update on its practices to the Register as requested by EQAR, in particular the new accreditation approach on doctoral schools, <https://www.eqar.eu/register/agencies/agency/?id=58>.

Another key development has been the joining of the Hungarian government as an EQAR member, which was confirmed in a government decree, issued in the official *Gazette* of 17 August 2020 and accepted by the EQAR Executive Board on 2 December 2020, effective 1 January 2021. The Ministry for Innovation and Technology, responsible for Higher Education, is the responsible contact.

#### 5. DEQAR

For the launching of the EQAR database on agency review reports, the MAB was invited in late 2019 to take part as a partner in the EU project DEQAR-CONNECT. The MAB has been uploading its evaluation reports since early 2020, which include institutional accreditation reports and reports on doctoral schools. By the end of 2020, 29 reports were uploaded. By September 2021, altogether 62 reports on 37 institutions were uploaded.

#### 6. OECD-LMRO

A meeting initiated by the National Research, Development and Innovation Bureau between Hungary and the OECD took place in February 2020 with the purpose of launching a project, titled Labour-Market Relevance and Outcomes, that would evaluate the labour-market relevance of Hungarian higher education and issue recommendations to sector policy-makers. The meeting focused on operative issues and was represented for the MAB by Board member István Greiner and Deputy Director Péter Levente Lakatos. A key topic was external stakeholder participation in quality evaluation, for which essential data was also supplied.

#### 7. ECAQA

The Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Health Care in the Republic of Kazakhstan, an affiliate member of ENQA and a member of CEENQA, asked the MAB to recommend medical experts to participate in quality reviews. As an outcome to the successful collaboration, the MAB and ECAQA concluded a cooperation agreement, which covers the exchange of experts, learning about each others' quality assurance practices and organizing joint events. Following the successful collaboration, MAB invited Dr. Farida Nurmanbetova as an expert to its WFME site visit team, who accepted the invitation.

#### 8. Staff mobility

In cooperation with the higher education state secretariat at the Ministry for Innovation and Technology, Deputy Director Péter Levente Lakatos took part in a mobility programme for agency staff organized by the BFUG. The aim is for participants to become familiar with other QA agencies' quality practices, to exchange good practices and mutual experiences. Dr. Lakatos's visit to the Romanian agency ARACIS in Bucharest was delayed due to the pandemic but took place in August 2021. As a result of the visit MAB plans further cooperation with ARACIS and concludes a Memorandum of

Understanding.

#### 9. MICROBOL

The 2-year project (2020–2022) to promote the recognition of micro-credentials was established by the European Commission, co-funded by Erasmus+ KA3 Support to Policy reform, and is coordinated by the BFUG. Three working groups analysed the possibility of linking short learning programmes and micro-credentials to the Bologna higher education structure. Péter Levente Lakatos is participating in the quality assurance working group, which works to align short learning programmes and micro-credentials with the ESG. Two other WG's deal with the qualification framework and recognition.

On 3 November 2020, dr. Lakatos and Secretary-General Ádám Kéglér took part in a coordination meeting with the ministry and joined by the Hungarian Rectors' Conference, TEMPUS and the Educational Authority, to co-ordinate a national position.

#### 10. EQAF

MAB staff members regularly attend the European Quality Assurance Forum. The 2020 meeting was held on 12–13 November and focused on the topic of flexible, including digital and hybrid higher educational formats and how QA can promote flexibility in particular. The online format allowed for an unusually broad spectrum and number of participants, attended by dr. Lakatos and dr. Kéglér.

The 2021 Forum will be held on 18–19 November online. Tekla Bodnár assistant will attend the event.

#### 11. WFME

In January 2021, the MAB has officially applied for evaluation of its medical education accreditation by the WFME, the World Federation for Medical Education. It “evaluates the legal standing, accreditation process, post-accreditation monitoring, and decision-making processes of an accreditation agency for programmes or schools of basic medical education”. With many foreign medical students in the four Hungarian medical schools, the Hungarian government supports the evaluation given that “effective in 2024, eligibility for USMLE [United States Medical Licensing Examination] and employment as a doctor in the United States will be restricted to graduates from medical schools/programmes accredited by an agency which is recognised by the WFME Recognition Programme”. The MAB Board passed a decision at its meeting in June 2020 to undergo the procedure. It set up a working group with representatives from the four medical schools and staff, who together with members of its expert committee on medical and health sciences has worked out evaluation criteria based on those of the WFME and the MAB has launched the accreditation procedure. Two medical schools are scheduled for accreditation in 2021 and have submitted their self-evaluation reports along these criteria. The MAB is submitting its own self-valuation to the WFME in late September 2021. Their review panel will observe the site visit to Debrecen University medical school between 22 and 26 November, and the decision-making in a MAB Board meeting in late 2021.

