NATIONAL AGENCY for HIGHER EDUCATION QUALITY ASSURANCE (UKRAINE)

ANNUAL REPORT OF NAQA FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION FOR 2023

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Despite the current challenges, the National Agency's activities carried out in all areas provided for by law.

The focus of the National Agencys team has shifted from the already established accreditation procedure for educational programmes (2,738 accreditation cases were submitted by institutions in 2023) to the participation of the National Agency's committees in reviewing complaints about violations of academic integrity and violations of the procedure for defending a dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, the activities of one-time specialised councils, the introduction of post-accreditation monitoring, the involvement of international experts in sectoral expert councils, etc.

An important area of the National Agency's work was the preparation for face-to-face meetings with the leadership and experts of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and the European Quality Assurance Agency Register (EQAR) as part of Ukraine's international commitments. The prepared materials demonstrate the implementation of the National Action Plan for External Quality Assurance in Higher Education of Ukraine for the period 2022-2023 in the following areas:

— Amendments to regulations on ensuring the quality of higher education;

— Implementation of post-accreditation monitoring (preparation and conduct of pilot procedures) in Ukraine;

— constructive cooperation with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine;

— the system of appeal procedures developed by the National Agency to ensure the right to appeal against the decisions of the National Agency;

— information, advisory and methodological assistance of the National Agency to higher education institutions;

— a new Regulation on the Accreditation of Educational Programmes was developed and submitted to the central authorities for approval;

— improving the training of the National Agency's experts;

— Increasing the involvement of international experts in the process of ensuring the quality of education;

— cross-border quality assurance of education.

Some of these positions remain relevant and require special attention in the future. For example, representatives of the National Agency in the public and legal field continue to draw the attention of the international educational community to the numerous challenges associated with the unconditional recognition of foreign accreditations in Ukraine and further improvement of the relevant regulatory framework.

We hope that the Annual Report of the National Agency will demonstrate factual and statistical material on activities in all areas and will become a material that will contribute to understanding the work and problems associated with the implementation of the main functions of the National Agency.

1. INTERNATIONALISATION OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM AND THE ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL AGENCY

1.1. Cooperation with foreign quality assurance agencies

In 2023, the National Agency actively developed international cooperation, in particular, by entering into bilateral agreements with foreign quality assurance agencies.

In accordance with the plans presented in the 2022 report, in July 2023, a Cooperation Agreement was signed with the Commission for Engineering Education (CTI, France).

CTI is an independent French sectoral agency responsible for accrediting higher education institutions for the award of engineering degrees and for developing the quality of engineering education in France and . CTI operates in accordance with European standards, is a member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and is included in the European Quality Assurance Agency Register (EQAR).

Mobility within the framework of the Implementation and Innovation in Quality Assurance through Peer Learning (IMINQA) project allowed representatives of the National Agency to pay a working visit to the Swedish Higher Education Authority (UKÄ, Sweden) and the Estonian Agency for Quality in Education (HAKA, Estonia), where memoranda of cooperation were signed.

UKÄ is an independent institution that provides quality assessment of higher education and is responsible for higher education statistics in Sweden. HAKA is the leading competence centre for education assessment in Estonia. Both agencies are members of ENQA and are included in EQAR.

The partnership between the National Agency and the Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (TKTA, Azerbaijan) was also officially established. TKTA is a professional and specialised body in the field of independent quality assessment of higher, secondary and additional education based on international standards in Azerbaijan and abroad. The agency, like the National Agency, is a partner of the SEQA-ESG 2 project.

This year, meetings with agencies were also held to share experiences: θ Slovenian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (SQAA, Slovenia, where the importance of digitalisation for transparency and communication in quality agencies was discussed.

Slovenian partners shared their experience in creating and improving an internal information system (iNakvis). Representatives of the National Agency, in turn, presented an external information system where the accreditation process is fully implemented;

— The meeting was held with the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA, UK), where joint areas of cooperation were discussed, such as mutual international accreditation of study programmes, staff training, etc. As a result of the meeting, a material was prepared for the QAA community, which includes a brief description of the National Agency, its strategic

responsibilities, priorities and goals, and an overview of the higher education system and quality assurance in Ukraine;

— The Maltese Postgraduate and Higher Education Authority (MFHEA, Malta) and the Quality Assurance Agency of the University of Catalonia (AQU Catalunya, Spain), where representatives of the National Agency shared the specifics of the accreditation process in Ukraine;

— Estonian Agency for Education Quality (HAKA, Estonia). Representatives of the National Agency had the opportunity to join the first meeting of the HAKA Institutional Accreditation Commission. A meeting was also held where the National Agency presented its experience in training experts in the accreditation of educational programmes, and Estonian colleagues spoke about the accreditation of online courses and cross-border cooperation.

In September, a webinar "Quality Assurance in Legal Education: American Bar Association Instruments and Good Practices" was held with Angela Gilmore, Senior Accreditation Counsel of the American Bar Association Section on Legal Education and Access to the Legal Profession, with the support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) under the USAID Justice for All Program.

At the end of the year, cooperation with the European Association of Veterinary Education Institutions (EAEVE, Austria) was also intensified. As a result of the introductory meeting, a joint webinar was planned for February 2024.

We are working on renewing memoranda with those foreign quality assurance agencies that have expired and do not provide for automatic prolongation. We are also currently negotiating and planning to sign agreements with foreign agencies included in the EQAR and included in the List of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine[1].

1.2. International experts

The involvement of international experts in the accreditation procedure is one of the steps towards improving the external evaluation of educational programmes of Ukrainian higher education institutions. Based on the best international practices, the National Agency engages experts who have experience in international higher education quality assurance projects, have been involved as experts in accreditation in foreign higher education institutions and have teaching experience in foreign universities, etc. to help ensure compliance with the Standards and Recommendations for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG).

In 2023, 40 accreditations took place with the participation of 33 international experts. These quality assurance experts have foreign experience in countries such as Austria, England, Belgium, Croatia, France, Germany, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Slovakia, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, the United States, the United Kingdom.

Involvement of experts with experience abroad helps to improve the quality of education and competitiveness of the national higher education system.

[1] List of foreign accreditation and quality assurance agencies that issue certificates of accreditation of educational programmes recognised in Ukraine. Approved by the Order of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 10.07.2019№ 554 URL: https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/554-2019-%D1%80#Text

1.3. Membership in international organisations

In 2023, the National Agency continued its membership in four international organisations for quality assurance and academic integrity (three of them - INQAAHE, CEENQA, GAIN - full membership, and ENQA - associate membership). In March 2023, the National Agency became a member of the European Network of Academic Integrity (ENAI).

Cooperation with ENQA is carried out in several areas, including partnership in joint projects, presentations at events organised by ENQA, participation in general assemblies, forums of ENQA members, regular webinars on the most pressing issues of higher education development in the European Higher Education Area. The National Agency continues to work on creating the conditions for full membership in ENQA and inclusion in the EQAR register, currently actively interacting with ENQA representatives within the Erasmus+ project Supporting European QA Agencies in meeting the ESG II (SEQA-ESG2). The partnership in the project is ENQA's support for the National Agency's path to full membership in the organisation. In April, a delegation from the National Agency attended the ENQA Members' Forum in Tbilisi to discuss current changes and priorities in quality assurance and the future development of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG). In October, representatives of the National Agency attended the ENQA General Assembly in Dublin to discuss the recognition of qualifications, academic integrity, the future of the ESG, agency assessment methodology and cross-border quality assurance. The National Agency is equally active in implementing its full membership in the Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEENQA) by using the CEENQA information platform to disseminate information about the activities of the National Agency; obtaining consultations; publishing in newsletters published several times a year; participating in regular webinars and seminars on the most pressing issues of higher education quality assurance; expanding the network of contacts. In June 2023, the National Agency presented achievements in the digitalisation of quality assurance procedures and its own information system at the CEENQA General Assembly. Nataliia Stukalo, Deputy Head of the National Agency, continued her activities as a member of the Board of Directors of the International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies for Higher Education (INQAAHE). The National Agency continues to actively use the opportunities provided by membership in INQAAHE, constantly publishes information about its activities in the periodic bulletins of this global organisation, uses INQAAHE periodicals, and actively participates in decision-making during the General Assembly. The full membership of the National Agency in these organisations not only testifies to the recognition of Ukraine's achievements in the development of a culture of quality in higher education, but also expands the opportunities to study the best international practices, benchmarking

The Group is committed to the operation of both external and internal quality assurance systems, obtaining up-to-date information and expanding its network of contacts.

The National Agency also continues to cooperate with academic integrity specialists and organisations, including the Global Academic Integrity Network (GAIN). Within the framework of GAIN, a number of meetings and webinars were organised to discuss topical issues of academic integrity as an aspect of the quality of education. That is why international cooperation on this issue is important. March 2023, the National Agency became a full member of the European Network of Academic Integrity (ENAI). ENAI is the largest academic integrity network in Europe, cooperating with European and international organisations interested in academic and research integrity. In July 2023, Artem Artyukhov, a member of the National Agency, received the ENAI award for his significant contribution to promoting integrity in scientific communities in Europe and beyond.

In 2023, the National Agency continued to gradually work on acquiring the WFME Recognition Status. In particular, on 9 June 2023, a meeting was held with the President of the Federation Ricardo Leon-Borquez, where current issues were discussed and further steps of cooperation were outlined.

1.4. Advisory Board

The Advisory Council of the National Agency, which brings together leading foreign experts in quality assurance and academic integrity from the UK, USA, Sweden, France and other European countries, was established in 2020.

2023, the meetings with the Advisory Board were dedicated to the challenges faced by the National Agency in 2023 and the main achievements of the year. Individual accreditation cases, stakeholder engagement practices, successes in international cooperation and legislative changes in 2023 were presented. Representatives of the Advisory Board, joining the working groups, provided advice and recommendations on how to improve the work in the context of ensuring the quality of higher education in Ukraine.

An important part of the meeting was an open discussion. Ian Welch, Chairman of the Advisory Board, and Tricia Bertman, member of the Advisory Board, focused on the interesting processes of creating and selecting the international group of experts of the National Agency. The participants also discussed the amendments to the Law of Ukraine "On Higher Education", in particular the concept of institutional accreditation, academic integrity, accreditation of independent assessment institutions and quality assurance in higher education. Members of the Advisory Board praised the achievements of the National Agency, noting the challenges faced during the war and outlining recommendations for further work.

1.5. International projects and international donor support

In 2023, the National Agency continued active cooperation with the National Erasmus+ Office in Ukraine, the British Council, the

The United States Agency for International Development, the OSCE and other international organisations and institutions.

early 2023, work began on the GTUA (Green Transition in Ukrainian Universities) project of the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA), coordinated by Wroclaw University of Technology. The main objectives of the project are to develop "green standards" of education and research in the field of engineering and technical sciences for Ukrainian universities, taking into account the specifics of Ukrainian HEIs, to create a "green campus" model and implement standards in the field of scientific and pedagogical activities and campus operations, to develop and implement a system of micro-certification of Ukrainian students in the field of green transformation. The project goals also contribute to the implementation of the Rome Ministerial Communiqué 2020, the development and achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The project ended 31 December 2023.

Work continued on the project "Open Practices, Transparency and Integrity for Modern Academia" (OPTIMA). In 2023, representatives of the National Agency took part in two seminars and a webinar as part of the project. Also at the end of year, the National Agency joined the final stage of the all-Ukrainian survey on academic integrity and open science, the main purpose of which is to study the attitude of the Ukrainian academic community, in particular higher education students, to the values of academic integrity and open scientific practices, as well as to identify typical examples of dishonest behaviour.

In early 2023, active work began on Simulation Medicine and Scenario-based Learning for Emergency Care project. During the year, the National Agency took part in four project meetings and a number of discussions. Representatives of the National Agency joined the scenario-based training during the meetings held in May and November 2023.

Work also continued on the project "Students' Personalised Learning Model, Based on the Virtual Learning Environment of Intellectual Tutoring" (SMART-PL - Students' Personalised Learning Model, Based on the Virtual Learning Environment of Intellectual Tutoring "Learning with No Limits"). In 2023, the project's kick-off meetings and a meeting where the Report on the benchmarking analysis of European and Ukrainian experience in applying a personalised approach to learning was presented.

2023, the project "Supporting European QA agencies in meeting ESG " (SEQA-ESG II), coordinated by the European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies, continued. The project is currently in its active phase, and the National Agency is preparing for a meeting with representatives of ENQA and EQAR in February 2024.

In August, the results of the winning projects for higher education capacity building were announced. The winners, who received funding 2024, include the Digital University - Open Ukrainian Initiative (DigiUni) project, a partnership between the

The National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education is the main agency for this programme. DigiUni is coordinated by the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv.

Shevchenko's race. The project will involve 25 participants, including representatives from Ukraine, Germany, France, the Czech Republic, Poland, Spain, and Belgium. The main goal of the project is to create a highly efficient digital educational ecosystem for distance and inclusive learning. DigiUni covers all educational levels and will promote adult education and lifelong learning through formal, non-formal and informal digital education. The direct beneficiaries of the project are Ukrainian students and staff, many of whom are displaced within and outside Ukraine.

The National Agency continues its project activities and is developing other project applications.

1.6. Participation in international forums, conferences, congresses and international publication activity

In 2023, representatives of the National Agency continued to actively participate in numerous international forums, conferences, seminars, and webinars.

Among the many large-scale events in 2023, it is worth mentioning the European Higher Education Summit - EURIE (Istanbul), a meeting of representatives of ministries of education and higher education quality assurance agencies and the kick-off meeting of the SEQA-ESG II project (Brussels), the International Forum of Partners of the British Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), the Forum of Members of the European Higher Education Quality Assurance Association (ENQA) (Tbilisi).

In April and May 2023. The National Agency joined such international events as the virtual international roundtable "Quality Assurance in Legal Education: Tools and Good Practices" with the participation of the QAA and USAID, the webinar "Quality Assurance in Online Education", organised by the National Agency together with the global quality assurance organisation Quality Matters (QM) with the support of the OSCE, and the international conference on integrity in higher education, business and society within the BRIDGE project, 26th Annual European Business Education Council (EBEC), presentation of the UNODC Anti-Corruption Training Module Series organised by USAID Justice for All Programme and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, General Assembly of the International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies for Higher Education (INQAAHE).

In June, the CEENQA General Assembly was held, which included a seminar on the management and development of quality assurance agencies' staff and the role of digitalisation in staff management, a meeting of the National Agency's representatives with the Director of the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES) Centre for Combating Corruption and Democratic Trust, and a training on Integrity and Anti-Corruption in Higher Education, organised with the support of the United Nations Development Programme in Ukraine and the European Union, which was attended by the Secretary of the

In July 2023, an international conference "The Third Mission of Universities: Challenges and European Prospects" was held within the framework of the Erasmus+ UNICOM project, and representatives of the National Agency also took part in the annual general meeting of the European Network of Academic Integrity (ENAI).

In September, the National Agency, together with colleagues from the American Bar Association Section on Legal Education and Access to the Legal Profession (ABA Section), with support from USAID under the USAID Justice for All Program, held a joint webinar on "Quality Assurance in Legal Education: ABA Tools and Good Practices". The annual conference of the British Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) "The Future of Higher Education Quality" was also held, and the State Service for Quality Assurance in Education of Ukraine held the Education Quality Forum as part of cooperation between the governments of Ukraine and Canada. The event was organised with the support of the "Maintaining Access to School Education" initiative, implemented by the Support to Ukraine's Government Reforms (SURGe) project with the participation of the National Agency. Representatives of the National Agency took part in the international forum of the university consortium Unite!

"VIII Unite! Dialogue" at the Wroclaw University of Technology, and during the VII Kharkiv International Legal Forum, a discussion panel "Education in the 21st Century: New Challenges and Their Solutions" was held with the participation of a representative of the National Agency. The National Agency also took part in the INQAAHE Talks webinar on navigating the future of learning in the context of microqualifications recognition.

In October 2023, an international online conference "ESG: Equality for Universities and Quality Assurance Agencies in Achieving Their Goals" was held. The event was held as part of the Going Global Partnerships programme "Deep Dialogues-2023. Building a sustainable future: ensuring inclusive and sustainable quality of higher education", organised by British Council in partnership with the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA, UK) and Advance HE (UK) and joined by a representative of the National Agency. Also in October, a representative of the National Agency took part in the International Scientific and Practical Conference dedicated to the 30th anniversary of Academician Stepan Demianchuk International University of Economics and Public Administration. On 26-27 October, the ENQA General Assembly was held in Dublin with the participation of the National Agency. At the end of the month, a panel discussion "Educational Process in the Time of War" was held as part of the International Student Exchange "Dialogue of Student Unity: Ukraine and Poland" with the participation of UAS representatives.

In November, within the framework of the project "Stairway to Excellence: Strengthening an Effective and Reliable Higher Education System in Ukraine" (UKRKORG), at the invitation of the Estonian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (HAKA), the National Agency presented presentations on "Quality Assurance in Ukrainian Higher Education Institutions during Martial Law" at the webinar "Accreditation in the Higher Education System", and the III International Scientific and Practical Conference "Development of Internal Quality Assurance Systems in Higher Education Institutions" was held.

Ukraine: Qualifications, Assessment and Quality Culture", which was co-organised by the National Agency. Representatives of the National Agency took part in the International Forum "Human Capital: Skills for the Future" as speakers.

In December 2023, the VIII International Scientific and Practical Conference "Implementation of the State Anti-Corruption Policy in the International Dimension" was held, and on 7 December, the International Youth Forum "Statecraft: Actions for the Future" was held on 7 December. Representatives of the National Agency took part in the events. The International Conference "University and Inclusion" within the framework of the Erasmus+ project "Universities - Communities: Strengthening Cooperation" (UNICOM) was held with the participation of a representative of the National Agency and the XII International Scientific and Practical Conference "European Integration of Higher Education of Ukraine in the Context of the Bologna Process: Digitalisation and Quality Assurance of Higher Education". Also in December, the international conference "Integrity, Open Science and Artificial Intelligence in Academia and Beyond: Meeting at the Crossroads" was held with the participation of representatives of the National Agency.

An important area of the National Agency's internationalisation is its international publication activity, both in the periodicals of quality associations and in scientific journals and educational Internet resources. International publications of the National Agency representatives are listed below.

1.7. Publications of the National Agency

1. Artyukhov, A., Barvinok, V., Rehak, R., Matvieieva, Y., Lyeonov, S. (2023). Dynamics of interest in higher education before and during the ongoing war: Google Trends Analysis. *Knowledge and Performance Management, 7(1),* 47-63. doi: 10.21511/kpm.07(1).2023.04

2. Artyukhov, A., Gavurova, B., Volk, I., Bilan, S., Lyeonov, S., Mudarri, T. (2023). External assessment of medical education quality: indicative model development considering the paradox of skill. *Frontiers in Public Health,* 11:1184861. doi: 10.3389/fpubh.2023.1184861

3. Artyukhov, A., Volk, I., Dluhopolskyi, O., Mieszajkina, E., Myśliwiecka, A. (2023). Immersive University Model: A Tool to Increase Higher Education Competitiveness. *Sustainability, 15,* 7771. https://doi.org/10.3390/su15107771

4. Artyukhov, A., Bilan, S., Volk, I., Lyeonov, S., Serafimova, D. (2023). SPACE- RL Innovation Transfer Model "Science - Business". *European Journal of Interdisciplinary Studies, 15(1),* 1-15. https://ejist.ro/files/pdf/509.pdf.

5. Denyskina, G., Simshah, I., Loban, O. (2023). Maintaining Quality Assurance in Ukraine: Accreditation, Cooperation, and Anticorruption. *CHEA (Council for Higher Education Accreditation).* https://www.chea.org/sites/ default/files/2023-07/Maintaining%20Quality%20Assurance%20 in%20Ukraine-NC.pdf

6. Loban, O., Denyskina, G., Simshah, I. (2023, July). Maintaining Quality Assurance in Ukraine: Accreditation, Cooperation and Anti-corruption. *The CHEA International Quality Group. Quality International Newsletter.* https://www.chea.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/Maintaining%20 Quality%20Assurance%20in%20Ukraine-NC.pdf

7. National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance (2023). European Aspirations of NAQA: Advancing Higher Education Quality in Ukraine. *INQAAHE Newsletter Q3.* https://mailchi.mp/inqaahe/inqaahe- newsletter-q3-9417954

8. National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance (2023). Internationalisation as a keynote of quality assurance. *INQAAHE Newsletter Q2.* https://mailchi.mp/inqaahe.org/inqaahe-newsletter- q2-9178197-crnn4xbd0s-9378033

9. National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance (2023). NAQA Takes Action to Promote Academic Integrity: GAIN and ENAI Membership. *INQAAHE Newsletter Q1.* https://mailchi.mp/inqaahe.org/inqaahe- newsletter-q2-9178197-crnn4xbd0s-9335821

10. Stukalo, N. (2023). Digitalisation of quality assurance in Ukraine. *People and Culture in QA Agencies.* https://www.ceenqa.org/wp-content/ uploads/2023-CEENQA-People-and-Culture-in-QA-Agencies.pdf

In 2023, the special issue of the MDPI Educational Science Journal "Quality Assurance in Higher Education" (part of SCOPUS), initiated by the National Agency, continued to be published. The journal was open for submission of articles for review and publication until 31 December 2023. As of December 2023 and for the entire period, 44 articles were submitted for review, of which 11 were accepted for publication based on results of a double-blind peer review. Accordingly, the acceptance rate is 25%. The journal is in the first quartile (Q1).

1.8. European integration

In 2023, the National Agency continued its work towards European integration in accordance with the National Action Plan for External Quality Assurance in Higher Education for the period 2022-2023. The purpose of the National Action Plan is to consolidate the efforts of all key stakeholders in the higher education system to achieve full compliance of the higher education quality assurance system with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG 2015) and to obtain full membership in ENQA.

One of the activities of the National Agency in the context of European integration is the implementation of amendments to the current legislation on the activities of the National Agency. Thus, on 2 May 2023, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on Quality Assurance in Higher Education". The law regulates the alignment of the higher education quality assurance system with the requirements of the Standards and Recommendations for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG 2015) and improves the mechanism for quality assurance in higher education in Ukraine. The Law improves certain procedures for ensuring the quality of higher education and the activities of the National Agency, including the establishment of the Appeals Chamber, post-accreditation monitoring, improvement of the institutional accreditation system, clarification of the status of the National Agency and improvement of the selection of its members.

Also among the main areas of work of National Agency in 2023.

In the context of European integration, work continued on involving international experts in the accreditation procedure for educational programmes, improving the criteria for accreditation of educational programmes, and increasing the involvement of stakeholders in the work of the National Agency.

In addition, the National Agency participates in the Erasmus+ project "Supporting European QA Agencies in meeting the ESG 2015" (SEQA-ESG II), which aims to prepare for full membership in ENQA and inclusion in the European Quality Assurance Agency Register (EQAR).

This work, together with legislative changes in 2023, made an important contribution to the integration of the Ukrainian higher education quality assurance system into the European space and the agency's accession to ENQA and entry into EQAR.

2. COORDINATION OF COMMUNICATION PROCESSES

The National Agency's activities to coordinate internal and external communication processes were based on the Communication Strategy approved in 2022 and aimed at achieving its objectives:
— to raise awareness of the Ukrainian society and the international community by disseminating high-quality, reliable and timely information about the activities of the National Agency and the system of quality assurance in higher education in Ukraine;
— promote the activities of the National Agency, its mission, goals and principles;
— to create a positive image of the Ukrainian higher education system within the country and abroad;
— to promote awareness of Ukrainian society about the European integration of the Ukrainian higher education system and the importance of this process;
— develop partnerships with foreign partners through bilateral and multilateral cooperation.

The Secretariat of the National Agency, based on the tasks set, provided organisational support for events aimed at implementing the mission, goals and principles of the Agency, its outreach work, developing partnerships with foreign partners and key stakeholders in building a system of quality assurance in higher education and adherence to the principles of academic integrity in Ukraine.

The National Agency develops its own communication platforms to inform Ukrainian society and the international community and disseminate high-quality, reliable and timely information on the development of the higher education quality assurance system in Ukraine. In particular, all events during the year were covered on the official website for Ukrainian and English-speaking audiences, on its own communication platforms in social media - on official pages in social networks (Facebook for the Ukrainian-speaking audience, Linkedin and Twitter for the English-speaking audience), in messengers relevant to the Ukrainian audience (official Telegram channel and Telegram channel for applicants), and on the YouTube channel. In total, more than 320 news and announcements were published on the website and social media in 2023. The activities of the National Agency also attracted the attention of national media, were covered in blogs, and were the subject of discussions on social media.

According to Google Analytics, the National Agency's website was visited by 193,249 users in 2023, who made 873,177 views. The most visited pages of the website are the main page with information on events and announcements of the National Agency (264,484 views), the section on PhD degrees (65,783 views), published minutes of the National Agency's meetings (36,587 views), the section on experts (32,495 views) and, especially, the register of experts (29,040 views), announcements of additional recruitment of experts (21,732 views), and the section on the composition of sectoral expert councils (18,036 views).

According to the results of 2023, the coverage of the official Ukrainian-language Facebook page of the National Agency was 468,254 users, which is 9.9% less than in 2022. However, the number of visits to the page by users increased significantly - by 50.9%: 163,261 visits were recorded in 2023. In total, the number of followers of the National Agency's official Facebook page increased to 17,835 (in 2022 - 16,303, i.e. an increase of 9.). The largest number of followers are from Ukraine, accounting for 86.7%.

Taking into account the trends in the development of communication platforms in Ukraine and taking into account the convenience of use, the National Agency has been developing a Telegram channel for applicants (t.me/naqa_ua) with relevant content (currently 738 subscribers) since 2022, and since July 2023 - the official Telegram channel (t.me/naqaua) with a focus on current announcements and events (currently 961 subscribers, average post reach of 1,150 views (December 2023) and 2-3 posts per day).

The National Agency continues to develop its official English-language pages on Twitter and Linkedin, considering them as communication platforms for interaction with the international educational community, foreign experts, specialists in higher education and quality assurance, foreign and international organisations. 2023, the posts covered the international activities of the National Agency and informed foreign partners about the consequences of Russian aggression in Ukraine. A total of 103 posts on Twitter 2023 had 23,264 views. On Linkedin, where the page has existed since 2022, the number of followers increased from 339 to 588 in 2023, and 1,606 reactions to posts were recorded. The development of the official English-language pages on Twitter and Linkedin requires further systematic work given their communication potential.

The official YouTube channel of the National Agency has been launched, where live broadcasts of meetings are carried out and videos of meetings, webinars and events are published in the public domain. In 2023, 27 videos and 10 broadcasts were published on the YouTube channel (on 17 July 2023, the first live broadcast of the National Agency's meeting on YouTube, before that, broadcasts were made on the official Facebook page). Among the ten most popular videos in 2023, 6 were from meetings, 3 were from webinars, and the presentation of the draft Regulation on Accreditation of Educational Programmes for Higher Education. In 2023, users watched 23,028 videos. The channel currently has 1,187 subscribers, but it should be noted that 79.8% of viewers watch videos and broadcasts without subscribing.

The National Agency strictly adheres to the principles of transparency and accountability in its activities. All meetings of the National Agency in terms of accreditation cases are broadcast live - until July 2023 on the official Facebook page, from July 2023 - on the official YouTube channel. All relevant videos are kept in the public domain. The official website of the National Agency publishes timely announcements of meetings of the Agency and its committees, as well as all meeting agendas with the necessary materials. Data on the accreditation process and activities related to the formation and operation of one-time specialised academic councils are publicly available in information systems

National Agency. A transparent format for recruitment to the register of experts, announcement of competitions and recruitment in case of open vacancies to sectoral expert councils is ensured (in 2023, there were 41 relevant announcements).

Given the fundamental importance of raising awareness of Ukrainian society about the European integration of the Ukrainian higher education system and the importance of this process, the National Agency widely covers this area of work, emphasising that in accordance with Annex XLIII to the Association Agreement with the EU, the Recommendations of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 February 2006 on further cooperation in the field of quality assurance in higher education (No. 2006/143/EC), which stipulate that signatory states should establish independent and reliable agencies for the quality assurance of higher education, are binding for Ukraine. It is important that the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education together with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine, the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Education, Science and Innovation consistently works to fulfil this task, improving the regulatory framework, interacting with the management of ENQA and EQAR. To implement this task, the National Action Plan for External Quality Assurance of Higher Education in Ukraine for the period 2022-2023 was concluded and implemented.

In 2023, this area was also actively covered by a number of actions. In particular, on 8-9 March 2023, a meeting of representatives of ministries of education and higher quality assurance agencies and a kick-off meeting within the Erasmus+ project "Supporting European QA Agencies in meeting the ESG 2015 European Standards for Quality Assurance in Higher Education" ("Supporting European QA Agencies in meeting the ESG", SEQA-ESG II) took place in Brussels. On 5 April 2023, the National Agency presented a report on the quality of higher education in Ukraine, its compliance with the tasks of sustainable innovative development of society 2022 at a meeting of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Education, Science and Innovation. On 03 May 2023, the National Agency participated in a meeting of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Education, Science and Innovation to consider the issue "On Ukraine's Integration into the European Union in the Fields of Education and Science: Status and Problems", which, in particular, concerned the development of a system of ensuring the quality of higher education.

Since October 2023, the National Agency has been preparing a strategic meeting and a series of consultations involving a wide range of Ukrainian online participants with the leadership and experts of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and the European Quality Assurance Agency Register (EQAR), which will take place in February 2024. The purpose of the planned meeting is to assess progress in developing the quality assurance system of Ukrainian higher education in accordance with ESG 2015 - standards and recommendations for quality assurance in the European Higher Education Area. One of the key tasks is to determine the next steps for the National Agency to become a full member of the

ENQA and joining the EQAR. During the meeting, the Ukrainian delegation plans to present the results of the implementation of the National Action Plan for External Quality Assurance for 2022-2023 and discuss the achievements and challenges in developing the quality assurance system in higher education in Ukraine. In order to become a full member of ENQA and be included in the EQAR, the National Agency is participating in the Erasmus+ project "Supporting European QA Agencies in meeting the ESG 2015 European Standards for Quality Assurance in Higher Education" ("Supporting European QA Agencies in meeting the ESG", SEQA-ESG II).

It is noteworthy that in the study "Ukraine and the Association Agreement: Monitoring of Implementation 2014-2022", the Ukrainian Centre for European Policy and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Ukraine separately noted the activities of the National Agency in implementing European recommendations and standards for ensuring the quality of higher education (ESG) in Ukraine. The researchers drew attention to changes in legislation, in particular in the field of academic integrity and quality assurance under martial law. The document also refers to the agency's contribution to the development of the National Action Plan for External Quality Assurance in Higher Education of Ukraine for the period 2022-2023. The international activities of the agency are also mentioned, namely: membership in the Global Academic Integrity Network (GAIN) and participation in the activities of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), which, according to the researchers, indicates an active entry into the community of European organisations for quality assurance and academic integrity. In general, the results of the study reflect the positive expansion of quality assurance practices through the transparency of accreditation procedures for educational programmes, attention to academic integrity policy, implementation of mechanisms of the external quality assurance system and successful cooperation with international organisations in Europe.

The National Agency continues systematic interaction with stakeholders. framework for the development of the quality assurance system in higher education in Ukraine. In particular, more than 250 events were organised in 2023.

In order to create a communication platform for Ukrainian educators to share their experience in implementing best practices in the activities of higher institutions, to jointly find solutions to pressing problems of the higher education quality assurance system, the National Agency in partnership with the Western Ukrainian National University organised the Ukrainian Quality Assurance Forum (UQAF - 2023) for the first time in Ternopil on 6 November 2023. During the forum, participants discussed the mission, challenges and prospects of the Ukrainian higher education quality assurance system, ways and features of implementing post-accreditation monitoring, and discussed mechanisms for ensuring academic integrity in Ukraine in three panel discussions. The Forum featured presentations by representatives of higher education institutions and educational organisations of best practices in developing an internal system of quality assurance in higher education, followed by active discussion and questions from the forum participants. The event gathered more than 160 in-person participants from all regions of the country and more than 1,200 online participants and aroused considerable interest among

Among others, the forum was attended by 355 guarantors of educational programmes and 127 heads of departments from higher education institutions in all regions of the country, 93 heads of departments responsible for the internal quality assurance system in their higher education institutions, more than 80 rectors and vice-rectors, and more than 70 students. The speakers of the forum were leading experts, educators and scientists, people's deputies of Ukraine, representatives of the Office of the President of Ukraine, the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and the Ministry of Health. The forum was broadcast live on Facebook, and a full recording is available on the National Agency's YouTube channel[2].

To create conditions for interaction with stakeholders, to exchange views on the specifics of applying the criteria for accreditation of educational programmes, and other relevant issues of the accreditation process, on 12 September 2023, the National Agency organised a roundtable with in-person participation "Quality of Higher Education: Content and Formal Assessment Parameters". The event attended by rectors and specialised vice-rectors of a number of higher education institutions of Ukraine, people's deputies of Ukraine, the leadership of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine and the National Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of Ukraine. During the roundtable, the results of a survey of guarantors of educational programmes and representatives of structural units responsible for implementing the internal quality assurance system were presented regarding the external evaluation of educational programmes in the 2022-2023 academic year.

In 2023, continuing the tradition of scientific and methodological support for the development of internal quality assurance systems in higher education institutions, the National Agency organised or co-organised 14 webinars, namely:
— "SMART Approach to External Quality Assurance in Higher Education" for experts and members of sectoral expert councils", 26 January 2023;
— on occasion of the first anniversary of the approval of the Procedure for Awarding and Revoking the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, 31 January 2023;
— "Topical Issues of Assessing the Quality of HEE Educational Programmes", 2 February 2023;
— "Topical issues of ensuring the quality of higher education" for Kryvyi Rih State Pedagogical University, 7 February 2023;
— "Quality Assurance in Higher Education: the View of Experts of the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education" for guarantors of educational programmes, jointly with Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University, 16 February 2023;
— "One year of operation of the National Agency's information system "NAQASVR, 7 March 2023;
— "Topical issues of ensuring the quality of higher education in technical universities", 13 April 2023;
— "Functioning and Accreditation of Educational Programmes in Artistic Specialities", jointly with the State Agency Ukraine for Arts and Art Education, 28 April 2023;
— "Quality Assurance in Online Education", together with the global organisation

[2]https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lBcPskqysv8&t=1970s

Quality Matters (QM), 24 April 2023;
— "Topical issues of ensuring the quality of higher education in higher education institutions with specific learning conditions", 5 September 2023;
— "Accreditation of Educational Programmes: Mechanisms for Ensuring the Quality of Higher Education" at Ivan Ohienko Kamianets-Podilskyi National University as part of the programme for the professional development of academic staff, 19 September 2023;
— "Academic Integrity in Sports Science", jointly with the Faculty of Health, Physical Education and Sports of Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University, 10 November 2023;
— "Accreditation in the Higher Education System" within the framework of the project "Stairway to Excellence: Strengthening an Effective and Reliable Higher Education System in Ukraine" (UKRKORG, at the invitation of the Estonian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (HAKA), 15 November 2023;
— "Topical issues of ensuring the quality of higher education in higher education institutions of artistic orientation", jointly with the State Agency of Ukraine for Arts and Art Education, 19 December 2023.

The target group for the webinars was primarily guarantors of educational programmes and members of quality assurance teams, vice-rectors, managers and employees of specialised units responsible for the internal quality assurance system of higher education in higher education institutions. Recordings of the webinars are available on the official YouTube channel of the National Agency in the public domain as methodological materials available to stakeholders. In addition, the National Agency organised, co-organised, and delegated specialised speakers to provide content for a number of in-person events at universities aimed at forming internal quality assurance and academic integrity systems, in particular:
— 18-21 January 2023 - measures to form internal quality systems of Odesa higher education institutions with medical and biological study programmes, including a methodological workshop "Quality of Higher Medical Education";
— 23 February 2023 - participation in the advanced training programme "The role of guarantors of educational programmes in the development of the internal system of quality assurance in education" at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv;
— 15 March 2023 - participation in a meeting for heads of departments and research and teaching staff of the National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine;
— 23 March 2023 - organisation of a regional seminar "Application of internal quality assurance systems in the organisation of the educational process and overcoming educational losses and gaps" at the King Daniel University;
— 4 April 2023 - Seminar "Current Issues of Quality Assurance in Higher Education, organised by the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy;
— 29-31 May 2023 - training for developers of anti-corruption master's programmes;
— 1 June 2023 - a roundtable discussion at Zaporizhzhia National

University "Accreditation as an incentive for the modernisation of higher education institutions";

— 7 June 2023 - participation in a series of meetings related to the preparation of educational programmes for accreditation, organised by the Ukrainian Catholic University;

— 2-3 November 2023 - methodological training "Main trends in the development of the accreditation process and best practices of sectoral expert councils" for the academic community of Volyn and Rivne regions, organised by the International Foundation for Educational Policy Research in cooperation with Lutsk National Technical University, with the participation of the Head of the Secretariat and representatives of sectoral expert councils of the National Agency;

— 16-17 November 2023 - International Scientific and Practical Conference "Development of Internal Quality Assurance Systems in Ukrainian Higher Education Institutions: Qualifications, Assessment and Quality Culture" at Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, by the National Agency;

— 27 November 2023 - seminar "Problematic issues of evaluating educational programmes: correlation of external and internal education quality systems" at the separate subdivision of the National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine "Nizhyn Agrotechnical Institute". In 2023, a number of meetings were held with the heads of higher education institutions in

The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine also organised working visits to a number of higher education institutions, even in the frontline regions, to discuss the specifics of higher education quality and the development of universities in extreme conditions. Working visits were also organised to a number of higher education institutions, including those in the frontline regions, to discuss the specifics of ensuring the quality of higher education and the overall development of universities in the extreme conditions of war. Systematic cooperation with the Union of Rectors of Higher Education Institutions of Ukraine and the Association of Private Educational Institutions of Ukraine continues.

The National Agency continues systematic cooperation with central executive authorities, representatives of employers, students, expert and public organisations. In cooperation with the National Agency for the Prevention of Corruption (NAPC), with which a memorandum of cooperation was signed on 25 January 2023, representatives of the Agency took part in the development of the State Anti-Corruption Programme approved by the Government in March 2023. Representatives of the National Agency participate in discussions of anti-corruption issues in higher education at various events and scientific and practical events. Taking into account the need to integrate professional standards into the curricula of higher education institutions, a consistent interaction with the National Qualifications Agency (NQA) is being built. In particular, on 1 February 2023, a working meeting was held with the on the integration of professional standards into the educational programmes of higher education institutions; in May 2023, the issue of integrating professional standards into the development of cybersecurity educational programmes was discussed with the participation of all stakeholders; and in November 2023, the coordination of professional and educational standards and their role in building educational programmes was discussed at the International Forum "Human Capital: Skills for the Future".

Cooperation with the Federation of Employers of Ukraine continues.

The National Agency and the State Education Quality Service discussed issues related to ensuring the quality of school education, which is one of the prerequisites for obtaining quality higher education. On 25 May 2023, representatives of the National Agency took part in the educational initiative "Development of "atypical" educational programmes: new opportunities and prospects for general secondary education institutions", organised by the State Education Quality Service, and on 20 September 2023, in the framework of cooperation between the governments of Ukraine and Canada, in the Education Quality Forum. Representatives of the National Agency also took part in discussions on the training of secondary school teachers in times of war. Thus, on 22 February, they participated in a roundtable discussion "The Impact of War on Learning Outcomes" organised by Pavlo Tychyna Uman State Pedagogical University, and on 23 August 2023, they participated in a roundtable discussion "Development of Educational Programmes and Teacher Training Based on the Professional Teacher Standard and in Response to the Challenges of War" at Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University.

Traditional cooperation and organisation of joint events with Ukrainian student organisations, such as the Ukrainian Students' Association, the Ukrainian Student League, NGO Congress of Youth Councils of Ukraine, and the National Ukrainian Youth Association, continues. In particular, in October 2023, a joint face-to-face meeting was held with members of the Ukrainian Students Association and the Polish Student Parliament to discuss the peculiarities and prospects for ensuring the quality of higher education in Ukraine during the war. On December 7, 2023, the international youth forum "State Creator: Actions for the Future" brought together representatives of 17 public youth organisations, public sector representatives, employers, foreign partners and other stakeholders.

The National Agency continues to systematically interact with public experts and educational organisations, in particular to discuss the development of a higher education quality assurance system and ways to implement ESG - Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area. Thus, in May 2023, representatives of the National Agency participated in a panel discussion "What should Ukrainian universities become?" On 23 May 2023, an online event "European Quality of Higher Education: What Should Ukrainian Universities Expect?" was organised by the NGO "Progressive" and the National Agency to discuss the Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on Ensuring the Quality of Higher Education". On 1 June 2023, the National Agency took part in the event "Public Accreditation: Quality Schools in the Eyes of Professional Communities". From 13 to 15 July 2023, the final conference of the sixth phase of the Polish-Ukrainian project "Innovative University and Leadership" was held in Lviv at the Ukrainian Catholic University, where a wide range of issues was discussed regarding the participation of change agents in the Ukrainian academic environment in the context of war. On 20 July 2023, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed with the Ukraine Global Faculty (UGF), which engages leading world scientists to deliver public lectures on relevant topics to Ukrainian educators and researchers. On 15 September 2023, at an online meeting of the National Agency

with the National Team of Experts on Reforming Higher Education (HERE team), the current state and prospects for the development of the higher education quality assurance system were discussed, in particular, regulatory and legal regulation in the context of European integration.

The National Agency continues to work consistently to ensure the quality of IT education in Ukraine, in cooperation with the Ministry of Digital Transformation and a number of leading companies and professional associations in the IT sector, such as SoftServe, Genesis, Kharkiv IT Cluster and others. In particular, the National Agency provides expert support to the ITeacher's Meet-Ups project for IT teachers of Ukrainian universities, organised by SoftServe, as well as the IT Certification System pilot project launched by Kharkiv IT Cluster. On 26 January 2023, an online meeting "The Role of the Internal Quality Assurance System of Higher Education Institutions in the Development of Modern IT Education Programmes" was held as part of the ITeacher's Meet-Ups series of events organised by SoftServe. On 15 May 2023, representatives of the National Agency took part in panel discussion on "Impact on improving the quality of IT training in higher education institutions in the framework of business and education cooperation", organised by Kharkiv IT Cluster, and on 21 December 2023 - in a round table discussion on "Dual education: best practices and implementation challenges", organised by SoftServe. On 7 June 2023, representatives of the National Agency took part in the IT Ukraine Education Summit 2023.

Given the trends of digitalisation in the development of higher education quality, the

In 2023, the National Agency launched Erasmus+ project "Digital University - Open Ukrainian Initiative (DigiUni)" within the consortium to create a digital platform for Ukrainian universities. The implementation of the Erasmus+ project Students' Personalised Learning Model, Based on the Virtual Learning Environment of Intellectual Tutoring "Learning with No Limits" (Smart-PL) is ongoing.

The National Agency also pays considerable attention to the problems of ensuring the quality of legal education. In particular, on 21 April 2023, the Virtual International Roundtable "Ensuring the Quality of Legal Education: Tools and Good Practices" was held. On 27 September 2023, a discussion panel "Education in the 21st Century: New Challenges and Solutions" was held during the VII Kharkiv International Legal Forum. On 14 September, the National Agency, together with colleagues from the Section on Legal Education and Access to the Legal Profession of the American Bar Association (ABA Section), with the support of the United States Agency for International Development under the USAID "Justice for All held a joint webinar on "Quality Assurance in Legal Education: American Bar Association Tools and Good Practices".

The National Agency pays special attention to ensuring the quality of higher education in the field of 25 Military Sciences, National Security, State Border Security and 26 Civil Security in cooperation with the relevant ministries and higher education institutions with specific conditions

training. In particular, the Committee of the National Agency for Military Education is working to ensure the quality of education in the security sector, which is fundamentally important for the country. In May 2023, a memorandum of cooperation was signed with the State Service for Special Communications and Information Protection of Ukraine, and a thematic discussion was held on the role and place of professional standards in the development of cybersecurity curricula for higher education institutions. On 5 September 2023, a webinar "Topical Issues of Quality Assurance of Higher Education in Higher Education Institutions with Specific Learning Conditions" was held, focused on educational programmes in the field of Civil Security. On 26 October 2023, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the National Agency in terms of cooperation in developing quality assurance systems for higher education in higher education institutions under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, including educational programmes with specific learning conditions. On 14 November 2023, the first meeting with the leadership of the Kyiv Institute of the National Guard was held in this format. The National Agency also cooperates with and supports the development of internal quality assurance systems in military higher education institutions. Within the framework of the consortium, Erasmus+ project "Simulation medicine and Scenario-based learning for emergency, SimS) is being implemented in view of the need to ensure the introduction of modernisation of educational programmes for first aid and emergency medical care through the simultaneous introduction of innovative technologies of scenario-based learning, simulation medicine and competent psychological support for doctors and first responders in the field of civil security.

A separate, resonant topic in the work of the National Agency is the development of building a culture of academic integrity in the Ukrainian academic environment. In this context, the consideration of a number of complaints about academic plagiarism and other violations of academic integrity in the research works of public figures is only one of the areas of this work, but the most . In particular, the Committee of the National Ethics Agency was in the centre of public attention. In response to the public outcry, on 5 April 2023, Artem Artyukhov, a member of the National Agency and Chairman of the Ethics Committee, gave an interview in which he spoke about the peculiarities of implementing academic integrity in Ukraine and the activities of the National Agency in this area, and on 12 October 2023 in the blog "How Courts Level the Liability for Plagiarism" on the Osvita.ua platform, the Head of the National Agency Andrii Butenko shared his thoughts on problematic situations in considering complaints about the detection of academic plagiarism in the works of public figures.

