

Harmonisation between accreditation and institutional quality improvement at University of Szeged, Hungary

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Overview of the reform process in Hungarian higher education

| year | regulating law |
|------|---|
| 1993 | Act No. LXXX of 1993 on Higher Education |
| 2000 | Gov. decree 200/2000 on the implementation of the credit system and on the central registration of institutional credit systems (implementation of ECTS) |
| 2001 | Act No. XCIX of 2001 Ratification of the Lisbon Recognition Convention |
| 2003 | Act XXXVIII of 2003 regulating the implementation of the Diploma Supplement |
| 2004 | Gov. decree 381/2004 (28. XII.) regulating the new degree structure |
| 2005 | Gov. decree 289/2005 (22. XII.) two-cycle degree and rule of accreditation |
| 2005 | Act No. CXXXIX on Higher Education (PHARMACY UNDIVIDED) |

International Relationships

- **Bologna Declaration**
 - Hungary signed in 1999
- **Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (2000)**
 - Hungarian initiative
- **European Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (2000)**
 - Hungary (HAC) member from 2002

Content:



- **Accreditation**

- generally

- pharmacy programs



- **Quality Assurance (QA)**

- general

- at University of Szeged

Accreditation and QA, content

- Inter-related but different concepts!
- You should prove that
 - accreditation: you have the necessary objective conditions and knowledge to perform the given activities,
 - QA: you perform the given activities in a planned, organised and documented way that avoids, as far as possible, *ad hoc* solutions.
- However, their results are mostly evaluated together!

ACCREDITATION



Accreditation process in general

- **Hungary's first Higher Education Act 1993**
 - The Hungarian Accreditation Committee (HAC) was set up, mandating accreditation of all higher education institutions and all their programmes every 8 years
 - 1995-2001 first cycle of accreditation
 - 89 operating HEIs
 - 2004- 2nd cycle
 - parallel accreditation of pharmacy programs finished 2005

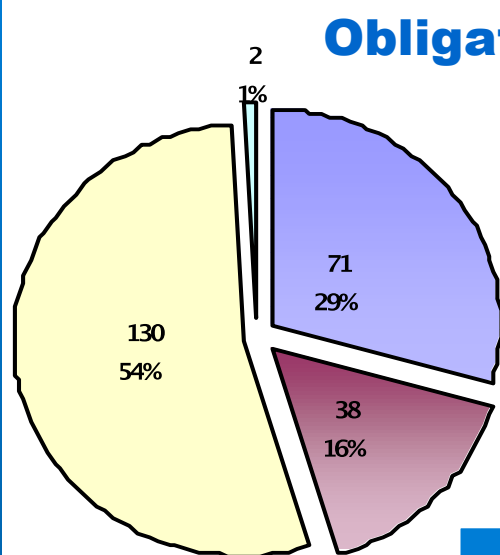
Procedure of accreditation

- institution's self-evaluation report
- visits by a peer review team
 1. leader and members of the review teams = experts in the given discipline and may include non-academics (2nd cycle also students)
 2. the visiting team produces an evaluation report
 3. prior to the final vote, the institution is given the report for comments
 4. the final report is published
 - HAC “opinion” → minister of education → final decision on accreditation.

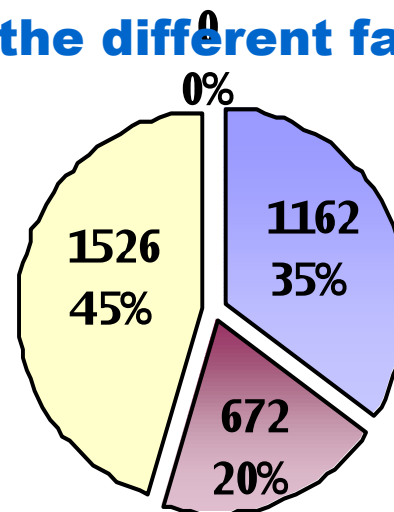
Accreditation of Pharmacy programs

- Pharmacy Education in Hungary
 - Semmelweis University Budapest (for 50 years, since 1987 English program)
 - University of Szeged (for 50 years, since 1987 English program)
 - University of Pécs (for 5 years)
 - University of Debrecen (from 1996, English from 2004)
- 2005: „parallel accreditation of pharmacy degree“
- all pharmacy programs (Hungarian and English graduate and PhD) accredited till 2014
- „Place of Excellence“ till 2011
 - University of Szeged
 - Semmelweis University

