

The Role of National CRIS in the Quality of Higher Education

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Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Science in Croatia

- Internal quality assurance mechanisms of higher education institutions and research institutes in Croatia are legally regulated
- In 2005, the Agency for Science and Higher Education (ASHE) was established
 - designated quality assurance authority for science and higher education in the country
 - tasked with conducting initial accreditations and regular reaccreditations of higher education institutions and research institutes, which occur every five years



Reaccreditation of higher education institutions

- **Our focus:** higher education institutions (HEI)
- An external quality evaluation procedure which is a requirement for all new public and private higher education institutions in five-year cycles
- It involves quality assessment, conducted by an appointed expert panel following defined quality standards, grouped into key assessment areas



The goal and purpose of the reaccreditation process

- The goal of the reaccreditation process is to evaluate and assess the quality of the HEI in accordance with:
 - National legal criteria
 - Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG)
 - International trends and good practice
- The purpose of the reaccreditation process is to:
 - Assure the quality of HEIs
 - Foster further development of quality in the main aspects of operation of the HEI



Evaluation areas

The reaccreditation process includes an analysis and assessment of the quality of a HEI passed by an appointed expert panel according to the defined quality standards that are grouped into five assessment areas:

1. Higher education institution management and quality assurance
2. Study programmes and lifelong learning programmes
3. Student-centred learning and teaching – teaching process and student support
4. Teaching capacities and infrastructure of the higher education institution
5. Research/artistic and professional activity



Outcome of the procedure

1. Expert panel creates a report which comprises an analysis and a quality grade
2. Accreditation Council adopts a reasoned proposal with a grade of quality of the HEI and the recommendations for quality improvements
3. Agency takes a decision to
 - issue a license to the HEI
 - issue a letter of expectation
 - revoke a license for the higher education institution to operate
 - revoke a license for the study programme delivery



The role of CroRIS in the process

- Institution's self-analysis
 - essential step in the reaccreditation process
 - tabular reports are generated for each of the assessment areas
- CroRIS - Croatian national CRIS
 - developed, maintained and implemented by the University Computing Centre (SRCE) and the Ruđer Bošković Institute
 - comprises multiple modules that contain data on researchers' institutions, publications, projects, events, products, patents, equipment and its utilisation, services...
 - stores a significant part of the data required for the self-analysis phase within the final two assessment areas



Report tables

10 report tables have been identified in the areas

4. Teaching capacities and infrastructure of the higher education institution
5. Research/ artistic and professional activity

that can be generated in full or in part from data stored in CroRIS

- Access is granted to CroRIS administrators within the institutions
- These tables are primarily intended for oversight at institutions undergoing reaccreditation

Information System of Indicators and Quality in Science and Higher Education (ISPiK)



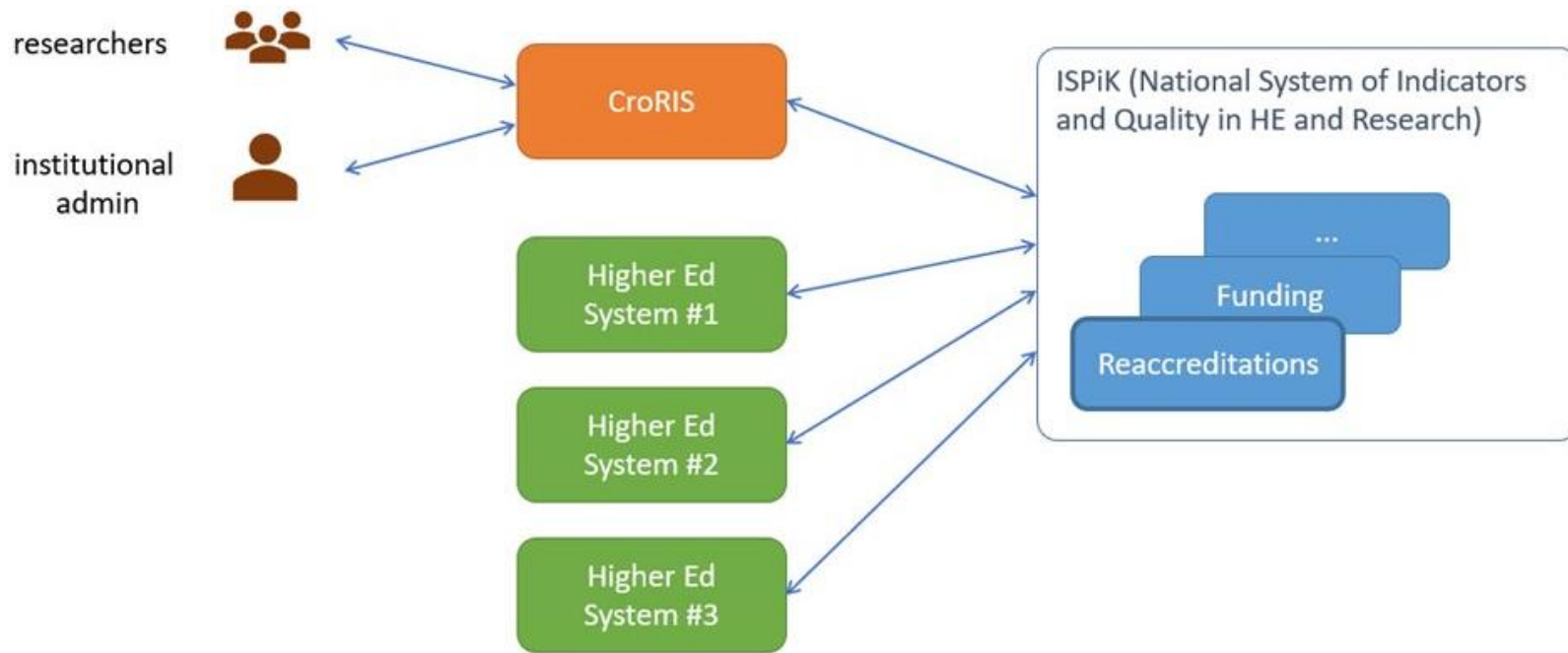
The University Computing Centre (SRCE) is currently developing a new national information system for the Ministry of Science, Education and Youth.

ISPiK will support different processes regarding quality assurance and financing of higher education and research in Croatia, the reaccreditation process being one of them.

CroRIS is identified as a key data source for this process. The aforementioned report tables represent the output of CroRIS, which is propagated to ISPiK via REST API, along with relevant data from other sources.



The workflow



Two-way relationship between the data and the reports derived from it



- **Researchers** enter and maintain the data about their scientific activity
- The data is checked and verified by the **institutional editors** of the respective modules
- Every night, a **data warehouse** is generated from the transactional CroRIS system through an ETL process, serving as the foundation for the CroRIS reporting system.
- **CroRIS administrators** are responsible for reviewing and analysing the reporting tables
- In case of discrepancies or incomplete data, the corrections and updates are made by the institutional editors
- On one hand, the data generates the reports; on the other, the reports contribute to the enhancement of data quality



The role of ISPiK in the process

- in response to requests from ISPiK, ten report tables relevant to the Institution self-analysis phase of the reaccreditation process are retrieved from CroRIS via a REST API
- input parameters: institution's ID and the evaluation year corresponding to the reaccreditation cycle in question
- the tables are subsequently utilised in the evaluation process of higher education institutions
- this process facilitates the retrieval of data pertinent to both the current reaccreditation cycle and historical reaccreditation cycles for individual institutions within the ISPiK framework



Thank you!

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