In 2023, as part of the initiative group, representatives of the National Agency participated in the drafting of the Law on Academic Integrity. Representatives of the National Agency took part in a number of scientific and discussion events on the issues of academic integrity. In addition, in the context of implementing the ideas of academic integrity, the Erasmus+ project "Open Practices, Transparency and Integrity for Modern Academia" (OPTIMA) is being implemented within the consortium.

Also, in response to unfair practices, on 24 January 2023, the National Agency published its official appeal regarding the identified practices of using Russian-language literature and Russian-language education, and on 30 November 2023, the recommendations of the National Ethics Agency Committee on the termination (restriction) of the use of sources of information of the aggressor state in scientific publications were published.

In , during 2023, members of the National Agency expressed their individual opinions in blogs:

- "How good is the quality assurance of education?" (Olena Yeremenko, 7 March 2023, Osvita.ua)[3];
- "Updating Approaches to Teaching Foreigners" (Olena Yeremenko, 26 June 2023, Osvita.ua)[4];
- "How the courts level the responsibility for plagiarism" (Andriy Butenko, 12 October 2023, Osvita.ua)[5];

Taking into account the peculiarities and experience of communication processes in times of war, the National Agency plans to amend the Communication Strategy in 2024, in particular to improve the work on explaining the current issues of the Agency's activities, its mission, goals and principles, to place greater emphasis on the formation of a culture of academic integrity in the Ukrainian academic environment, further development of communication platforms with targeting target audiences, in particular with an emphasis on
in the Ukrainian-language segment on Telegram channels, in the English-language segment - on one hundred

markets on Linkedin and Twitter.

[3]URL: https://bit.ly/3L0qQ9t

[4]URL: https://bit.ly/3NMf5nT

[5]URL: https://bit.ly/3rN4MIe

3. EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM. ACCREDITATION OF EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMES BY A NATIONAL AGENCY

In 2023, the National Agency reviewed 1,561 study programmes under the full procedure (see Figure 1), while in 2022 it reviewed 904 study programmes. The increase in the total number to some extent indicates the adaptation of higher education institutions to the challenges of wartime and the need to establish systematic work. At the same time, the number of POs considered under the simplified procedure in accordance with Regulation 295 increased to 1,213 (892 POs in 2022). As in the previous year, the largest number of EPs were submitted in the field of 01 Education, Pedagogy - 331 (11.93%) (142 - under the full procedure and 189 - under the simplified procedure), 07 Management and Administration - 284 (10.24%) (152 - under the full procedure and 132 - under the simplified procedure).

In 2023, the largest number of study programmes under the full procedure was reviewed in the following fields of knowledge: 03 Humanities - 168 (10.), 12 Information technologies - 153 (9.80%), 07 Management and administration Management - 152 (9.), 01 Education, Pedagogy - 142 (9.10%). Less than 1% of the total number of study programmes were reviewed by the National Agency in the following fields of knowledge: 04 Theology - 1 (0.06%), 25 Military Sciences, National Security, State Border Security - 2 (0.13%), 21 Veterinary Medicine - 4 (0.26%).
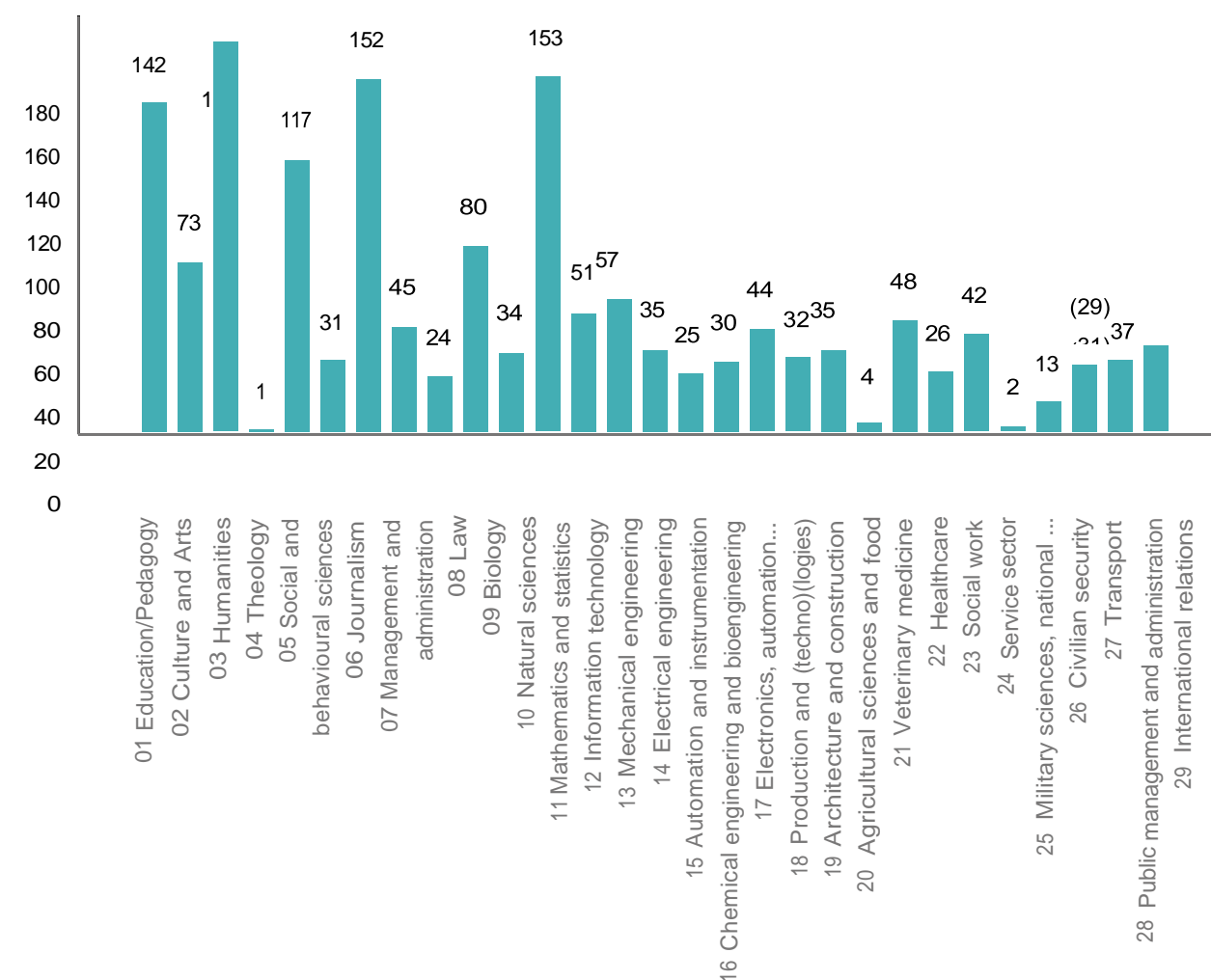

Figure 1

3. External quality assurance system.
Accreditation of educational programmes by the National
Agency

01 Education / Pedagogy

In the field of knowledge 01 Education/Pedagogy, the National Agency reviewed and made decisions on 142 educational programmes.

Of these, 1 (1%) is a junior bachelor's degree programme, 56 (39%) are higher education programmes with a bachelor's degree, 71 (50%) are master's degree programmes, and 14 (10%) are PhD degree programmes (see Figure 2).
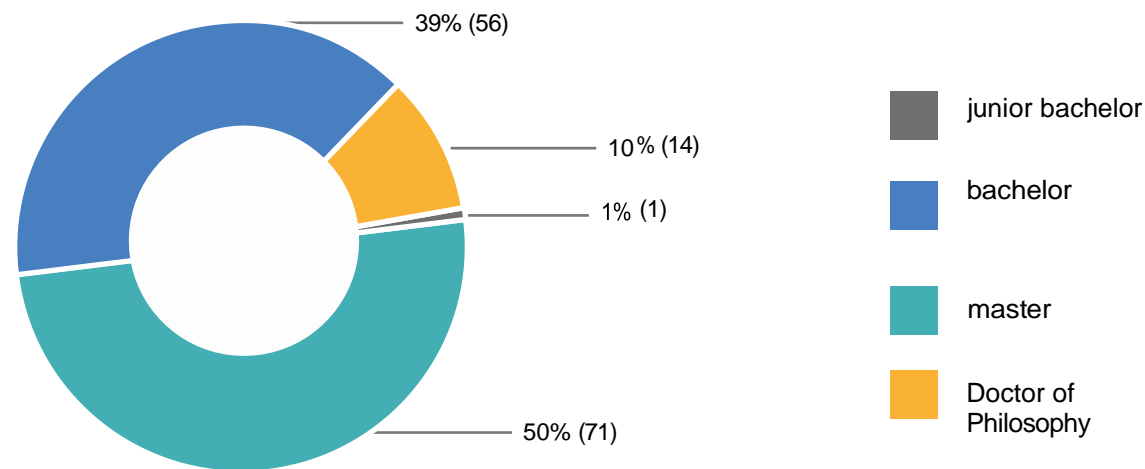

Figure 2

The largest number of study programmes was reviewed in speciality 014 Secondary Education - 73 (51%), the smallest number - in the speciality 012 Preschool Education - 7 (5%) (see Figure 3).
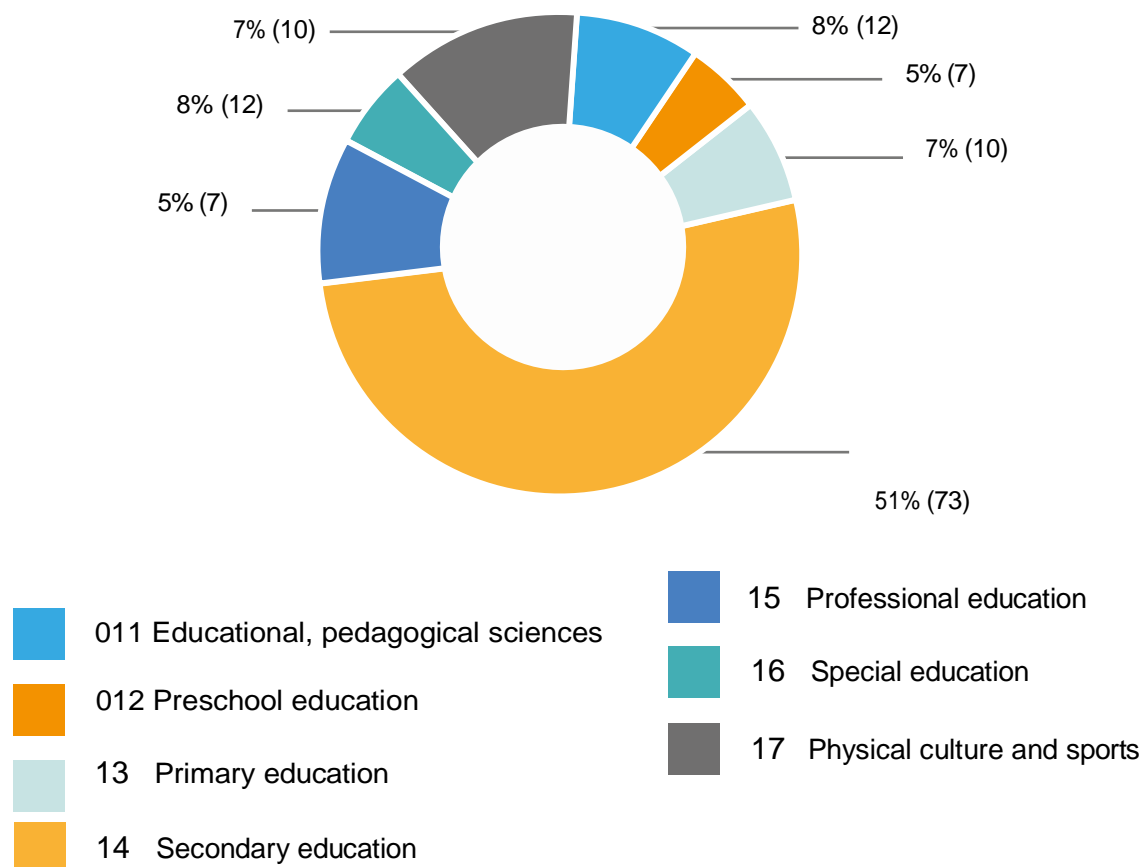
Figure 3

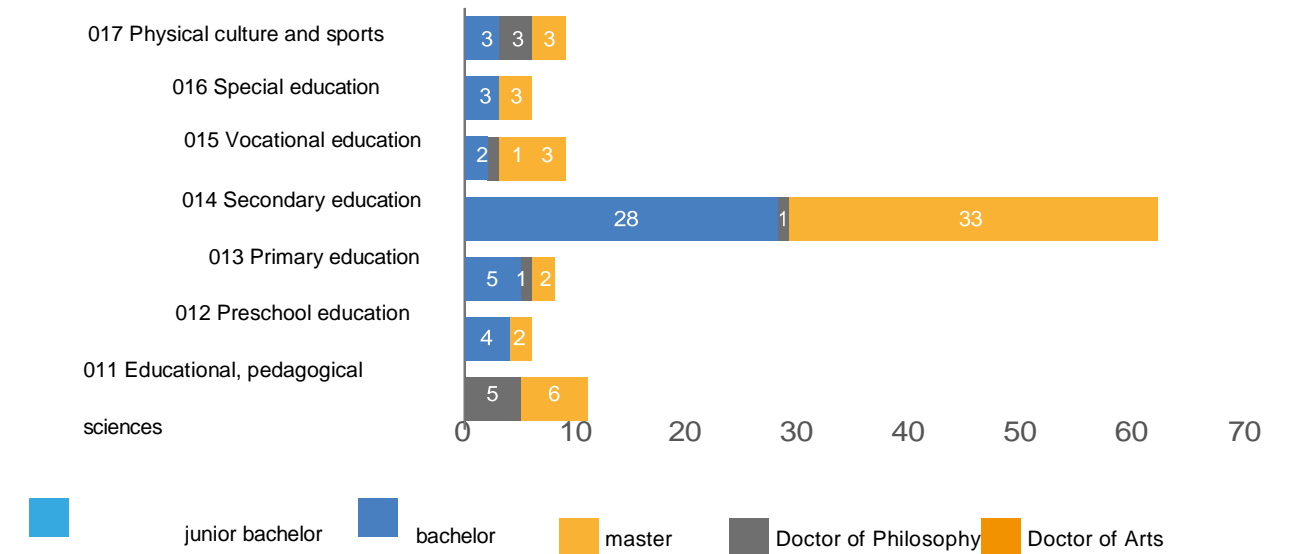The accreditation decision was granted to 111 (78%) study programmes (see Figure 4).

Figure 4

The decision to grant conditional (deferred) accreditation was made to 30 (21%) study programmes (see Figure 5).
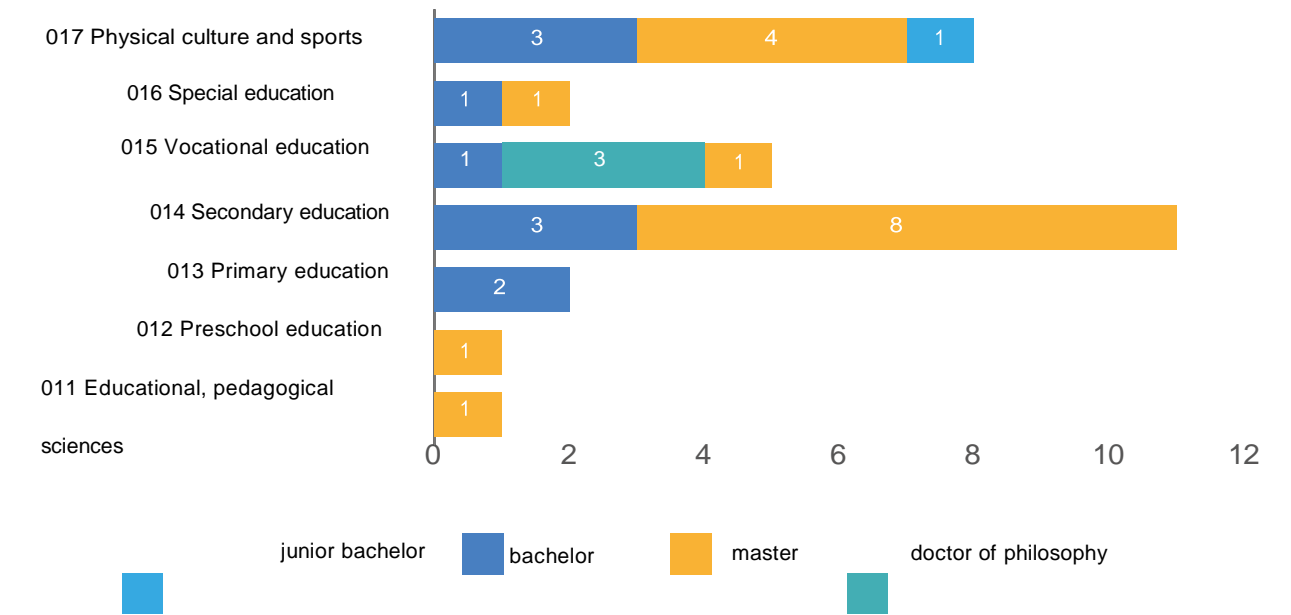

Figure 5

One (1%) study programme in the speciality 017 Physical Culture and Sports at the bachelor's level of education was accredited with a "refusal".

02 Culture and art

In the field of knowledge 02 Culture and Arts, the National Agency reviewed and made decisions on 73 educational programmes.

Of these, 45 () are Bachelor's degree programmes, 24 () are Master's degree programmes, and 2 (3%) are Doctor of Philosophy and Doctor of Arts degree programmes (see Figure 6).
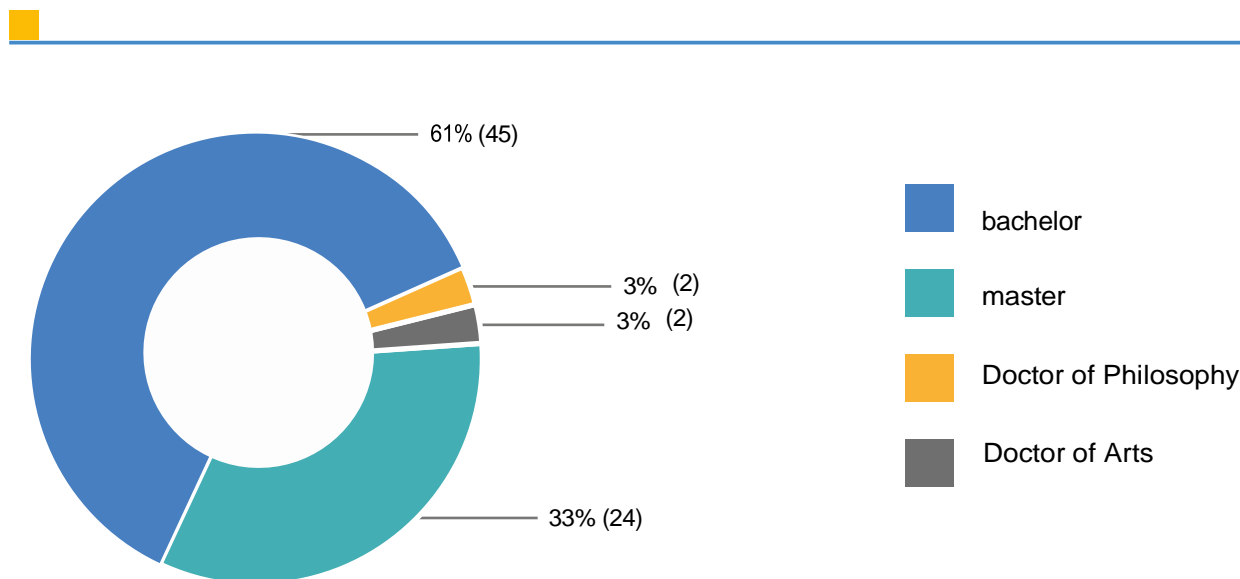
3. External quality assurance system.
Accreditation of educational programmes by the National
Agency

61% (45)
3% (2)
3% (2)
33% (24)

bachelor

master

Doctor of Philosophy

Doctor of Arts

Figure 6

The majority - 18 (25%) of study programmes were reviewed in the following specialities

025 Musical art, the smallest number of educational programmes - in specialities 028 Management of socio-cultural activities - 1 (1%) and 026 Stage management non-art - 2 (3%) (see Figure 7).
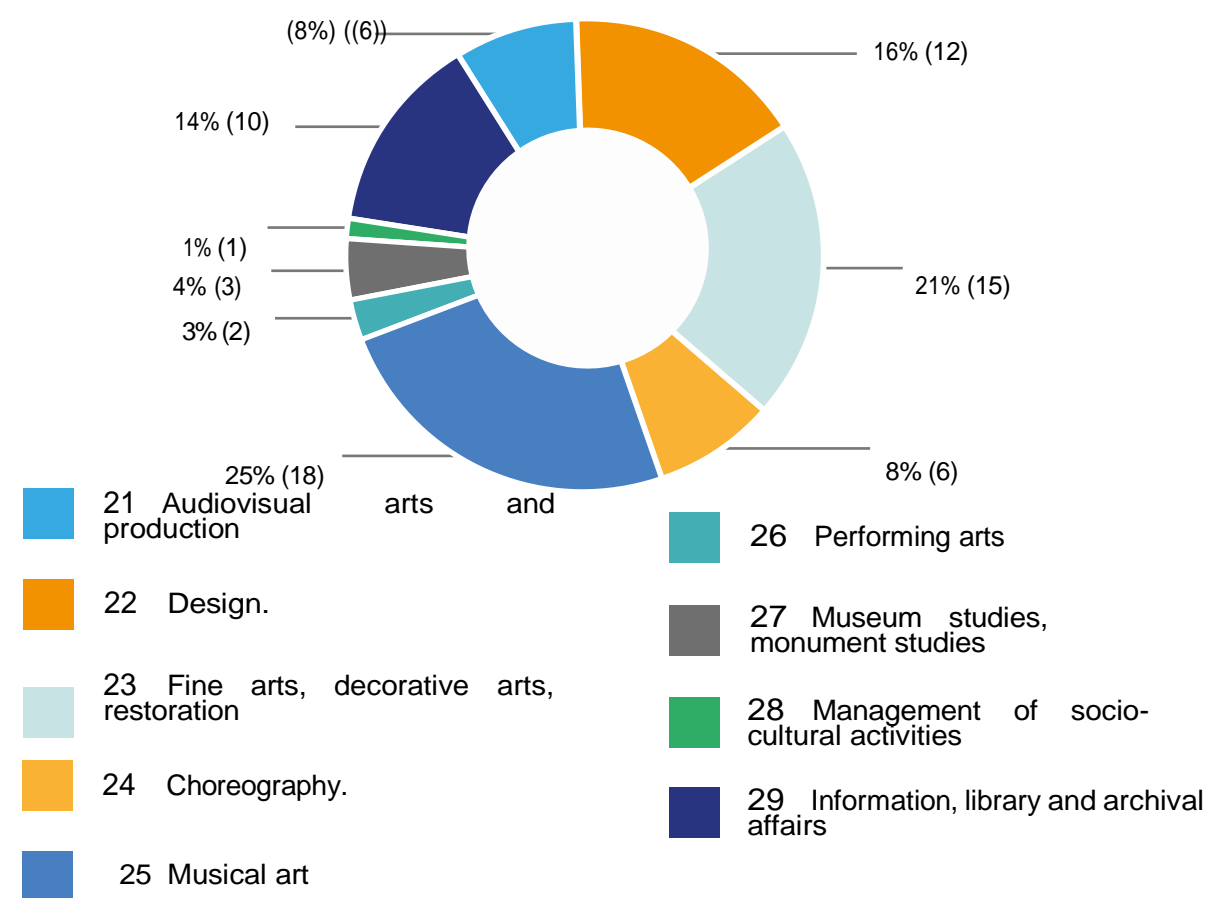

(8%) ((6))
14% (10)
1% (1)
4% (3)
3% (2)
25% (18)
16% (12)
21% (15)
8% (6)

21 Audiovisual   arts   and production

22 Design.

23 Fine arts, decorative arts, restoration

24 Choreography.

25 Musical art

26 Performing arts

27 Museum studies, monument studies

28 Management of socio-cultural activities

29 Information, library and archival affairs

Figure 7

The accreditation decision was granted to 69 (95%) study programmes (see Figure 8).

029 Information, library and ...	5 5
028 Management of socio-cultural ...	1
027 Museum studies, monument studies	2
026 Performing arts	1
025 Musical art	8 2 1 7
024 Choreography	2 1
023 Fine Arts, ...	12 2
022 Design	3 6
021 Audiovisual art and ...	6

0   5   10   15   20

junior bachelor   bachelor   master   doctor of philosophy   doctor of arts
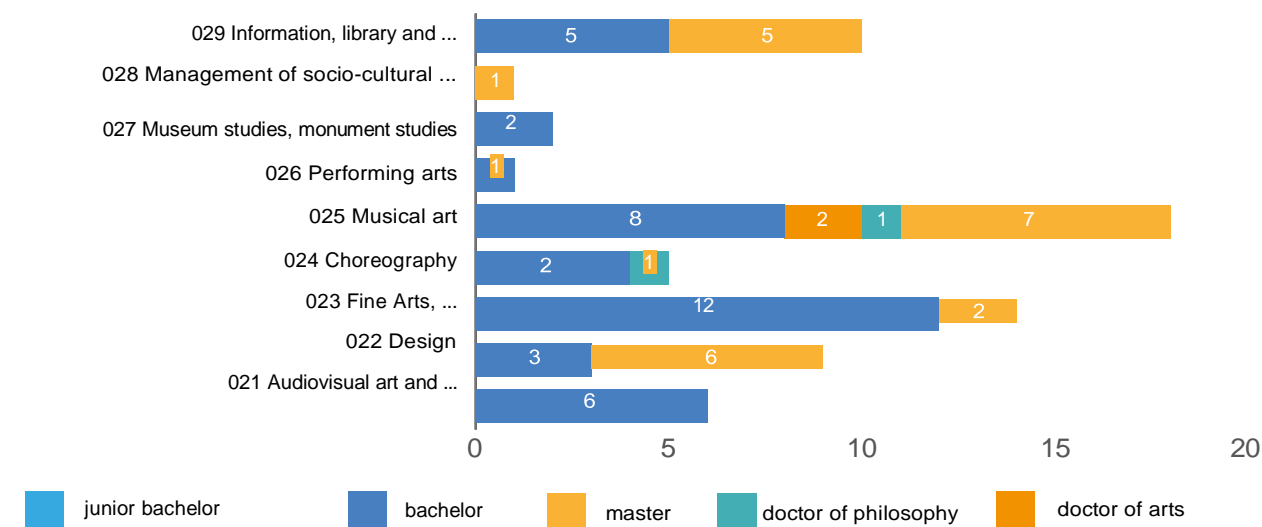
Figure 8

Four (5%) study programmes received conditional (deferred) accreditation (see Figure 9).

023 Visual arts, ...	1
022 Design	3

0,0   0,5   1,0   1,5   2,0   2,5   3,0

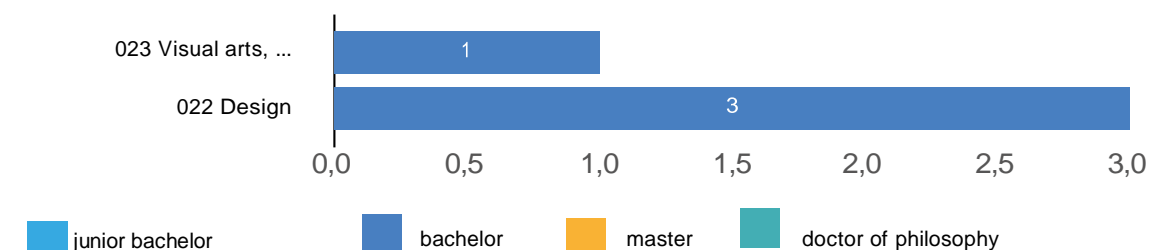junior bachelor   bachelor   master   doctor of philosophy

Figure 9

03 Humanities

In the field of knowledge 03 Humanities, the National Agency reviewed and made decisions on 168 educational programmes.

Of these, 59 (35%) bachelor's degree programmes, 94 (56%) are "Master's degree, 15 (9%) of educational and research programmes with a Doctor of Philosophy degree (see Figure 10).

56% (94)
9% (15)
35% (59)

Junior Bachelor

Bachelor's degree

Master

Doctor of Philosophy

Figure 10

The largest number of educational programmes was reviewed in the speciality 035 Philology - 121 (), the smallest number - in the speciality 031 Religion. History - 2 (1%) (see Figure 11).
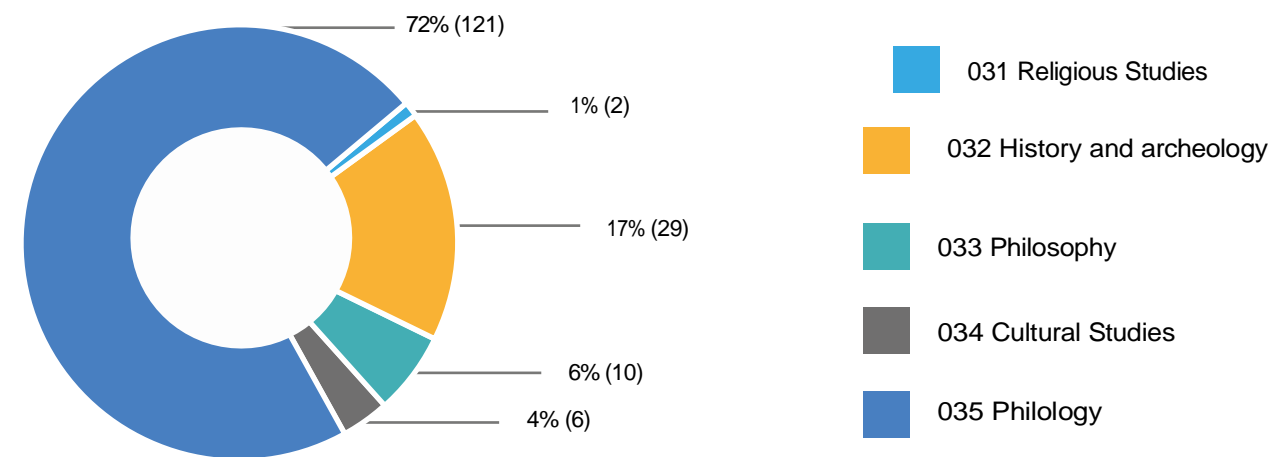

72% (121)
1% (2)
17% (29)
6% (10)
4% (6)

- 031 Religious Studies
- 032 History and archeology
- 033 Philosophy
- 034 Cultural Studies
- 035 Philology

Figure 11

The accreditation decision was granted to 143 (85%) study programmes (see Figure 12).

junior bachelor   bachelor   master   Doctor of Philosophy   Doctor of Arts
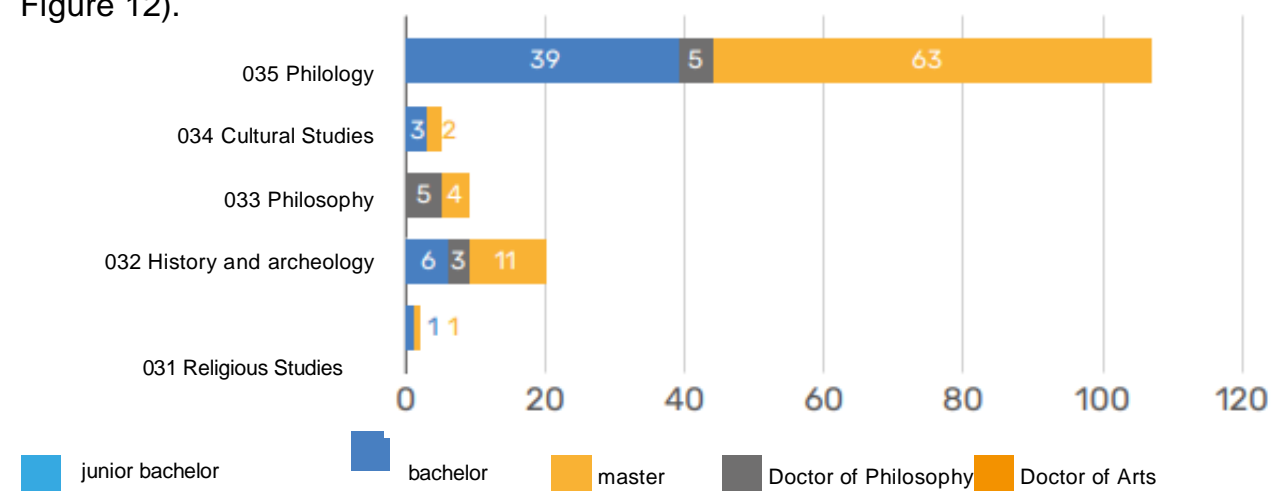
Figure 12

The decision on conditional (deferred) accreditation was made for 19 (11%) educational and research programmes in 032 History and Archeology, 033 Philosophy, 034 Cultural Studies and 035 Philology (see Figure 13).
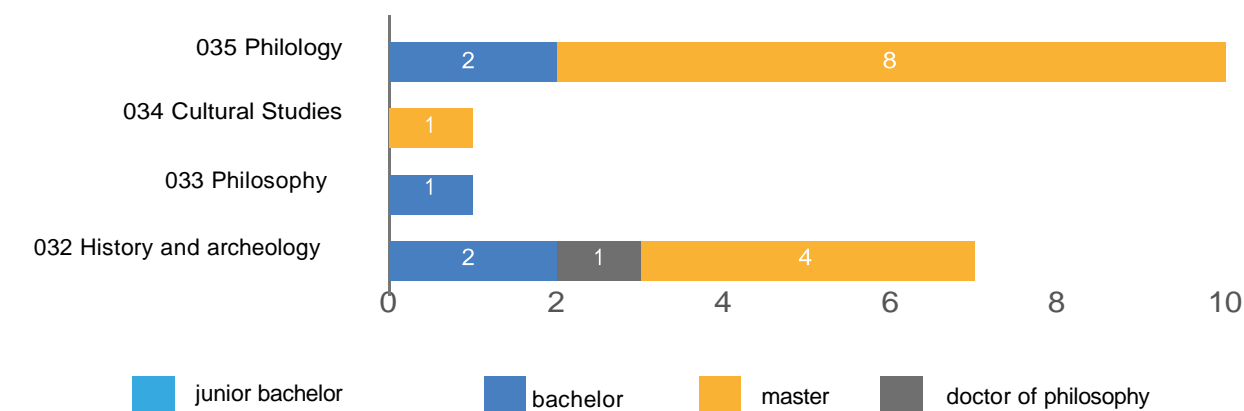
junior bachelor   bachelor   master   doctor of philosophy

Figure 13

3. External quality assurance system.
Accreditation of educational programmes by the National
Agency

Accreditation with the definition of "exemplary" was granted to 1 (1%) study programme in the speciality 032 History and Archeology.

04 Theology

In the field of knowledge 04 Theology, the National Agency reviewed and decided on accreditation for 1 educational and research programme of the level of education "Doctor of Philosophy". The programme received the accreditation decision.

05 Social and behavioural sciences

In the field of knowledge 05 Social and Behavioural Sciences, the National Agency reviewed and made decisions on 117 educational programmes.

Of these, 1 (1%) is a junior bachelor's degree programme, 40 (34%) are bachelor's degree programmes, 58 (50%) are master's degree programmes, and 18 (15%) are doctoral degree programmes (see Figure 14).
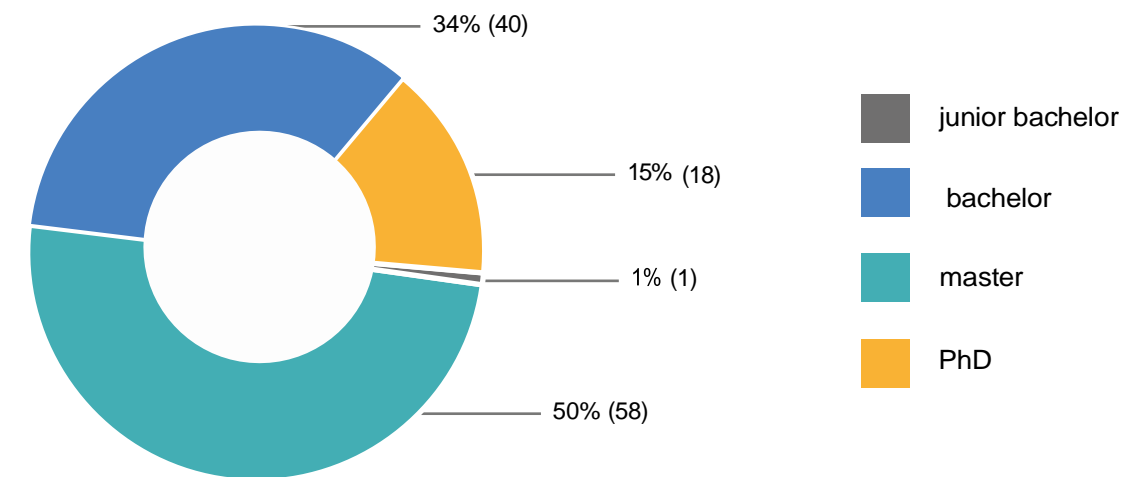

34% (40)
15% (18)
1% (1)
50% (58)

- junior bachelor
- bachelor
- master
- PhD

Figure 14

The majority of educational programmes were reviewed in the specialities 051 Economics - 53 (45%) and 053 Psychology - 39 (), the smallest number of educational programmes
programmes - in the speciality 054 Sociology - 8 (7%) (see Figure 15).

15% (17)
33% (39)
7% (8)
45% (53)

- 51 Economy
- 52 Political Science
- 53 Psychology
- 54 Sociology

Figure 15

3. External quality assurance system.
Accreditation of educational programmes by the National
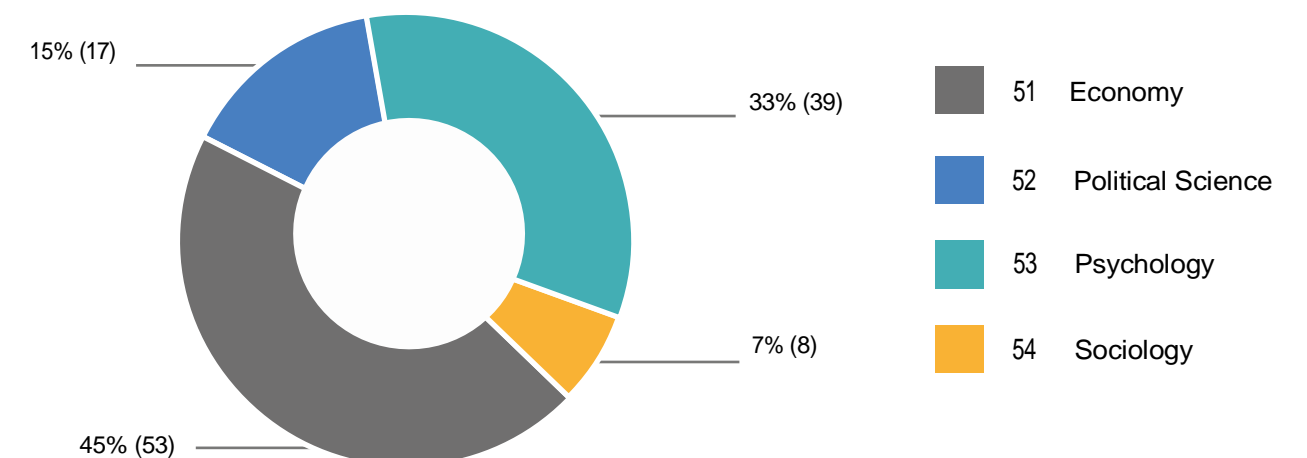Agency

Accreditation decisions were granted to 106 (91%) study programmes (see Figure 16).
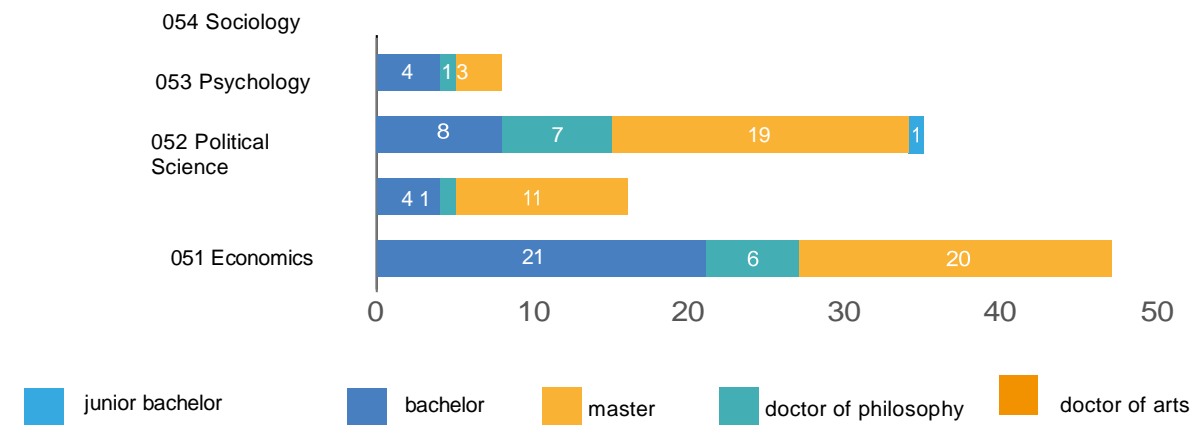

Figure 16

The decision on conditional (deferred) accreditation was made for 11 (9%) study programmes in 051 Economics, 052 Political Science, 053 (see Figure 17).
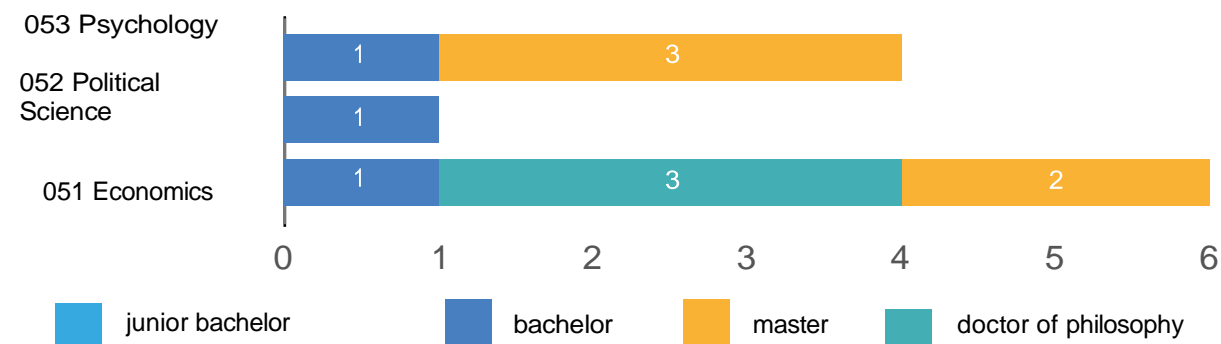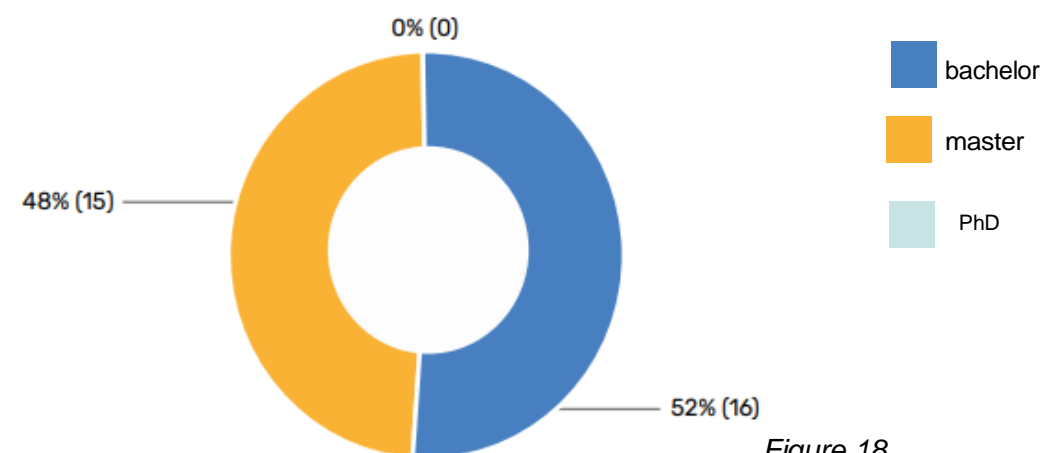

Figure 17

06 Journalism

In the field of study 06 Journalism, the National Agency reviewed and made decisions on 31 study programmes.

Of these, 16 () are Bachelor's degree programmes, 15 (48%) are "Master" (see Figure 18).

