



ČESKÁ KONFERENCE REKTORŮ
CZECH RECTORS CONFERENCE

Czech Rectors' Conference and the Czech Higher Education System

Central European Rectors Jubilee Symposium
18 May 2018

Czech Rectors Conference:

- ▶ Established on 28 January 1993
- ▶ Association of Rectors of all public (26), state (2) and some private (21) higher education institutions in the Czech Republic
- ▶ Mission - dealing with basic questions of higher education institutions, taking up standpoints to these questions and enforcing them in legislative and executive institutions and authorities

Celebratory Assembly on the Occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Establishment of the CRC, Charles University, Prague (15 February 2018)



- ▶ **CRC official bodies:**
 - ▶ **Annual Assembly** - evaluates CRC activities, plans for next period, discussion about key issues in higher education, meets in January / February
 - ▶ **Plenum** – decision-making authority (approval of status, reports, budget, election of President and Vice-Presidents etc. **8 Working Groups** (Study, Education, Legislation, Science, EU Structural Funds, Education, etc.)

- ▶ **Presidium** – 6 members (Vice-Presidents for: education, creative activities, economic and social affairs, public relations and foreign affairs, legislative and organisational affairs)
- ▶ **President** - elected for two-years (begins on 1 August). Represents CRC towards external subjects, acts on behalf of CRC in urgent matters in between Plenum/Presidium meetings, summons up Annual Assembly, Plenum/Presidium meetings and is responsible for the accomplishment of their resolutions etc.

Czech Higher Education System

► Overview:

- **68 HEIs:** 26 public, 2 state and 40 private
- **304,236 students** at higher education institutions in 2017 (90% at public, 10% at private, <1% at state)
- including **43,831 foreign students (14.6%)**

► System of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs):

- High degree of autonomy and self-governance (strong position of academic senate)
- Rectors and faculty Deans elected by academic senates
- Strong autonomy of faculties
- Autonomous internal financial system
- Higher education at public and state institutions in Czech language is free of charge (except some administrative fees)

► Degree Structure (statistics for 2017)

Bachelor's degree programme

- first cycle of higher education (3 to 4 years)
- around 57% of students (around 174,000)

Master's degree programme

- following after Bachelor's degree programme (1 to 3 years); almost 26% of students (around 77,000)
- or not structured (long) Master's programme (4 to 6 years); 10% of students (31,000)

Doctoral degree programme

- 3 to 4 years; focused on scientific research and independent creative activities
- approx. 7% of students (around 23,000)

▶ **University Autonomy (I)**

- ▶ Internal organization
- ▶ Establishment of autonomous self-governing academic bodies
- ▶ Cooperation with other HEIs and legal entities
- ▶ Financial management and management of assets
- ▶ Quality assurance and self-evaluation of educational, scientific and related activities
- ▶ Focus and organization of scientific activities
- ▶ Employment of academic staff and other personnel

▶ **University Autonomy (II)**

- ▶ Procedures of habilitation and appointment of professors
- ▶ Determination of fees in habilitation procedure and appointment of professors
- ▶ Number of admitted applicants and conditions for admission
- ▶ Design and implementation of study programmes
- ▶ Organization of studies
- ▶ Decision-making with regard to student's rights and obligations
- ▶ Determination of study fees

▶ **Finances**

- ▶ **Ministry distributes funding** from the state budget
 - ▶ Education, science, investment
- ▶ **Budget of the University** is submitted by the **Rector** and approved by the **Academic Senate of the University** and the **Board of Trustees**
- ▶ **The Ministry and the Academic Senate monitors and controls** the financial management of the University
- ▶ Deans submit **budgets of Faculties** based on the budget of the University, these are approved by Academic Senates of Faculties

▶ **Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports**

- ▶ **Registers the internal regulations** of HEI (only then can they come into force)
- ▶ **Annual report on the state of the system** of HE and the strategic plan of the Ministry
- ▶ Discusses and evaluates the **strategic plans** of HEIs and their annual specifications
- ▶ Distributes **funding from the state budget**
- ▶ **Controls the financial management** of public HEIs institutions
- ▶ Grants state permission for private HEIs



▶ **Minister of Education, Youth and Sports**

- ▶ **Appoints and dismisses the Board of Trustees** after consultation with the Rector
- ▶ Approves the **Statute of the Board of Trustees**
- ▶ The Rector is answerable to the Minister for **proper management of finances and assets**
- ▶ Presents **recommendations for appointment of professors** and returns the recommendations for appointment when the procedure was not followed by law
- ▶ **Proposes members of Council of National Accreditation Bureau** to the government
- ▶ Determines salary of Rector

▶ **President of the Czech Republic**

- ▶ **Appoints and dismisses the Rector** on the basis of a proposal from the Academic Senate submitted through the Minister
- ▶ **Appoints professors** upon a recommendation of the Research Board, which is presented by the Minister



▶ **New Accreditation System**

- ▶ Since 2016
- ▶ Amendment to the Czech Higher Education Act
- ▶ Independent **National Accreditation Bureau for Higher Education** (newly established national body under Ministry), replaced the former Accreditation Commission
- ▶ Members independent, but administrative and finances go through the Ministry

▶ **National Accreditation Bureau for Higher Education**

▶ **Main tasks:**

- Institutional accreditations
- Accreditations of individual study programmes
- Accreditation of habilitation procedure and procedure for the appointment of professors
- External evaluation of educational, research and related activities of higher education institutions

▶ **National Accreditation Bureau (Bodies)**

▶ **Council**

- Chairman, 2 deputy-chairmen and 11 members
- Appointed by the government for 6 years (on the basis of proposal of Ministry, central public administration bodies, representatives of higher education institutions)

▶ **Evaluation committees**

- Advisory bodies
- Members appointed from List of Evaluators by the Chairman

- ▶ 2 different types of accreditation – **(A) institutional accreditation for HEIs (A)** with strong system of QA and **(B) accreditation of individual study programmes**

- ▶ **(A) Institutional accreditation for HEIs (I)**
 - ▶ Stronger role of Universities in the process
 - ▶ Need for **cooperation between many faculties** (one field of education is taught by more than one)
 - ▶ Opportunity to **discuss concept and development of programmes** in fields of study on university level
 - ▶ **High requirements of institutional environment and quality assurance and assessment system**, which had to be developed completely newly

▶ **(A) Institutional accreditation for HEIs (II)**

- ▶ HEI **gets institutional accreditation** in different „fields of education“ (37 areas defined by Higher Education Act) from **National Accreditation Bureau** after meeting the requirements
- ▶ In these given fields the institution can **autonomously approve study programmes**
- ▶ All applications for the accreditation of individual study programmes have to be **approved by Board for Internal Evaluation**
- ▶ **Faculty** (Academic Senate, Scientific Board) > **University** (Board for Internal Evaluation)
- ▶ New internal regulations including Standards of study programmes

▶ **(B) Accreditation of individual study programmes**

- ▶ Study fields, where the University has no institutional accreditation,
- ▶ **Faculty** (Academic Senate of the Faculty, Scientific Board of the Faculty) > **University** (Board for Internal Evaluation) > **National Accreditation Bureau**

- ▶ **Conclusions – key challenges for HEIs**
 - ▶ **On-going implementation of the new accreditation system**
 - ▶ **Ensuring sustainable financing**
 - ▶ **Maintenance of strong autonomy**
 - ▶ **Expanding internationalization**
 - ▶ **Adaptation to new „ecosystem“ in challenging world**