#### 12. V4QA

With Hungary carrying the six-month presidency of the Visegrád 4 countries in autumn 2021, the MAB has initiated a QA forum with its V4 partner agencies on 6–7 October at the MAB offices. The aim is for the four partner agencies to get to know each others' practices and discuss staff and expert exchanges. Further details about the initiative and the full text of the signed Memorandum of Understanding are available on MAB's Website: <https://www.mab.hu/en/v4qa-forum-launched/> .

### 13. International communication, Hungarian Accreditation Review

In November 2020, the MAB reached an important milestone in its corporate identity design and communications with the publication of the first issue of its *Hungarian Accreditation Review*. The decision to launch a journal was passed in 2019. The editorial board comprises two MAB members, one of whom, László T. Kóczy, is editor-in-chief, an academic, a researcher and a PhD student. Following the appointment of Ádám Kéglér as secretary general, he took over the management of the publication. The periodical, issued in Hungarian and English, comes out twice a year with articles by Hungarian and foreign contributors. The first appeared in December 2020, the second issue from May 2021 contained an interview with Maria Kelo, Director of ENQA, <https://www.mab.hu/en/publications/>.

The MAB also has profiles on Twitter (@HAC88510916) and LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/mabhu/mycompany/>.

### 14. MAB webinar series

Recognizing the importance of an online presence also after the pandemic is over, the MAB launched its ongoing webinar series, the first of which was the ENQA progress visit (see Section 2). The second webinar were held in summer 2021 (15 June). It was a discussion with the wide range of stakeholders about the new study of the State Audit Office of Hungary, about the competitiveness, quality and performance of the Hungarian higher education.

### 15. Webinar participation

Several MAB staff members (Anikó Bogdán, Beatrix Dányi, Péter Levente Lakatos, Andrea Szlivka, Christina Rozsnyai) took part in webinars organized by ENQA, EUA, EQAR and CHEA in the course of 2020 and 2021. Their reports were shared with the other staff members.

The pandemic offered a unique opportunity to participate at the meeting of ministers responsible for higher education in the EHEA, organized this time online by Italy. The MAB president, secretary general and programme officer for foreign affairs attended. Rather than the usual two year intervals, the next meeting is scheduled for 2024 in Albania, which has taken over the coordination of the BFUG for the period.

## III. Operations

### 1. Organizational changes

The establishment of the position of secretary general was set down in the MAB's new by-laws in 2019. The secretary general is chosen through a public tender by the MAB Board for a three-year term. A selection committee consisting of the student member of the MAB, a MAB vice-president and two members, the employee representative of the secretariat. Following interviews in Hungarian and English with four shortlisted candidates, Ádám Kéglér was selected and subsequently approved by the MAB Board. He was appointed from 1 July 2020.

The profile of the secretary general is to maintain contacts with international QA organizations and experts, represent the MAB in international events, and co-ordinate and organize activities that promote the MAB's links with international accreditation developments, including the broadening of the pool of international experts and staff development in international practices. He participates in the MAB Board meetings without voting and reports to the Board on his activities.

The position of the MAB financial director was filled in the third quarter of 2020. The financial accounts

for the year and the financial plan for 2021 were successfully completed. However, the post became vacant again from 1 July 2021, with recruitment proceeding in September.

## 2. Secretariat

At the closing of 2020, the MAB staff comprised 21 persons, ten of whom are programme officers. The majority, 70%, of the staff is aged between 35 and 50 years, and the ratio of men to women has improved to c.a. 25%.

In 2021, three staff members left and one new staff members joined the secretariat, with a total of 19 (9 programme officers and assistants, including the director and deputy director who both work with expert committees and in external evaluations, 8 administrators and two IT officers) as of September. Work is conducted in eight task teams for evaluation and administrative areas with dedicated administrators in the evaluation teams.

Task teams meet among themselves as needed, while full staff meetings were held at various intervals online throughout 2020 and 2021. The first physical meeting took place on 5th September. Here the various running tasks and general HE and QA issues are discussed and sometimes staff development with presentations are held and experiences discussed. Additionally, in 2020, there was also a series of group and individual training sessions for the staff members held by an external expert, which focused on written communication skills.

Initially following the introduction of online meetings of MAB Board members, expert committees and site-visit teams, preparatory technical meetings were held for each of these groups. The switch to online mode, in Microsoft Teams and Zoom platforms, consumed considerable human resources. For this reason, from 2021 such preparatory meetings are organized into clusters for several groups.

## IV. Board and expert committees

### 1. Board

The Board, whose six-year mandate began on 29 March 2018, saw two changes in 2020. The two-year mandates of the two student delegates ended on March 1<sup>st</sup> and they were replaced by new delegates, Péter Kovács, vice-president of the National Union of Students in Hungary and Dániel Molnár, president of the Association of Hungarian Doctoral Students. In 2021 the members of the Board has changed: Prof. Dr. László Hunyady was relieved of his duties. Dr. habil Tamás Sterbenz was appointed the new rector of the University of Physical Education. The mandate of the new rector started on September 1, 2021, consequently, the rector's mandate is incompatible with the MAB Board membership.