Figure 18

The accreditation decision was granted to 30 (97%) study programmes (see Figure 19).
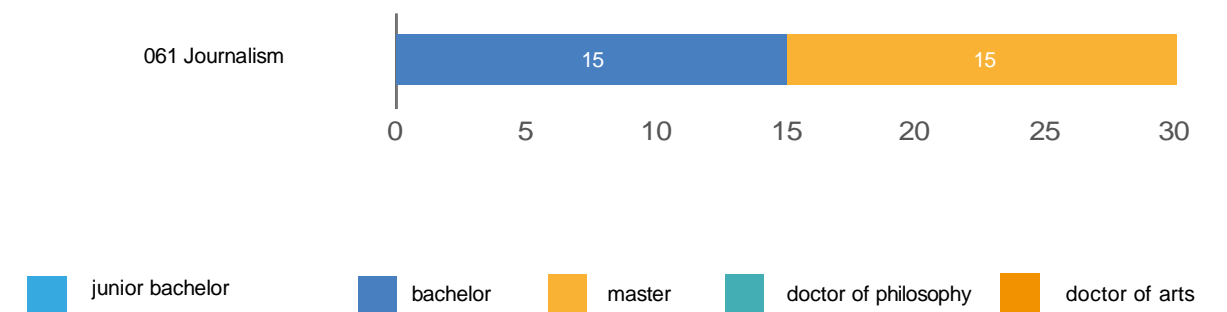

Figure 19

The decision on conditional (deferred) accreditation was made for 1 (3%) study programme (see Figure 20)
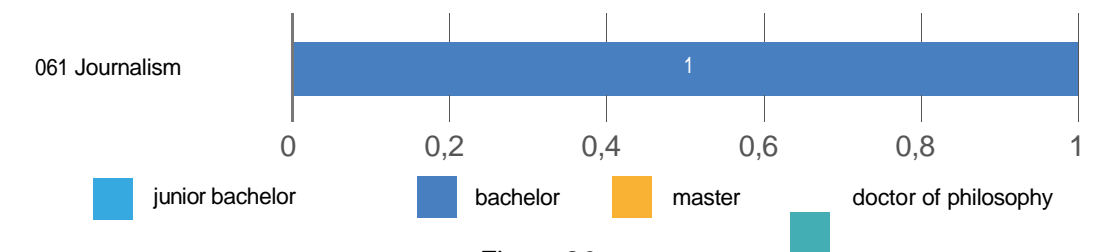

Figure 20

07 Management and administration

In the field of knowledge 07 Management and administration, the National Agency reviewed and made decisions on 152 educational programmes.

Of these, 3 (2%) are junior bachelor's degree programmes, 60 (39%) are bachelor's degree programmes, 69 (45%) are master's degree programmes, and 20 (13%) are doctoral degree programmes (see Figure 21).
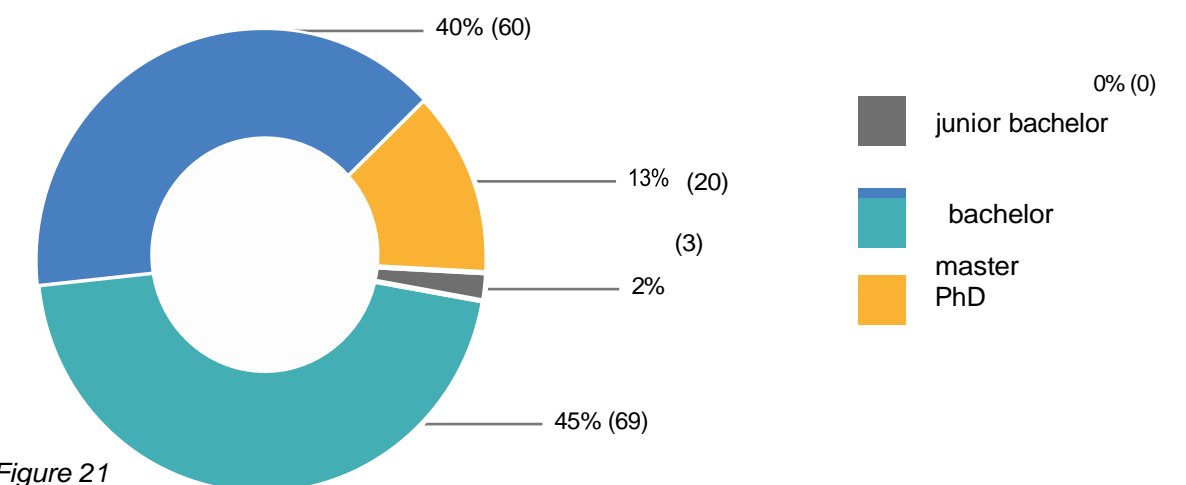

Figure 21

he largest number of study programmes was reviewed in the specialty 073 Management - 68 (45%), the smallest number of study programmes - in the specialty 072 Finance, Banking and Insurance - 17 (11%) (see Figure 22).
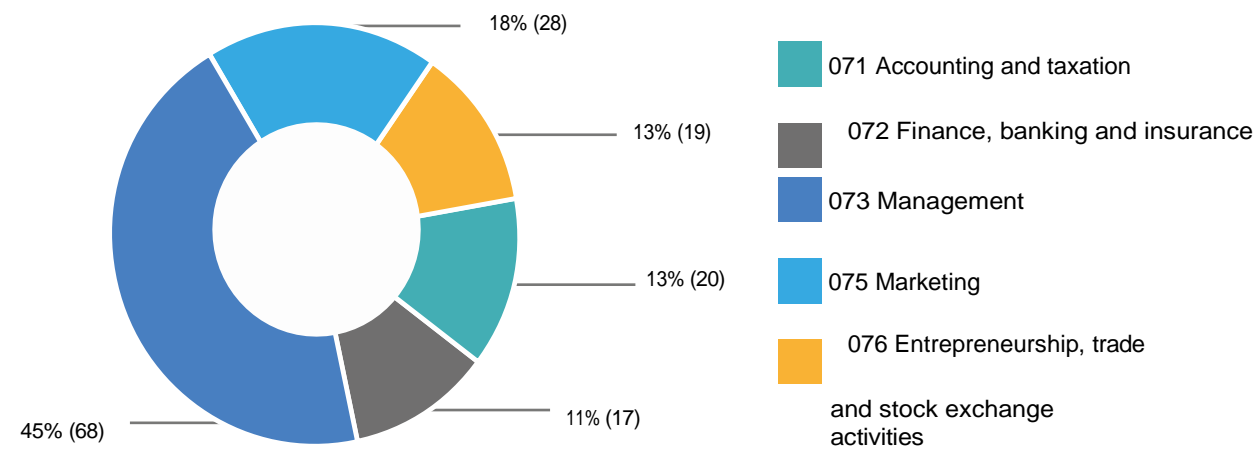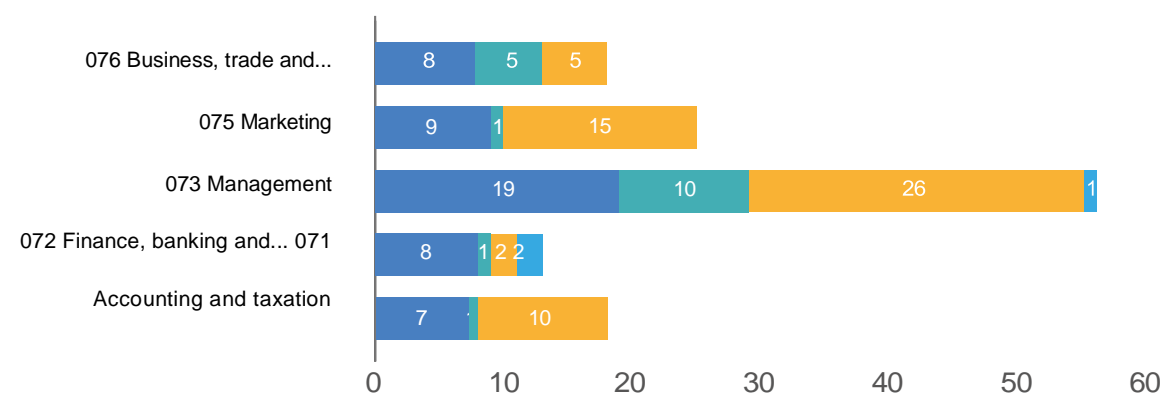
3. External quality assurance system.
Accreditation of educational programmes by the National
Agency

18% (28)

13% (19)

13% (20)

11% (17)

45% (68)

- 071 Accounting and taxation
- 072 Finance, banking and insurance
- 073 Management
- 075 Marketing
- 076 Entrepreneurship, trade and stock exchange activities

Figure 22

Accreditation with the definition of "exemplary" was granted to 6 (4%) educational and research programmes in the following specialities: 072 Finance, Banking and Insurance at level of Master's degree, 073 Management at levels of Bachelor's, Master's, Doctor of Philosophy, 075 Marketing at the level of Bachelor's degree.

Accreditation with a "refusal" was granted to 1 (1%) study programme in 075 Marketing at bachelor's level of education.

08 Law

By field of expertise 08 Law The National Agency reviewed and approved

The Board made decisions on 45 educational programmes.
Of these, 21 (47%) are bachelor's degree programmes, 18 (40%) are "Master's degree and 6 (13%) educational and research programmes at level of Doctor of Science philosophy" (see Figure 25).
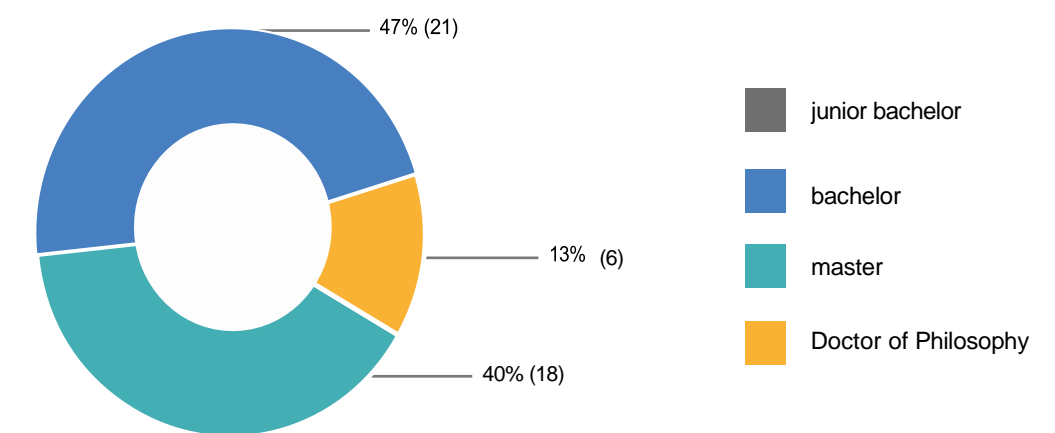
The accreditation decision was granted to 130 (86%) study programmes (see Figure 23).

junior bachelor | bachelor | Master | Doctor of Philosophy | Doctor of Arts

Figure 23

47% (21)

13% (6)

40% (18)

- junior bachelor
- bachelor
- master
- Doctor of Philosophy

Figure 25

The decision on conditional (deferred) accreditation was made for 15 (10%) study programmes (see Figure 24).
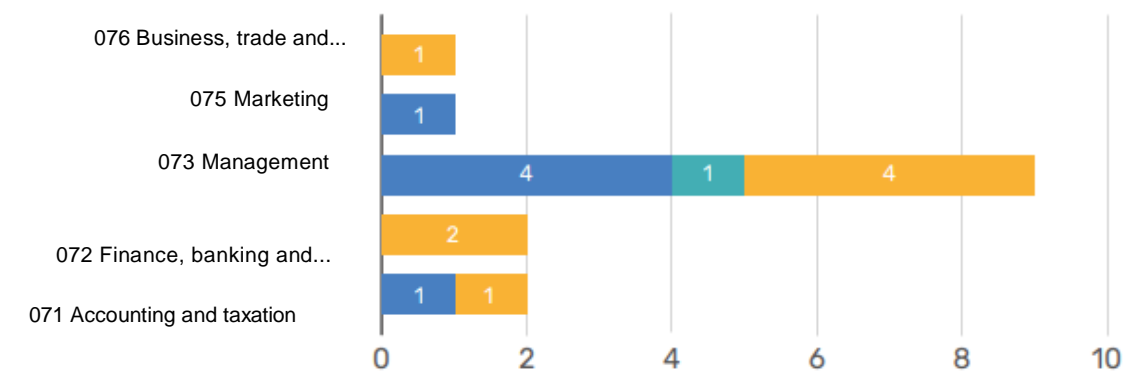
Junior Bachelor | Bachelor | Master | Junior Bachelor

The accreditation decision was granted to 42 (93%) study programmes (see Figure 26)

081 Law   18   1   18

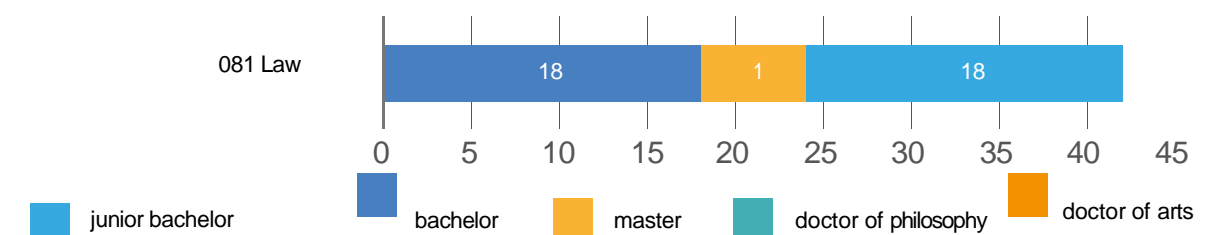junior bachelor | bachelor | master | doctor of philosophy | doctor of arts

Figure 26

The decision on conditional (deferred) accreditation was made for 3 (7%) Bachelor's degree programmes.

09 Biology

In the field of knowledge 09 Biology, the National Agency reviewed and made decisions on 24 educational programme.
Of these, 6 (25%) are Bachelor's degree programmes, 12 (50%) are - Master's degree and 6 (25%) of the Doctor of Philosophy degree programmes (see Figure 27).
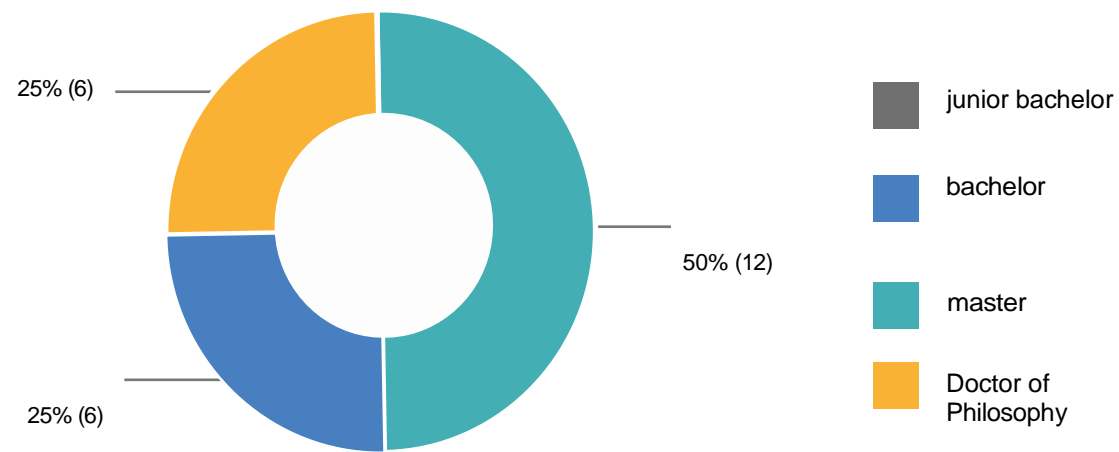
3. External quality assurance system.
Accreditation of educational programmes by the National
Agency

Figure 27

junior bachelor

bachelor

master

Doctor of Philosophy

50% (12)
25% (6)
25% (6)

The accreditation decision was granted to 22 (92%) educational and research institutions
programmes (see Figure 28).

091 Biology and biochemistry

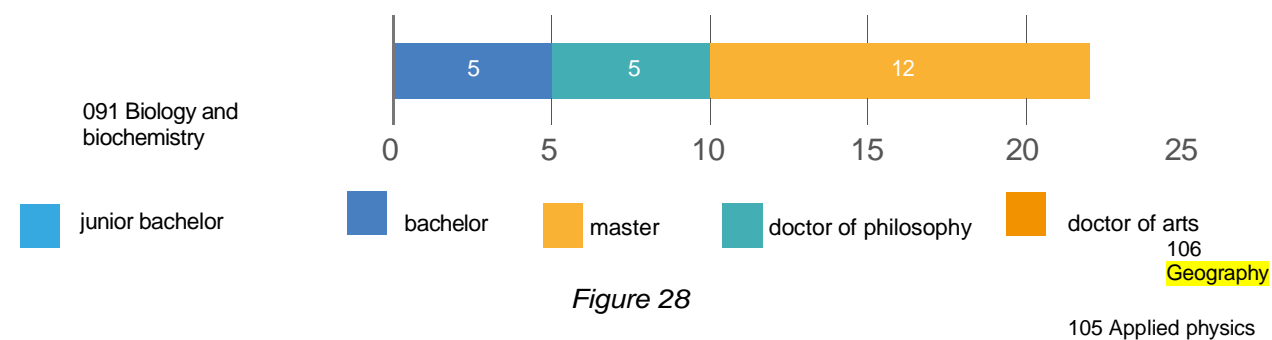junior bachelor   bachelor   master   doctor of philosophy   doctor of arts

Figure 28

A decision on conditional (deferred) accreditation was made for 1 (4%) Bachelor's degree programme.

Accreditation with the definition of "exemplary" was also granted to 1 (4%) educational programme at the level of Doctor of Philosophy.

10 Natural sciences

In the field of knowledge 10 Natural Sciences, the National Agency reviewed and made decisions on 80 educational programmes.

Of these, 31 () are bachelor's degree programmes, 36 (45%) are
- Master's degree and 13 () of research and education programmes with a Doctor of Philosophy degree (see Figure 29).

16% (13)
45% (36)
39% (31)
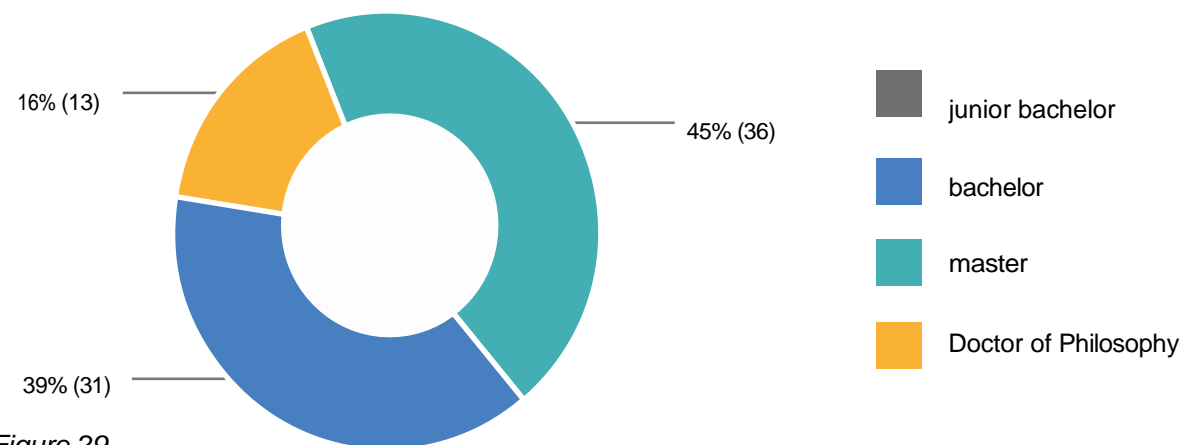
junior bachelor

bachelor

master

Doctor of Philosophy

Figure 29

The largest number of study programmes was reviewed in the specialities 101 Ecology - 23 (29%) and 103 Earth Sciences - 17 (), the smallest number was reviewed in the speciality 106 Geography - 4 (5%) (see Figure 30).
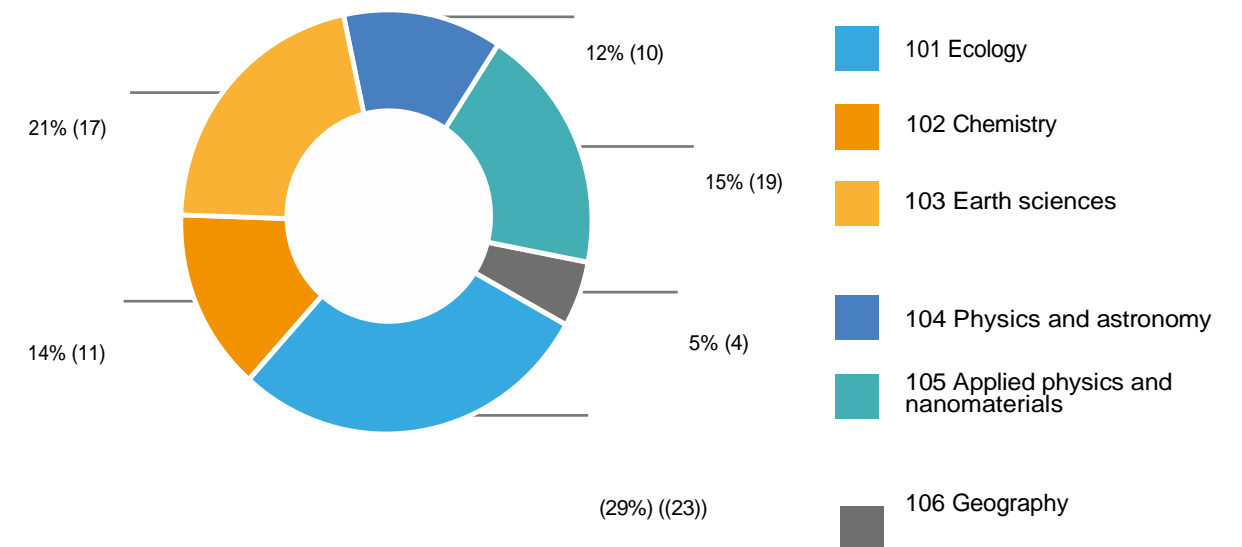

12% (10)
21% (17)
15% (19)
14% (11)
5% (4)
(29%) ((23))

101 Ecology

102 Chemistry

103 Earth sciences

104 Physics and astronomy

105 Applied physics and nanomaterials

106 Geography

Figure 30

The decision to accredit 73 (91%) study programmes was made (see Figure 31).

and nanomaterials

104 Physics and astronomy

103 Earth sciences

102 Chemistry

101 Savings

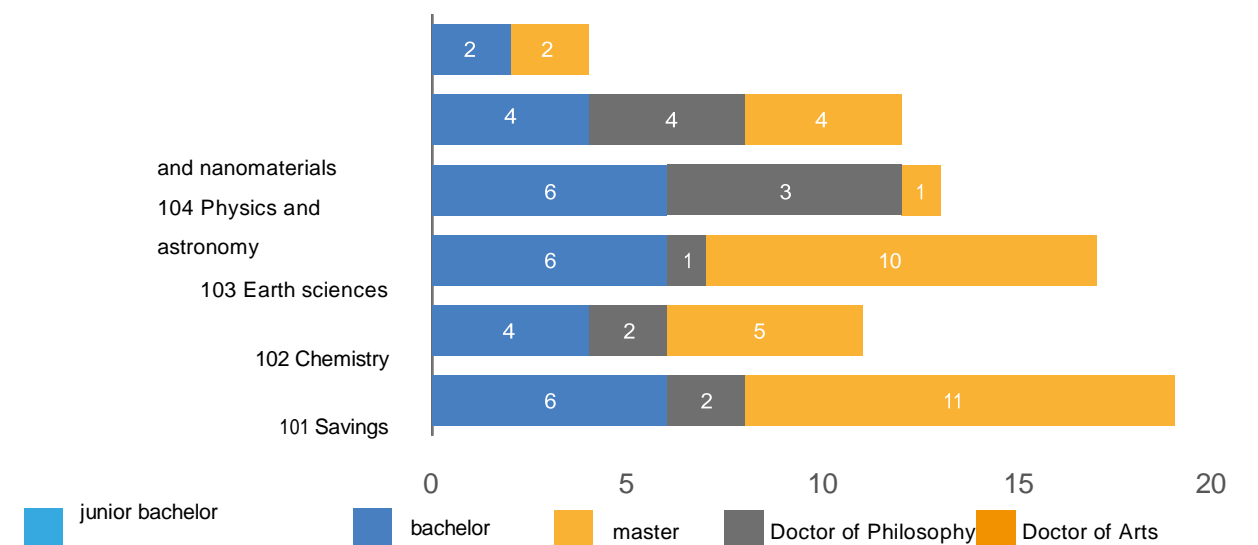junior bachelor   bachelor   master   Doctor of Philosophy   Doctor of Arts

Figure 31

The decision on conditional (deferred) accreditation was made for 6 (8%) study programmes (see Figure 32).

105 Applied physics and nanomaterials

101 Ecology

Junior Bachelor   Bachelor   Master   PhD

Figure 32

3. External quality assurance system.
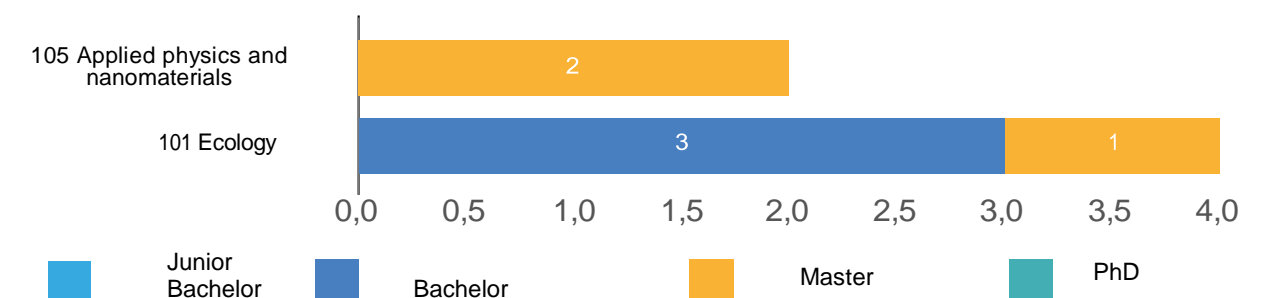Accreditation of educational programmes by the National
Agency

Accreditation with the definition of "exemplary" was granted to 1 (1%) study programme in the speciality 105 Applied Physics and Nanomaterials at the level of Doctor of Philosophy.

11 Mathematics and statistics

In the field of knowledge 11 Mathematics and Statistics, the National Agency reviewed and made decisions on 34 educational programmes.

Of these, 11 () are Bachelor's degree programmes, 16 (47%) are "degree and 7 (21%) of PhD programmes (see Figure 33).
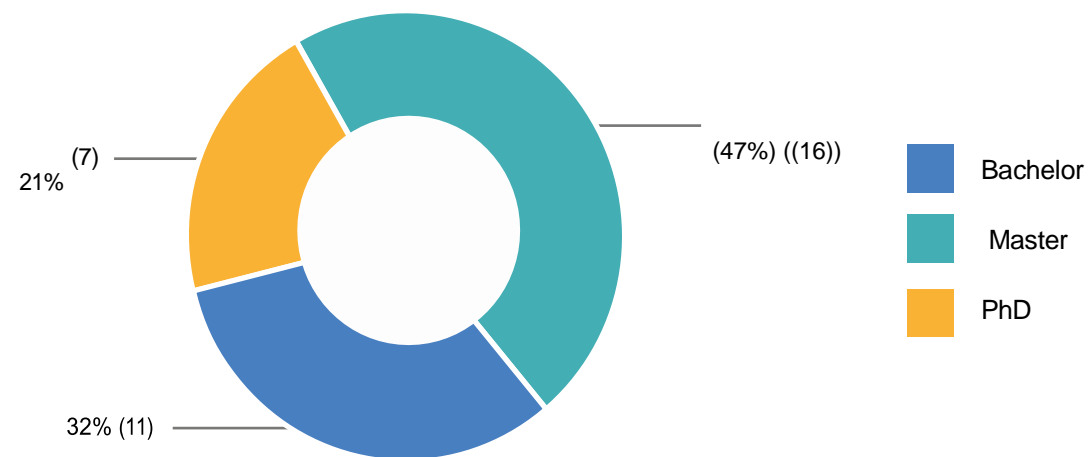

Figure 33

The largest number of study programmes was reviewed in the specialty 113 Applied Mathematics - 18 (53%), and the smallest number was reviewed in the specialty 112 Statistics - 3 (9%) (see Figure 34).
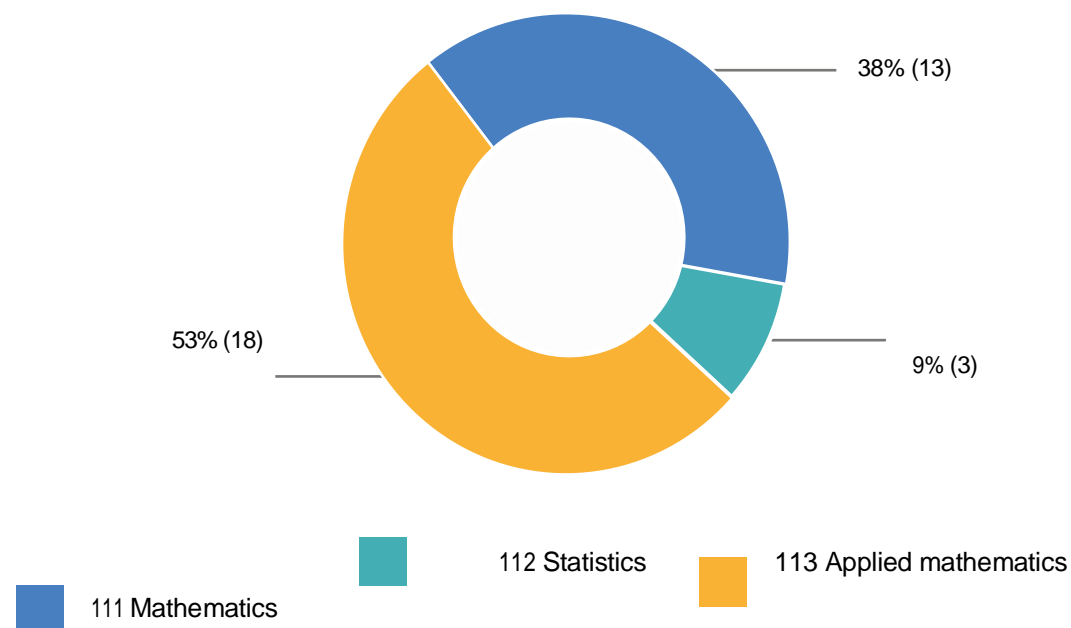

Figure 34

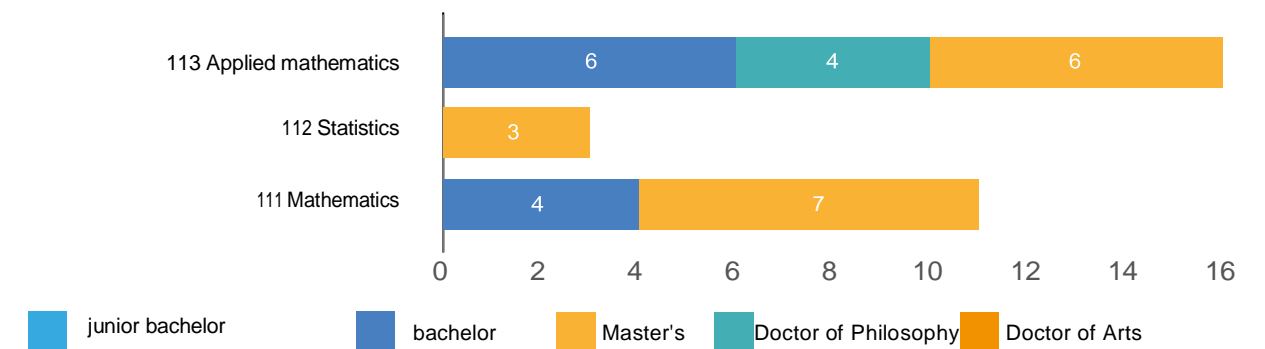The decision to accredit 30 (88%) study programmes (see Figure 35).

Figure 35

The decision on conditional (deferred) accreditation was made for 4 (12%) study programmes (see Figure 36).
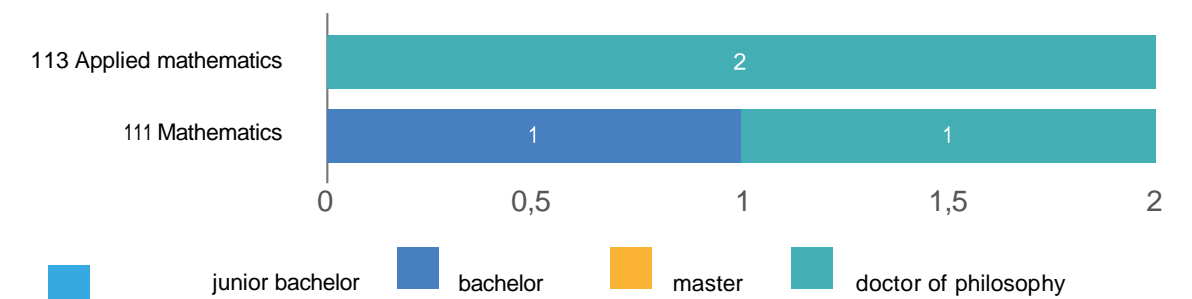

Figure 36

12 Information technology

In the field of knowledge 12 Information Technology, the National Agency reviewed and made decisions on 153 educational programmes.

Of these, 2 (1%) were junior bachelor's degree programmes, 64 (42%) were bachelor's degree programmes, 68 (44%) were master's degree programmes, and 19 (12%) were doctoral degree programmes (see Figure 37).
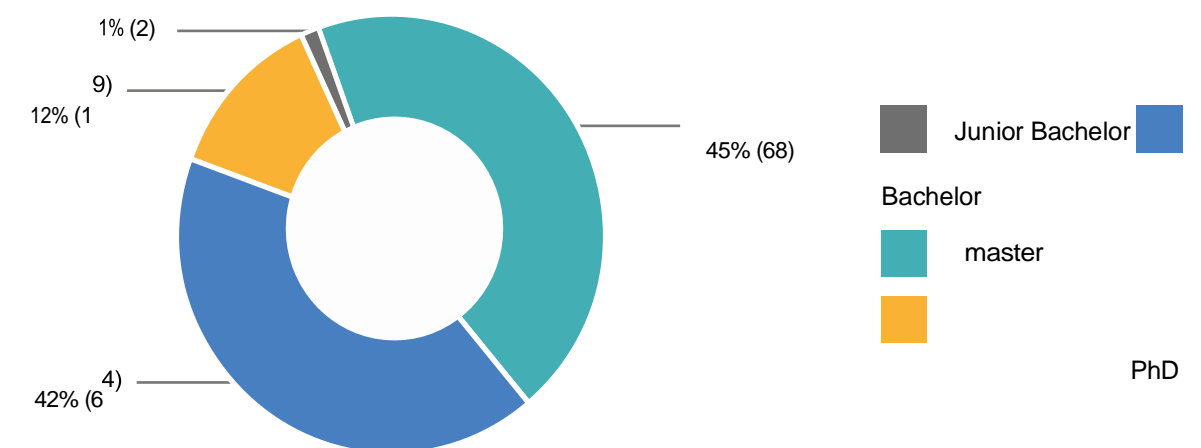

Figure 37

The largest number of educational programmes were reviewed in the following specialities
122 Computer Science - 59 (39%), the smallest number - in 124 Systems Analysis - 7 (5%) (see Figure 38).
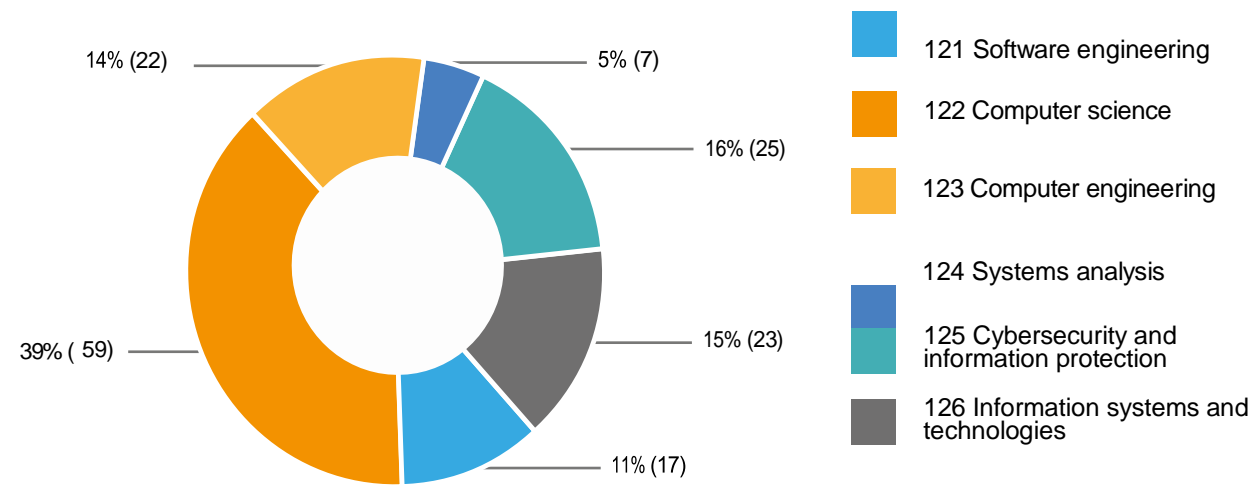
3. External quality assurance system.
Accreditation of educational programmes by the National
Agency

121 Software engineering
122 Computer science
123 Computer engineering
124 Systems analysis
125 Cybersecurity and information protection
126 Information systems and technologies

Figure 38

The decision to accredit 125 (82%) study programmes (see Figure 39).

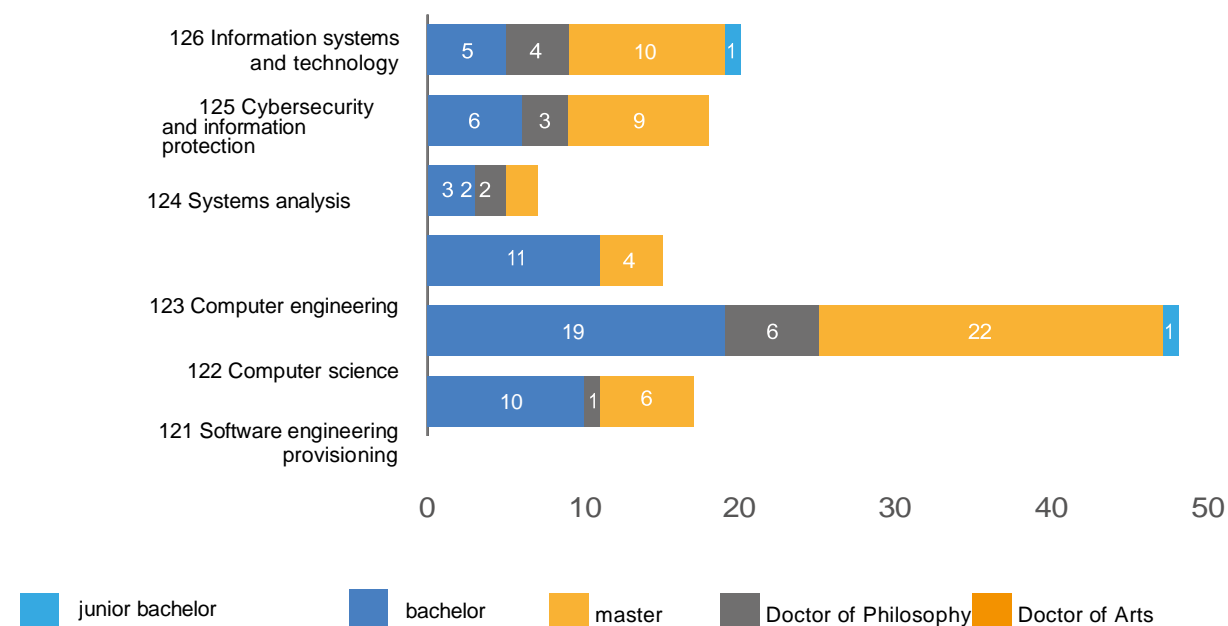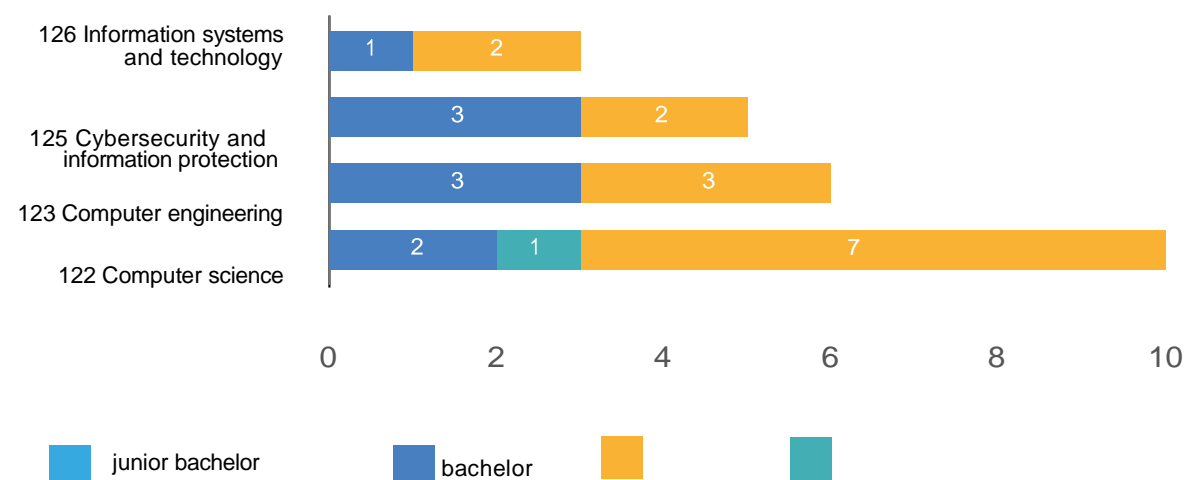junior bachelor   bachelor   master   Doctor of Philosophy   Doctor of Arts

Figure 39

The decision to grant conditional (deferred) accreditation was made to 24 (16%) study programmes (see Figure 40).

junior bachelor   bachelor

Figure 40

in the speciality 125 Cybersecurity and Information Protection by level of education "Doctor of Philosophy".

Accreditation with the definition of "refusal" was granted to 1 (1%) study programme in the speciality 125 Cybersecurity and Information Protection by level of education "Master".

Accreditation with the definition of "re-examination" was granted to 2 (1%) study programmes in 122 Computer Science and 123 Computer Engineering.

13 Mechanical engineering

In the field of knowledge 13 Mechanical Engineering, the National Agency reviewed and made decisions on 51 educational programmes.

Of these, 1 (2%) is a junior bachelor's degree programme, 19

(37%) of Bachelor's degree programmes, 21 (41%) of Master's degree programmes, and 10 (20%) of PhD degree programmes (see Figure 41).

junior bachelor
Bachelor
Master
PhD
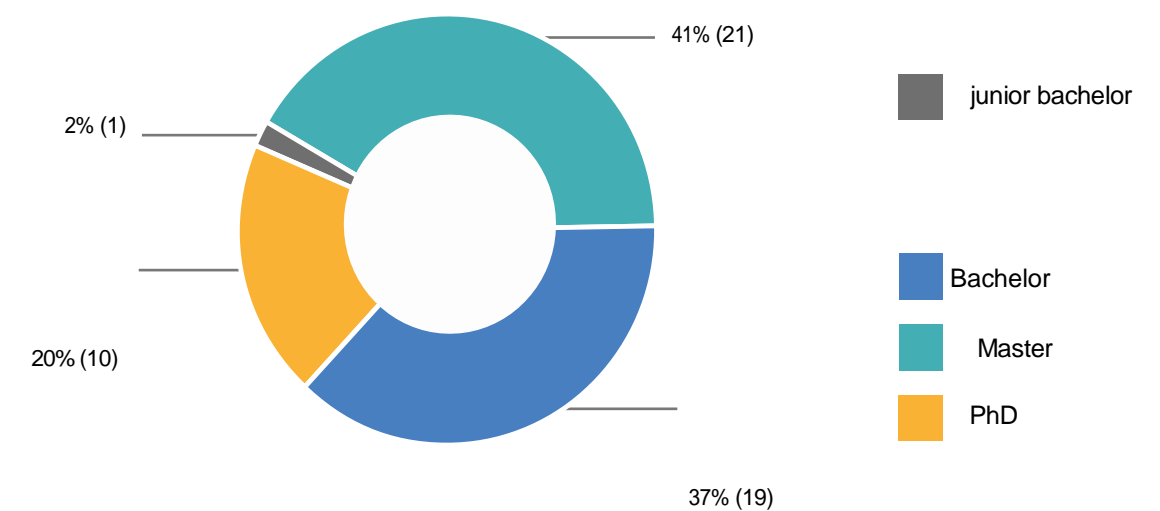
Figure 41

The largest number of educational programmes was reviewed in the speciality 133 Industrial Engineering - 17 (33%) and 131 Applied Mechanics - 17 (33%). 15 (29%) (see Figure 42).