Obligatory subjects at the different faculties

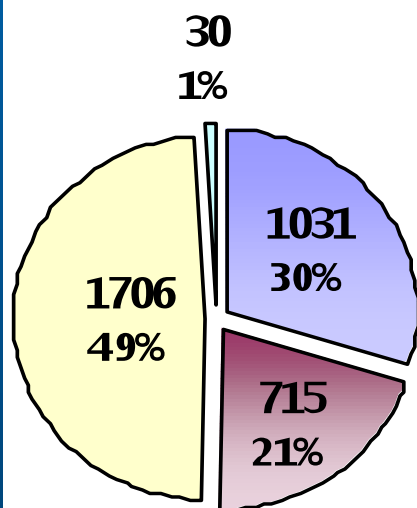


SZEGED

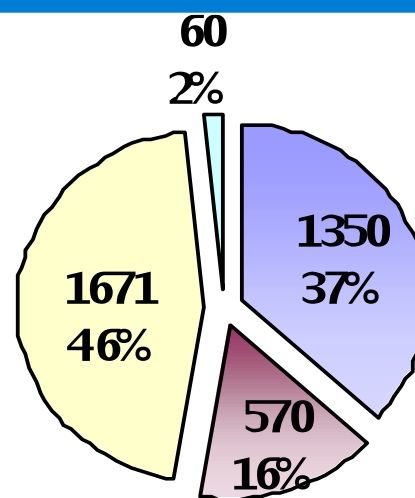


PÉCS

Chemistry (33%)
Biology – medical (19%)
Pharmaceutical (47%)
Social pharmacy



DEBRECEN



BUDAPEST

Opininion of the Visiting Committee

- In general:

- General problems of HE, i.e. decreasing standards and the „lowest denominator effect” have been successfully avoided – but financial problems (cat. II.)

- Evaluation of the graduate education process

- „*Universitas*” in practice
- credit-system adv./disadv.
- Szeged: highest number of elective courses
- need: harmonization between faculties, specialization?
- more intensive student feedback evaluation needed
- doctor of pharmacy/master of pharmacy?

- Suggestions:

- Possibilities of and participation in foreign courses as part of the graduate education should be strengthened.
- Number of fellowships and the scholarships provided should be increased, presumably involving external resources (e.g. the pharma industry) to alleviate financial problems.



HAC competencies



Accreditation

- Compulsory for new and operating: institutions, faculties, programs
 - Thresholds:
 - „yes”
 - ”conditionally yes”
 - ”no”
 - Based on:
 1. basic data
 2. self-assessment
 - merits given by HAC

Performance quality assessment

- evaluation of:
 - Capabilities
 - Performance
- **advices on quality improvement**

QUALITY ASSURANCE

“ If you don’t measure results, you can’t tell success from failure.

If you can’t see success, you can’t reward it.

If you can’t reward success, you are probably rewarding failure.”

D. Osborne, T. Gaebler

Quality assurance at HEIs in Hungary

- Hungary's first Higher Education Act 1993
 - Institutions have to implement their internal QA systems by the end of 2001
 - HEIs are free to choose the type and way of implementation of their QA systems
- New Higher Education Act 2005
 - „...medium-term and long-term strategic plan and quality assurance systems compulsory at HEIs”
 - HAC evaluates the QA systems at HEIs (107.§)

Quality issues at University of Szeged

- 2000 –
 - integration of higher education insitutes = University of Szeged (11 faculties)
- 2001-2002
 - Quality Statutes + Institutional Comittee representing the 11 faculties
- 2003 –
 - Quality Assurance committees established at faculty levels

„mainly to meet the requirements of the law”

The present:

„Human Resources Development Operational Programme“ (2004-2006)

(EU Social Fund and the EU Regional Development Fund)

- Consortium partners:
 - University of Szeged,
 - Tessedik Sámuel College, Szarvas
 - Eötvös József College, Baja
- As national accreditation – as external quality evaluation – has a strong **input** focus; an **output** oriented point of view is preferred within the frame of this project.