### 2. International Advisory Board

The annual meetings of the in 2020 was held online. On 31 October 2020 the IAB participated in a workshop focusing on the MAB's new accreditation model for doctoral schools, to which also the members of the Hungarian Advisory Board were invited. Several MAB Board and doctoral committee members and student representatives also attended.

Saturday was a working meeting where the IAB reviewed the work of the MAB, including its follow-up report for ENQA, and formulated its recommendations (<https://www.mab.hu/wp-content/uploads/Recommendations-2020-FINAL-1.pdf>).

The 2021 meeting on October 29 will also be held online.

### 3. Expert committees

#### Multidisciplinary Committee

Over half of new programme applications in 2020 concerned several disciplines, therefore it was expedient to set up a committee structure that would include the relevant expertise from the disciplinary expert committees, without distributing the discussions among all individual committees. The Multidisciplinary Committee has a standing chair and vice-chair. It discussed four applications in the second half of 2020, and four in 2021.

#### Committee for Quality Assurance, Development and Strategy

The formerly separate QA and Strategy committees were merged in November 2020, with most of the members continuing.

### 4. Student participation

Students took part in all standing and ad hoc expert committees and site visit teams in both 2020 and 2021. They are nominated by the National Union of Students in Hungary and the Association of Hungarian Doctoral Students. The MAB president regularly attends their events and workshops and the two organizations send their relevant analyses and studies to the MAB, which it makes available to its members via the MAB database.

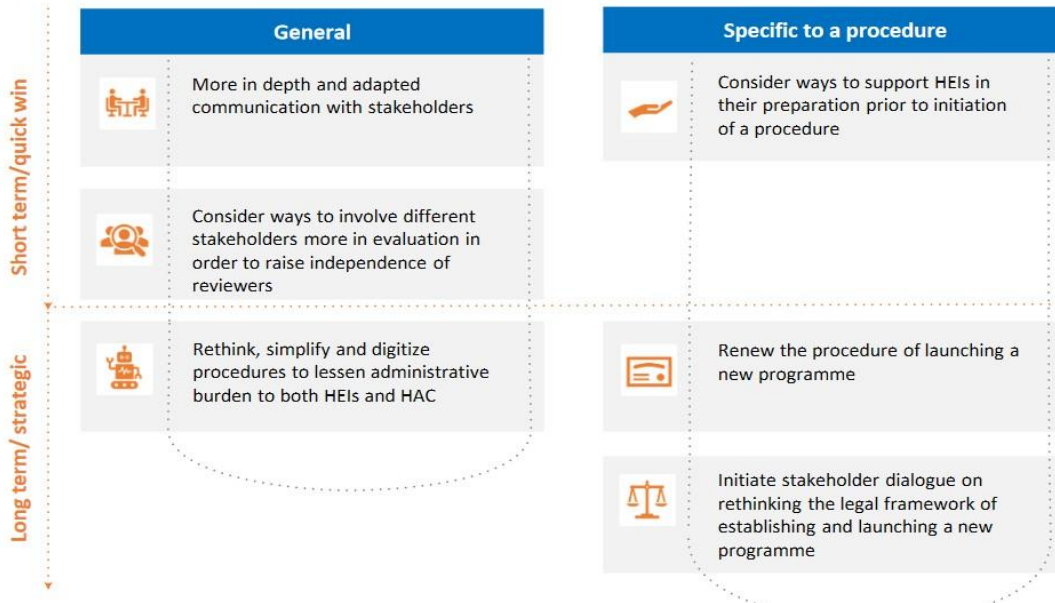
## V. Thematic analysis

The quality assurance expert committee of the MAB had been assigned the task of producing thematic analyses in previous years but was not able to fulfil it due to lack of capacity. Therefore, in response to the findings of the ENQA review panel in 2018 regarding ESG 3.4, the MAB made an open call to commission a thematic analysis to evaluate its evaluation processes. Of the two proposals, PricewaterhouseCoopers in Hungary was selected, based on its higher education experience and knowledge about higher education legislation, as well as MAB activities.

PwC produced extensive questionnaires, which it sent to a broad range of stakeholders. The report, with six recommendations, came out in December 2020, titled *Thematic Review of Activities (2017-2019)* [https://www.mab.hu/wp-content/uploads/Thematic-review-of-HAC-activities\\_deliverable.pdf](https://www.mab.hu/wp-content/uploads/Thematic-review-of-HAC-activities_deliverable.pdf). There is also a PowerPoint summary on the *Thematic Analysis of Operations between 2017 and 2019* [https://www.mab.hu/wp-content/uploads/HAC-thematic-review\\_final-deliverable\\_honlap.pdf](https://www.mab.hu/wp-content/uploads/HAC-thematic-review_final-deliverable_honlap.pdf) December 2020.



## Recommendations



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