131 Applied mechanics
132 Materials science
133 Industrial engineering
134 Aviation and aerospace
doctor of philosophy

3. External quality assurance system.
Accreditation of educational programmes by the National
Agency

technique

136 Metallurgy

29% (15)   14% (7)

Accreditation with the definition of "exemplary" was granted to 1 (1%) study
programme

Figure 42

3. External quality assurance system.
Accreditation of educational programmes by the National
Agency

Fifty (98%) study programmes received accreditation decisions (see Figure 43).

Figure 43

The decision on conditional (deferred) accreditation was made for 1 (2%) study programme in the speciality 131 Applied Mechanics at the master's level of education.

14 Electrical engineering

In the field of knowledge 14 Electrical Engineering, the National Agency reviewed and made decisions on 57 educational programmes.

Of these, 28 (49%) are Bachelor's degree programmes, 24 (42%) are "Master's degree and 5 (9%) educational and research programmes at level of Doctor of Philosophy
(see Figure 44).

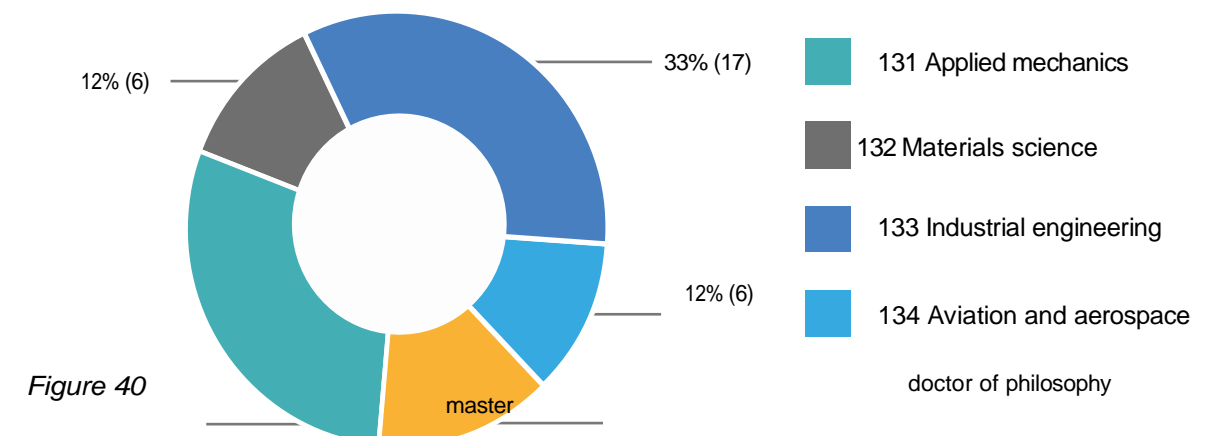*Figure 44*

The largest number of study programmes was reviewed in 141 Electricity, Electrical Engineering and Electromechanics - 42 (74%). In 145 Hydropower, no study programmes were submitted for accreditation in accordance with the full procedure (see Figure 45).
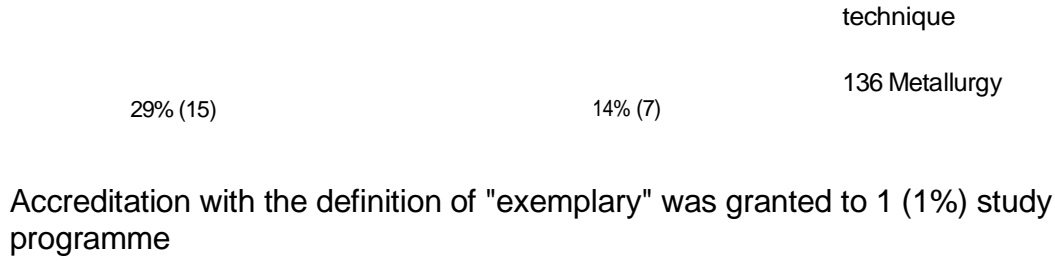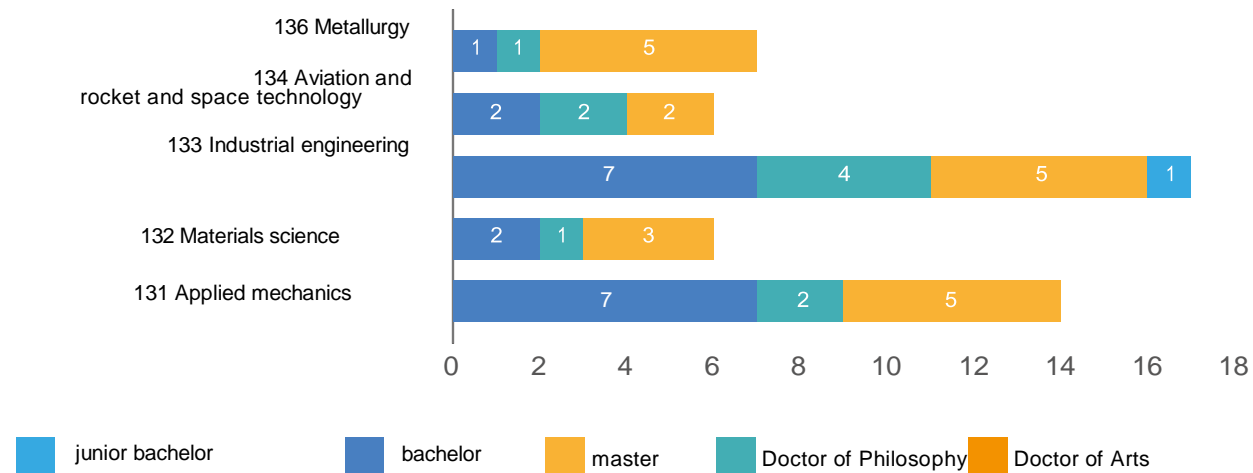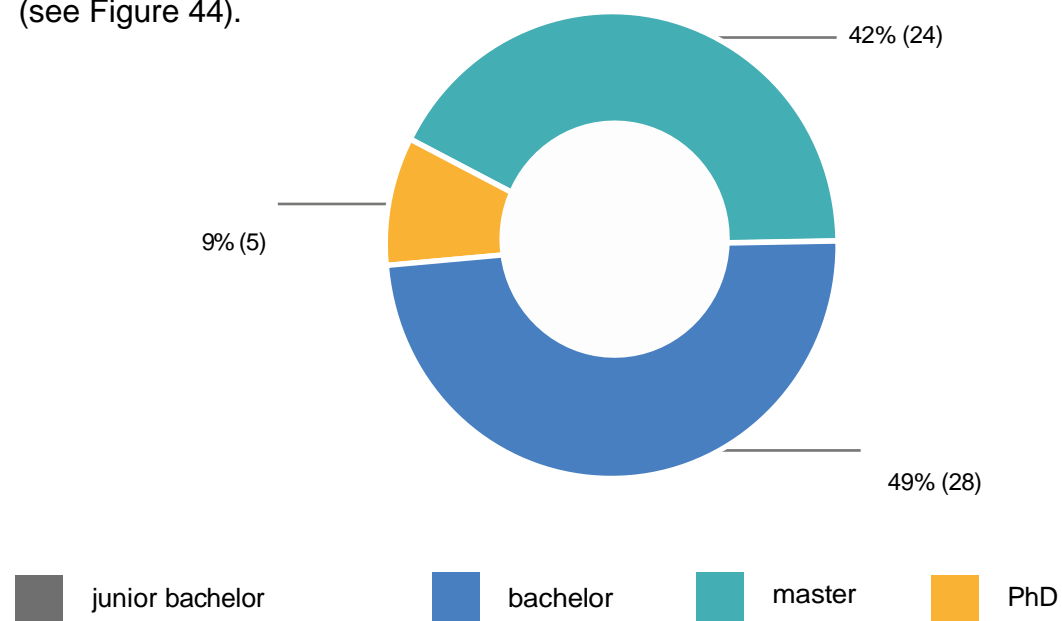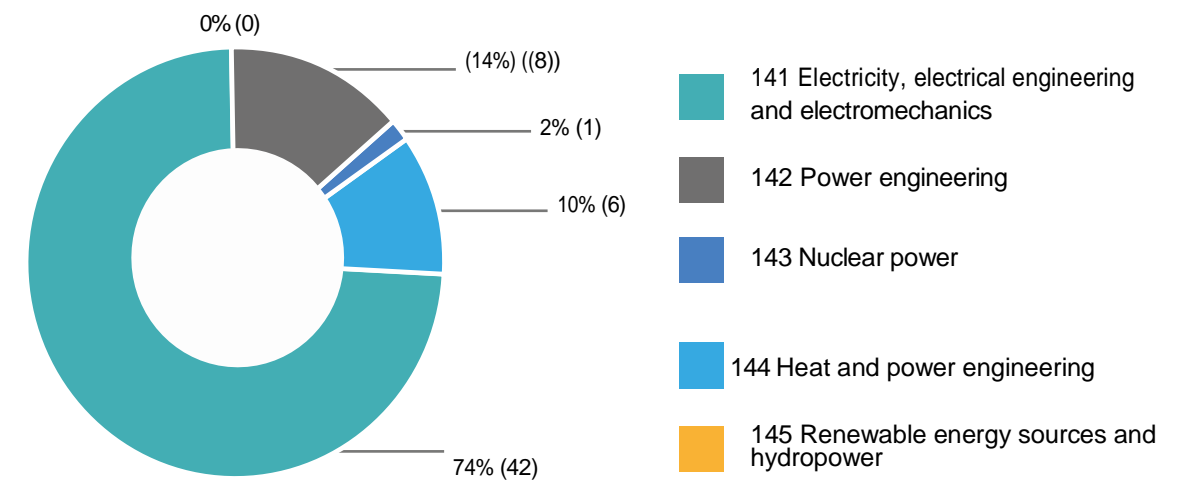

Figure 45

Fifty-two (91%) study programmes received accreditation decisions (see Figure 46).

Figure 46

The decision on conditional (deferred) accreditation was made for 2 (4%) study programmes (see Figure 47).
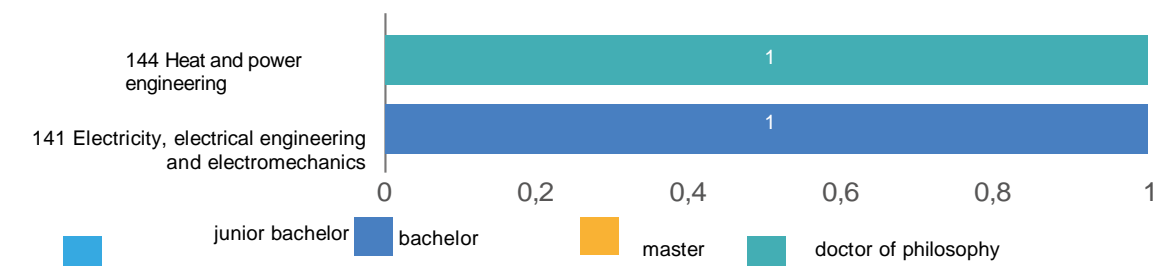
Figure 47

Accreditation with the definition of "exemplary" was granted to 3 () study programmes in the speciality 141 Electricity, Electrical Engineering and Electromechanics at the bachelor's and master's levels.

Automation and instrumentation

In the field of study 15 Automation and Instrumentation, the National Agency reviewed and made decisions on 35 educational programmes.

Of these, 15 (43%) are Bachelor's degree programmes, 15 (43%) are

3. External quality assurance system.
Accreditation of educational programmes by the National
Agency

"Master's degree and 5 (14%) of the Doctor of Philosophy degree programmes (see Figure 48).

Figure 48

The largest number of study programmes was reviewed in the specialty 151 Automation and Computer-Integrated Technologies - 23 (66%), the smallest number - in the specialty 153 Micro- and nanosystems engineering - 3 (9%) (see Figure 49).
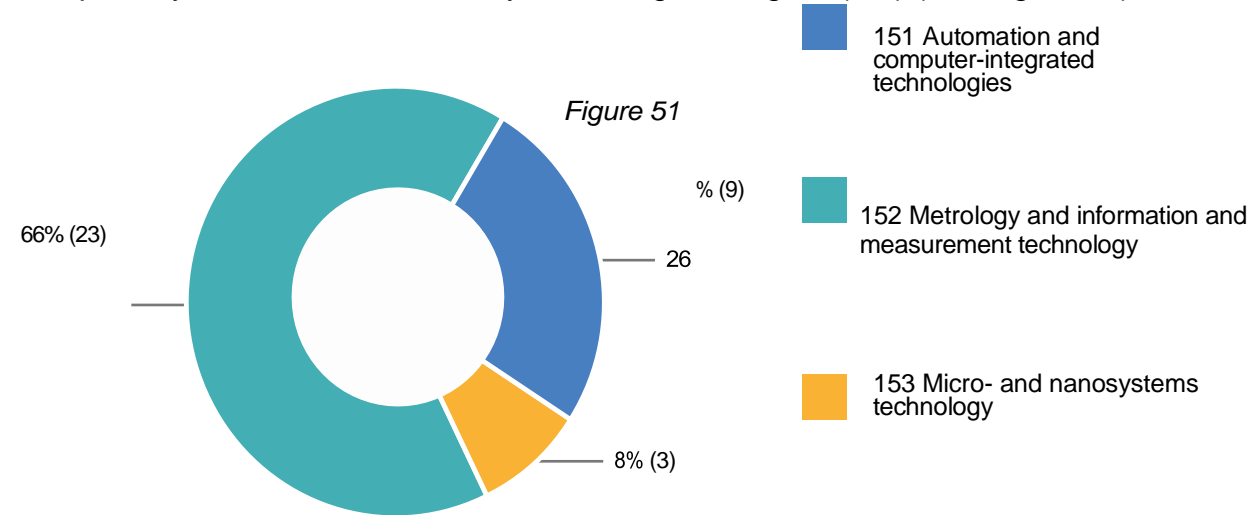
Figure 49

The accreditation decision was granted to 35 (100%) study programmes (see Figure 50).

Figure 50

15 Chemical and bioengineering

In the field of knowledge 16 Chemical and Bioengineering, the National Agency reviewed and made decisions on 25 educational programmes.

Of these, 10 (40%) are Bachelor's degree programmes, 10 (40%) are "degree and 5 (20%) of educational and research programmes at the level of Doctor of Philosophy (see Figure 51).

The largest number of educational programmes were reviewed in the following specialities
161 Chemical Technology and Engineering - 11 (), the smallest number in the speciality 162 Biotechnology and bioengineering - 6 (24%) (see Figure 52).

Figure 52

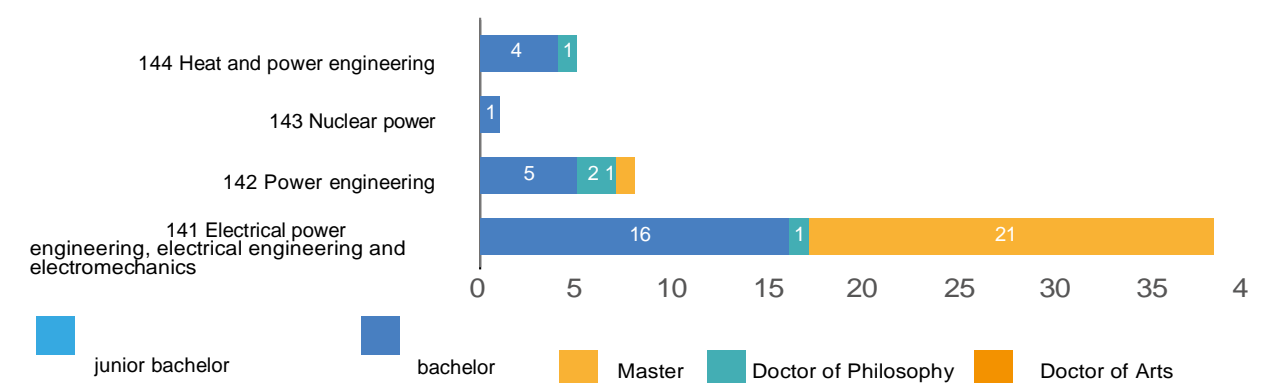The accreditation decision was granted to 23 (92%) study programmes (see Figure 53).

Figure 53

The decision on conditional (deferred) accreditation was made for 2 (8%) study programmes (see Figure 54).
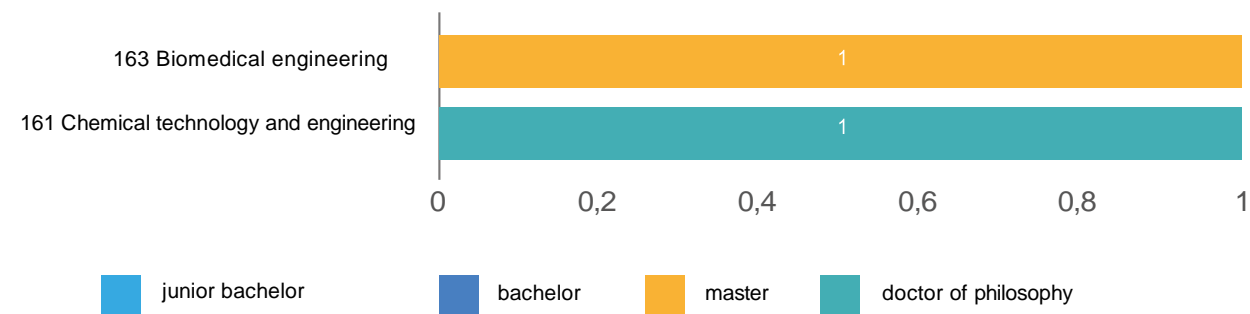
Figure 54

16 Electronics and telecommunications

In the field of knowledge 17 Electronics and Telecommunications, the National Agency reviewed and made decisions on 30 educational programmes.

Of these, 12 (40%) are Bachelor's degree programmes, 13 (43%) are "Master's degree and 5 () of the Doctor of Philosophy degree programmes (see Figure 55).
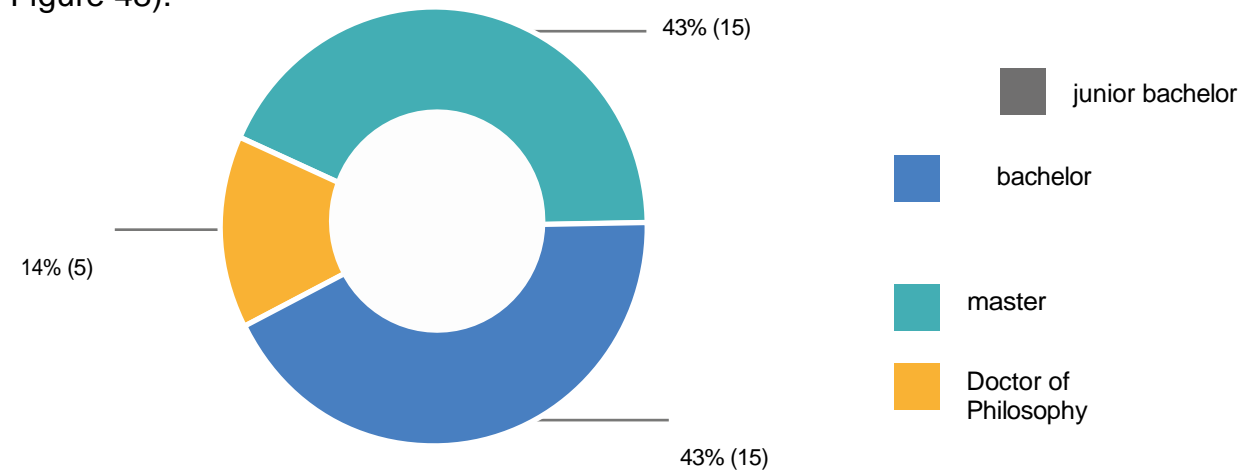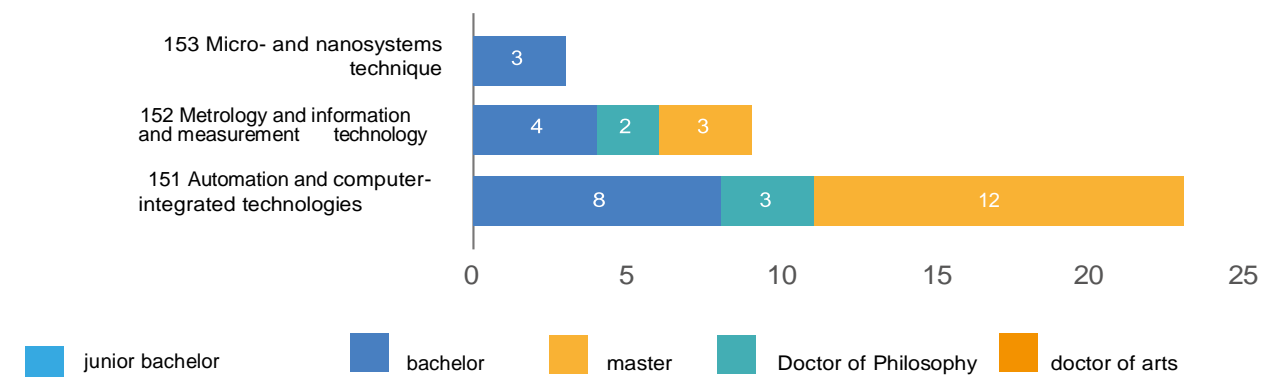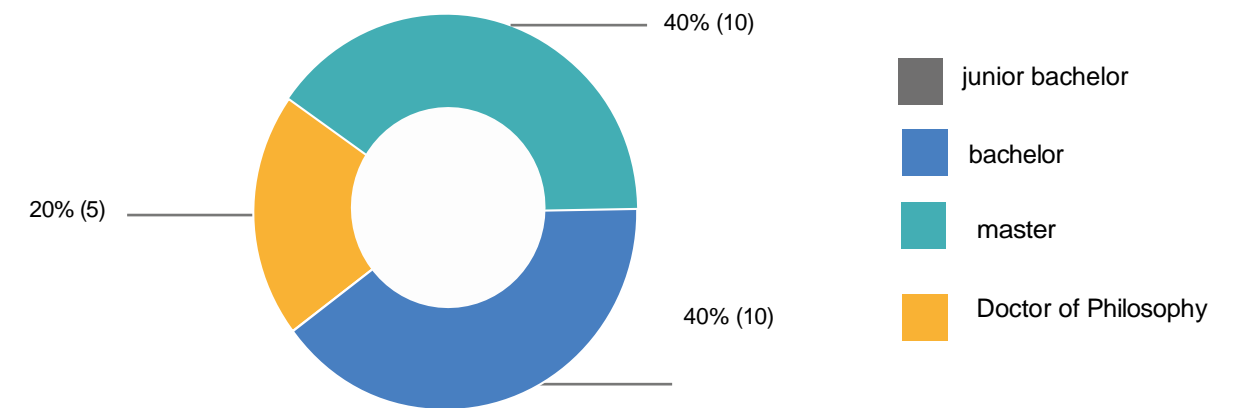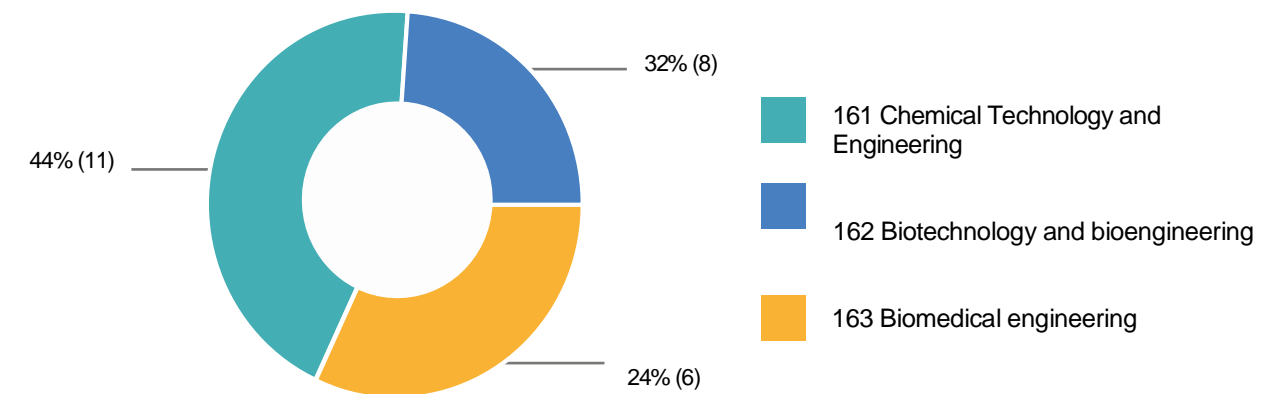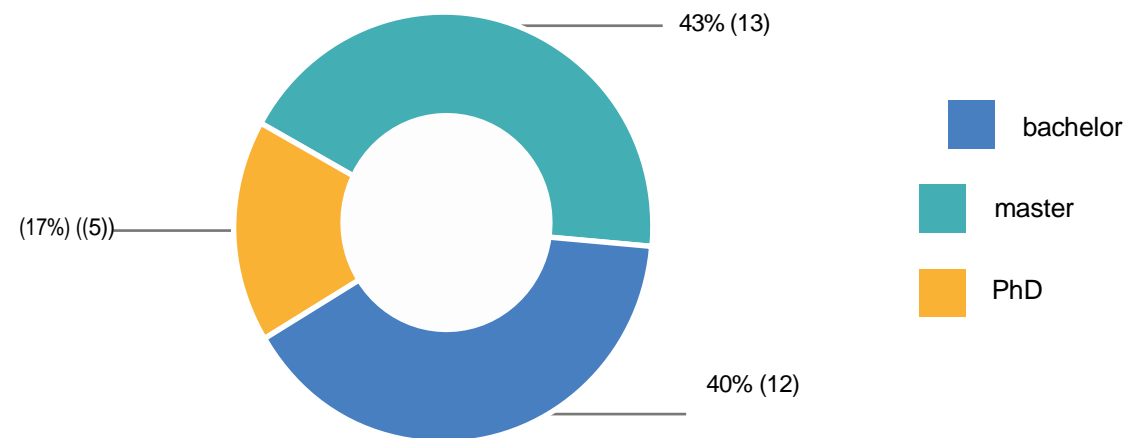

Figure 55

The largest number of study programmes was reviewed in the specialty 172 Electronic Communications and Radio Engineering - 19 (), the smallest number - in the specialty 173 Avionics - 4 (13%) (see Figure 56).

Figure 56

3. External quality assurance system.
Accreditation of educational programmes by the National
Agency

The decision to accredit 28 (93%) study programmes was made (see Figure 57).
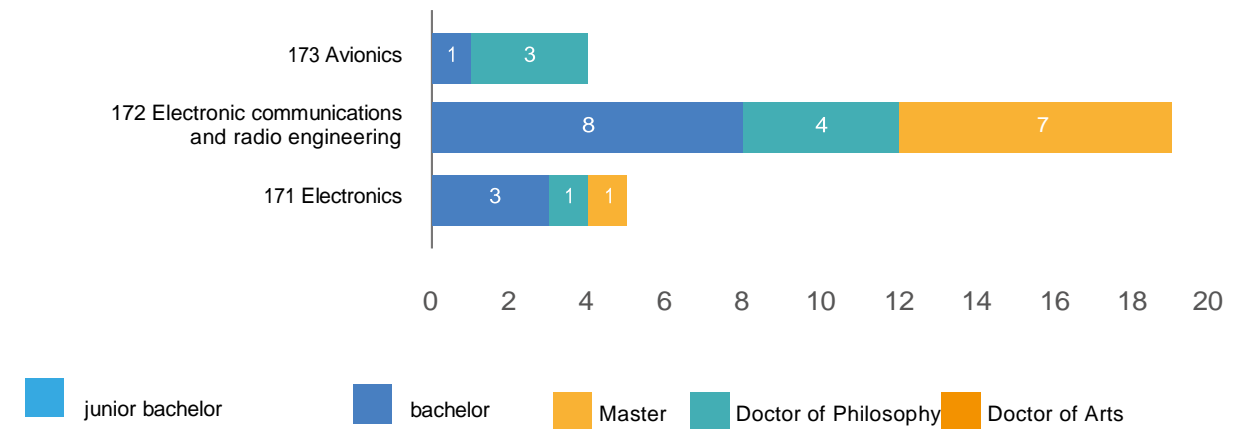
Figure 57

The decision on conditional (deferred) accreditation was made for 2 (7%) study programmes in the speciality 171 Electronics at the master's level of education.

17 Production and technology

In the field of knowledge 18 Production and Technology, the National Agency reviewed and made decisions on 44 educational programmes.

Of these, 10 () are bachelor's degree programmes, and 28 (64%) are "Masters degree and 6 () of the PhD degree programmes (see Figure 58).
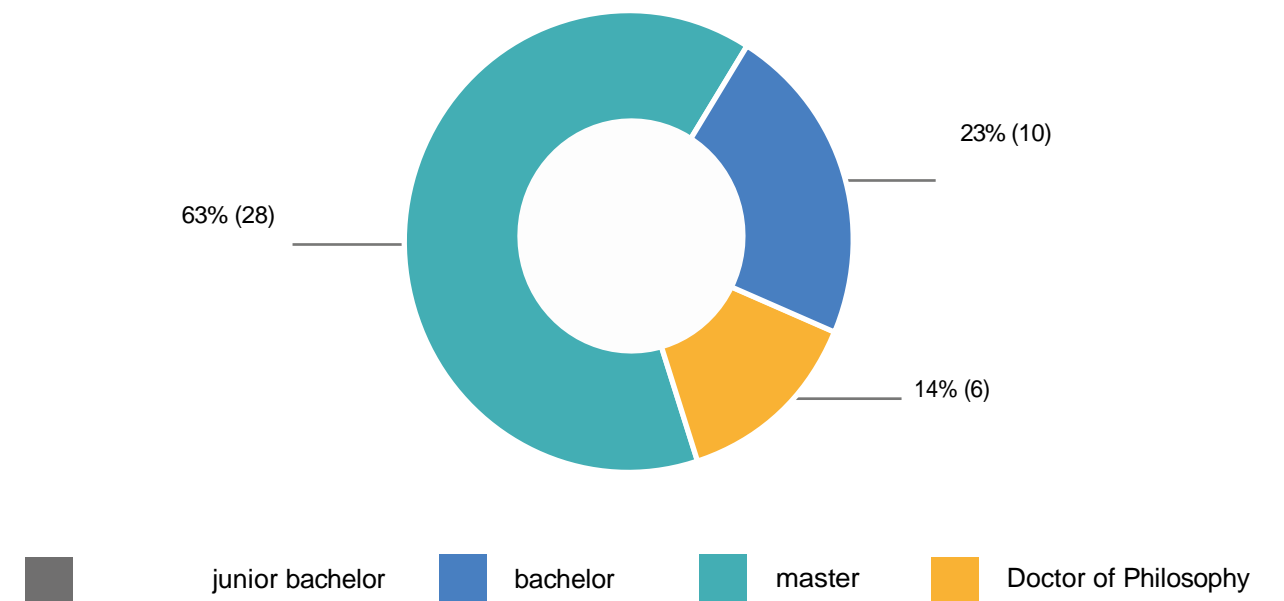
Figure 58

The largest number of educational programmes was reviewed in the speciality 184 Mining - 12 (), the smallest number - in the speciality 182
Light industry technologies - 2 (5%) and 185 Oil and gas engineering and technologies - 2 (5%).

In the specialty 187 Woodworking and Furniture Technology, no educational programmes were submitted for accreditation in accordance with the full procedure (see Figure 59).

3. External quality assurance system.
Accreditation of educational programmes by the National
Agency

5% (2)
14% (6)
27% (12)
25% (11)
25% (11)
(4%) ((2))

181 Food technology

182 Light industry technologies

183 Environmental protection technologies

184 Mining

185 Oil and gas engineering and technology

186 Publishing and printing

187 Woodworking and furniture technologies
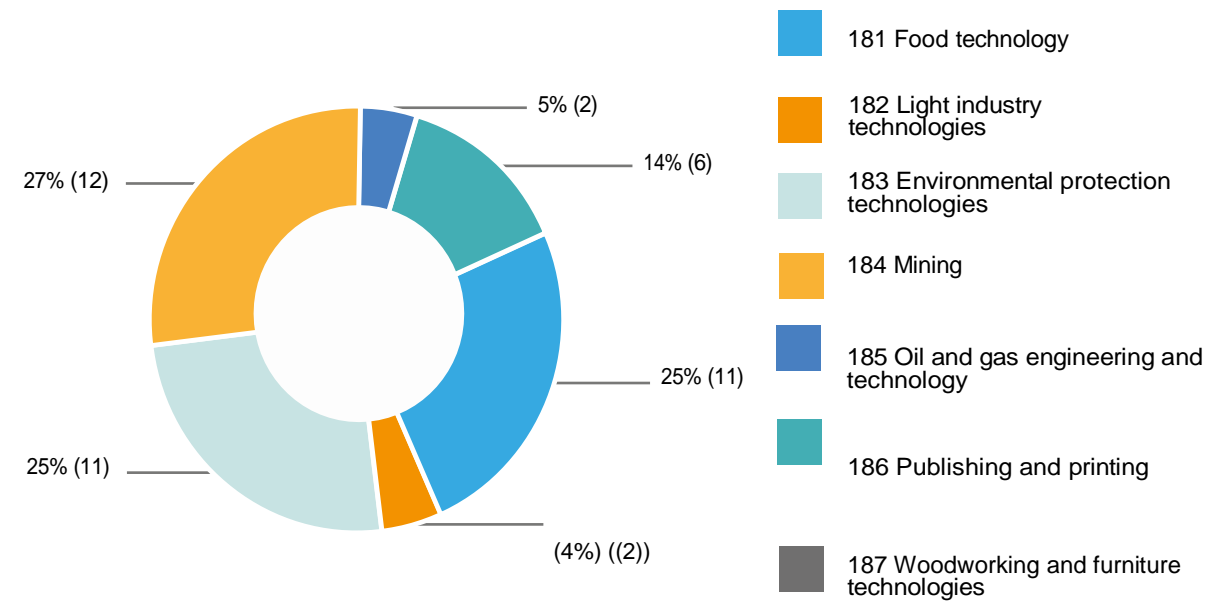
Figure 59

Thirty-nine (89%) study programmes received accreditation decisions (see Figure 60).

junior bachelor   bachelor   master   Doctor of Philosophy   doctor of arts

Figure 60

The decision on conditional (deferred) accreditation was made for 4 (9%) study programmes (see Figure 61).

junior bachelor   bachelor   master   PhD

Figure 61

Accreditation with the definition of "exemplary" was granted to 1 (2%) study programme in the speciality 186 Publishing and Printing at the level of Doctor of Philosophy.

18 Architecture and construction

In the field of study 19 Architecture and Construction, the National Agency reviewed and made decisions on 32 educational programmes.

Of these, 1 (3%) is a junior bachelor's degree programme, 12 (38%) are bachelor's degree programmes, 18 (56%) are master's degree programmes, and 1 (3%) is a doctoral degree programme (see Figure 62).

38% (12)
3% (1)
3% (1)
56% (18)

junior bachelor
bachelor
master
PhD
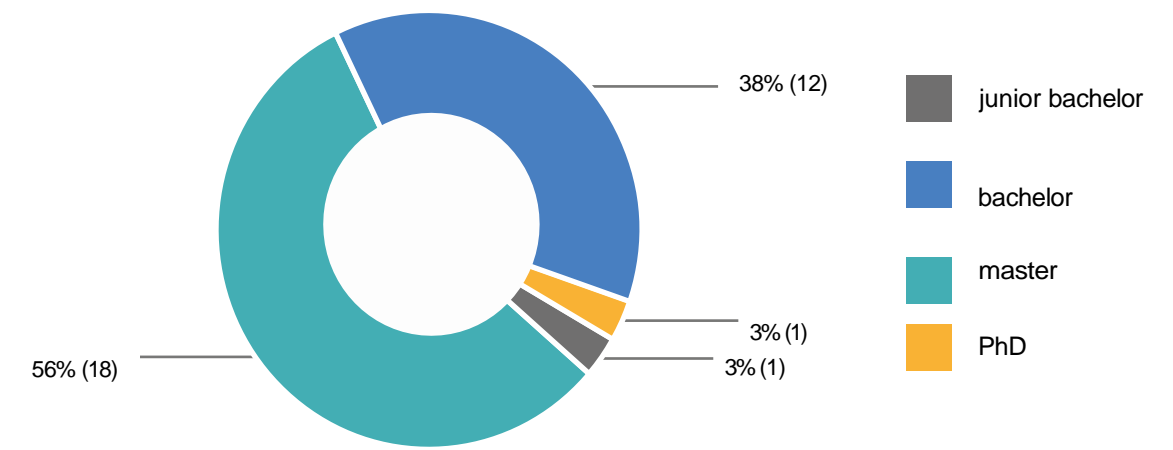
Figure 62

The largest number of study programmes was reviewed in the specialty 192 Civil and Environmental Engineering - 14 (), the smallest number - in the specialty 194 Hydraulic Engineering, Water Engineering and Water Technology - 3 (9%) (see Figure 63).

2% (1)
10% (6)
14% (8)
74% (42)

191 Architecture and urban planning   193 Geodesy and land management
192 Construction and civil engineering   194 Hydraulic engineering, water engineering and water technology

Figure 63

3. External quality assurance system.
Accreditation of educational programmes by the National
Agency
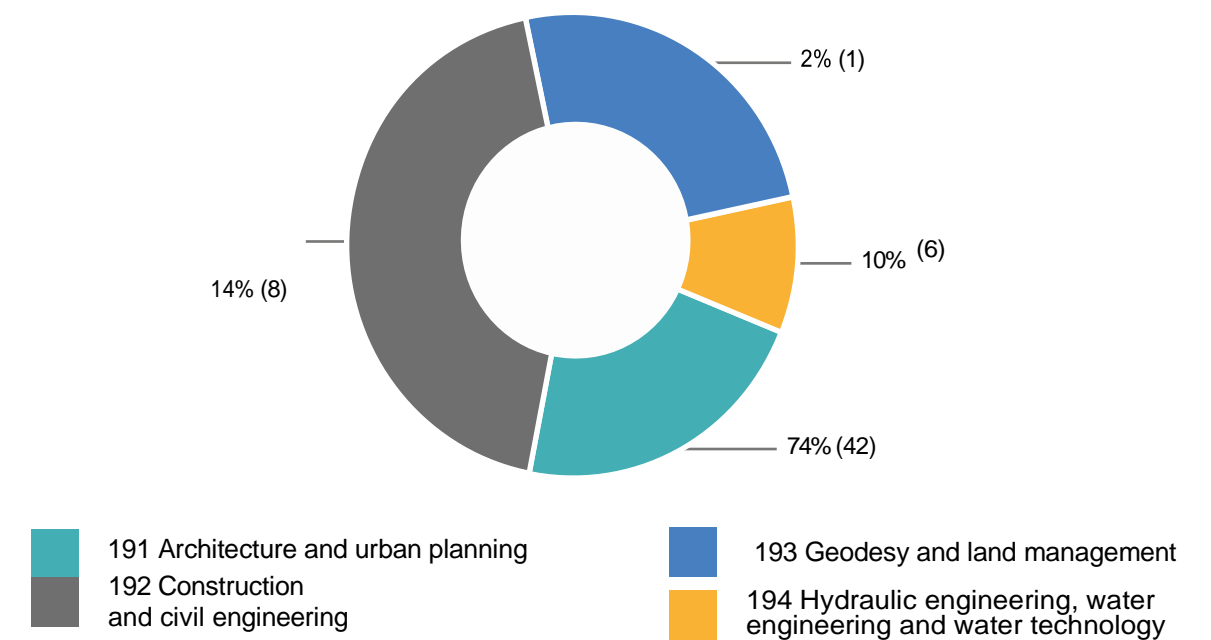
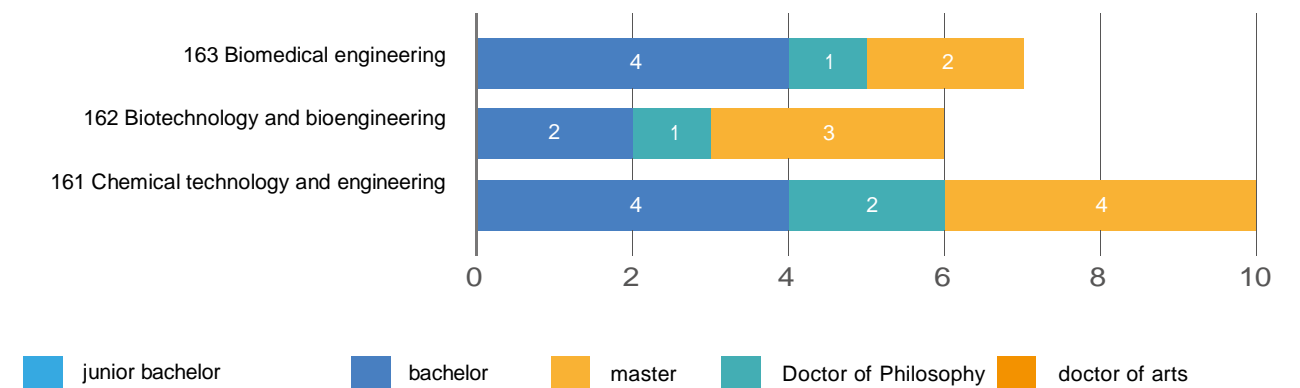The decision to accredit 30 (94%) study programmes was made (see Figure 64).

Figure 64

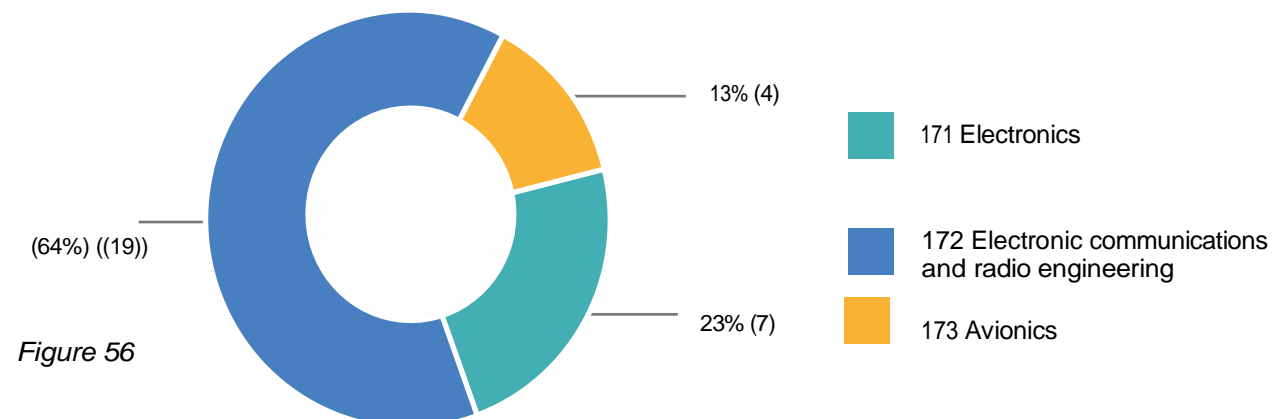The decision on conditional (deferred) accreditation was made for 2 (6%) study programmes (see Figure 65).

Figure 65

19 Agricultural sciences and food

In the field of knowledge 20 Agricultural Sciences and Food, the National Agency reviewed and made decisions on 35 educational programmes.

Of these, 3 (9%) are junior bachelor's degree programmes, 13 (37%) are bachelor's degree programmes, 10 (29%) are master's degree programmes, and 9 (26%) are doctoral degree programmes (see Figure 66).
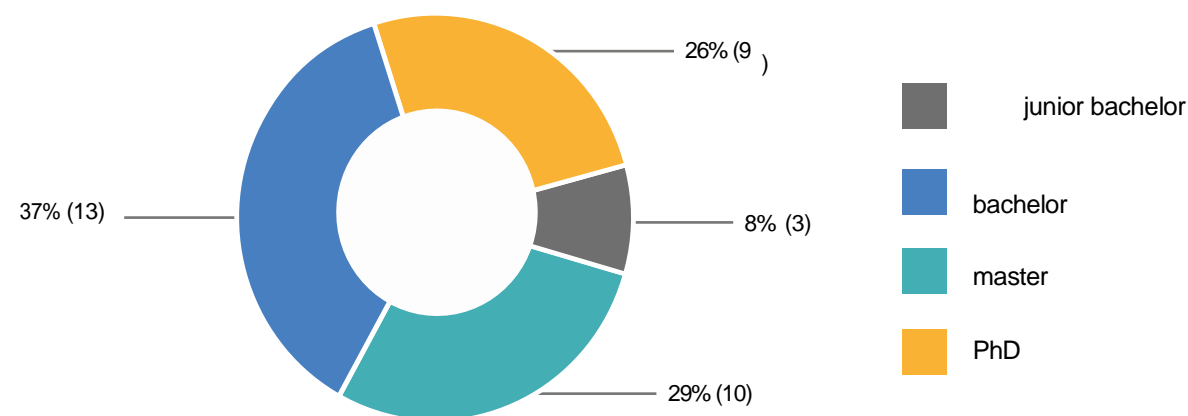
Figure 66

The largest number of educational programmes were reviewed in the following specialities

201 Agronomy - 9 (26%) and 208 Agroengineering - 9 (26%). In the specialty 203 Horticulture and Viticulture, no study programmes were submitted for accreditation in accordance with the full procedure (see Figure 67).

