

The decision to consider the secondary condition imposed on the assessment decision on the first cycle of studies in the Transport Services; and Engineering, Manufacturing and Technology study programme groups at Estonian Aviation Academy to be met

12/04/2018

The Estonian Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational Education Quality Assessment Council for Higher Education adopted the following decision:

To deem the secondary condition imposed on the assessment decision adopted on 06.01.2017 on the first cycle of higher education in the Transport Services; and Engineering, Manufacturing and Technology study programme groups at Estonian Aviation Academy to be met and to leave in force the decision to conduct the next quality assessment in seven years.

Based on subsection 10 (4) of the Universities Act; point 3.7.3 of the Statutes of the Estonian Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational Education (hereinafter referred to as 'EKKA') and point 41.1 of the document, 'Quality Assessment of Study Programme Groups in the First and Second Cycles of Higher Education' and authorised in point 3.7.1 of the above-mentioned EKKA Statutes; the EKKA Quality Assessment Council for Higher Education (hereinafter referred to as 'the Council') affirms the following:

1. According to clause 53 (1) 2) of the Administrative Procedure Act, *a secondary condition of an administrative act is an additional duty related to the principal regulation of the administrative act*, and clauses 53 (2) 2) and 3) establish that *a secondary condition may be imposed on an administrative act if the administrative act cannot be issued without the secondary condition, or if issue of the administrative act must be resolved on the basis of an administrative right of discretion*. On 06.01.2017 the EKKA Quality Assessment Council for Higher Education (hereinafter referred to as 'the Council') adopted the decision to approve the assessment report¹ and to conduct the next quality assessment of the Transport Services; and Engineering, Manufacturing and Technology study programme groups at Estonian Aviation Academy in seven years with the secondary condition that Estonian Aviation Academy would submit to the Council an action plan and report on eliminating the shortcomings referred to under point 11 of the assessment decision², by 06.01.2018.

¹ Assessment report is an integral part of the decision and can be found on EKKA website.

² Assessment decision is published on EKKA website.

2. On 05.01.2018 Estonian Aviation Academy submitted to the Council the following documents: 1) A comparison of study programmes at Estonian Aviation Academy with similar programmes taught in Europe, 2) An action plan and report on eliminating the shortcomings referred to under point 11 of the assessment decision 3) An action plan on progress made on other areas of improvement and recommendations mentioned in the assessment report. EKKA invited assessment committee chair **Pascal Bauer** and member **Kristo Vallimäe** to evaluate the progress made on the secondary condition imposed.

3. Members of the assessment committee visited Estonian Aviation Academy on 19.03.2018 and submitted a report to EKKA on the elimination of the shortcoming detailed in point 11 of the 06.01.2017 Council decision. The verdict of the committee was as follows:

THE SHORTCOMING UNDERPINNING THE IMPOSITION OF THE SECONDARY CONDITION	VERDICT OF THE COMMITTEE
<i>Estonian Aviation Academy has not conducted a comparative analysis of the contents and volumes of similar study programmes in Europe. The higher education institution also lacks a development vision for the study programmes and the organisation of studies.</i>	Shortcoming has been partially eliminated. The comparison of study programmes that was conducted forms a good basis for further analysis of study programme, including considering whether the nominal duration of the study programme should be shortened to three years.
<i>It is not always clear how courses taught at partner institutions are interlinked with the practical studies conducted at Estonian Aviation Academy and the study programme as a whole.</i>	Shortcoming has been fully eliminated.
<i>The learning outcomes for the study programmes have been described at a very general level, which makes it difficult to adequately assess the knowledge and skills of graduates.</i>	Shortcoming has been substantially eliminated It is recommended to review the updated learning outcomes annually.

4. Taking into account the fact that shortcomings underpinning the secondary condition have been eliminated, the Council

DECIDED:

To deem the secondary condition imposed on the quality assessment decision adopted on 06.01.2017 on the first cycle of higher education in the Transport Services; and Engineering, Manufacturing and Technology study programme groups at Estonian Aviation Academy to be met and to leave in force the decision to conduct the next quality assessment in seven years.

The decision was adopted by 11 votes in favour and 0 against.

5. EKKA will coordinate the time of the next study programme group quality assessment with Estonian Aviation Academy by 6.04.2023.

6. A person who finds that his or her rights are violated or his or her freedoms are restricted by assessment procedures conducted by EKKA or by a decision made by the EKKA Quality Assessment Council may file a challenge pursuant to the procedure provided for in the Administrative Procedure Act. The challenge shall be filed with the EKKA Quality Assessment Council within 30 days after the person filing the challenge became or should have become aware of the contested finding.

The Assessment Council shall forward the challenge to the Appeals Committee who provides the Assessment Council with an unbiased opinion regarding the validity of the challenge within 5 days after receiving the challenge. The Assessment Council shall adjudicate the challenge within 10 days after the challenge is delivered to the Council, taking into account the justified opinion of the Appeals Committee. If the challenge needs to be further examined, the Assessment Council may extend a term for review of the challenge by up to 30 days.

A decision by EKKA Quality Assessment Council may be challenged within 30 days after its delivery, filing an action with the Tallinn courthouse of the Tallinn Administrative Court pursuant to the procedure provided for in the Code of Administrative Court Procedure.

Eve Eisenschmidt

Chair of the Council

Hillar Bauman

Secretary of the Council