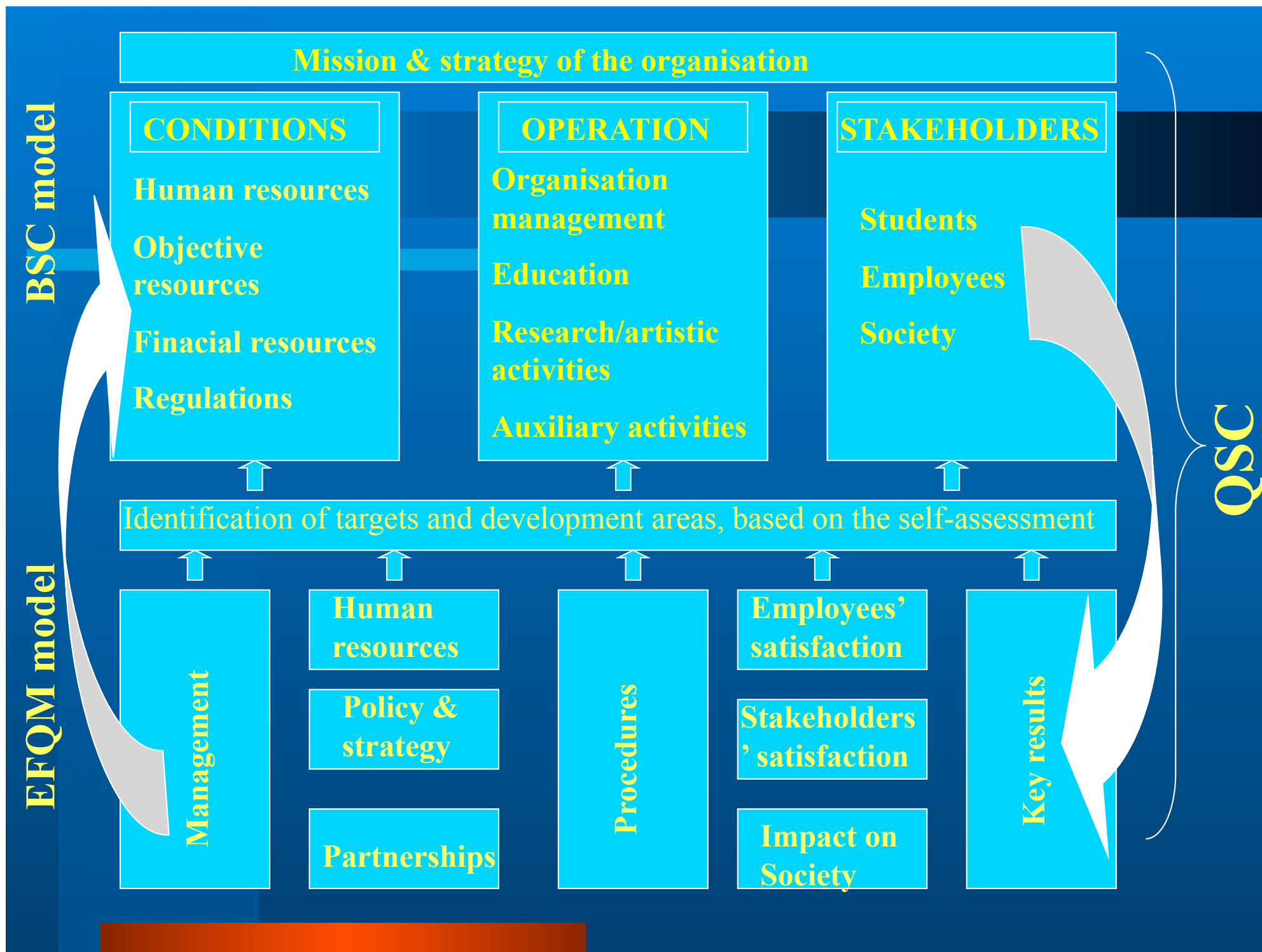
Elements of this Quality Management System

– Quality Evaluation

- = tool for the University to assess its values and results in order to identify all areas where the need for further development can be a target (**EFQM model**).

– Quality Based Management

- to define targets to the areas identified by the Quality Evaluation,
- development of quantitative performance indicators supporting the targets.
- Moreover, it provides an organised framework to the planning and execution of actions necessary to meet the targets (**Balanced Scorecard**)



Harmonisation between self-assessment and performance indicators

1. EFQM insitutional self-assesment (min. 3 times within the 8-year accreditation period)



2. the University identifies areas to be developed or, because of their importance, need continuously monitoring



3. the Management of the institution reconsiders the strategy = BSC input



4. targets and the corresponding indicators are developed (or modified) at the levels of structural units (e.g. Faculty) or operational units (e.g. Department).



5. BSC output information = factors characteristic to the level of reaching of pre-determined targets, that can be used as input information during the repeated self-assessment

Harmonisation between QA and accreditation

- Documents generated as self-assessment outputs can be used, on the one hand as input information for the amendment or re-definition of the targets of the organisation.
- On the other hand, they form the part of the quality documentation to be submitted to the quality assurance certifying body (HAC).

Specialities of Pharmacy disciplines, affecting establishment/assessment of the QA system

- **Interdisciplinarity, mixture of medicine, natural and social sciences** different performance indicators
- **Practice oriented** measurable output
- **Extremely rapid changes (medicine armament, regulations, etc.)** assessment of incorporating changes, e.g. written/electronic material
- ...

Summary

- The Quality Evaluation and Quality Based Management Systems of the University of Szeged operate in close correlation. Always suited to the actual operation parameters, they assure the identification of trends and targets, the quantitative assessment of reaching the latter as well as planning and execution of the necessary actions.
- We are sure that the accreditation and quality assurance activities outlined in this talk contributed to the fact that, after careful evaluation, the Hungarian „Master of Pharmacy” degree is an „equivalent EU diploma”, i.e. recognised (without further courses) throughout the whole European Economic Area

Thank you for your kind attention!



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