Figure 67

The accreditation decision was granted to 31 (89%) study programmes (see Figure). Sun. 68).
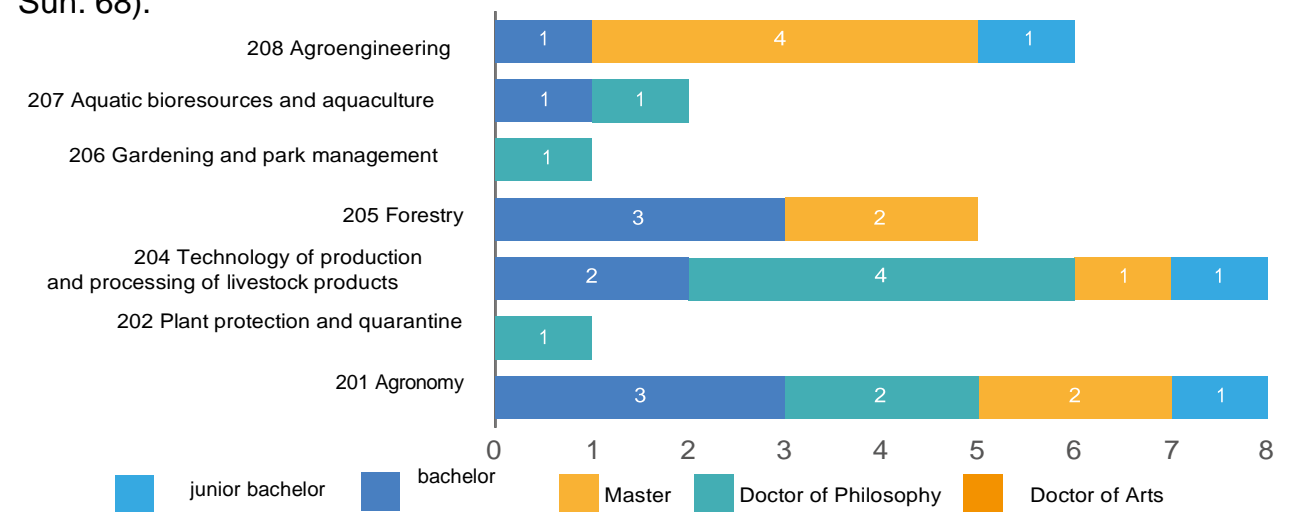
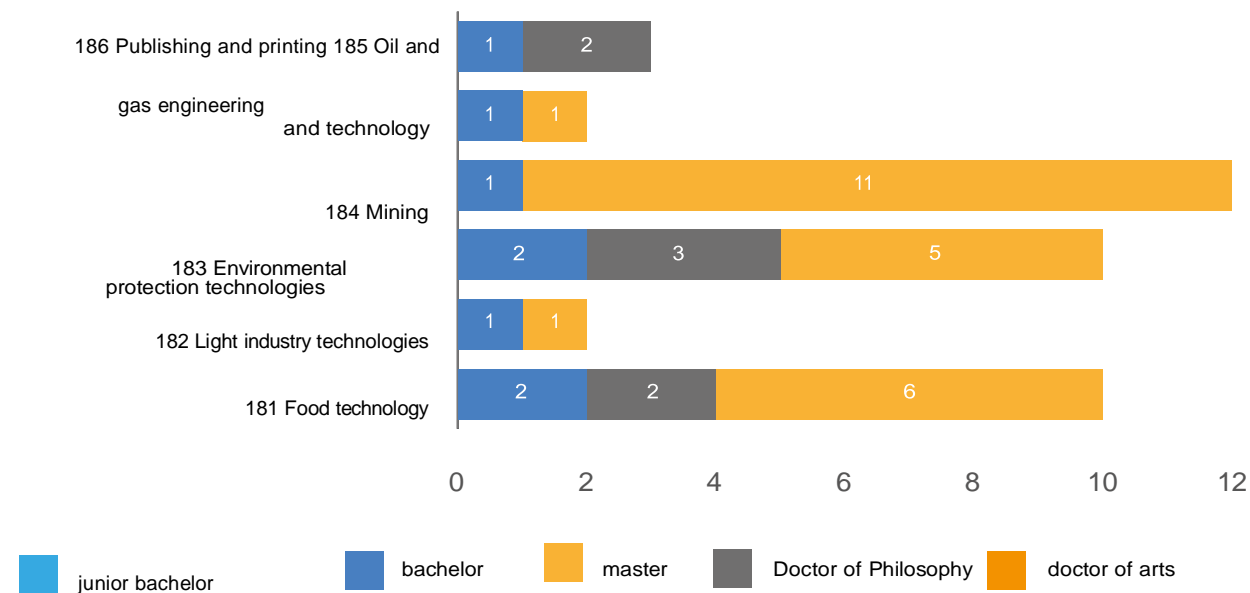*Figure 68*

The decision on conditional (deferred) accreditation was made for 4 (11%) study programmes (see Figure 69).

Figure 69

3. External quality assurance system.
Accreditation of educational programmes by the National
Agency
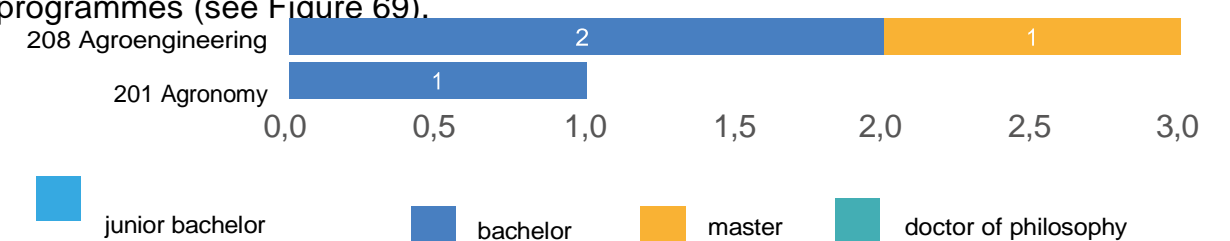
20 Veterinary medicine

In the field of study 21 Veterinary Medicine, the National Agency reviewed and made decisions on 4 educational programmes.

Of these, 3 () are Master's degree programmes and 1 (25%) is a PhD programme (see Figure 70).

75% (3)   25% (1)

master

PhD

Figure 70

By speciality, there is a similar distribution in terms of the number of study programmes considered (see Figure 71).

50% (2)   50% (2)

211 Veterinary medicine

212 Veterinary hygiene, sanitation and examination
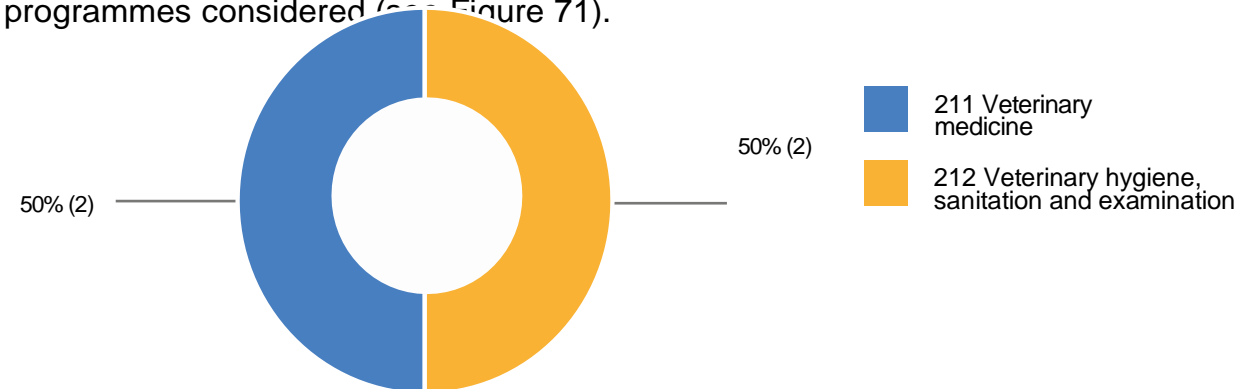
Figure 71

Two () study programmes were granted accreditation (see Figure 72).

212 Veterinary hygiene, sanitation and examination

211 Veterinary medicine

junior bachelor   bachelor   master   Doctor of Philosophy   doctor of arts
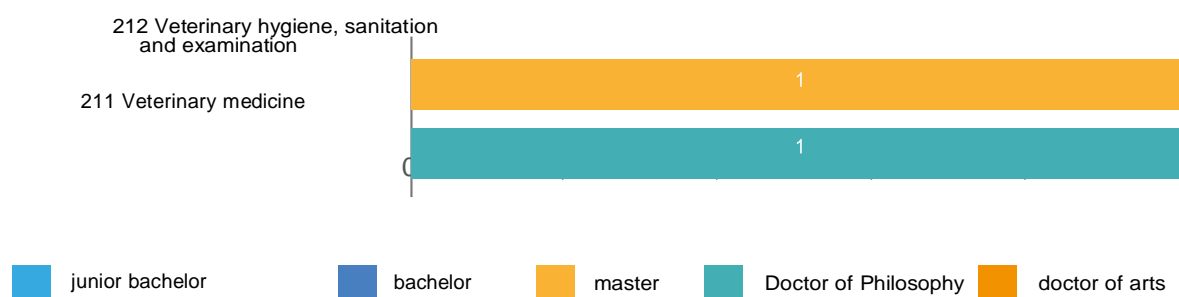
Figure 72

The decision on conditional (deferred) accreditation was made for 1 (25%) study programme in the speciality 212 Veterinary Hygiene, Sanitation and Expertise at the master's level of education.

Accreditation with the definition of "exemplary" was also granted to 1 (25%) study programme in the speciality 211 Veterinary Medicine by level of education "Master".

21 Healthcare

In the field of knowledge 22 Healthcare, the National Agency reviewed and made decisions on 48 educational programmes.

Of these, 2 (4%) are educational programmes at the level of "junior bachelor", 12 (25%) are educational programmes at the level of "bachelor", 20 (42%) are "master" and 14 (29%) are educational and scientific programmes at the level of "doctor of philosophy".
(see Figure 73).

The largest number of educational programmes was reviewed in the speciality

29% (14)

25% (12)   4%   (2)

42% (20)

junior bachelor

Bachelor

Master

PhD
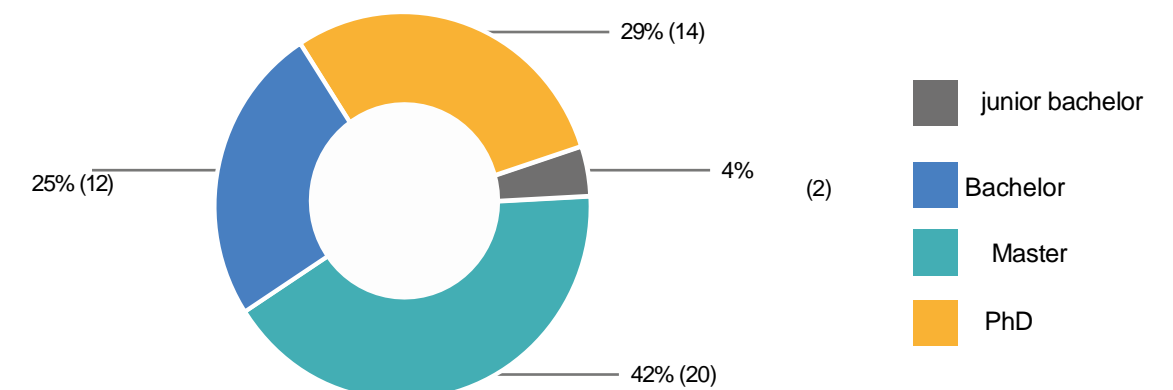
Figure 73

226 Pharmacy, Industrial Pharmacy - 10 (21%) and 227 Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy - 10 (21%), the smallest number - in the specialties 224 Technologies of medical diagnostics and treatment and 225 Medical Psychology - 1 (2%) each (see Figure 74).

21% (10)   21% (10)

2% (1)
2% (1)

10% (5)

19% (9)

15% (7)

6% (3)

4% (2)

221 Dentistry

222 Medicine

223 Nursing

224 Medical diagnostics and treatment technologies

225 Medical psychology

226 Pharmacy, industrial pharmacy

227 Physical therapy, occupational

228 Paediatrics

229 Public health

Figure 74

3. External quality assurance system.
Accreditation of educational programmes by the National
Agency
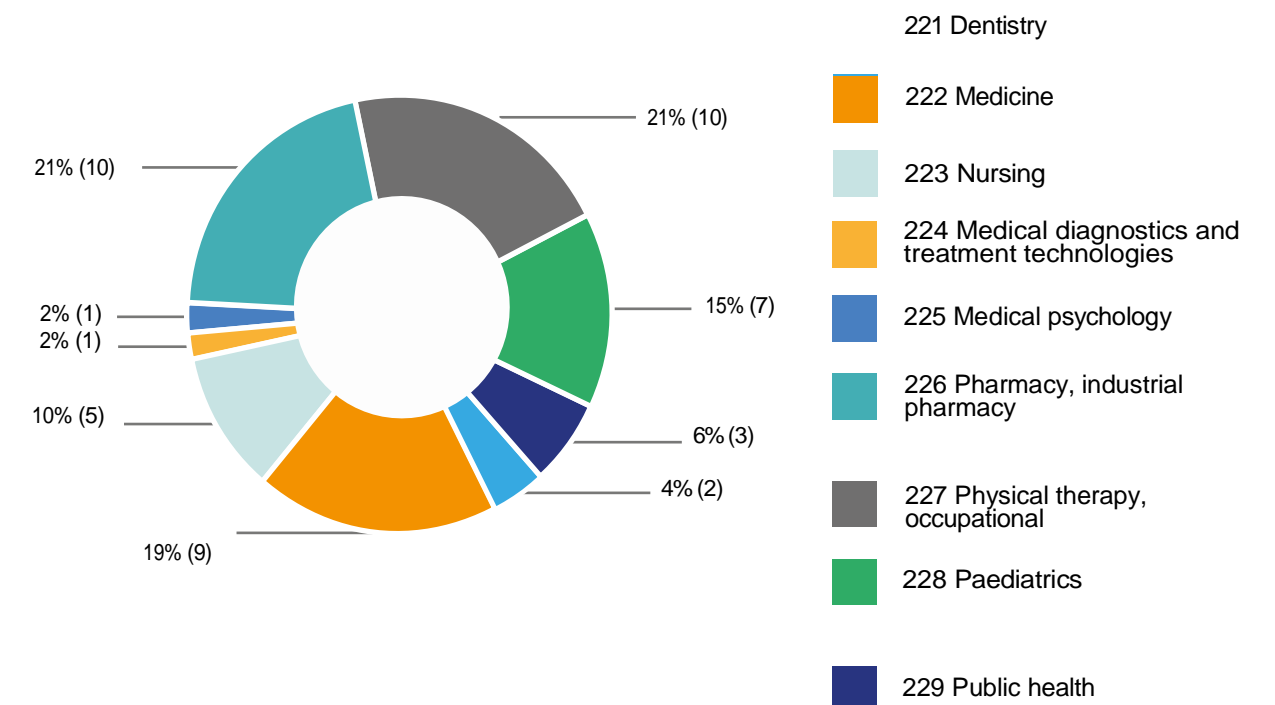
Forty-one (85%) study programmes received accreditation decisions (see Figure 75).

Figure 75

The decision on conditional (deferred) accreditation was made for 5 (10%) study programmes (see Figure 76).
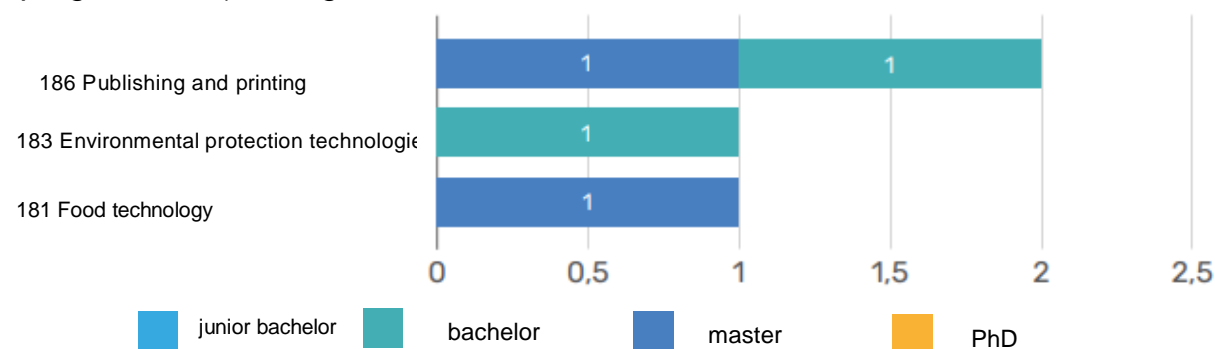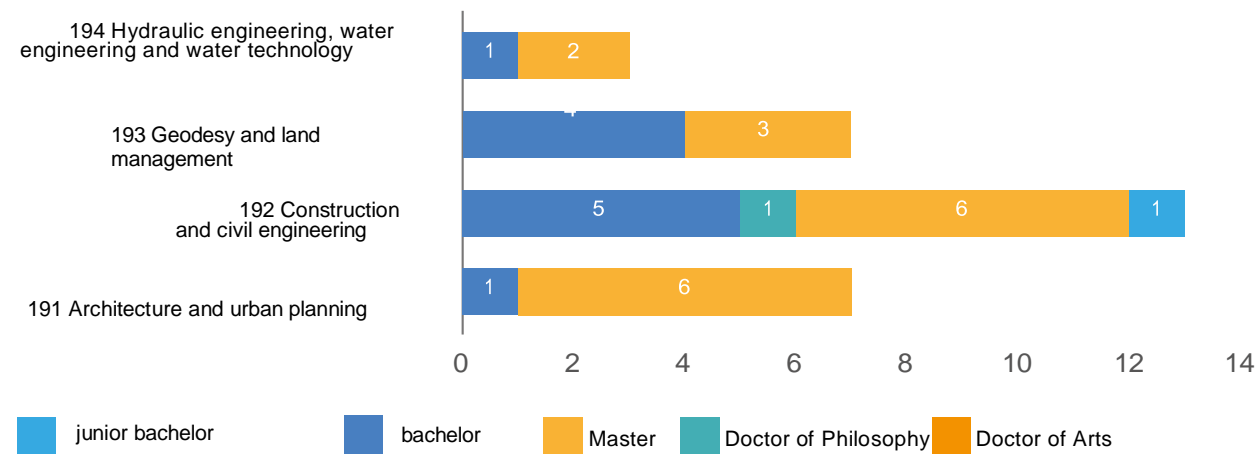

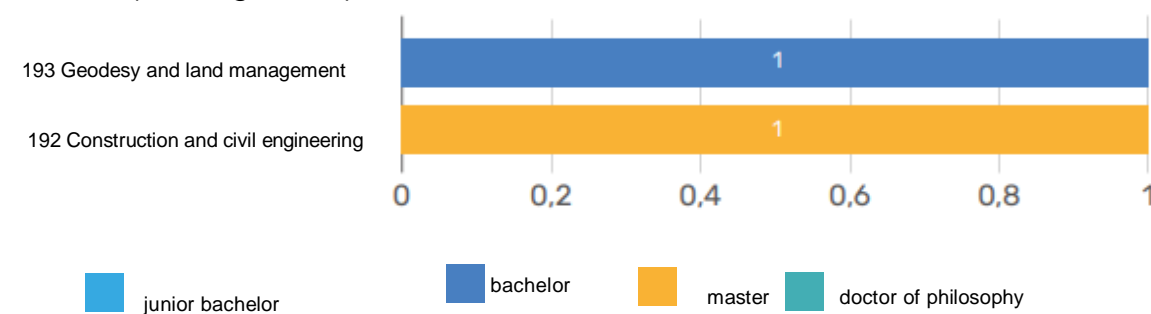*Figure 76*

Accreditation with the definition of "exemplary" was granted to 1 (2%) educational programme
gram in the speciality 221 Dentistry with a master's degree.

The decision to conduct a "re-examination" was made for 1 () study programme in the specialty 226 Pharmacy, Industrial Pharmacy.

22 Social work

In the field of knowledge 23 Social Work, the National Agency reviewed and made decisions on 26 educational programmes.

Of these, 11 () are Bachelor's degree programmes, 13 (50%) are "Master's degree and 2 (8%) of the Doctor of Philosophy degree programmes (see Figure 77).

The largest number of educational programmes were reviewed in the following specialities

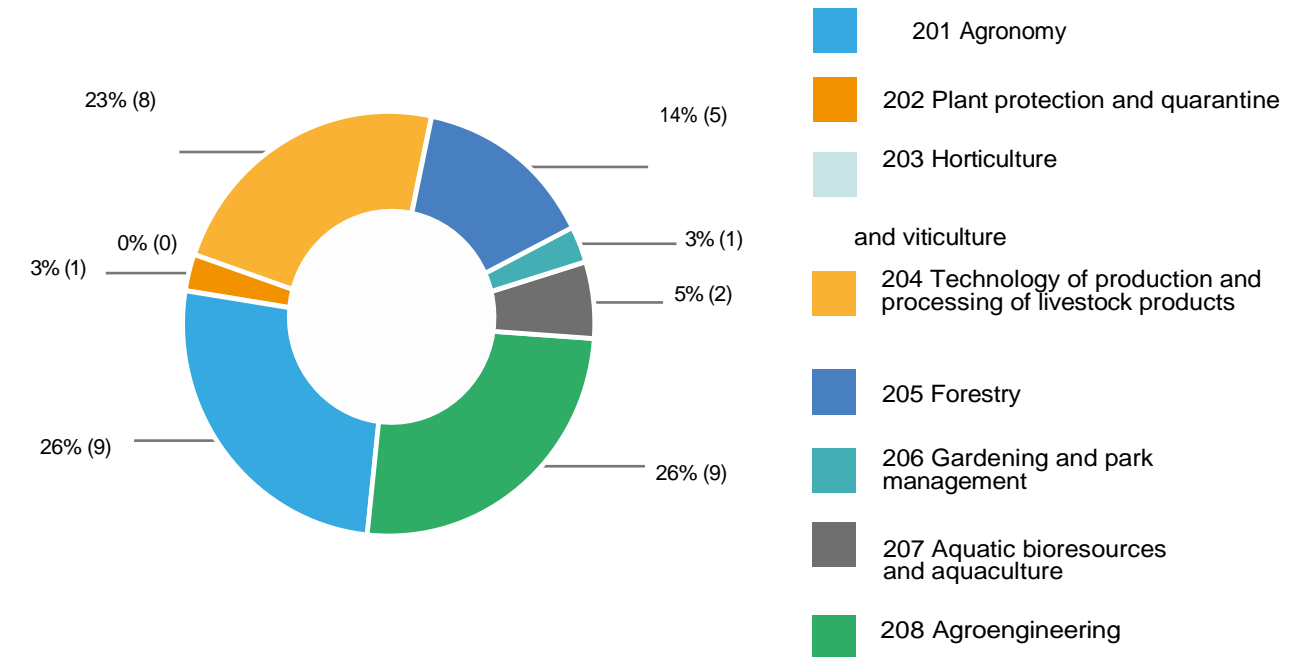231 Social work - 15 (58%) (see Figure 78).

Figure 77

Figure 78

The accreditation decision was granted to 23 (88%) study programmes (see Figure 79).

Figure 79

The decision on conditional (deferred) accreditation was made for 3 (12%) study programmes (see Figure 80).

Figure 80

24 Service sector

In the field of knowledge 24 Service sector, the National Agency reviewed and made decisions on 42 educational programmes.
Of these, 1 (2%) is a junior bachelor's degree programme, 20 (48%) are bachelor's degree programmes, and 21 (50%) are master's degree programmes (see Figure 81).

Figure 81

3. External quality assurance system.
Accreditation of educational programmes by the National
Agency
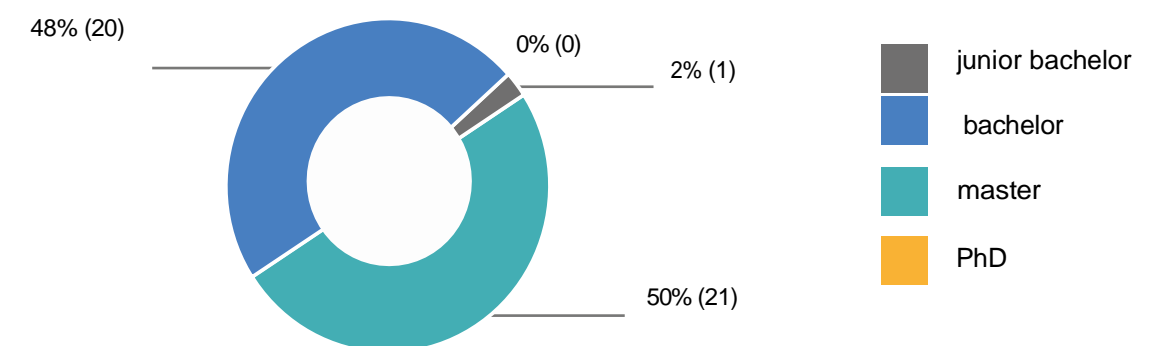
The largest number of study programmes was reviewed in the specialty 242 Tourism and Recreation - 23 (55%) (see Figure 82).

55% (23)

45% (19)

- 241 Hotel and restaurant business
- 242 Tourism and recreation

Figure 82

Thirty-six (86%) study programmes received accreditation decisions (see Figure 83).

junior bachelor   bachelor   master   doctor of philosophy   doctor of arts

Figure 83

The decision on conditional (deferred) accreditation was made for 4 (10%) study programmes (see Figure 84).

junior bachelor   bachelor   master   doctor of philosophy
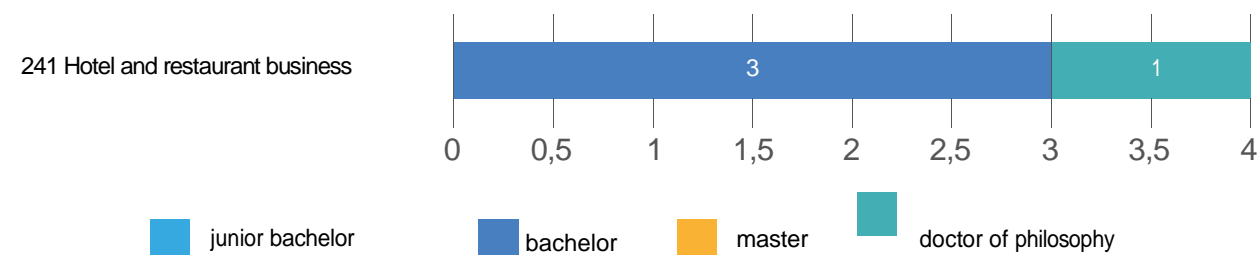
Figure 84

Accreditation with the definition of "exemplary" was granted to 2 (5%) educational programmes in the speciality 241 Hotel and restaurant business by level of education "junior bachelor" and "master".

25 Military sciences, national security, state border security

By field of study 25 Military sciences, national security, state border security The National Agency reviewed and made decisions on 2 study programmes in the speciality 256 National security of the level "Master". The decision on accreditation was made for 1 (50%) study programme. Accreditation with the definition of "exemplary" was also granted to 1 (50%) study programme.

In the specialties 251 State Security and 254 Support of Troops (Forces), educational programmes were not submitted for accreditation in accordance with the full procedure (see Figure 85).

0% (0)

100% (2)

- 251 State security
- 254 Supply of troops (forces)
- 256 National security
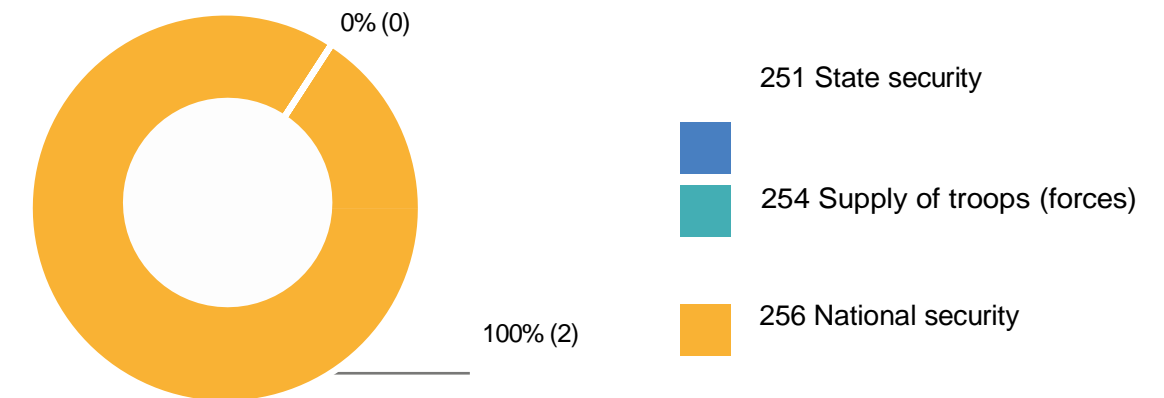
Figure 85

26 Civilian security

In the field of knowledge 26 Civil Security, the National Agency reviewed and made decisions on 13 educational programmes.

Of these, 6 () are Bachelor's degree programmes, 6 (46%) are "Master's degree and 1 (8%) of the Doctor of Philosophy degree programmes (see Figure 86).

46% (6)

(8%) ((1))

46% (6)

- bachelor
- master
- PhD
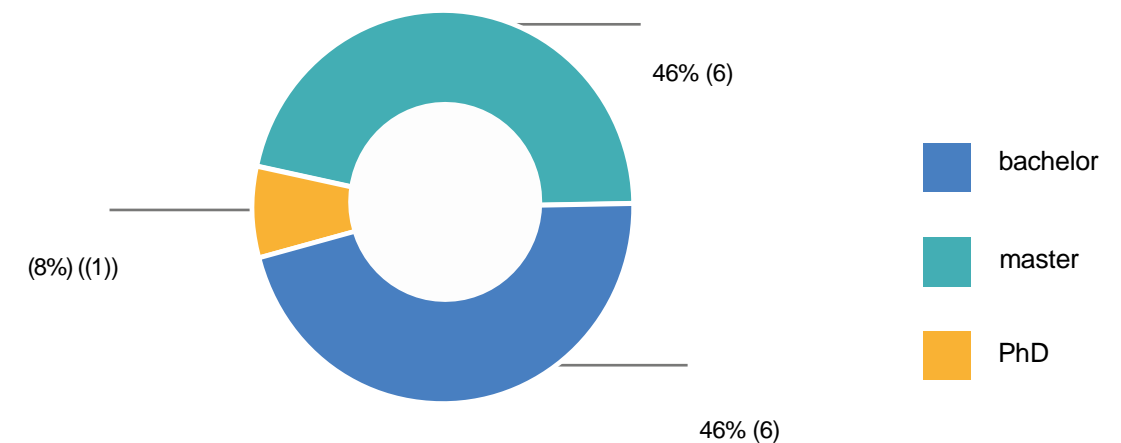
Figure 86

The largest number of educational programmes were reviewed in the following specialities

262 Law enforcement - 9 (69%) (see Figure 87).

31% (4)

69% (9)

- 262 Law enforcement activities
- 263 Civilian security

Figure 87

3. External quality assurance system.
Accreditation of educational programmes by the National
Agency
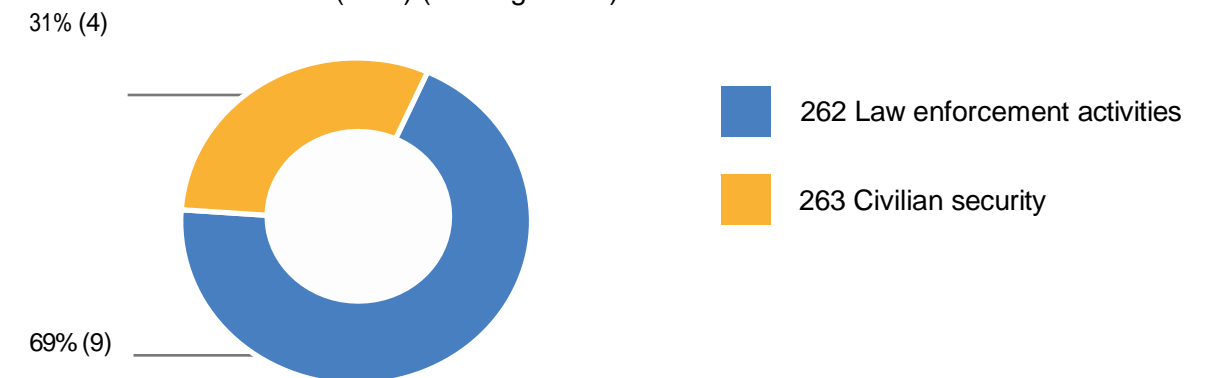
The accreditation decision was granted to 10 (77%) study programmes (see Figure 88).
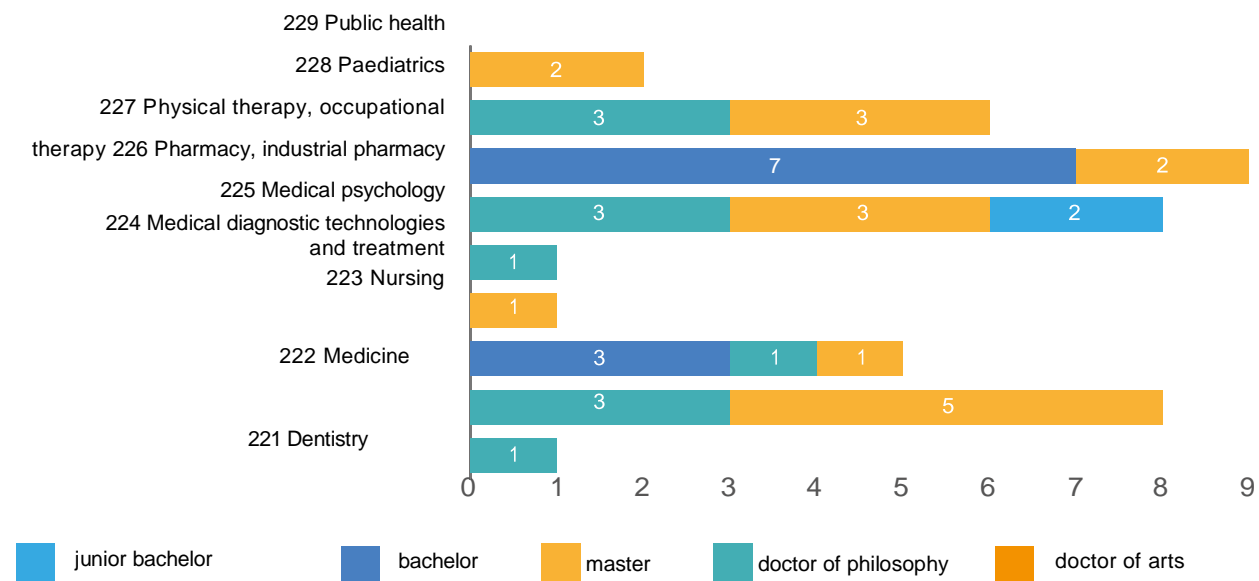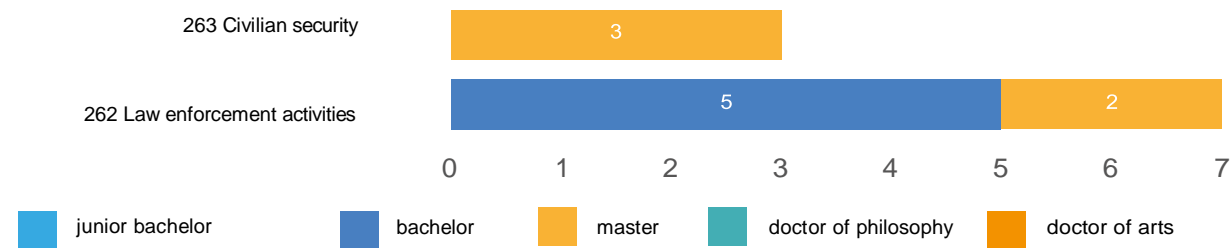

Figure 88

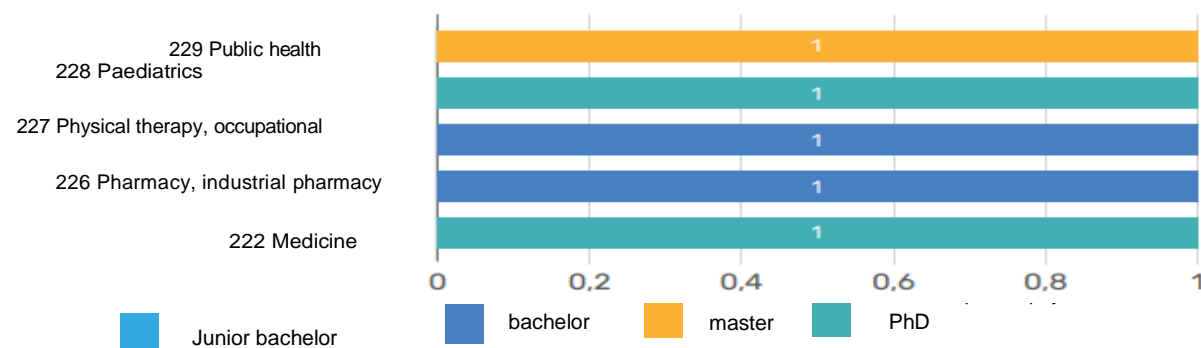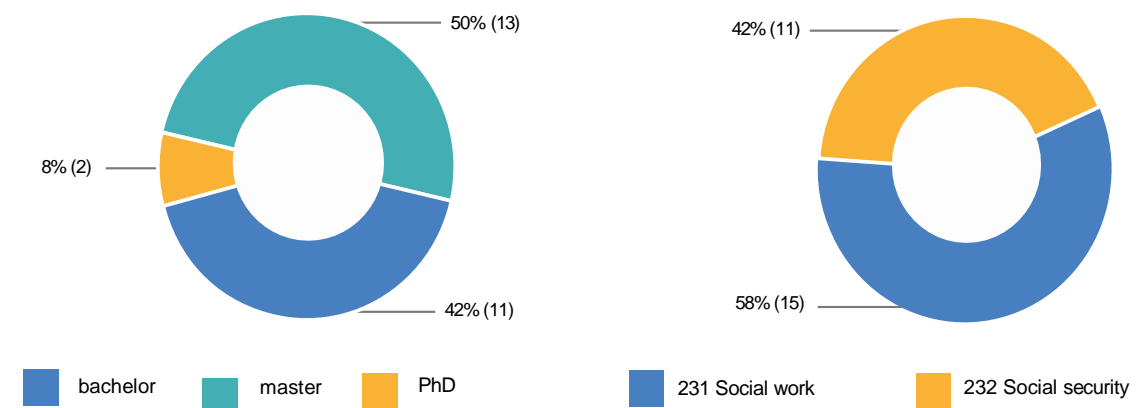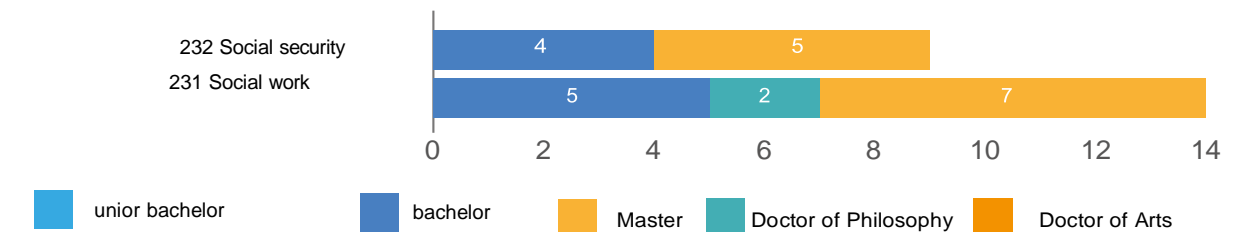The decision on conditional (deferred) accreditation was made for 2 (15%) study programmes (see Figure 89).
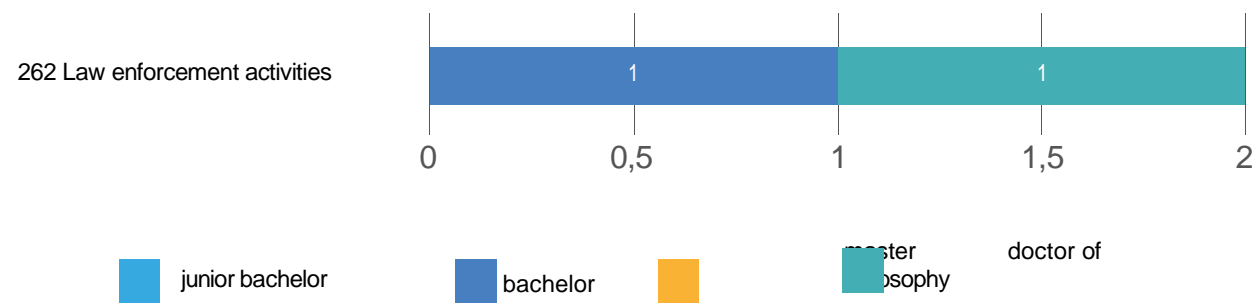
Figure 89

Accreditation with the definition of "exemplary" was granted to 1 (8%) study programme in the speciality 263 Civil Security at the level of Doctor of Philosophy.

27 Transport

In the field of knowledge 27 Transport, the National Agency reviewed and made decisions on 29 educational programmes.

Of these, 8 () are bachelor's degree programmes, 20 (69%) are "Master's degree and 1 (3%) of the Doctor of Philosophy degree programmes (see Figure 90).
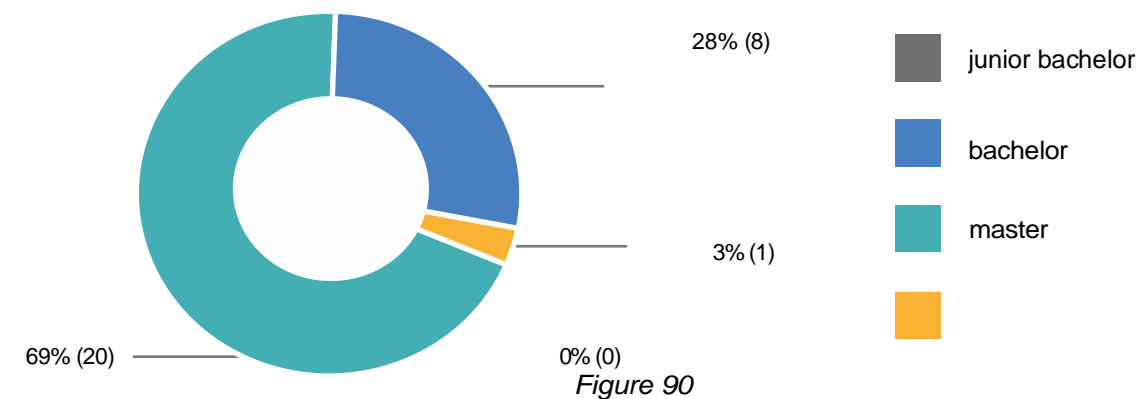
Figure 90

The largest number of study programmes was reviewed in the speciality 275 Transport Technologies - 15 (52%). In the speciality 271 Maritime and

inland waterway transport, educational programmes for accreditation in accordance with have not been submitted to the full procedure (see Figure 91).
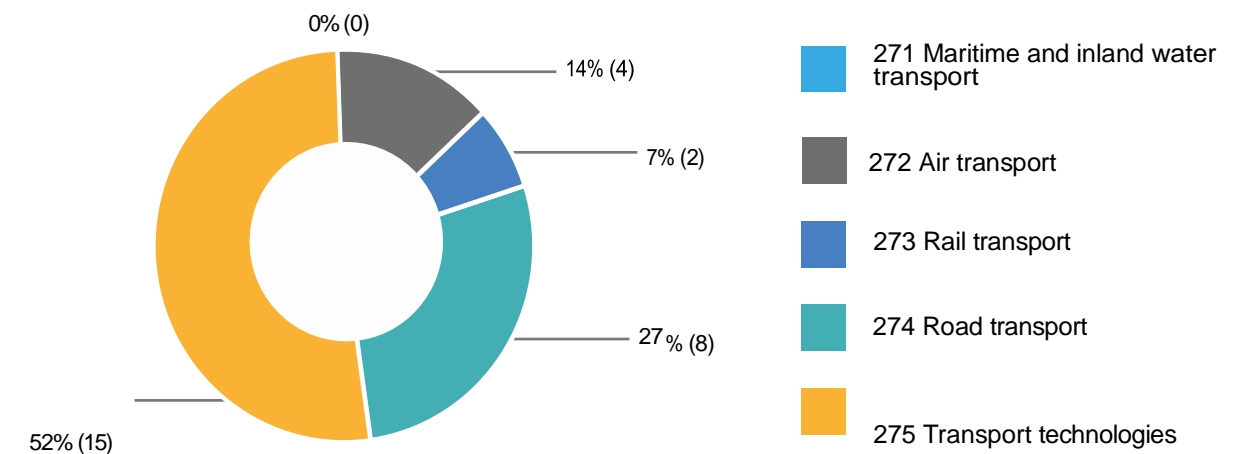
Figure 91

The decision to accredit 26 (90% study programmes was made (see Figure 92).
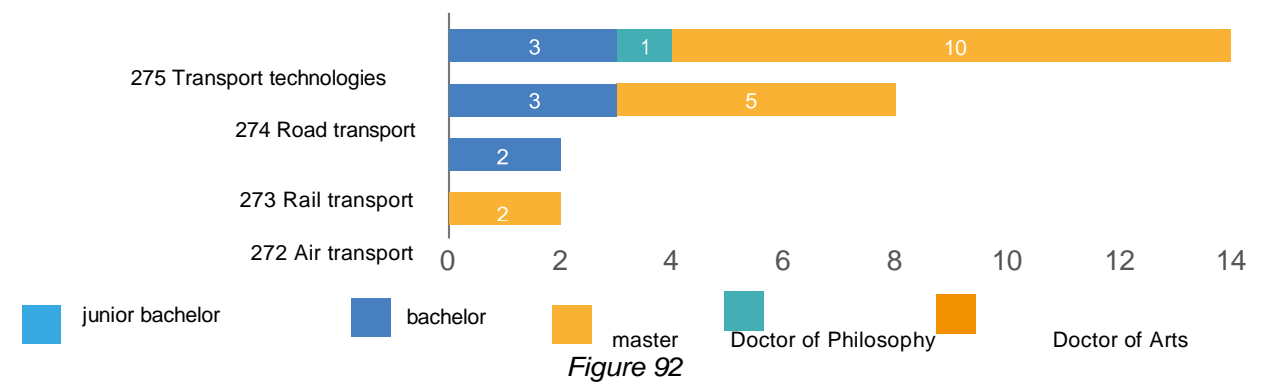
Figure 92

The decision on conditional (deferred) accreditation was made for 3 (10%) study programmes in the specialities 272 Air Transport and 275 Transport Technologies at the master's level of education (see Figure 93).
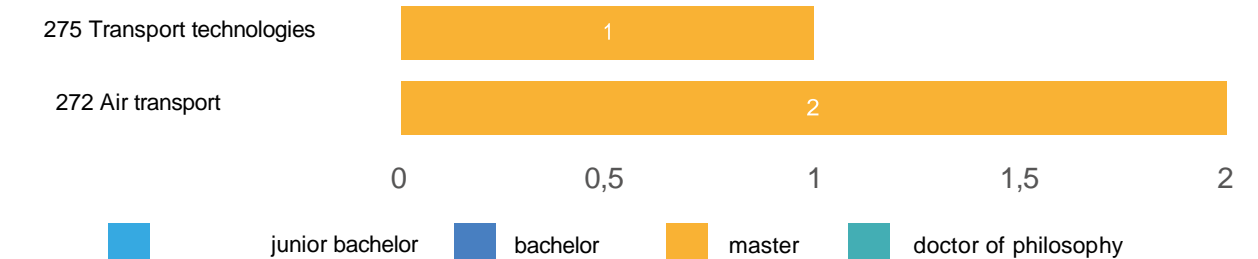
28 Public management and administration

In the field of knowledge 28 Public management and administration, the National Agency reviewed and made decisions on 31 study programmes.

Of these, 7 (23%) are Bachelor's degree programmes, 20 (65%) are Master's degree programmes and 4 (13%) are Doctoral degree programmes (see Figure 94).
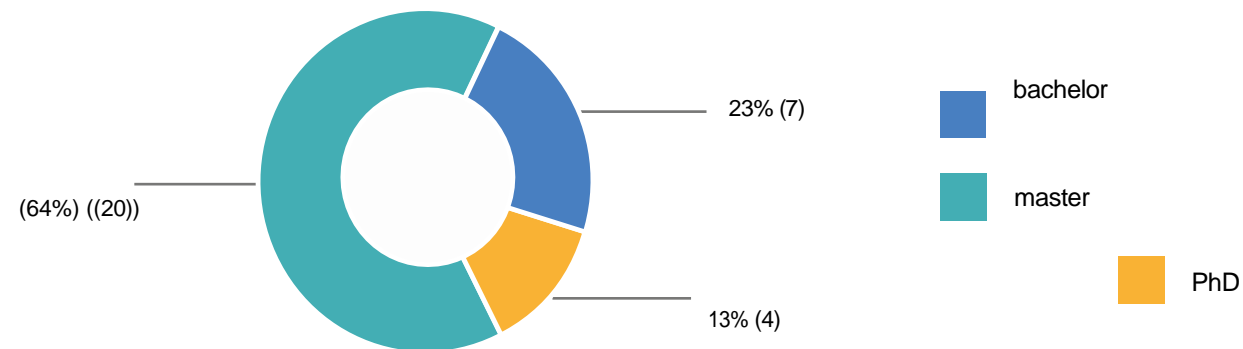
Figure 94

The decision to accredit 25 (81%) study programmes was made (see Figure 95).
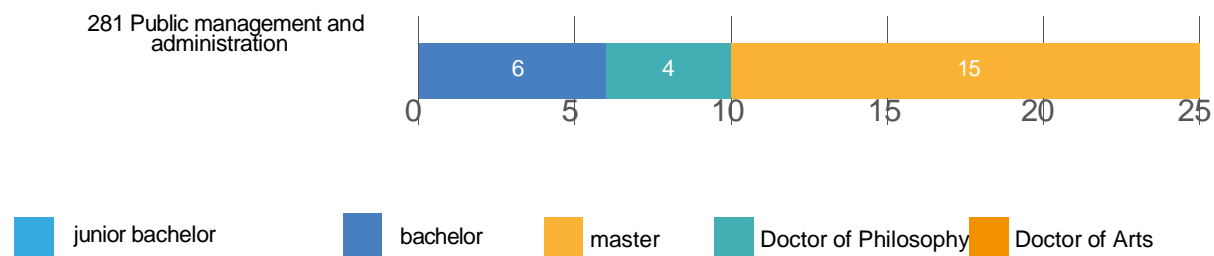
Figure 95

The decision on conditional (deferred accreditation was made for 5 (16%) study programmes (see Figure 96).
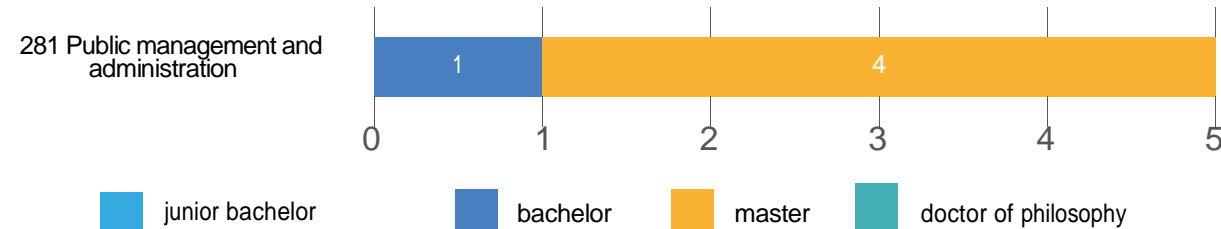
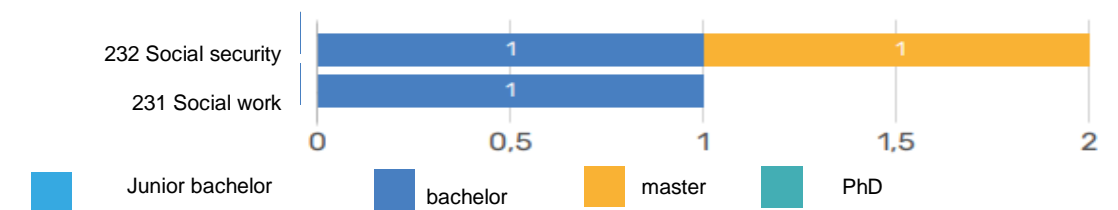*Figure 96*

Accreditation with definition of "exemplary" was granted to 1 (3%) educational programme at the master's level.

29 International relations

In the field of study 29 International Relations, the National Agency reviewed and made decisions on 37 educational programmes.

Of these, 17 () are bachelor's degree programmes and 20 (54%) are "Master" (see Figure 97).
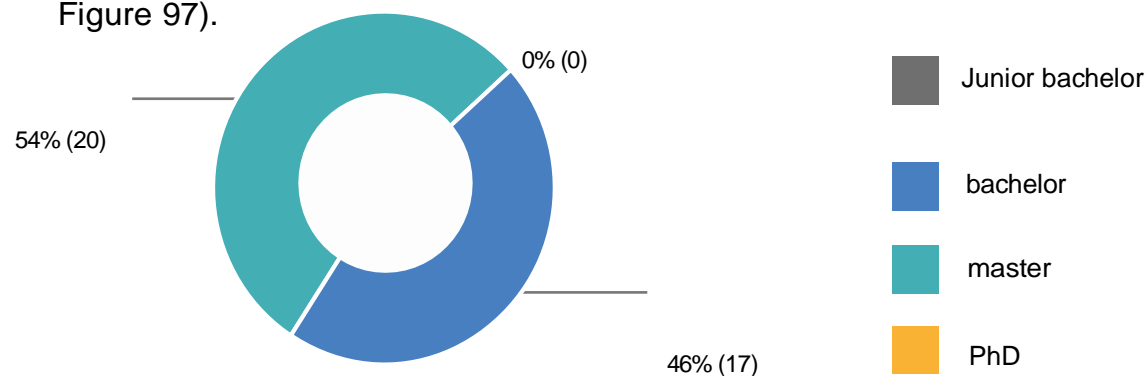
Figure 97

The largest number of study programmes was reviewed in the speciality 291 International Relations, Public Communications and Regional Studies - 19 (), the smallest number - in the speciality 293 International Law - 8

(22%) (see Figure 98).
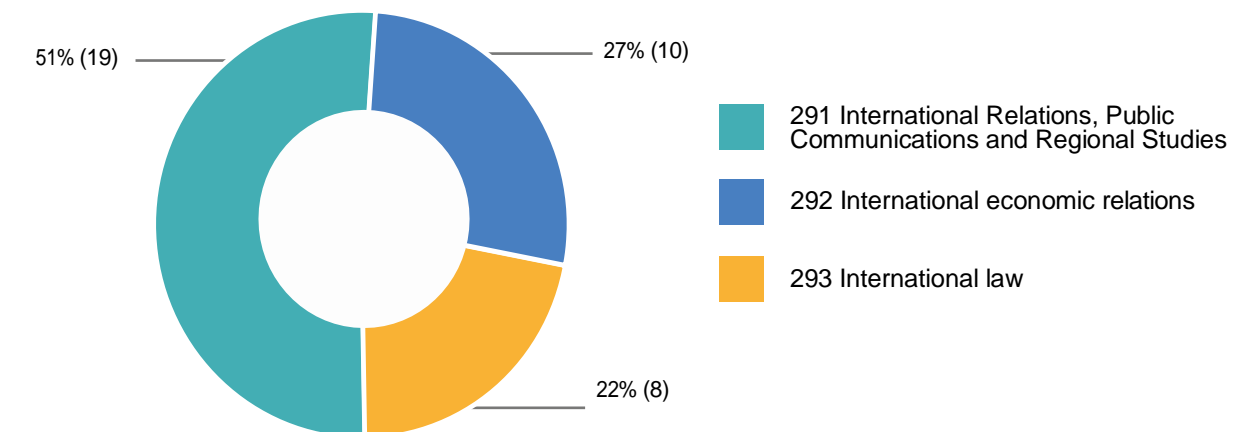
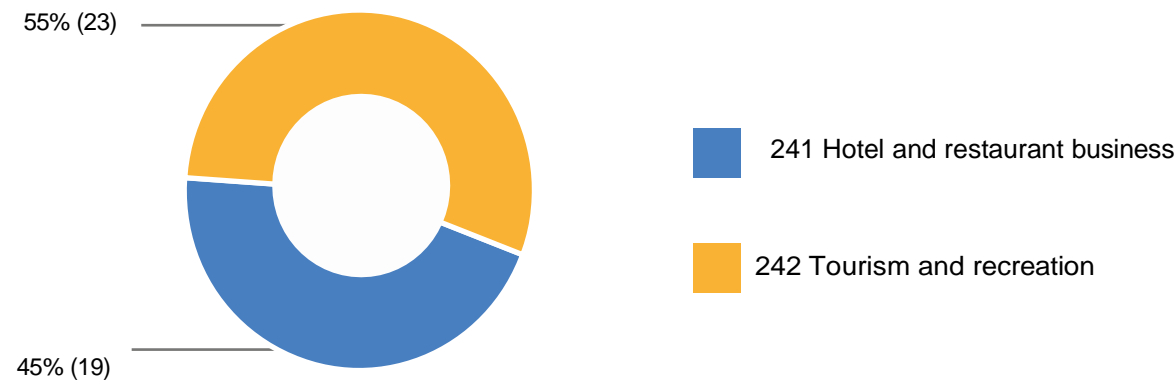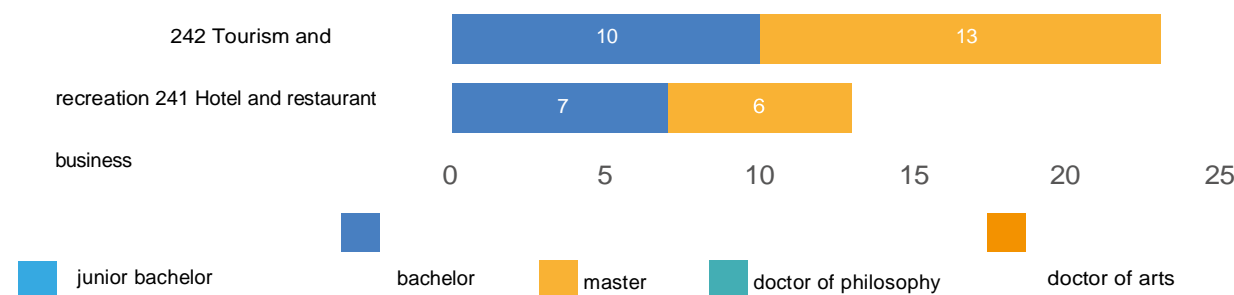*Figure 98*

Thirty-one (84%) study programmes received accreditation (see Figure 99).
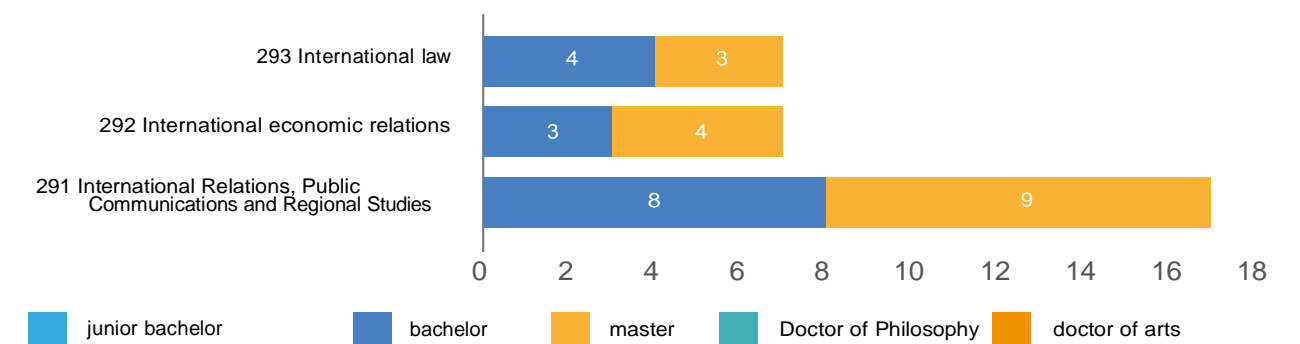
Figure 99

The decision on conditional (deferred accreditation was made for 5 (14%) study programmes (see Figure 100).
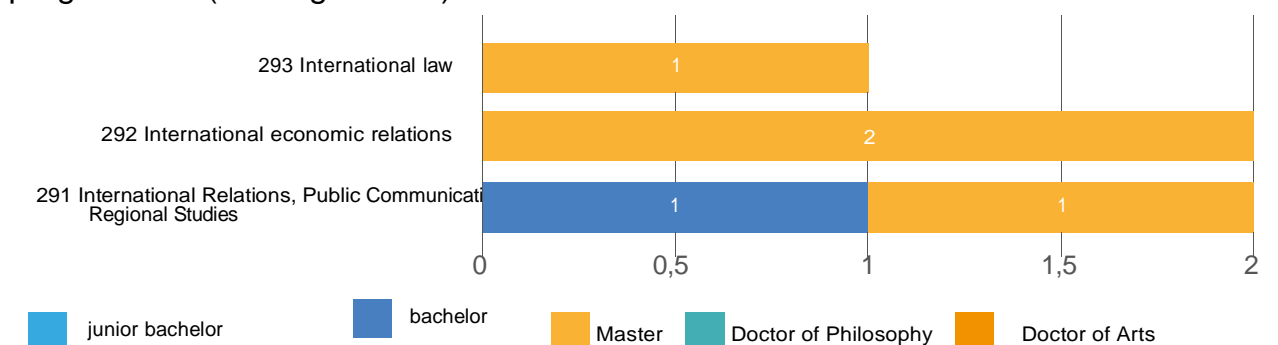
*Figure 100*

Accreditation with the definition of "exemplary" was granted to 1 (3%) educational programme programme in the speciality 292 International Economic Relations at the bachelor's level of education.

4. ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL AGENCY IN OPERATIONAL AREAS

4.1. Activities in the field of academic integrity and one-time specialised academic councils

The activities of the National Agency in the field of functioning of ad hoc specialised councils and academic integrity are supported by the Department of Support of Ad Hoc Councils and Analytics of the Secretariat in the following areas:

- administration of the NAQA.SVR information system designed to enter the information required by the Procedure for awarding the degree of Doctor of Philosophy and cancellation of the decision of a one-time specialised academic council of a higher education institution or research institution to award the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (hereinafter - the Procedure№ 44)[6];
- providing remote information, advisory and methodological assistance to higher education institutions (research institutions) on the application of Procedure No. 44;
- support of consideration by the Appeals Committee of the National Agency of reports of violations of the dissertation defence procedure and support of consideration by the National Agency of submissions of the Appeals Committee on the presence or absence of violations of the dissertation defence procedure established by Procedure No. 44 and the Procedure for Consideration of Complaints / Reports on Academic Plagiarism, Fabrication, Falsification (hereinafter - the Procedure)[7]. On 24.10.2023, the decision of the National Agency established the Committee on the Activities of One-time Specialised Academic Councils (hereinafter - the Committee of One-time Councils), which took over some of the powers of the Appeals Committee, including consideration of , applications and complaints regarding violations of the procedure for defending a dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy established by law;
- support of consideration by the Ethics Committee of the National Agency of complaints/notifications regarding the presence of academic plagiarism, fabrication in the dissertation and/or scientific publications that reflect the scientific results of the dissertation, falsification and consideration by the National Agency of submissions of the Ethics Committee of the National Agency on the presence or absence of academic plagiarism, fabrication, falsification in the dissertation and/or scientific publications that cover the scientific results of the dissertation in accordance with Procedure No. 44, the Procedure for Awarding and Revoking the Degree of Doctor of Sciences (hereinafter - the Procedure№ 1197)[8], the Procedure;

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[6] URL: https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/44-2022-%D0%BF#Text

[7]URL: https://bit.ly/3U38B66

[8]URL: https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1197-2021-%D0%BF#Text

- Participation in the development and amendment of regulations on certification of candidates for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, the activities of ad hoc specialised academic councils, consideration of complaints about violations of academic integrity, violations of the procedure for defending a dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

In accordance with Part III, subpara. 10.1.1, 10.1.4 of the Regulation on the Quality Assurance System of the National Agency (hereinafter referred to as the Regulation)[9], the National Agency's information system NAQA.SVR (hereinafter referred to as the IS) was administered by updating the IS databases on a weekly basis, and by monitoring the messages entered by higher education and research institutions into the IS in accordance with the requirements of Procedure No. 44.

Since the launch of the system until 31.12.2023, a total of 12,310 notifications have been entered into the IS, including:

- on the formation of a one-time board - 4,825 (in 2022 - 883, in 2023 - 3,942);
- 175 notifications of withdrawal of notification on the formation of a one-time board by an (33 in 2022, 142 in 2023);
- regarding the non-compliance of the composition of the one-time board with the requirements of the law - 1 (in 2022 - 0, in 2023 - 1);
- on changes in the composition of the one-time board / references - 801 (in 2022 - 216, 2023 - 585);
- on the results of defence - 2,945 (528 in 2022, 2,417 in 2023);
- on the date, time and place of public defence - 3,249 (in 2022 - 645, in 2023 - 2,604);
- on suspension of the work of the ad hoc board - 281 (in 2022 - 69, in 2023 - 212);
- cancellation of decisions on awarding a degree (institution) - 3 (in 2022 - 3, in 2023 - 0);
- about the receipt of a report / complaint to the National Agency - 1 (in 2022 - 0, in 2023 - 1);
- 29 reports on the withdrawal of a dissertation from consideration (15 2022, 14 in 2023). During 2023, the National Agency received two reports of violations of the procedure for defending dissertations for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy -№ 1 PP of 06.02.2023 and№ 2 PP of 23.02.2023. The Department received instructions from the Deputy Head of the National Agency to check these reports for compliance with the requirements of clauses 8, 9 of the Procedure for consideration of reports on violations of the dissertation defence procedure by the Appeals Committee of the National Agency, approved by the decision of the National Agency of 24.01.2023 (protocol№ 1 (30)). Pursuant to the instructions, the inspections were carried out, the results of which were submitted to the Deputy Head of the National Agency and the Head of the Appeals Committee in the form of reports within three days. Based on the results of the review of the submitted reports, the Appeals Committee made the relevant decisions (No. 1 (24)

of 16.02.2023 and№ 2 (25) of 02.03.2023).

In addition, in 2023, the National Agency received 32 complaints/notifications about academic plagiarism, fabrication or

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[9]URL: https://bit.ly/4diHZqG

falsifications in dissertations for the degrees of Candidate of Sciences (16) and Doctor of Sciences (16) defended in Ukraine (hereinafter - complaints).

Also, one appeal was received regarding the detection of academic plagiarism in a dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy, which was sent to the higher education institution where the dissertation was defended.

In accordance with the requirements of the Procedure for handling complaints / notifications of academic plagiarism, fabrication, falsification, the department as an authorised unit of the Secretariat of the National Agency:

- reviewed complaints for compliance with paragraphs 4-7 of the Procedure;
- posted information on complaints on the National Agency's official website;
- verified the information contained in the complaints regarding the presence of academic plagiarism, fabrication, falsification in dissertations and/or scientific publications that highlight the scientific results of dissertations using appropriate software;
- submitted the results of inspections to the Ethics Committee. In 2023, the National Agency received 32 complaints/com

reports of academic plagiarism, fabrication or falsification in dissertations for the degrees of Candidate of Sciences (16) and Doctor of Sciences (16) defended in Ukraine.

Based on results of complaints in 2023:

— Following the National Agency's appeal to the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine (hereinafter - MES) in 2022, the MES Certification Board made one decision to revoke a degree in 2023;

— 14 complaints were returned without consideration, with explanations provided to the complainants regarding the requirements of the Procedure that were not met when submitting complaints/notifications;

— 18 complaints were accepted for consideration, of which:

◊ four complaints resulted in a decision of the National Agency to appeal to the MES to revoke the academic degree, of which three appeals of the National Agency in 2023 were followed by decisions to revoke academic degrees by the MES Attestation Board. Another appeal is under consideration;

◊ Following one complaint, the Ethics Committee decided to file a complaint with the National Agency regarding the facts of academic plagiarism in the dissertation;

◊ in six complaints, the procedure for revoking academic degrees and cancelling the decision of a specialised academic council to award a degree was suspended in accordance with court decisions.

In accordance with Part III, clause 10.3.4 of the Regulation on the IEC, information, advisory and methodological assistance was provided to higher institutions, research institutions, higher education students and research and teaching staff on the application of Procedure No. 44 during the year.

As of 31.12.2023, they took place:

- The head of the department as a speaker in a webinar on the occasion of the first

the anniversary of the approval of the Procedure for awarding and cancelling the scientific degree of Doctor of Philosophy, which took place on 31.01.2023, with information on the start of work with the NAQA.SVR information system under martial law, the causes of occurrence and elimination of typical errors;

- the Head of the Department spoke as a speaker at the webinar "Year of functioning of the information system of the National Agency NAQA.SVR", held on 07.03.2023, with explanations of typical issues when working with the system, the reasons for their occurrence and elimination of errors;

- participation of the Head of the Department and leading specialist Nataliia Batsak as speakers in the training "Integrity and Anti-Corruption in Higher Education", which took place on 14-16.06.2023. In particular, Leontii Shipilov made a presentation on the novelties of Ukrainian legislation in the field of academic integrity, focusing on the draft Law of Ukraine "On Academic Integrity". Nataliia Batsak touched upon the topic of liability for non-compliance with academic integrity standards in higher education institutions;

- participation of the Head of the Department as a speaker at the international forum of educators and employers "Distance Education of the Future: Challenges and Prospects", held on 20.03.2023. Leontii Shipilov made a presentation in which he described the procedure for reviewing cases by the National Agency for Academic Integrity Violations;

- participation of the Head of the Department as a participant in the Ukrainian Education Quality Forum held on 06.11.2023;

- the department's employees prepared 207 outgoing response letters to citizens' appeals, lawyers' and deputies' inquiries, requests for public information, and letters from higher education and research institutions; informing all parties to the process of reviewing complaints/notifications regarding the presence of academic plagiarism, fabrication, falsification in theses for the degrees of Doctor of Philosophy, Candidate of Sciences, Doctor of Sciences and/or scientific publications that cover the scientific results of the thesis;

- 1,202 written responses were provided to questions from representatives of higher education institutions, research institutions, and applicants sent to the official e-mail of the Department on the certification of PhD candidates, the activities of one-time specialised academic councils, work in the IP and the application of Procedure No. 44;

- clarifications were prepared on the use of qualified electronic signatures when creating one-time councils and sent to higher education institutions (outgoing letter No. 918 dated 07.07.2023).

4.2. Legal and litigation work

During the reporting period, the legal support of the National Agency continued to be provided by the Legal Support Department of the Secretariat of the National Agency, which provided comprehensive support for the legal aspects of the Agency's activities to ensure that all procedures and actions of the institution comply with regulatory requirements in the field of higher education quality assurance and internal regulations.

The department's main areas of work include legal advice, drafting and analysing regulatory documents, contractual work, participation in court proceedings, anti-corruption activities, etc.

To ensure transparency, accountability and compliance with legal requirements in its interaction with citizens and the public, the department also worked to prepare responses to citizens' appeals and requests for public information.

Throughout the year, the Legal Support Department provided ongoing support to all structural units of the National Agency, ensuring their activities in accordance with the current legislation.

The department participated in the development and analysis of a wide range of documents, including the Law of Ukraine "On Academic Integrity", the Regulations on Accreditation of Educational Programmes, the Regulations on the Appeals Chamber, agreements, memoranda and other legal documents aimed at regulating internal and external relations and procedures, including the implementation of the Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on Ensuring the Quality of Higher Education" No. 3062-IX dated 02.05.2023.

In 2023, the National Agency represented its interests in 13 court cases in administrative and civil proceedings.

The largest number of claims filed in 2023 concerned appeals against the actions and decisions of the Ethics Committee in reviewing complaints/notifications of violations of academic integrity, namely, the presence of academic plagiarism, fabrication, and falsification in dissertations for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Doctor of Science, Candidate of Science) and/or scientific publications that highlight the scientific results of the dissertation.

In the reporting period, three cases of these categories of disputes were considered and the courts of first instance ruled in favour of the plaintiffs, where the court's position was somewhat erroneous and based, in the first case, on the impossibility of the National Agency re-examining the dissertation for academic plagiarism, in the second case - on the absence of a clear definition of the percentage of academic plagiarism found in the plaintiff's dissertation in the final report of the Ethics Committee, in the third case - on the impossibility of the National Agency to The National Agency filed appeals against these decisions of the first instance courts, which are still being considered by the courts.

It should be noted that when considering complaints/notifications of academic plagiarism in dissertations, the National Agency, in particular the Ethics Committee, is guided by the Laws of Ukraine "On Education", "On Higher Education", "On Scientific and Scientific and Technical Activities", the Procedure for Awarding and Revoking the Degree of Doctor of Sciences, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 17.11.2021 No. 1197, the Procedure for awarding the degree of Doctor of Philosophy and cancellation of the decision of a one-time specialised academic council of a higher education institution, scientific institution to award

D. degree, approved by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 12.01.2022№ 44, Procedure for consideration of complaints / reports on academic plagiarism, fabrication, falsification, approved by the decision of the National Agency of 21.06.2022 (protocol№ 10 (15)), Procedure for reviewing complaints / reports of academic plagiarism, fabrication, falsification, approved by the decision of the National Agency of 24.10.2023 (protocol№ 16 (45)).

The National Agency, upon consideration of such complaints/notifications, determines only the fact of the presence or absence of academic plagiarism in the dissertation, and the decision of both the Ethics Committee and the National Agency is not an act of individual action, but an internal document that approves the results of consideration of relevant issues, has a statement and records the fact of the presence/absence of academic plagiarism in the relevant dissertation.

At the same time, the National Agency, upon consideration of a complaint/notification of academic plagiarism in a dissertation on which a doctoral degree was awarded, is obliged to send to the Ministry of Education and Science a copy of the National Agency's decision on the discovery of academic plagiarism in such a dissertation, together with a cover letter and an application for the revocation of the relevant degree. In other words, the final decision to deprive a person of the degree of Doctor (Candidate) of Sciences is made not by the National Agency, but by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine.

In August 2023, the Sixth Administrative Court of Appeal issued a ruling in the case of the National Agency's claim against the National Agency for the Prevention of Corruption (the claim was filed 2021) to declare illegal and cancel the order (issued in accordance with clause 53, part 1, part 6, article 12 of the Law of Ukraine "On Prevention of Corruption"), which cancelled the decision of the court of first instance and dismissed the National Agency's claims. The Agency filed a cassation appeal against this decision, as the National Agency is not a public authority, does not exercise public authority and does not meet the criteria set out in the applicable legislation for public authorities, and considers the order of the National Agency for the Prevention of Corruption to be illegal and subject to cancellation. As at the end of the reporting period, the case was being considered by the Supreme Court as part of the panel of judges of the Administrative Court of Cassation.

Also, a person filed a claim with the court to declare unlawful the inaction of the National Agency, which consists in the failure to make a reasoned and timely decision following the consideration of reports of possible facts of academic plagiarism, fabrication, falsification in the scientific works of individuals and the obligation of the National Agency to immediately consider at its meeting a complaint / notification of possible facts of academic plagiarism in such works.

It should be noted that the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine dated 19.05.2023
№ 502 "On Amendments to Certain Resolutions of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine on Training and Certification of Applicants for Scientific Degrees" amended the Procedure for Awarding and Revoking a Doctorate

of Sciences, approved by the CMU Resolution of 17.11.2021№ 1197, and supplemented by paragraph 50, according to which a person with a scientific degree may voluntarily renounce the relevant scientific degree by submitting a notarised application to the MES in any form. Within ten working days from the date of receipt of the application, the MES cancels the decision of the relevant council and invalidates the degree, which is issued by an order posted on the official website of the MES. Persons against whom complaints were filed with the National Agency have exercised this right and renounced their academic degrees.

That is, if a person submits an application for voluntary renunciation of a degree in accordance with clause 50 of the Procedure№ 1197 and the Ministry of Education and Science decides to invalidate the diploma obtained on the basis of the dissertation research, the relevant appeal of the National Agency to the Ministry of Education and Science is not appropriate, since the results of its consideration cannot lead to a decision to deprive a person of the relevant degree.

The National Agency believes that this claim should be dismissed due to the lack of subject matter, namely the cancellation by the Ministry of Education and Science of decisions of specialised academic councils to confer a degree and the recognition of a degree diploma as invalid. Therefore, the dissertation cannot be considered as having been awarded a degree based on the results of its defence, and therefore lacks its essential feature, as set out in paragraph 23 of the Procedure for Considering Complaints / Reports on Academic Plagiarism, Fabrication, Falsification, approved by the decision of the National Agency of 21.06.2022 (protocol№ 10 (15)), the Ethics Committee is unable to make any decision.

In order to improve internal processes, the Legal Support Department plans to take measures to expand the legal framework in the future: to analyse and improve the NRA's internal documents and adapt them to new legislative requirements. It is also necessary to create mechanisms for continuous monitoring and analysis of changes in legislation that may affect the activities of the National Agency.

In the future, we plan to organise trainings and seminars for the department's employees to update their knowledge and skills in the field of new legal trends.

4.3. Contract work

The Legal Support Department of the National Agency performs an important function of drafting and concluding commercial and civil law contracts, memoranda and cooperation agreements.

Legal analysis of contracts helps to clearly define the rights and obligations of the parties, as well as to establish clear terms and conditions for the fulfilment of obligations, terms and conditions of payment for services rendered or received.

At the same time, the main link in the contractual work of the department is the conclusion of agreements on accreditation of educational programmes with higher education institutions and research institutions, which, in accordance with the Regulations on Accreditation of Educational Programmes for the Training of Higher Education Applicants, approved by the Order of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine of 11.07.2019

No. 977 (hereinafter - the Regulation on Accreditation), submitted applications to the National Agency for the accreditation of educational programmes.

In 2023, based on the schedule for accepting applications for accreditation of educational programmes, the department prepared and sent 1,903 agreements on accreditation of educational programmes to higher education institutions (research institutions).

The department has developed and implemented templates of standard agreements for accreditation of educational programmes, which allows for quick and efficient conclusion of agreements and provision of relevant services. At the same time, when concluding agreements on accreditation of educational programmes, the department takes into account the wishes of higher education institutions (research institutions) regarding certain terms and conditions of the agreements.

In addition, the Accreditation Regulations provide for the possibility of simultaneous accreditation of two or more study programmes within the same speciality at the same level of higher education, which means concluding one agreement for the simultaneous accreditation of two or three study programmes. Such an opportunity is more cost-effective for higher education institutions than accrediting each study programme separately. Therefore, out of the 1,903 agreements concluded, 148 agreements were concluded for the simultaneous accreditation of two study programmes and 61 agreements were concluded for the simultaneous accreditation of three study programmes. All other 1,694 agreements were concluded for the accreditation of one study programme.

Unfortunately, it is not uncommon for higher education institutions (research institutions) that initially expressed a desire to undergo the full accreditation procedure to, due to objective circumstances, in particular due to martial law in Ukraine, send applications for conditional accreditation of an educational programme (for a period of 1 year) on a free basis in accordance with clause 2 of the 2 of the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine of 16.03.2022№ 295 "On Peculiarities of Accreditation of Educational Programmes for Higher Education Applicants under Martial Law". In the case of an already concluded accreditation agreement for an educational programme, such changes led to the need to prepare additional agreements on the termination of already concluded agreements. addition, during the year, accreditation agreements are adjusted by concluding additional agreements due to changes in details, changes in the name or reorganisation of a higher education institution (research institution), change of the head, etc.

At the same time, the department constantly monitors and controls the fulfilment of the terms of the concluded agreements, as well as resolves possible disputes and conflicts.

In the future, it is planned to improve the process of concluding agreements on accreditation of educational programmes by introducing new technologies and innovations.

In the reporting period, the Legal Support Department successfully coped with the tasks related to the conclusion of agreements on accreditation of educational programmes and their scope. The introduction of templates and the use of new technologies improved the efficiency and optimisation of contractual work.

4.4. Anti-corruption activities

The National Agency shall develop and control the implementation of anti-corruption measures that are necessary and reasonable to prevent and combat corruption in its activities in accordance with the Law of Ukraine

"On the Prevention of Corruption, the Charter and the Anti-Corruption Programme of the National Agency for 2022-2024.

In 2023, the National Agency carried out the following anti-corruption measures:
- 4 training (explanatory) events were held in the field of prevention and detection of corruption, covering the following topics: "Restrictions on receiving gifts", "Declaration 2023", "Conflict of interest among members of collegial bodies", "Liability for violation of anti-corruption legislation". addition, the Authorised Person for the Prevention and Detection of Corruption (hereinafter - the Authorised Person) organised the accounting of anti-corruption training at the National Agency;
- implemented 1 measure envisaged by the State Anti-Corruption Programme for 2023-2025, approved by Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine No. 220 of 4 March 2023 (hereinafter - SAP), where the National Agency is the lead executor, and reported on the implementation of 3 measures through the electronic SAP system, where the National Agency is involved as a co-executor;
- periodic reminders were made to declaring entities about the need to submit declarations, taking into account the peculiarities of their submission under martial law in Ukraine, introduced in accordance with the Decree of the President of Ukraine "On the introduction of martial law in Ukraine" of 24 February 2022№ 64/2022, as well as a list of officials of the National Agency who are subjects of declarations. In , preventive measures were taken to ensure that newly appointed officials comply with the restrictions, prohibitions established by the Law of Ukraine "On Prevention of Corruption" and to familiarise employees who cease to perform state or local government functions with the restrictions upon termination of activities related to the performance of state functions in accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On Prevention of Corruption";
- 10 reports (5 of which were anonymous on possible corruption or corruption-related offences and 3 reports on conflicts of interest were processed in accordance with the procedure established by the Law of Ukraine "On Prevention of Corruption" and the Procedure for Review by the Designated Person for Prevention and Detection of Corruption of Reports on Violation of the Anti-Corruption Programme, Commitment of Corruption or Corruption-Related Offences;
- the authorised person provided 36 consultations on compliance with the legislation on prevention of corruption;
- In order to regulate the organisation of work on preventing and detecting corruption and implementing the measures envisaged by the National Agency's Programme for 2022-2024, anti-corruption policies were introduced to address the issues of conducting anti-corruption due diligence of the National Agency's business partners and the procedure for conducting anti-corruption due diligence of candidates for positions vulnerable to corruption risks;

- 1 internal investigation was conducted, which did not confirm any violations of internal anti-corruption policies or violations of anti-corruption legislation;
- 28 anti-corruption audits of business partners were conducted in accordance with the Procedure for Conducting Anti-Corruption Audits of Business Partners of the National Agency and recommendations were provided;
- 2 anti-corruption checks of candidates for positions were carried out in accordance with the Procedure for conducting anti-corruption checks of candidates for positions vulnerable to corruption risks;
- the analysis of court practice and monitoring of the official web portal "Judiciary of Ukraine", the Unified State Register of Court Decisions and Amendments to Anti-Corruption Legislation were constantly monitored to timely adjust measures aimed at preventing corruption and corruption-related offences;
- the section "Prevention of Corruption" on the National Agency's official website was updated with relevant information and anti-corruption documents.

4.5. Organisational work on the accreditation of the OP

During the reporting year, the Department of Accreditation of Educational Programmes of the Secretariat of the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education ensured the continuous accumulation and processing of materials of educational programmes of higher education institutions of Ukraine, in particular:
- collecting, recording and processing notifications from HEIs/research institutions of intentions to accredit educational programmes, developing and compiling a schedule for submitting applications for accreditation and information on self-assessment of educational programmes in the academic year 2023-2024 1 September 2023 (hereinafter - Graph);
- collecting, recording and processing notifications from HEIs/research institutions on adding/deleting study programmes and amending the Schedule for submission of accreditation materials in the academic 2023-2024;
- registration and accounting of applications for acceptance of accreditation files for examination by the National Agency, analytical, methodological and informational support of the accreditation of educational programmes;
- analysis of draft reports of expert groups and methodological support of the first stage of the accreditation examination.

1. Collection, recording and processing of notifications from HEIs / research institutions of intentions to accredit educational programmes and development and compilation of a schedule for submitting applications for accreditation and information on self-assessment of educational programmes in the academic year 2023-2024 by 1 September 2023.

In accordance with para. 2 of p. II of the Regulation on Accreditation of Educational Programmes for the Training of Higher Education Applicants, in the period from 1 June to 1 August 2023, 921 electronic applications were received and processed from about 360 HEIs on the intention to accredit 3,343 educational programmes in 2023-. 2024 (see Figure 101).

Of these, 56 educational programmes are at the primary level of higher education (less than

37% (1237)
2% (56)
14% (472)
47% (1578)

■ entry level

■ first (bachelor's) level second

■ (master's) level

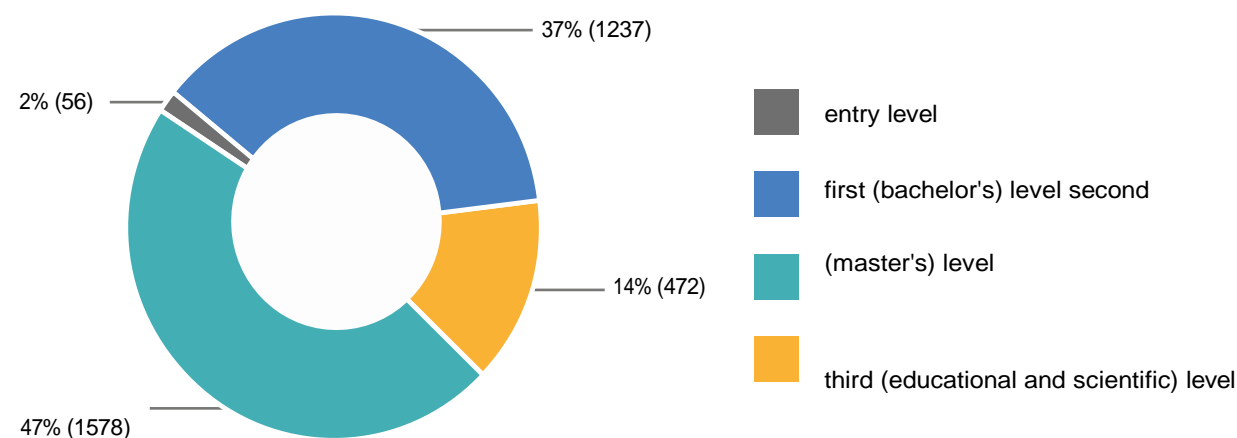■ third (educational and scientific) level

Figure 101

32% less than in 2022), 1,237 - at the first (bachelor's) level of higher education (13% less than in 2022), 1,578 - at the second (master's) level of higher education (51% more than in 2022), 472 - at the third (educational and scientific) level of higher education (Doctor of Philosophy - 470, Doctor of Arts - 2).

In order to plan the work of the Secretariat and the National Agency more efficiently, as well as to organise accreditation examinations in a high-quality manner, the department analysed the applications submitted by HEIs for accreditation of educational programmes, the types of such programmes (educational and professional, educational and scientific / educational and creative), their volumes (in ECTS credits) and the timeframes for training applicants.

On the basis of the processed applications of HEIs, the National Agency approved the Schedule of acceptance for accreditation of educational programmes for the academic year 2023-2024 at a meeting (minutes of 22 August 2023№ 12[10]) and published on 1 September 2023 on the electronic resource of the National Agency[11].

2. Collecting, recording and processing notifications from HEIs and research institutions on adding/deleting study programmes and amending the Schedule of Accreditation Materials in the academic year 2023-2024.

The Department of Educational Programmes Accreditation ensured continuous monitoring of corrective information from higher education institutions on changes in

Scheduling and keeping up-to-date a special database of notifications, on on the basis of which submissions were made for approval by the National Agency.

In accordance with the decisions of the National Agency, the information in the Schedule was updated periodically (once a month) based on the consideration of notifications from higher education institutions. A total of 618 study programmes were deleted (compared 2022, the deletion activity increased by). Additionally, 242 study programmes were included (74% more than in the previous year). The dates of submission of accreditation materials were changed for 368 study programmes (an increase of 60% compared to the previous year). In total, the relevant information on 1,228 study programmes was corrected and 216 notifications of changes in guarantor of the study programmes were processed.

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[10]URL: https://bit.ly/3vSsNzL

[11]   URL: https://plan.naqa.gov.ua/

During the reporting year, the Department analysed notifications and letters sent by HEIs and out the reasons for the increase in activity to correct information in the Schedule, including the location of in close proximity to the area of active hostilities or their forced relocation, staff turnover due to the legal regime of martial law, changes in regulations, technical problems caused by power outages, etc.

57% (346)
8% (48)
17% (102)
1% (8)
7% (43)
3% (21)
7% (41)

■ Changes in changes in personnel

■ other

■ location of higher education institutions in the immediate vicinity of the area of active or their forced relocation

■

■ technical problems

■ (blank)

■ prolongation of the previous accreditation certificate

■ reorganisation of higher education institutions
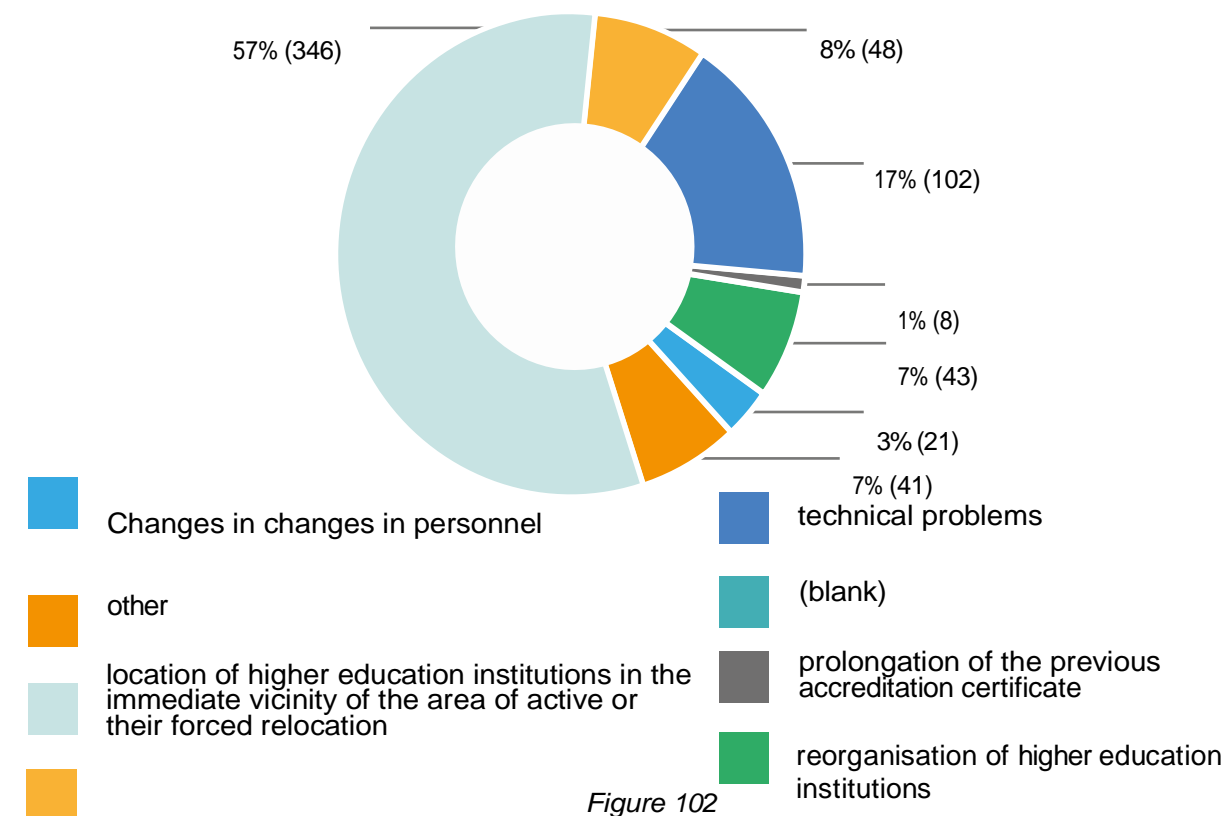
Figure 102

3. Registration and accounting of applications for acceptance of accreditation files for examination by the National Agency.

In order to improve the efficiency and quality of work, the staff of the Department for Accreditation of Educational Programmes improved approaches to the procedure for registration by the Secretariat of the National Agency of applications and information on self-evaluation of educational programmes from higher education institutions and research institutions. This resulted in the development and implementation of the Procedure for Registration of Applications for Accreditation and Information on Self-Evaluation of Educational Programmes. In accordance with the Procedure for Registration of Applications for Accreditation and Information on Self-Evaluation of Educational Programmes, from January to July 2023, the forms were checked for completeness and availability of information on all necessary attachments, 1,793 cases of educational programmes of Ukrainian higher education institutions submitted for accreditation in the academic 2022-2023 accepted and registered in accordance with the approved Schedule. 78 of them were for the primary level of higher education, 1,059 were for the first (bachelor's) level of higher education, 234 were for the second

(master's) level of higher education; 422 - at the third (educational and scientific) level of higher education (417 - Doctor of Philosophy, 5 - Doctor of Arts) (see Figure 103).

Figure 103
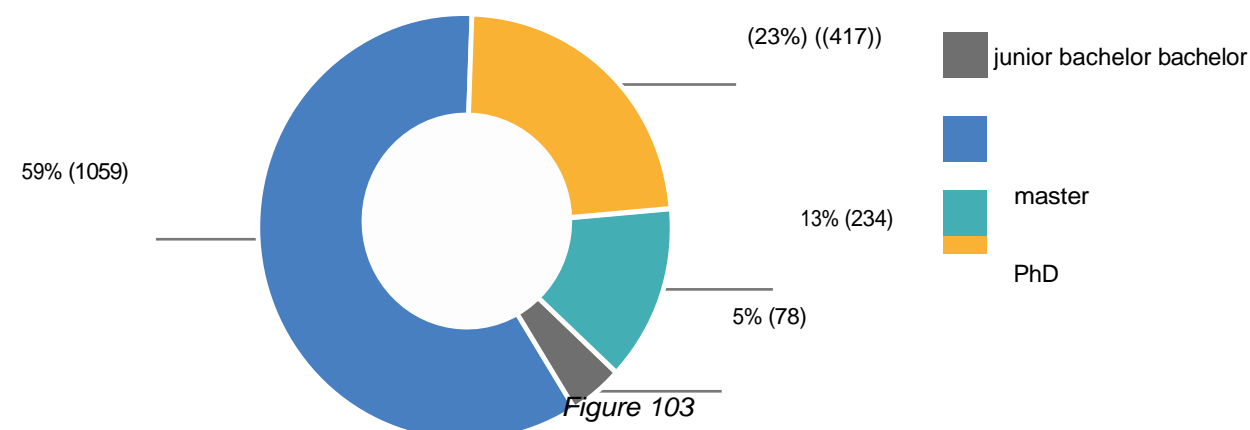
During the period from 4 September to 29 December 2023, 945 cases submitted for accreditation 2023-2024 were processed in accordance with the approved Schedule and registered (which is 44% more than in the same period in 2022).), including 1 educational programme at the primary level of higher education, 12 - at the first (bachelor's) level of higher education (less than in 2022), 851 - at the second (master's) level of higher education (72% more than in 2022), 81 - at the third (educational and scientific) level of higher education (see Figure 104).

Figure 104
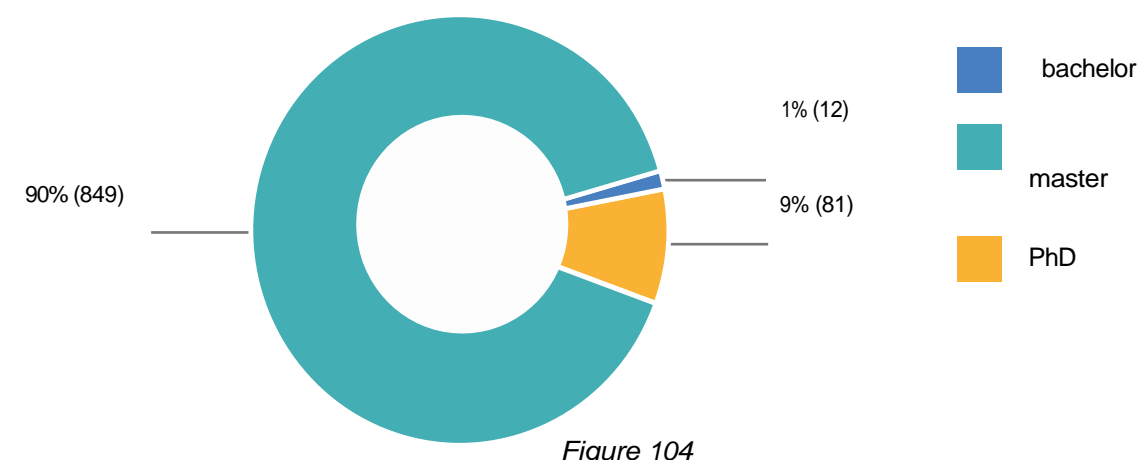
The analysis of cases submitted in the period from September to December shows a trend of applying for accreditation in the vast majority of educational and professional programmes of the second (master's) level of higher education. This trend is related to the terms of training of applicants (1 year 4 months - 1 year 6 months) and the terms of completion of studies.

In the reporting year, the total number of accepted cases amounted to 2,738 (which is 80% more than in 2022), of which 1,212 were cases of educational programmes that received a decision on conditional (deferred) accreditation in accordance with the Resolution of the Cabinet Ministers of №295 of 16 March 2022.

During 2023, the accreditation files of educational programmes that

were received with a significant violation of the Schedule, and the reasons were being investigated. During this period, 15 accreditation cases were registered later than the due date, 30 accreditation cases were returned due to the lack of critical information or because of the HEI's debt to the National Agency for previous years.

In order to ensure a comprehensive and objective review of accreditation cases, the department ensured timely processing of letters from higher education institutions requesting additional information at various stages of the accreditation process. The information received, together with official letters from the HEIs, was added to the of the relevant accreditation files in the information system of the National Agency.

4. Analysis of draft reports of expert groups, methodological and technical support of the first stage of the accreditation examination.

In accordance with clause 6 of Part II of the Regulations on Accreditation of Educational Programmes, to ensure quality preparation and conduct of accreditation examinations, the responsible employees of the department created methodological recommendations for

experts.

Due to production needs, the Secretariat carried out a posteriori analysis of the draft reports of the expert groups and provided methodological assistance in compiling the descriptive, summary and recommendation components of the expert groups' report in terms of correlation of facts, evidence and justifications in the form of an analysis of the draft report of the expert groups. At the same time, the level of compliance of the educational programme with the quality criteria determined by the expert group was not subject to adjustment, evaluation or other influence, there is no technical possibility to change it in the electronic system.

In order to improve the efficiency and quality of its work, the department has continuously improved its approaches to the analysis of draft reports of the expert groups and differentiated the forms of their presentation.

During the reporting period, the department analysed 1,593 draft reports of expert groups. In particular, 597 of them are at the first (bachelor's) level, 793 at the second (master's) level, 188 at the third (educational and scientific) level (186 - Doctor of Philosophy, 2 - Doctor of Arts), and 15 at the elementary level.

A qualitative analysis of the draft reports of the expert groups was carried out on an ongoing basis, and the results were provided to the National Agency in a revised form. 1,400 draft reports were returned to the expert groups with recommendations to refine the structure and content of the report, 198 of which were

feedback on the need to correct significant deficiencies.

During the reporting period, accreditation cases were constantly monitored and transferred to the stage of the EER (stage 11.1 in the electronic system), in which the HEI / research institution did not provide a response / comment on the expert group's report within the established time frame.

5. Participation in general organisational processes.

During the reporting period, communication with stakeholders was carried out on a regular basis: representatives of public authorities, representatives of the administration of higher education institutions, guarantors of educational programmes, and public organisations. One of the main forms of such communication was business correspondence

through the official communication channels of the National Agency. In the reporting period, the department processed 580 official letters received through the National Agency's electronic document management system. Of these, 519 were requests from higher education institutions to make a decision on conditional (deferred) accreditation based on paragraph 2 of the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of №295 of 16 March 2022, 61 were requests from institutions for consultancy assistance, and requests for information were regularly answered via e-mail. accreditation@naqa.gov.ua

The head and employees of the department interact with public authorities and higher education institutions:
- were members of the working group for the development of the educational and professional programme
  "Compliance Management of an Organisation" as part of the implementation of the State Anti-Corruption Programme 2023-2025 in the part "Development and implementation of Master's degree programmes (including interdisciplinary ones) in anti-corruption within existing specialities and fields of knowledge" together with partner higher education institutions;
- conducted a training for developers of anti-corruption master's degree programmes with the assistance of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Ukraine under the UN Recovery and Peacebuilding Programme with financial support from the European Union;
- conducted trainings on the functioning of the internal quality assurance system in higher medical education at the International Humanitarian University and Odesa National Medical University;
- participated as speakers in the webinar for experts and members of sectoral expert councils "SMART-approach in external quality assurance of higher education from the functioning of the internal quality assurance system of higher education";
- within the framework of the project of Ukrainian Students Association "Supporting Safe Environments for Youth Development in Ukraine", which aims to support young people affected by the war in filling educational gaps, identifying future professional paths and recovering
  The company has created a space for autonomy, and lectures were given to the participants of the annual

  the curriculum for students, which includes the course "Quality of Education and Academic Integrity", on the topic "Quality of Education and Student Engagement";
- were speakers at webinars on internal quality assurance in education.
  Based on the research and analysis of the information, the article was prepared and published: θ article: Denyskina, G., Simshah, I., Loban, O. (2023). Maintaining Quality Assurance in Ukraine: Accreditation, Cooperation, and Anticorruption. *CHEA.*

(Council for Higher Education Accreditation). https://www.chea.org/sites/default/files/2023-07/Maintaining%20Quality%20Assurance%20in%20 Ukraine-NC.pdf;
- In: Denyskina, G. (2023). *The mechanism of actions of the HEI that has submitted a notification of intention to accredit the EP in the 2023/2024 academic year in the presence of a valid certificate of accreditation of the speciality.* http://surl.li/oluki.

4.6. Support of experts on accreditation of educational programmes[12]

In 2023. The Secretariat provided organisational support for accreditation examinations, in particular:
- organised expert groups to conduct accreditation examinations of educational programmes;
- Ensured the necessary document flow with experts to properly formalise cooperation and ensure appropriate payment for the work performed;
- took measures to select qualified experts for the accreditation of educational programmes in the relevant specialities;
- organised the preparation, training and testing of experts;
- Developed programmes and plans for trainings, expert training, briefings, etc;
- organised a survey of experts and guarantors of educational programmes.

2023, the National Agency conducted accreditation examinations in remote, mixed and on-site formats. In 2023, 1,342 accreditation examinations were conducted, of which 1,326 were conducted remotely, 8 in a mixed format, and 8 in an on-site format (see Figure 105). In accordance with the regulatory and advisory function defined by the Regulations on the EQAC (clause 5, sub-clause 10.3), support was provided to the activities of expert groups involved in the accreditation procedure for educational programmes. In particular, the Secretariat carried out: selection of expert groups; advising experts on organisational and technical issues; instructing on the eve of the EG's visits to higher institutions; monitoring the timely submission of reports on the results of accreditation examination; ensuring document flow with experts. Conducting accreditation visits during martial law was accompanied by a number of challenges related to air and missile attacks, which the experts, together with the National Agency, successfully overcame.

- on-site expertise
- mixed expertise remote
- expertise

8
8
1326
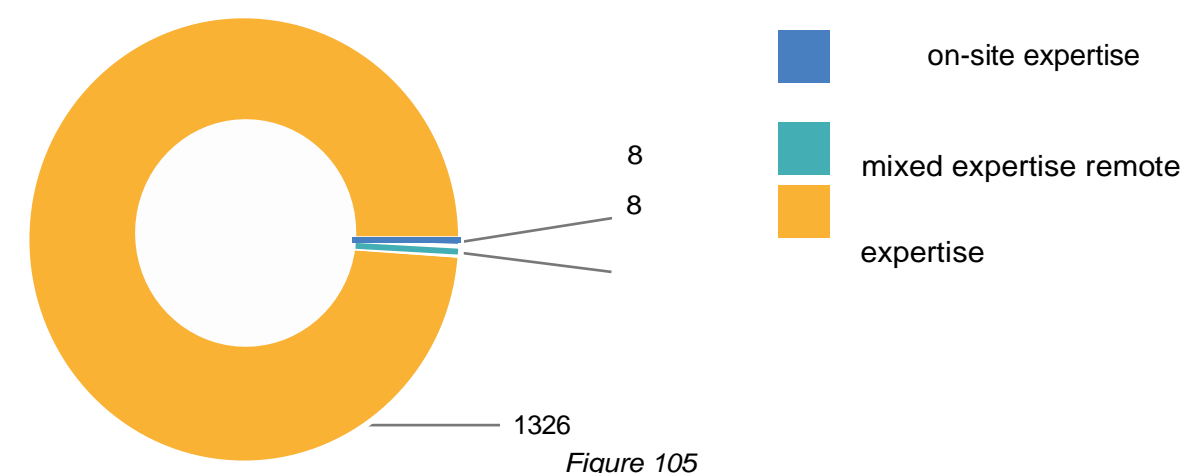
Figure 105

As of the end of 2023, the register of experts of the National Agency included 4,429 people, of whom 3,541 were research and teaching staff (RTS), researchers (RP) and 888 were students of various levels of higher education (see Figure 106).

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[12]More detailed information on the quality assurance activities of the National Agency's experts is disclosed in the Report on the Quality of Higher Education.

01 Education/Pedagogy	699
	184
02-Culture and Arts	159
	67
03-Humanities	358
	89
04-Theology\	18
	7
05-Social and behavioural sciences	526
	108
06-Journalism	43
	13
07-Management and administration	709
	111
08-Law	159
	77
09-Biology	97
	42
10-Natural sciences	273
	57
11-Mathematics and statistics	94
	12
12-Information technology	373
	69
13-Mechanical engineering	189
	32
14-Electrical engineering	130
	19
16-Chemical and biotechnology engineering	65
	14
17-Electronics and telecommunications	154
	60
18-Manufacturing and technology	164
	35
19- Architecture and construction	121
	27
20-Agricultural sciences and food	154
	32
21-Veterinary medicine	34
	8
22-Healthcare	238
	88
23-Social work	75
	15
24- Service sector	133
	14
25- Military sciences, national security, state border security	116
	0
26- Civilian security	71
	8
27- Transport	150
	14
28- Public management and administration	102
	44
29- International relations	120
	40

research and teaching staff

Figure 106

In 2023, 861 people (499 researchers and research and teaching staff, 362 applicants) were included in the register of experts of the National Agency.
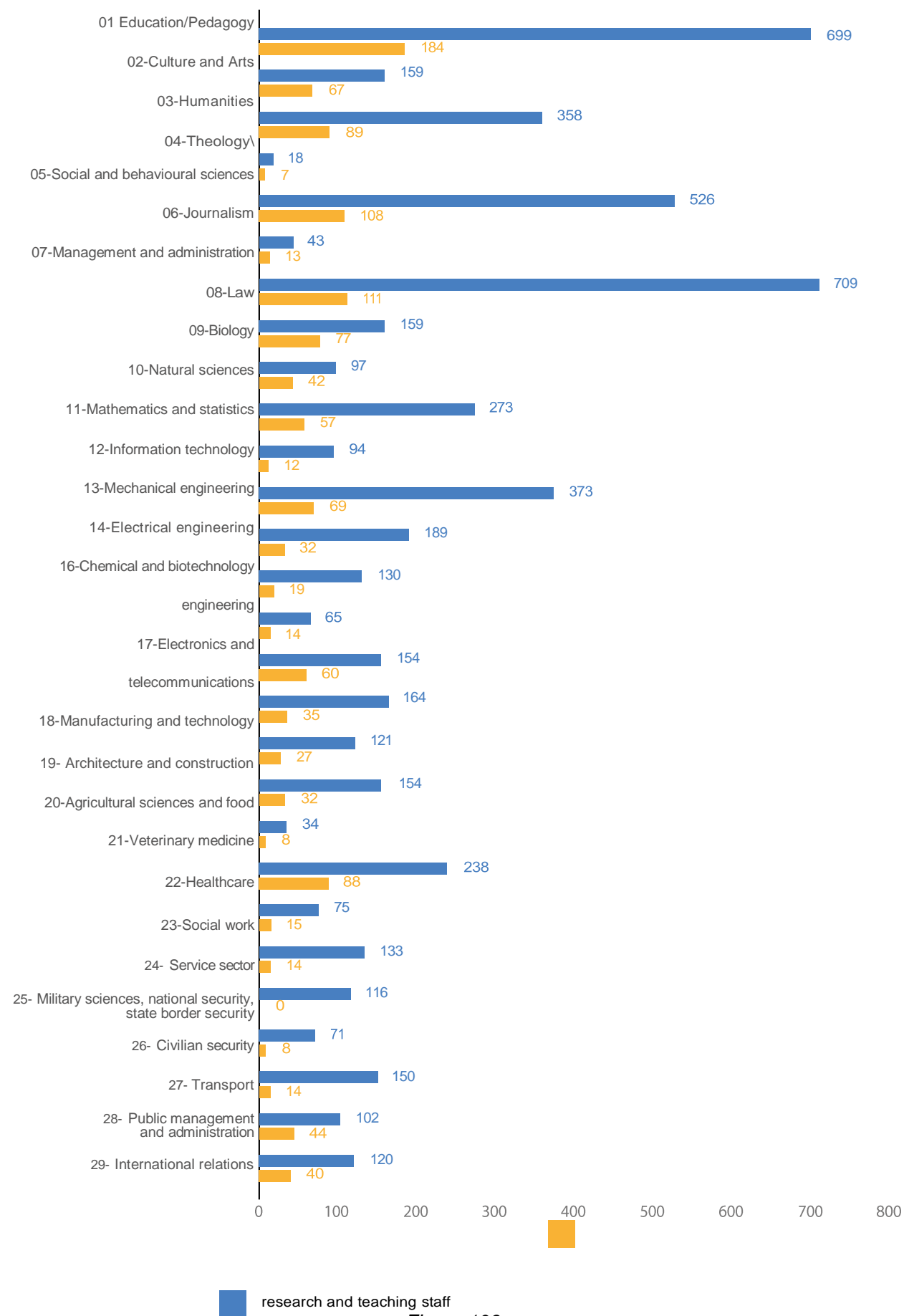
According to the results of monitoring the quality of the content of the expert database (clause 6, sub-clause 10.4 of the Regulation on the NWQS), 534 experts were excluded from the register, including 243 NPPs, NPs and 291 higher education students from . The main reasons for the exclusion of experts were the loss of the status of NPP and NP, expiration of the term of engagement of a higher education student, election to the PIC in the relevant field, submission of the commission to ensure the quality of experts' work, and their own desire.

In 2023, based on the results of the analysis of the adequacy and balance of resource support for the accreditation procedure (clause 6, sub-clause 10.1 of the Regulations on the NWF), the Secretariat announced 49 competitive recruitments of experts in various specialties to ensure the professionalism of the expert groups. As a result, 2,190 new questionnaires were received from candidates for experts of the National Agency: 1,191 questionnaires from researchers and teachers and 999 from higher education students. In 2023, 1,749 candidates were admitted to the training: 835 academic staff and 914 higher education students.

In 2023, 34 one-day online trainings were held with pre-selected candidates. The total number of training participants was 932. A one-day training for experts on writing an accreditation evaluation report was piloted in August 2023. Based on the analysis of reviews of the drafts of the EG report, as well as feedback from participants in the accreditation process, the need to improve the skills of experts in writing an accreditation evaluation report was identified.

Preparation for the training involves reading the 'List of Regulations and Supporting Documents, the Content of Which is Recommended for an Expert of the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education', watching training videos and completing practical homework.

In 2023, 18 trainings were held, as a result of which 333 participants received the relevant certificates of the National Agency for Professional Development (1 ECTS credit).

In 2023, 5 trainings were held for the heads of expert groups for the accreditation of educational programmes, as a result of which 145 participants received certificates of the National Agency for Advanced Training (1 ECTS credit).

In May 2023, 6 one-day trainings were organised for experts who had not been involved in accreditation examinations for a long time. The purpose of the training was to update the experts' knowledge in accordance with the methodological materials updated in 2020-2023 to assist experts during the accreditation process.

A total of 111 experts included in the register of experts took part in the training. In September 2023, as part of its regulatory and advisory function (clause 10.3 of the Regulations on the EQA), the Secretariat developed and approved the Instruction for experts of the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance on the organisation of the work of the expert group in the process of conducting an accreditation examination. The Instruction contains detailed instructions on the actions of the expert group at the stages of preparation for the visit, study and analysis of the accreditation file, preparation of the visit programme and requests to the HEI, direct implementation of

visit, as well as writing a report and participating in the meetings of the SES and the IA. Special attention is paid to practices that are not recommended or prohibited for the National Agency experts during the accreditation examination.

In accordance with the control and diagnostic function of quality assurance (clause 8, 10.4 of the Regulations on the EQA), monitoring of mechanisms of communication with guarantors of educational programmes as important participants in the accreditation procedure from HEIs that directly cooperate with expert groups plays an important role. In 2023. The Secretariat continued the practice of weekly surveys of study programme guarantors, so it was possible to significantly expand the number of survey participants, with a total of 936 people taking part (for comparison, 2022, a total of 341 guarantors were surveyed). In particular, 539 guarantors of educational programmes that were accredited in January-May took part in the winter-spring series of surveys, and 397 guarantors of educational programmes that were accredited in September-November 2023 took part in the autumn series.

Among the problems during the accreditation process identified by the guarantors of educational programmes (see Figure 107), the most common were a heavy workload (35% of respondents in the first half of the year / 26% of respondents in the second half of the year), a large volume of required documents (27% /), preparation and adherence to the visit programme (2% in both halves), and lack of time (12% / 8%). In addition, the guarantors of the CBs indicated that they had problems when working with the accreditation system (6% / 5%), the process of filling in the self-assessment information was unclear (2% in both halves), the requirements of the assessment criteria were unclear (4% in both halves) or the accreditation procedure in general (1% in both halves). It is worth noting that only 2% of the guarantors expressed dissatisfaction with the organised communication with the expert group, the quality of the EG composition - 4% in the first half of the year and 2% in the second half of the year. Among the individual problems expressed, the guarantors pointed to the lack of professionalism of the experts (2 responses) and unfriendly communication with participants in the educational process in the HEI (6 responses).
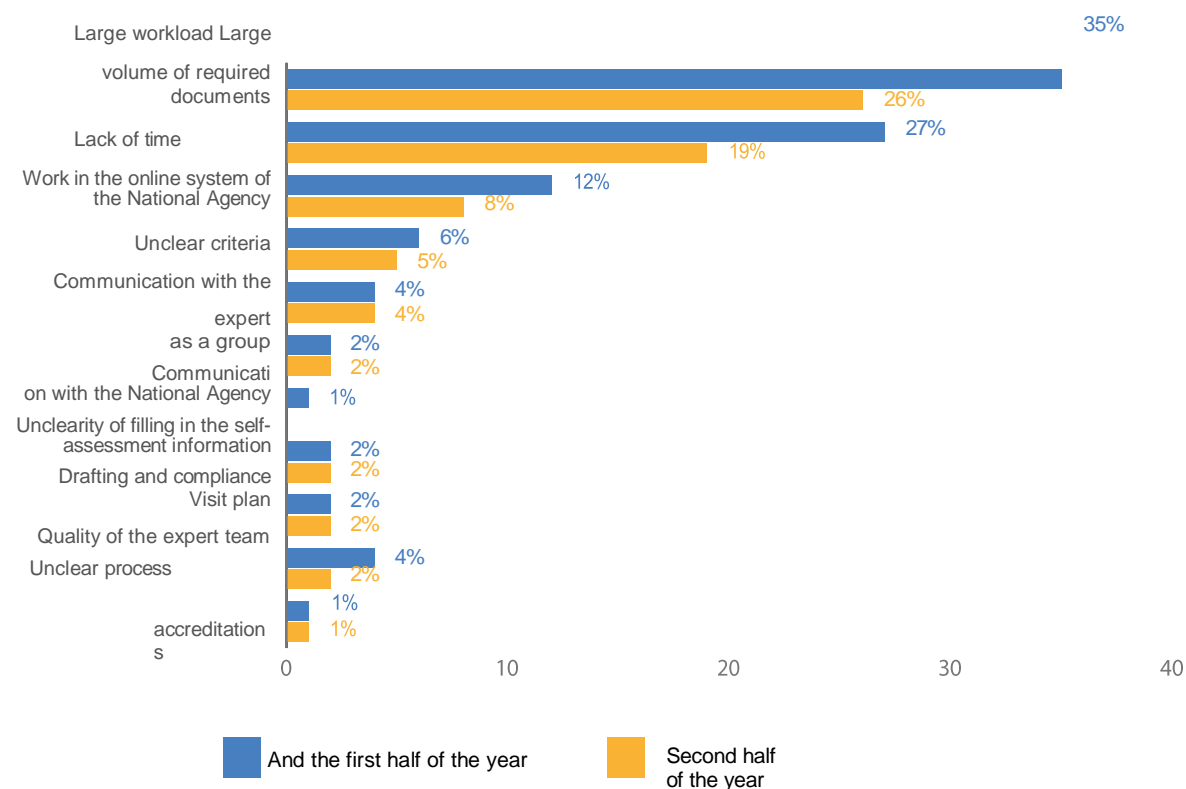
Figure 107

Thus, in 2023, the number of guarantors involved in the survey almost tripled. The results show a consistently high assessment of the accreditation procedure, including the work of expert groups, with which most guarantors managed to establish constructive interaction. In the future, it is planned to continue the practice of surveying guarantors of educational programmes, as well as to expand the range of guarantors participating in these surveys.

An integral part of the implementation of the control and diagnostic function (clause 5, sub-clause 10.4 of the Regulations on the NWF) of the Secretariat is to receive feedback from experts, which takes place in the form of regular surveys (every six months). The surveys will help to identify current challenges that arise during accreditation examinations and, accordingly, to respond to the identified problems in a timely manner.

In 2023, experts who participated in the work of the expert groups in the first and second halves of the year were surveyed. In particular, 1,313 experts took part in the survey in the first half of the year, and 773 experts in the second half of the year.

According to the survey results, the experts' assessment of the accreditation procedure in general (9.1), the work of the expert support department (9.6) and technical support (9.6) remain consistently high. The surveyed experts rated the usefulness of the briefing at 9. The most critical assessment was given to the usefulness of the review of the report of the EG (8.5) - this is the third year in a row that we have seen this indicator: 8.5 in 2022, 8.6 in 2021 (see Figure 108).
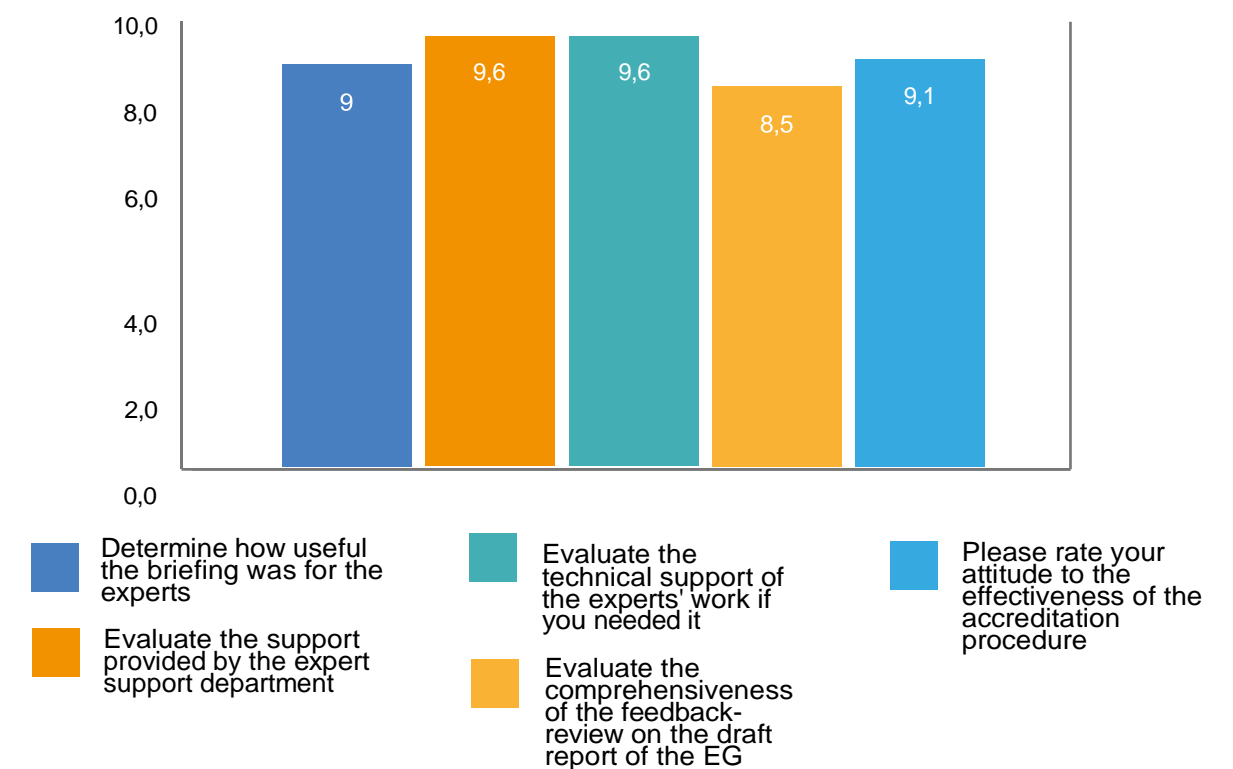
Figure 108

It is worth noting that the percentage of respondents who report no problematic issues has increased significantly compared to the results of the

in 2022 (42%) and 2021 (47%). Among the respondents, 59% said that they did not have any problems while participating in the accreditation procedure. In particular, fewer experts complain about the lack of time (8% 2023, then

as in 2022 - 13%, and in 2021 -). 2023, only 1 expert noted that excessive workload was a problem for him/her. The positive dynamics of the experts' assessment of their workload can be explained by the sufficient supply of experts in the relevant specialties to the registry.

The main problems for the experts in 2023 were the openness of higher institutions, the unwillingness of their representatives to communicate frankly with the experts (an increase from 6% in 2021 and 4% in 2022 to 8% in 2023), and the lack of activity of higher education students during meetings with the EG (an increase from 10% in 2021 and 6% in 2022 to 12% in 2023) (see Figure 109).
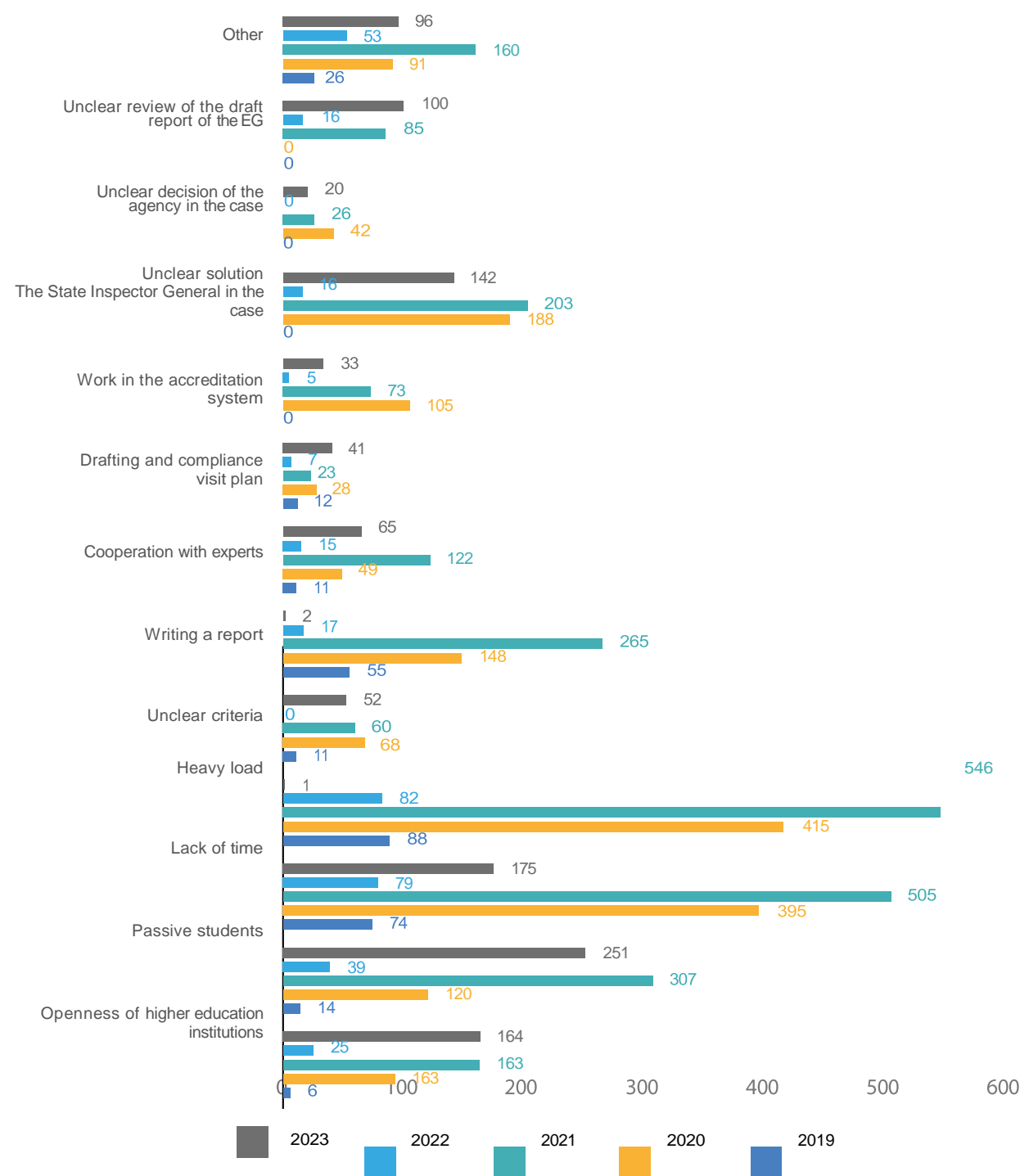

Figure 109

4.7. Supporting the activities of industry expert councils

Support of the activities of the National Agency's sectoral expert councils (hereinafter referred to as SECs) is carried out by the Secretariat's Sectoral Expert Councils Support Department. The department supports the activities of 31 SECs, in particular, accompanies SEC meetings during the public consideration of accreditation cases, the draft higher education standard, and supports the work of 29 competition commissions of the National Agency for the selection of candidates for SECs.

Problems of competitive selection to the PIC, actual and full quantitative composition of the PIC

In August 2023, the National Agency decided to hold a phased competition to the PIC and form new personal composition (decision of 22.08.2023, protocol№ 14). Thus, in accordance with the Schedule of the competition to the PIC (Annex 3 to Minutes No. 14), the first stage of the competition was held, in particular, PICs were selected in the fields of knowledge 03 Humanities, 05 Social and Behavioural Sciences, 07 Management and Administration, 12 Information Technologies and 22 Healthcare. The results of the work of the competition commission for the selection of the PIC members and the formation of the PIC personal composition were approved by the Agency's decision on 24.10.2023 (Minutes No. 16).

Due to the production need - to normalise the workload for reviewing accreditation cases of 07 SEC in the field of knowledge Management and Administration - the National Agency decided to divide into two SECs (22.08.2023, protocol№ 14), thus approving the quota distribution by category within 07.1 and 07.2 SECs and forming staff based on the results of the course (24.10.2023, No. 16).

The second stage of the competitive selection to the HES in the fields of knowledge 02 Culture and Art, 06 Journalism, 16 Chemical Engineering and Bioengineering, 21 Veterinary and 23 Social Work started on 30.10.2023, but was extended by the decision of the National Agency (21.11.2023, protocol№ 17) for 7 calendar days, respectively, and lasted until 27.11.2023.

As of 26.12.2023, the results of the work of the tender committees for the election of the PICs were approved by the meeting of the National Agency (minutes№ 21). The following PICs were selected and formed on a competitive basis

composition of the HES in the fields of knowledge 16 Chemical engineering and bioengineering and 21 Ve
ternary. The Competition Commission continues to work on the formation of the staff of the study programme "Journalism".

As of 27 December 2023, the effective membership of the SEC comprised 317 persons. The full membership of the SEC is 349 (see Figure 110).

In total, 8 competitions were held in 2023 to fill vacancies in the PES. The department's specialists processed 632 application packages for four categories, including 514 for academic staff, 11 for employers, 74 for higher education applicants, and 33 for international experts.

During the reporting period, 443 candidates took part in organised competitions to the PIC; 178 applicants were denied admission to the competition; and

The participants submitted 11 packages of documents.

The competitions for the re-election of the PEA were preceded by preparatory regulatory work

full composition of the SEC   actual composition of the GER

Figure 110

2023, and 1,538 cases received by the National Agency in 2023 (see Figure 111). In 2023, the following cases were returned to the PIU for clarification

The SEC reviewed 76 accreditation cases, including 2 cases for 2022 and 74 cases for 2023 (see Figure 112). As of 01.01.2024, 6 cases were under consideration by the SER, which had a repeated accreditation examination November-December 2023.

Figure 111

Figure 112

and the development of provisions to the Procedure for the nomination and election of the PIC members in accordance with the requirements of the current legislation. Thus, the document underwent a number of transformations during the year, including changes in its name: February 2023, it will be

Procedure for the nomination and election of members of PIC, from 21.02.2023 - Procedure for the nomination

nomination, election and termination of powers of the members of the ERG (minutes№ 2); c

22.08.2023 - Procedure for nominating and electing members of the ERG (minutes№ 14). And-

In particular, the changes in the document were caused by the approach to the formation of the tender

of commissions for the selection of members of the PIC on the basis of the industry principle - in accordance with

decision of the National Agency on 21.02.2023 (protocol№ 2) was launched

29 committees were formed according to the number of industries, as follows

The mechanisms of work of the tender commissions have undergone perturbations, and the

The requirements for the candidates to be selected for the competition to the have been defined in full

New powers for competition commissions to consider termination of powers of members

The Commission's review of the issue and submission of the issue for approval by the

National Agency, etc.

During the year, the competition commissions held 76 meetings of various (organisational, on early termination of powers of PIC members, review of competition results, formation of the PIC members based on ratings, interviews, etc.)

Number of accreditation cases, workload of the SES

During the reporting period, the CER reviewed 1,587 accreditation cases, including 59 cases that were subject to accreditation examination in 2022, and the CER received

The average workload of accreditation cases per SEC member is 4.4 accreditation cases. The highest annual workload of accreditation cases was in the following fields of knowledge: 03 Health Sciences (10.9), 05 Social and Behavioural Sciences (7.1), 07 Management
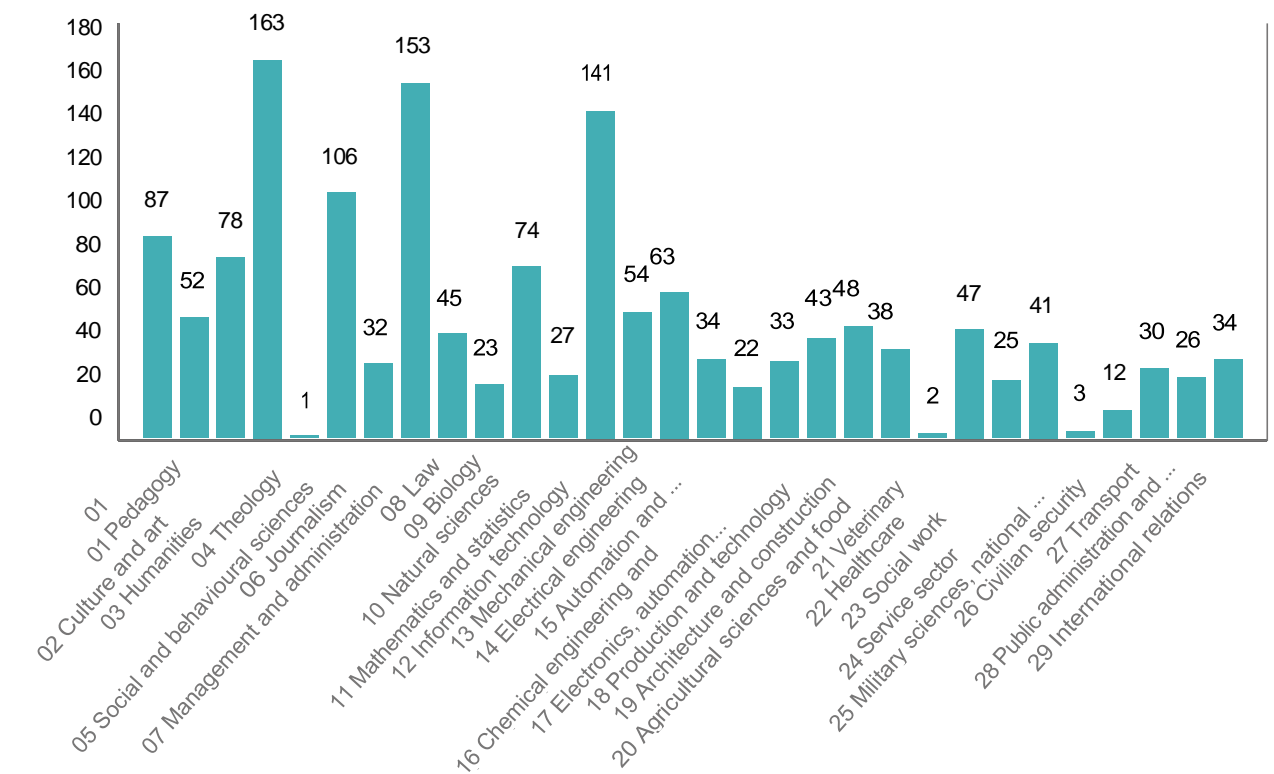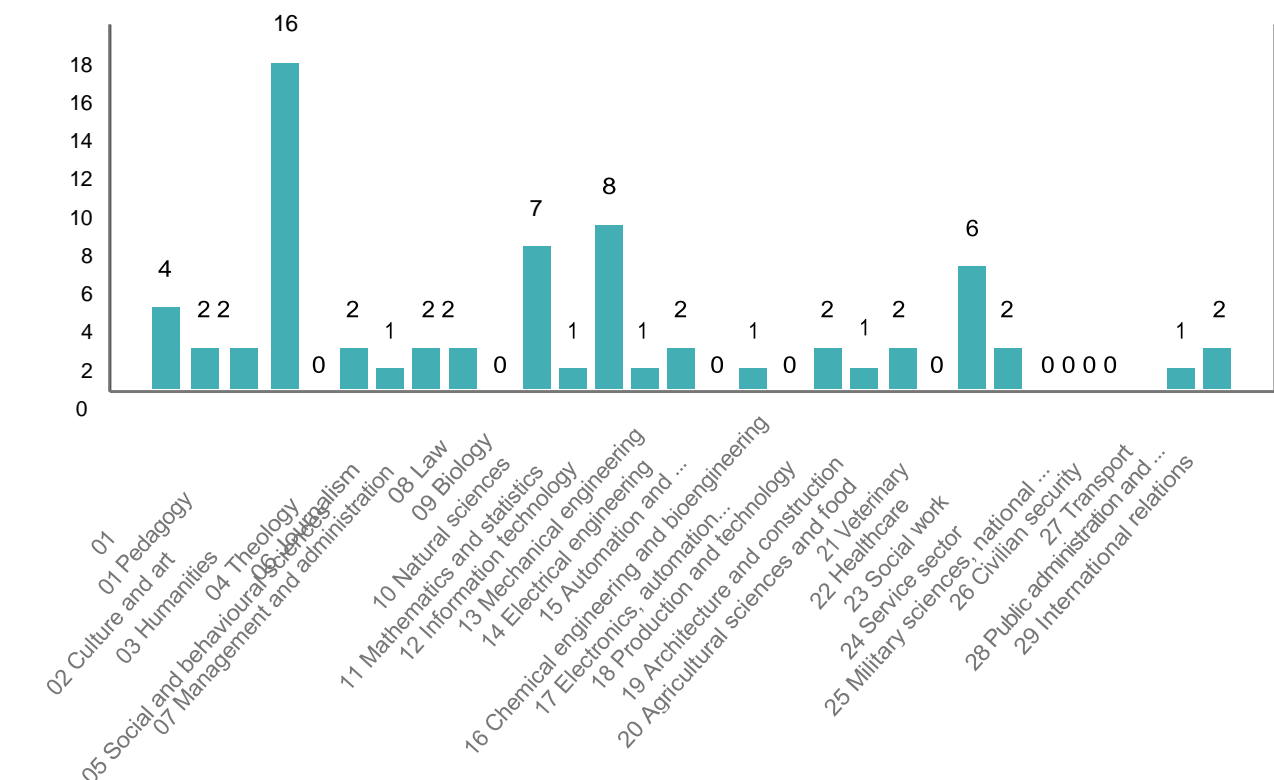and Administration (10.2), 12 Information Technology (9.4), 01 Education (7.3), 14 Electrical Engineering (5.7), etc. The average workload is 01 Pedagogy (4.3), 02 Culture and Arts (5.2), 10 Natural Sciences (4.9), 13 Mechanical Engineering (4.2). The lowest workload per one member of the HES is in the following fields of knowledge: 04 Theology (0.1), 06 Journalism (3.6),
08 Law (3.5), 09 Biology (2.3), 11 Mathematics and Statistics (2.7), 16 Chemistry Engineering and bioengineering (2), 17 Electronics and telecommunications (2,2), 18 V Production and technology (3.3), 19 Architecture and construction (3.7), 20 Agrarian nal Sciences and Food (3.2), 21 Veterinary (0.2), 22 Healthcare
(3.1), 23 Social work (2.5), 24 Service sector (3.4), 25 Military sciences, national security, state border security (0.2), 26 Civil security (1.2), 27 Transport (2.3), 28 Public management and administration
(2.6), 29 International Relations (3.1).

In 2023, the SEG held a total of 283 meetings to review accreditation cases with the participation of representatives of higher education institutions and members of expert groups and projects of higher education standards with representatives of scientific and methodological commissions of the Scientific and Methodological Council of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine.

Review of draft higher education standards

2023, the HES had 17 draft higher education standards (hereinafter - HE standards) under consideration, as of 27.12.2023, 16 draft HE standards were processed, of which 2 were for the first level of higher education, 3 for the second level of higher education, and 11 for the third (educational and scientific) level (see Figure 113). One draft higher education standard (speciality 124 Systems Analysis) is being reviewed by the sectoral expert council and will be submitted to the National Agency for approval in 2024.
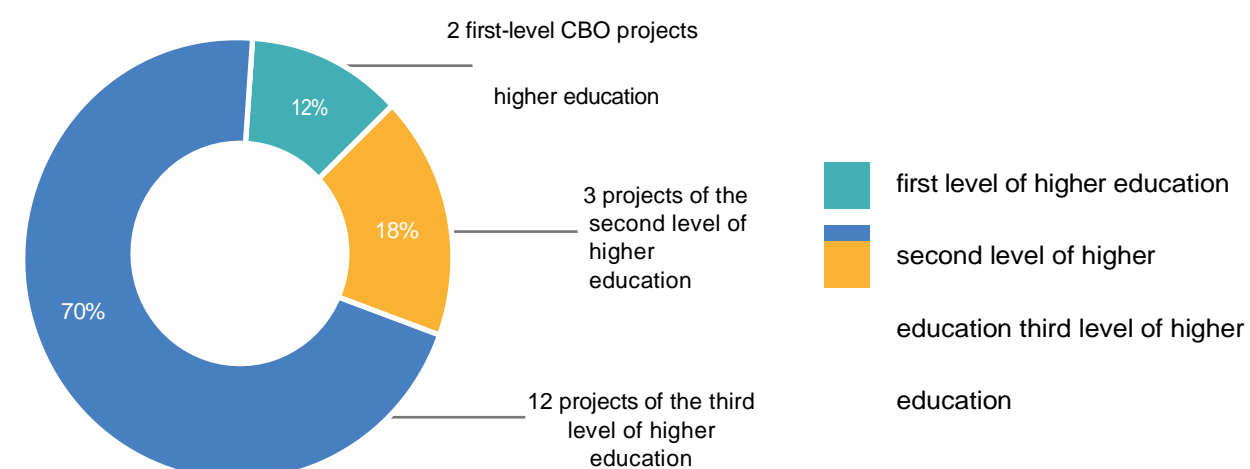
Figure 113

Communication events with the participation of industry expert councils

Every year, the National Agency organises a number of strategic, informational and methodological communication events for the members of the SET, where

exchange of views, discussion of the processes of ensuring the effectiveness of the higher education quality system, development and dissemination of higher education quality system policies:
— On 2 February 2023, the National Agency held a webinar "Topical issues of quality assessment of educational programmes of sectoral expert councils" for the members of the CEA;
— On 6 March 2023, a working meeting was organised with international experts of the National Agency;
— On 31 October 2023, the National Agency held a farewell online meeting with the PIC members who had terminated their powers due to the 's re-election. On 1 and 2 November, the National Agency held a webinar meeting for the newly elected members of the PIC.

4.8. Technical support for document management and record keeping

The office work and document flow, as well as technical support of the National Agency's activities are provided by the Department of Office Work and Technical Support, whose main areas of work are:
• establishing a unified procedure for documenting the management activities of the Secretariat;
• work with documents using modern automated systems;
• methodological guidance and control over compliance with the established procedure for documents in the structural units of the Secretariat;
• conducting a preliminary examination of the value of documents, submitting the necessary draft documents for consideration by the Expert Committee of the National Agency, preparing and transferring documents to the Central State Archive of Higher Authorities and Governments of Ukraine;
• Providing the National Agency's employees with material and technical means;
• work to improve working conditions;
• Ensuring compliance with labour protection and fire safety requirements

    security;
• preparation of materials for public procedures, etc.

The National Agency uses a mixed form of documentation of management information and work with documents: electronic - for incoming and outgoing correspondence, paper - for internal documents.

For 2023. The Secretariat of the National Agency received (registered) correspondence received by the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance and sent 4,344 letters to central and local public authorities, local governments, higher education institutions and other organisations, in particular (Part III, clause 10.1.1 of the):

• lawyers' requests - 20;
• applications for reissue of certificates of accreditation of educational programmes - 800,

- complaints about academic plagiarism, fabrication, and falsification - 33;
- complaints about violations of the protection procedure - 2;
- complaints against decisions of the National Agency - 1;
- reports of corruption - 8;
- 21 applications from higher education institutions to change the validity of certificates of accreditation of educational programmes. The National Agency's decisions changed the validity of the certificates of accreditation of educational programmes for 62 educational programmes.

In 2023, the NACP continued to process citizens' and deputies' appeals, which in 2023 amounted to 183 and 9 respectively, and requests for information in the amount of 29.

An important part of the department's work is the process of re-issuing certificates of accreditation of educational programmes / extending the validity of certificates and entering the relevant information into the EDEBO.

For 2023:
- 775 certificates were re-issued (including 94 certificates due to change of name of the higher education institution / HEE / research institution, 146 certificates due to change of location, 33 certificates due to reorganisation, 502 certificates due to change of name of the industry / speciality). Outgoing letters with explanations of further actions were sent to higher education and research institutions for 25 applications);
- 382 applications were received from the USESQF to extend the validity of certificates of accreditation of educational programmes to another ID - 277 of them were approved and 105 were rejected;
- information on international accreditation was entered into the USE-EDB on the basis of the National Agency's decisions.

During the reporting period, work continued on entering information on full and conditional (deferred) accreditation of educational programmes into the NAQA.Registry information system and the USEDEQS based on the National Agency's decisions.

On an ongoing basis, the Secretariat cooperates with employees of the Secretariat to provide methodological and practical assistance in record keeping, monitor the implementation of management decisions, and make proposals to improve executive discipline (Part III, clause 10.1.3 of the Regulations).

In particular, in the first half of 2023, a seminar was held for the Secretariat's staff on "Record Keeping in the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance", which focused on compliance with the rules for outgoing letters and provided clarification on the basic principles of work in ASKOD.

To facilitate the creation of drafts of outgoing documents, the department has updated and sent a guide to the visual design of letters for use in the workplace.

A separate area of the department's work is the preparation and transfer to the archive of

National Agency documents for the previous years of the National Agency's activity. In , the following documents were processed and filed: correspondence for 2019-2020, files on citizens' appeals and requests for information for 2019-2020.

According to the acts of acceptance and transfer of documents, the minutes of the meetings and documents to them for 2021-2022, orders appointing expert groups for 2021-2022, and accounting documents for 2019-2020 were transferred to the National Agency's archive.

A number of consultations were also held with the Central State Archive of Higher Authorities and Governments of Ukraine on the preparation of case inventories, an act of destruction of documents not included in the National Archive Fund, and the National Agency's historical reference for documents for 2016-2018.

4.9. Preparation of meetings of the National Agency and work of committees

The main areas of work of the Department for Preparation of Meetings and Support of the Committees' Work are:
1) organising the preparation of the National Agency's decisions and providing technical support to the National Agency's meetings;
2) legal, informational, organisational and technical support of the National Agency's committees;
3) organisation of work related to the consideration of appeals (requests) on complaints / notifications regarding the presence of academic plagiarism, fabrication, falsification in dissertations for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Doctor of Science, Candidate of Science) and/or scientific publications that cover the scientific results of the dissertation;
4) Preparing analytical information on accreditation cases and entering data into the National Agency's Information and Communication System.

According to clause 33 of the Statute of the National Agency, one of the tasks of the Secretariat is to ensure the preparation and holding of meetings of the National Agency. In 2023, in order to optimise the process of preparing and organising meetings, as well as preparing and making decisions, the Rules of Procedure of the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance were developed.

During the reporting period, the Secretariat provided organisational and technical support to 27 coordination meetings in the course of preparing the National Agency's meetings. The Secretariat's specialists administered the information system and provided technical support for the transfer of the list of accreditation cases to the appropriate stages.

In the course of work in this area, all participants in the accreditation process were informed about the time, date and place of the National Agency's meetings. In total, 21 meetings of the National Agency were held in the reporting year. In accordance with clause 34 of the Charter of the National Agency, among other things, the Secretariat keeps minutes of the meetings of the National Agency. Based on the results of the meetings, the following documents were prepared and published

21 minutes and annexes to them are published on the official website. In order to implement the decisions of the National Agency based on the results of its meetings and to control executive discipline, 19 instructions were issued on relevant issues.

Following the meetings of the National Agency, the Secretariat prepared analytical and statistical materials. The Secretariat also provided information, organisational and technical support to the Ethics Committee of the National Agency in its consideration of complaints/notifications regarding the presence of academic plagiarism, fabrication, falsification in the dissertation and/or scientific publications that reflect the scientific results of the dissertation.

Thus, in 2023, technical support and recording of 34 meetings of the Ethics Committee was organised. During the work in this area, the National Agency's official website informed participants about the time and place of the Ethics Committee meeting to consider a complaint about a violation of academic integrity, as well as prepared and sent official letters of notification to the complainants and the dissertator about the place and consideration of the case. Specialists of the Secretariat ensured the formation of an electronic database of decisions of Ethics Committee and published decisions on the official website of the National Agency (in the section "Ethics Committee"). During the year, 49 decisions were prepared and published.

Among other things, it should be noted that during the reporting period, the Secretariat considered inquiries (appeals) on the consideration of complaints / notifications regarding the presence of academic plagiarism, falsification, falsification in dissertations for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Doctor of Science, Candidate of Science) and/or scientific publications that cover the scientific results of the dissertation and provided relevant information (copies of documents). The Secretariat also provided technical support for the Appeals Committee's consideration of complaints/notifications against the decisions of the National Agency and reports of violations of the thesis defence procedure. In particular, technical support and recording of 4 meetings was organised. During the year, the Appeals Committee of the National Agency considered 4 appeals against the decisions of the National Agency, which were

The relevant decisions were made.

Table 1: Ethics Committee

1	Number of complaints handled	29
2	Number of complaints/notifications accepted for consideration	16
3	Number of complaints/notifications left without consideration	13
4	Extension of the review period	11
5	Suspension of the proceedings	4
6	Number of complaints with detection of academic plagiarism	4

In response to requests from representatives of HEIs and other applicants, 18 extracts from the minutes of the National Agency's meetings were prepared.

The Secretariat staff reported the time and place of the meeting of the Ethics Committee to consider a complaint about a violation of academic integrity on the official website of the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance, prepared and sent 18 official written letters of notification to higher institutions, complainants and the dissertator.

The Secretariat's specialists informed about the time and place of the meeting, as well as the decisions of the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance on complaints about violations of academic integrity; 36 official written letters of notification were prepared during the reporting period.

Prepared 12 letters of response to official appeals to the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance (MES, , SSU, complainants' appeals, etc.).

Official responses to 9 lawyers' inquiries were prepared.

It should also be noted that in the reporting period, the Secretariat provided technical support and documentation of the meetings of the Commission to support the work of the National Agency's experts (hereinafter - the Commission). Within this area, 2 minutes and 5 decisions were prepared based on the results of the Commission's meetings.

In addition to the above, and pursuant to a letter from the National Academy of the Security Service of Ukraine, the Committee on Military Education of the National Agency (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) was established to adjust the content of educational programmes for military specialists, with a focus on the practical application of the acquired knowledge, which contributes to the acquisition of high-quality military education. Within this area, the Secretariat prepared 5 minutes of the Committee's meetings.

Among other things, in the reporting period, in order to improve and enhance the main areas of work of the Department for Preparation of Meetings and Support of Committees and in cooperation with other structural units, specialists participated in the development of the following draft regulations together with the Legal Support Department: Regulation on Accreditation of Educational Programmes for Higher Education; Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On Approval of Forms of Certificates of Accreditation of Educational Programmes and the Procedure for Issuing, Reissuing, Issuing, Storing and Accounting for Such Certificates"; Regulation on the Appeals Chamber of the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance; Regulation on Committees of the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance.

5. CONSIDERATION OF COMPLAINTS ABOUT VIOLATIONS OF ACADEMIC INTEGRITY BY THE ETHICS COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL AGENCY: CASES AND 2023 SCENARIOS

"The struggle for academic integrity continues at the systemic level, and the Ethics Committee has well-developed and normatively approved decision-making mechanisms in case of establishing the facts of academic plagiarism, falsification, fabrication" - this was the opinion of the Ethics Committee (represented by its chairman) of the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance when it entered the new of 2023. There were high hopes for the successful functioning of the Committee (not in terms confirming all the facts of violations of academic integrity, but in terms of ensuring effective operation). "The Ethics Committee has come a long way from making decisions that were actually only advisory in nature and caused image losses to the offenders to full-fledged work and making legitimate decisions. It took almost four years to launch the work of the Committee, but now we are confident that all complaints about violations of academic integrity (provided that the complainants meet the requirements of the Procedure for Reviewing Complaints / Notifications of Academic Plagiarism, Fabrication, Falsification) can be objectively considered with the possibility of making legally binding decisions"[13]. This phrase, recorded in the National Agencys report for 2022, had every chance of being implemented.

In 2023, the Committee held 39 meetings, which resulted in 53 decisions were made. Thus, the systematic nature of the work has been confirmed. The effectiveness of the work and the understanding of what should be included in this term should be described in more detail.

Let's try to use arithmetic to answer the question about the term "effectiveness". For this purpose (without specifying numerical values), it is proposed to introduce the following indicators:

Table 2: Ethics Committee

Number of accusations of academic integrity violations without evidence (social media posts, verbal reports, etc.)	$I_{(1)}$
Number of accusations of academic integrity violations with evidence and coverage of the complaint on open-source websites	I_2
Number of complaints filed	I_3
Number of unresolved complaints due to non-compliance with the Procedure for reviewing complaints / reports of academic plagiarism, falsification, falsification	I_4
Number of re-filed complaints	I_5
Number of complaints in which the Committee made a decision on the existence of a violation of academic integrity	I_6

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[13]URL: https://bit.ly/3w3TzoG

Number of complaints in which the Committee decided that there was no violation of academic integrity	I_7
Number of complaints that the Committee discontinued consideration for various reasons	I_8
Number of complaints in which the National Agency upheld the Committee's decision	$I_{(9)}$
Number of complaints where the National Agency did not uphold the Committee's decision	I_{10}
The number of complaints in which the MES upheld the decision of the National Agency to find academic plagiarism, fabrication, falsification in a dissertation on which a doctoral degree was awarded and/or scientific publications based on its topic	I_{11}
The number of complaints in which the MES did not uphold the decision of the National Agency to find academic plagiarism, fabrication, falsification in a dissertation on which a doctoral degree was awarded and/or scientific publications based on its topic	I_{12}
Number of complaints that resulted in lawsuits (at the stage of complaint consideration and before the National Agency's decision)	I_{13}
Number of complaints that resulted in lawsuits (after the National Agency's decision)	I_{14}
Number of complaints where no action was taken under a court order (at all stages prior to consideration of the complaint at the Committee meeting)	I_{15}
Number of complaints where no action was taken by court order (after the Committee meeting before the complaint was considered by the National Agency)	I_{16}

These indicators can be used to create a simple arithmetic model that will show the effectiveness of the "social" and "procedural" movement in addressing academic integrity violations. Below are examples of some of the coefficients, and the reader can use the proposed indicators to identify other efficiency coefficients that he or she considers necessary for a comprehensive description of the procedure for reviewing complaints about violations of academic integrity in the link "complainant - Committee - National Agency - Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine".

This text attempts to examine the sequential development of events in consideration of complaints about violations of academic integrity, taking into account the attitudes of active participants in the process of exposing violators, the actions of the alleged violators themselves and the actions of the National Agency and its Committee within the scope of their powers.

Stage 1: Announcement of a violation of academic integrity. The announcement is made in the form of messages on social media, during conversations between colleagues, etc. It is possible to record the number of such "pre-appeals" only through posts on the Internet (I_1). Of course, some of these announcements may not be made public due to the reluctance of potential complainants.

Stage 2: "Materialisation" of the complaint.

Part of the announced assumptions about the existence of academic integrity violations, together with the evidence base (performed at a level that meets the

qualifications of a potential complainant) is treated as a fact in open information sources (I_2).

The effectiveness of the "materialisation" of a complaint is determined by the coefficient

$$K_m = I_2 \Big/ I_{(1)}$$

Stage 3. Filing a complaint with the National Agency

Complaints "materialised" on information sources, together with complaints that "materialised" without announcements on the Internet, are submitted to the National Agency (I_3). Submission of a complaint requires the complainant to comply with the requirements of the Procedure for consideration of complaints / reports on facts of academic plagiarism, fabrication, falsification[14].

The sieve factor can be defined as

$$K_c = I_3 \big/ I_1,$$

Stage 4. The Committee reviews the content of the complaint on formal grounds.

The Committee decides whether to accept the complaint for consideration or refuse to accept it for consideration due to non-compliance with the Procedure for consideration of complaints / reports of academic plagiarism, fabrication, falsification (*I*). The complaint may be resubmitted for consideration (*I*).

[4] The correctness rate of filed complaints is defined as [5]

$$K_k = (I_3 - I_4 + I_5) \big/ I_3$$

If all the requirements for the preparation of a complaint and the formation of a culture of filing it in full compliance with the regulations are met, $K_k = 1$.

In the future, there are two scenarios for the consideration of complaints There are two types of processes - fast and slow. From stage 5 onwards, the process of reviewing a complaint and making a decision can vary dramatically. The description of the does not include reactions to the opinions of experts and "experts", discussions around the consideration of each specific case and other events that are not documented or justified in accordance with the law, but rather emotions.

Scenario 1 ("quick").

Stage 5. The Committee makes a decision on the results of the complaint. Based on the results of the review of the complaint, the Committee decides on the presence (*I* 6) or absence (*I* 7) of a violation of academic integrity. The Committee shall.

The tribunal may also terminate the consideration of the complaint if there are statutory grounds for doing so

_____

reasons (I_8).

Stage 6. The National Agency makes a decision based on the results of the Committee's review of the complaint.

The national agency makes one of two decisions:

— on the discovery of academic plagiarism, fabrication, falsification in the dissertation on which the degree of Doctor (Candidate) of Sciences was awarded and/or scientific publications credited on its topic and an appeal to the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine to deprive the person of the relevant degree

(Candidate) of Sciences, and/or scientific publications credited on its topic, academic plagiarism, fabrication, falsification (I_{10}).

In the first case, already at the stage of consideration of the appeal by the Ministry of Education

The representatives of the National Agency (on the initiative of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine) may be included in the working

groups and for discussion at the stage of decision-making by the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine.

Stage 7. The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine supports or does not support the application of the National Agency.

The Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine supports (I_{11}) or does not support (I_{12}) the decision of the National Agency.

Scenario 2 ("slow").

Stage 5. A lawsuit filed by a potential violator of academic integrity (I_{13}, I_{14}), where he or she, among other things, demands to ban the National

the agency to take any action in relation to the complaint (I_{15}, I_{16}).

This stage has no intermediate milestones and can occur at any stage from the Committee's decision to accept the complaint for consideration to the meeting of the National Agency, where the agenda includes a petition from the Committee on the existence of a violation of academic integrity. As shown by

practice, such claims (I_{13}s) can chronologically occur at four times in certain intervals:

— after notifying the potential violator of the acceptance of the complaint for consideration (I_{12});
— after the date of the Committee meeting is announced;
— after the decision of the Committee, if it is not in favour of the violator, and before the meeting of the National Agency;
— after the decision of the National Agency, if it is not in favour of the applicant.

There can be several claims in a single case, and each subsequent claim is filed if the previous one is not satisfied.

The analysis of the claims made it possible to identify two main groups of justifications for the unlawfulness of the decision made by the Committee or the National Agency:

1. Violation of the complaint procedure.
2. Violation of the legal framework regarding the powers of the Committee or the National Agency.

(I_9);

— on the failure to identify in the dissertation on which the degree was awarded

[14]URL: https://bit.ly/3U38B66

Most of the claims were accompanied by emotional statements that, according to the complainants, were supposed to have a positive impact on the judge. It should be noted that the lawsuits only occasionally contain substantiation of the merits of the complaint under consideration, i.e. facts proving that there was no violation of academic integrity in dissertation. Another interesting detail is that plaintiffs and their lawyers study other claims of the "cohort" of potential and actual violators in order to adopt "best" practices that have influenced the adoption of a positive decision for the plaintiff. A positive decision means a prohibition to take any action on the complaint by the Committee or the National Agency.

Below is a list of the plaintiffs' claims (not an exhaustive list) that were found in the statements of claim.

1. Appealing to the national regulatory framework and, in some cases, illogical linking of several regulations to build a defence.

2. Poor quality of regulatory documents and their legal recognition.

3. Interpretation of the powers of the Committee and/or the National Agency as not providing for consideration of complaints about violations of academic integrity and receipt of complaints in principle.

4. Unlawfulness of the National Agency's approval of the Procedure for consideration of complaints/notifications regarding academic plagiarism, fabrication, falsification.

5. The procedure for reviewing complaints/notifications about academic plagiarism, fabrication, and falsification is not registered by the legislative body, so it is illegitimate.

6. Appealing to regulations that are not relevant to a particular case.

7. Inconsistency of the complaint with the Procedure for consideration of complaints / reports on the facts of academic plagiarism, fabrication, falsification.

8. At the time of preparation of the thesis, there was no legal category of "academic integrity" or "academic plagiarism".

9. Liability for academic plagiarism cannot be applied to that occurred before the relevant regulations came into force.

10. There are examples of the National Agency's actions being declared unlawful, and therefore, in this case, the same should be done.

11. The decision to award the degree has already been made, the deadlines for appealing the decision have passed, so the "repeated" consideration of the complaint by the Committee is unlawful.

12. Absence of the plaintiff's electronic signature.

13. Violation of the Procedure for Reviewing Complaints / Notifications of Academic Plagiarism, Fabrication, Falsification in terms of the date of signature of the draft decision by the Committee Chair (electronic signature dated the day following the Committee meeting).

14. Electronic signature of the Committee's chairman as an individual, not as a representative of the National Agency.

15. Conflict of interest.

16. The coincidences do not carry a scientific burden, but relate to well-known facts and do not affect the scientific results obtained in the work.

17. No violations of academic integrity were found during the examination of the dissertation at the local (university) level.

18. Citation errors - poor academic quality.

19. Violation of the principles of access to public information.

20. No provision on the Committee.

21. The absence of a source in its authentic form.

22. The applicant is not related to the field of study in which the thesis was defended.

23. Personal and political claims against the complainant (e.g., cooperation with Russia).

24. No link to an official resource.

25. Copies of resources do not match their originals.

26. The complainant's rights were not violated.

27. There was no requirement to put a link after each paragraph.

28. There are recommendations from the Ministry of Education and Science on the correct citation formatting, which are only recommendations and not binding.

29. The complainant filed many complaints, which indicates that the complainant systematically cooperated with the Committee and its chairman, with whom the complainant once worked at the same university.

30. The plaintiff informs that it will initiate a number of court procedures if its claim is not satisfied.

31. Attendance of unauthorised persons at the Committee meeting.

32. Pressure on the defendant by the Chairman of the Committee.

33. During the meeting, the Committee did not consider the thesis and the complaint, but only made a decision in accordance with the draft provided by the complaint rapporteur. Common sense principles and a careful study of the regulatory framework show that some of these claims have no basis for a decision in favour of the plaintiff. Some of the claims deviate from the subject matter of the research (thesis) and switch to procedural issues of complaints. Thanks (not ironically, but frankly) to some of the claims, at the end of 2023, a new version of the Procedure for Reviewing Complaints / Notifications on Academic Plagiarism, Fabrication, Falsification was created, which became even more technologically advanced in terms of requirements for complaints and the procedure for their of the proceedings.

Stage 6. Other measures taken by the defendant that delay the consideration of the complaint.

Representatives of the respondent at the meeting of the Committee or the National Agency provide additional documents on the merits (in their opinion) of the complaint, request postponement of the meeting due to the inability to attend it or to get acquainted with the complaint materials in detail, etc. Such actions may result in the meeting being postponed or adjourned.

Stages 5 and 6 of the "slow" scenario run in parallel with stages 5-7 of the "fast" scenario, in some cases "meeting" at meetings of the Committee, the National Agency or the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine.

Unfortunately, in 2023, the "slow" scenario prevailed in the Committee's work. And everything would be fine if the potential offender defended the absence of a violation of academic integrity in his or her own dissertation. However, the main goal of the defendant is to stop the consideration of the complaint.

Despite the constant obstacles, the work of the Committee and the Agency has resulted in four complaints resulting in a decision by the National Agency to appeal to the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine to revoke academic degrees, of which three were revoked in 2023 by the Attestation Board of the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. Another appeal is under consideration.

In 2024, the Committee is expected to do no less work than in 2023, both technologically and in terms of "fighting". The second half of 2023 showed that the Committee, although an independent combat unit, increasingly needs organisational, technological and legal support in reviewing complaints about violations of academic integrity. Thanks to the Secretariat

The National Agency (Department for Support of Ad Hoc Councils and Analytics, Legal Service) has created an additional "frame" for the Committee - a solid structure that makes every effort not to falter under the constant and persistent pressure of the activities of potential and actual violators of academic integrity, and becomes a spring that unclenches and gives a timely "push" in moving the complaint to its logical conclusion.

The picture of the activities of the Committee and the National Agency for Review of Cases of Violation of Academic Integrity would be incomplete without describing the activities of another group of stakeholders. These are experts, public figures, activists, and academics, without whom the exposure of academic integrity violations would not have taken place. By defending their own interests (in isolated cases, by the way) or exposing violators proactively (sometimes with a precise focus on public figures), they add to the of the Committee and the National Agency. At the same time, some representatives of the "expert community" behave like judges who consider it appropriate to publish unconstructive criticism of the Committee and the National Agency. The only rational explanation for this phenomenon is the desire to get involved in the complaint procedure and show their importance in the process. Live broadcasting of the process, talk shows. And the importance is not in words, but in deeds...

Clearing the educational and scientific landscape of violators of academic integrity (or, more precisely, of the low-quality "products" they have defended) is a prerequisite for Ukraine's entry into the international space of quality education and research.

Crawl quietly, snail,
along the Fuji
slope, up to the very
heights

Kobayashi Isa (1763-1827)

6. LEGISLATIVE CHANGES IN THE SYSTEM OF QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN 2023

After the introduction of martial law in Ukraine in 2022 as a result of Russia's armed aggression against Ukraine, there was a need to significantly change approaches to the accreditation of educational programmes. That is why, for example, on 16.03.2022, the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine adopted Resolution№ 295 "On the peculiarities of accreditation of educational programmes under which higher education institutions provide training under martial law". In order to implement the above-mentioned resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the National Agency developed the Temporary Procedure for Accreditation of Educational Programmes for Higher Education Students under Martial Law (approved by the decision of the National Agency of 14.04.2022 (Protocol No. 6 (11)). The accreditation of educational programmes under martial law and the adoption of relevant regulatory changes made it possible to continue to effectively ensure the organisation of the educational process under these conditions.

In 2023, the National Agency adjusted the directions of further development of its activities, in particular in the development of amendments to legislation based on the results of an assessment of the totality of circumstances. Despite the ongoing full-scale war, higher education institutions and research institutions engaged in educational activities have demonstrated their willingness and ability to continue education and research in compliance with all quality requirements stipulated by both Ukrainian legislation and the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG 2015). Accordingly, the National Agency abandoned the idea of approving the Temporary Procedure for Accreditation of Educational Programmes for Higher Education in the Conditions of Martial Law, developed in 2022, and focused on the implementation of the tasks and measures envisaged by the National Action Plan for External Quality Assurance in Higher Education of Ukraine for the period 2022-2023, namely: participation in the development of legislative changes in the field of higher education, research, implementation of all types of accreditation, formation of the space of academic excellence

As part of this work, a critical self-analysis was carried out and the feedback of national and foreign stakeholders was followed, which confirmed that certain issues of the national higher education quality assurance system need to be changed and improved in order to bring the Ukrainian legislation in the field of education and science in line with the European Union legislation.

In connection with the above, the National Agency made the following proposals:
— introduce post-accreditation monitoring;
— to enable the involvement of all groups of stakeholders (including scientific and pedagogical, researchers and higher education students) involved by the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education on a paid basis in accreditation, including military educational institutions (higher education institutions with specific learning conditions); to include

expert work on quality assessment to the types of scientific and pedagogical work; to regulate the issue of remuneration of international experts;

— streamline the procedure for the establishment and operation of the National Agency's Appeals Committee;
— Limit the application of civil service legislation to members of the National Agency and secretariat staff;
— to regulate the issue of academic integrity in higher education. In order to implement the above proposals, the National

The Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education has developed relevant amendments to Ukrainian legislation.

After a long work with stakeholders and MPs on the content of the proposed amendments to the legislation, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine adopted the Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on Ensuring the Quality of Higher Education" No. 3062 IX on 2 May 2023. This Law amended four other laws, which was important for ensuring the further development and efficiency of the National Agency in ensuring external quality assurance in higher education.

Major changes were made to the Law of Ukraine "On Higher Education":

1. The Law defines post-accreditation monitoring as an assessment by the accreditation body of the implementation of recommendations provided as a result of accreditation and/or compliance with the accreditation criteria (clause 18-3, part 1, article 1). It has been established that post-accreditation monitoring is carried out by the National Agency (Part 1 of Article 18) on a free of charge basis and in two forms: accredited educational programmes and higher institutions that have received institutional accreditation. The grounds and procedure for post-accreditation monitoring should be determined by the regulations on accreditation of educational programmes and the regulations on institutional accreditation of higher education institutions.

In the event that the post-accreditation monitoring reveals that the criteria established by the regulations on accreditation of educational programmes are not met, the National Agency will provide the higher education institution with explanations on the implementation of such criteria and/or warn of the need to comply with them and set a deadline for eliminating the identified shortcomings or terminate the certificate of accreditation of the relevant educational programme.

In the event that during post-accreditation monitoring violations of the quality assurance of higher education, as defined in the regulations on institutional accreditation of higher education institutions, are identified, the National Agency will provide the higher education institution with explanations on the quality assurance of higher education and/or warn of the need to eliminate the relevant violations and set a deadline for their elimination or cancel the decision on institutional accreditation of the higher education institution.

2. The legal basis for the establishment and functioning of the Appeals Chamber has been formed in order to ensure that complaints against the decisions of the National Agency can be considered while avoiding situations of potential conflict of interest. To this end, it is determined that the National Agency develops the regulations on the Appeals Chamber, as well as amendments to it, and submits them to

approval to the central executive body in the field of education and science, which approves them. The Appeals Chamber itself shall consist of five members to who have a higher education, academic degree and/or academic title and at least five years of professional experience in the field of quality assurance in higher education. The members of the Appeals Chamber are elected for a two-year term on a competitive basis and perform their functions on the basis of civil law contracts concluded with them. There are restrictions on the membership of the Appeals Chamber by members of the National Agency and its sectoral expert councils. The same person cannot be a member of the Appeals Chamber for more than two terms. The procedure for the formation of the Appeals Chamber, its powers and the procedure for their exercise will be determined by the Regulation on the Appeals Chamber, which is approved by the central executive body in the field of education and science.

Upon consideration of the appeal, the Appeals Chamber will issue a reasoned decision, which may overturn the contested decision of the National Agency. In case of cancellation of the decision of the National Agency, the relevant issue shall be reconsidered at its next meeting. In case of disagreement with the decision of the Appeals Chamber, the National Agency will be able to confirm its previous decision only by two-thirds of the National Agency's votes, and not by half, as in the case of any other decision.

3. The institution of institutional accreditation of higher institutions was introduced. Thus, each relevant institution will be able to undergo institutional accreditation at its own request. To this end, it will be necessary to submit to the National Agency an application and documents confirming that its educational activities and internal quality assurance system meet the criteria out in the Regulation on Institutional Accreditation of Higher Education Institutions. The decision on the institutional accreditation of a higher education institution will be made for a period of five years with the relevant information entered into the Unified State Electronic Database on Education. In the presence of institutional accreditation, the assessment of the internal quality assurance system of a higher education institution will be taken into account for the purposes of accreditation of educational programmes. In addition, in a higher education institution that has institutional accreditation, it will be possible to simultaneously accredit educational programmes of different levels of higher education in the same speciality.

4. The requirements for persons eligible to be members of the National Agency were supplemented and its internal structure was optimised to reflect the current situation and changes in Ukrainian legislation.

For example, it is determined that a person who: a) was deprived of an academic title and/or an academic degree (doctorate) due to a violation of academic integrity; b) belongs to the categories of persons defined in para. 1, Part 1, Article 3 of the Law of Ukraine "On Prevention of Corruption" (except for research and teaching staff, researchers and students of higher military educational institutions (higher education institutions with specific conditions of study), military educational units of higher education institutions);

c) is a citizen of the aggressor state and/or an employee of an educational institution, scientific institution of the aggressor state, and/or has carried out or is carrying out scientific (scientific and pedagogical) activities in any institution, institution, organisation that illegally operates or has operated in the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine; d) has been subject to sanctions in accordance with the Law of Ukraine "On Sanctions". Given that the general principles of forming the internal structure of the National Agency are determined by the Law of Ukraine "On Higher Education", the relevant provision has also been amended. Now, as required by law, the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance must establish and operate an Ethics Committee, which was previously in place, and a Committee on the Activities of One-off Specialised Academic Councils, which was not previously required. In , other committees consisting of members of the National Agency may be established for preliminary consideration of issues within its competence. In its turn, the new Committee on the Activities of One-time Specialised Academic Councils should consider , applications and complaints regarding violations of the procedure for defending a dissertation for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy established by law, as well as perform other powers assigned to it by the National Agency.

eral agency.

5. Some processes have been adjusted as part of the National Agency's implementation of powers and tasks. For example, the timeframe for accreditation of educational programmes has been extended from three months to four. The requirements for the period for which an accreditation certificate for an educational programme is issued have been optimised. It is still possible to obtain a certificate of accreditation of an educational programme for five years or one year. A certificate for 10 years can now be issued only if the higher education institution has institutional accreditation and accreditation of the educational programme with the definition of "exemplary". The National Agency has been granted the right to become a member of international organisations in the field of quality assurance in higher education, to undergo their accreditation, and, upon agreement with the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, to pay the relevant entrance, membership and other types of mandatory fees, including in foreign currency. Educational and research institutions are now allowed to pay for accreditation services at the expense of the general budget fund for the training of specialists, researchers and academic staff. The terms for the National Agency to enter information on the accreditation of educational programmes into the Unified State Electronic Database on Education were determined. Also, the National Agency was obliged to develop regulations on accreditation of independent institutions for assessing and ensuring the quality of higher education, etc. It should also be noted that in the context of optimising the activities of the National Agency, amendments were made to the Law of Ukraine "On Prevention of Corruption". These amendments specify that the Head, Deputy Heads, other members of the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, except for those elected from among higher education students and representatives of all-Ukrainian associations of employers' organisations, as well as officials of the Secretariat of the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, are equated with persons authorised to perform the functions of the state or

local self-government (clause 2, part 1, article 3). And part 3 of Article 25 of the said Law was supplemented by a provision according to which a number of restrictions were lifted on scientific and pedagogical, researchers and higher education students, including military educational institutions (higher education institutions with specific conditions of study, military educational units of higher education institutions), which made it possible for the National Agency to involve them in accreditation.

In addition, in order to clarify the legal status of the National Agency, its members and employees of the secretariat, the Law of Ukraine "On Civil Service" was amended to state that the Head, Deputy Heads and other members of the National Agency, as well as employees of the National Agency's secretariat are not civil servants (part 3 of Article 3). In addition, the Law of Ukraine "On Education" was also amended: the concept of institutional accreditation was improved, which is now defined as an assessment of the quality of educational activities of a higher education institution and its internal management system.

quality assurance (Article 46(1)).

It is worth noting that the Law of Ukraine "On Amendments to Certain Laws of Ukraine on Ensuring the Quality of Higher Education№3062 IX in Section II "Final and Transitional Provisions" stipulates that not all amendments to the above laws come into force simultaneously upon their adoption. Some of the above changes will come into force in one year (2 May 2024), and some of its provisions will become relevant only after the termination or cancellation of martial law in Ukraine.

 the legislative changes in the higher education quality assurance system for 2023, we cannot ignore the topic of continuing work on changes in the regulatory framework for academic integrity.

It is worth reminding that the National Agency has consistently and reasonably defended the position of the need to develop and adopt the Law of Ukraine "On Academic Integrity". The decision to develop and adopt such a draft law was made at a meeting of representatives of the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Education, Science and Innovation (S. Babak, Y. Hryshyna), the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance (S. Kvit, A. Butenko, I. Nazarov) and the National Academy of Legal Sciences (N. Kuznetsova) on 27.06.2020. A joint working group was established. The idea, content, and structure of the draft Law of Ukraine "On Academic Integrity" were discussed at meetings of the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance, hearings of the Verkhovna Rada Committee Education, Science, and Innovation, press conferences, forums, conferences, meetings of the Working Group on the Development of Legal Education of the Legal Reform Commission under the President of Ukraine, etc. The text of one of the draft Laws of Ukraine "On Academic Integrity" was approved as part of the report on the activities of the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance and proposals for legislation at a meeting on 02.02.2021. Subsequently, representatives of the National Agency participated in all working groups to finalise the text of the draft law.

In May 2023, an alternative project appeared in the public space of the Law of Ukraine "On Academic Integrity", which the representatives of the National Agency had the opportunity to review.

Based on the analysis of the content of the alternative draft law, it was possible to conclude that it, like the draft law of the National Agency, was intended to take into account modern world requirements for the quality of education and the educational process, to create conditions for real, not declarative, compliance with the requirements and principles of academic integrity as a mandatory component of educational and scientific activities, to correct the shortcomings of domestic legislation on these issues, which would contribute to the objectivity of assessment of outcomes, cultural and scientific activities, and to the credibility of the The alternative draft law also had the same structure, logic and list of issues to be addressed as the National Agency's draft law. The main difference between the alternative draft law was a different attitude to the types of violations of academic integrity, the types of responsibility for violations, the rules for their application and the scope of their dissemination.

Given the importance of the issue and the need to consolidate efforts to address the shortcomings of regulatory regulation in the field of academic integrity, representatives of the National Agency took an active part in further work as part of a joint working group to improve the draft Law of Ukraine "On Academic Integrity". This resulted in the preparation of an agreed text of the draft law, the provisions of which

— proclaim the values and define the basic principles and rules of academic integrity, mechanisms for its formation and enforcement, types of violations of academic integrity and responsibility for such violations;

— able to work effectively at all levels of education, with a number of norms to take into account the specifics of individual levels of education or types of academic activity;

— establish a system for ensuring academic integrity, which is a mandatory component of the internal quality assurance system of any educational or research institution;

— have an agreed list of types of violations of academic integrity, their concepts and a list of response measures, etc.

The agreed text of the draft Law of Ukraine "On Academic Integrity" was supported by MPs and was officially registered in early 2024, which is beyond the scope of this report, but is evidence and proof of the National Agency's continued work on legislative changes necessary to recognise and adhere to the values, principles and rules of academic integrity in educational and scientific activities.

FINAL WORD

For five years of active work, the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education has been fulfilling its mission to be a catalyst for positive changes in higher education and the formation of a culture of quality. The National Agency has become a driving force in the development of the higher education quality assurance system in Ukrainian higher institutions. Activities in the context of martial law have demonstrated the ability of the National Agency not only to ensure the sustainable functioning of the higher quality assurance system, readiness to counter external challenges, but also to develop and steadily follow the path of European integration.

At the same time, having analysed the actual state of higher education and identified problems in the quality assurance system, the National Agency has identified a number of tasks for its future activities.

The urgent need for 2024 is to regulate the procedure for granting conditional (deferred) accreditation to educational programmes without or with partial accreditation examination without payment of the accreditation fee by the higher education institution under the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine "On Peculiarities of Accreditation of Educational Programmes for Higher Education Students under Martial Law" No. 295 of 16 March 2022. The update of the Temporary Procedure for Consideration of Accreditation Cases Martial Law should facilitate the receipt of conditional (deferred) accreditation by higher education institutions that operate under force majeure circumstances, have been destroyed, relocated from the beginning of a full-scale invasion, or train military specialists (or are higher education institutions with specific learning conditions). Obviously, the change in approaches should preserve the policy of support for the really affected introduced by the National Agency in 2022, but should not allow others to abuse this provision.

In accordance with the appeal and review procedure established in the European educational area, the National Agency has developed and duly approved the Regulations on the Appeals Chamber, and therefore the task is to take appropriate actions to institutionalise these practices.

In response to the legislative changes, in 2023, the National Agency began discussing the model and proposed to conduct an experiment to develop and improve the post-accreditation monitoring procedure. Therefore, the next step in adapting the external quality assurance system to the requirements of the legislation is to implement the planned experiment in stages and develop final bylaws.

Amendments to educational legislation have delayed the introduction of institutional accreditation and independent agencies. Understanding the complexity and acuteness of this issue, the National Agency will continue to work on a package of documents, involving a wide range of stakeholders in discussions. The issue of academic integrity, which is an integral part of the higher education quality assurance system, cannot be ignored. In 2023.

The National Agency prepared and presented to the general public a draft law on academic integrity that focused on higher education. As a result of the discussion, its key elements were incorporated into a new, broader draft law that is currently under consideration by the Verkhovna Rada.

One of the challenges in developing external quality assurance policies is the optimisation of cross-border quality assurance processes. In previous years, the National Agency proposed changes to the regulatory framework to address this issue, , unfortunately, were not taken into account. We have to state that the practice of using cross-border accreditation in violation of the EQAR registry key principles (key principles of functioning of quality assessment agencies that are part of EQAR) is widespread. The settlement of this issue is beyond the exclusive powers of the National Agency, so we hope for fruitful cooperation with the Verkhovna Rada Committee on Education, Science and Innovation and the Ministry of Education and Science to resolve this problem.

An equally important task of the National Agency is to draw up and agree with all stakeholders the National Action Plan for 2024-2025. This is a necessary step to complete our hard work to become a full member of ENQA and enter the EQAR register.

We are confident that the fulfilment of the tasks assigned to the National Agency will help to make a significant contribution to the European integration processes of our country and will help to strengthen Ukraine's position in the European Education Area.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL AGENCY FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION FOR 2023

Author team

Maksym Aliiev
Artem Artiukhov
Andrii Butenko
Hruzynska Iryna
Denyskina Hanna
Yeremenko Olena
Nazarov Ivan
Oleksandra Osiiuk
Zoriana Panasiuk
Pizniuk Lesia
Ruda Larysa
Tetiana Sabadosh
Nataliia Stukalo
Folomieiev Maksym
Leontii Shipilov
Oleksandr Khymenko