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# ACCREDITATION PRACTICES OF JOINT PROGRAMMES IN LITHUANIA

2017

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**International conference  
„SINGLE ACCREDITATION OF JOINT PROGRAMMES – TURNING A BOLOGNA GUIDELINE INTO  
REALITY“  
30-31 May 2017, Vilnius**

# Higher Education in Lithuania

44 Higher Education Institutions

~ 1700 I&II cycle  
study programmes

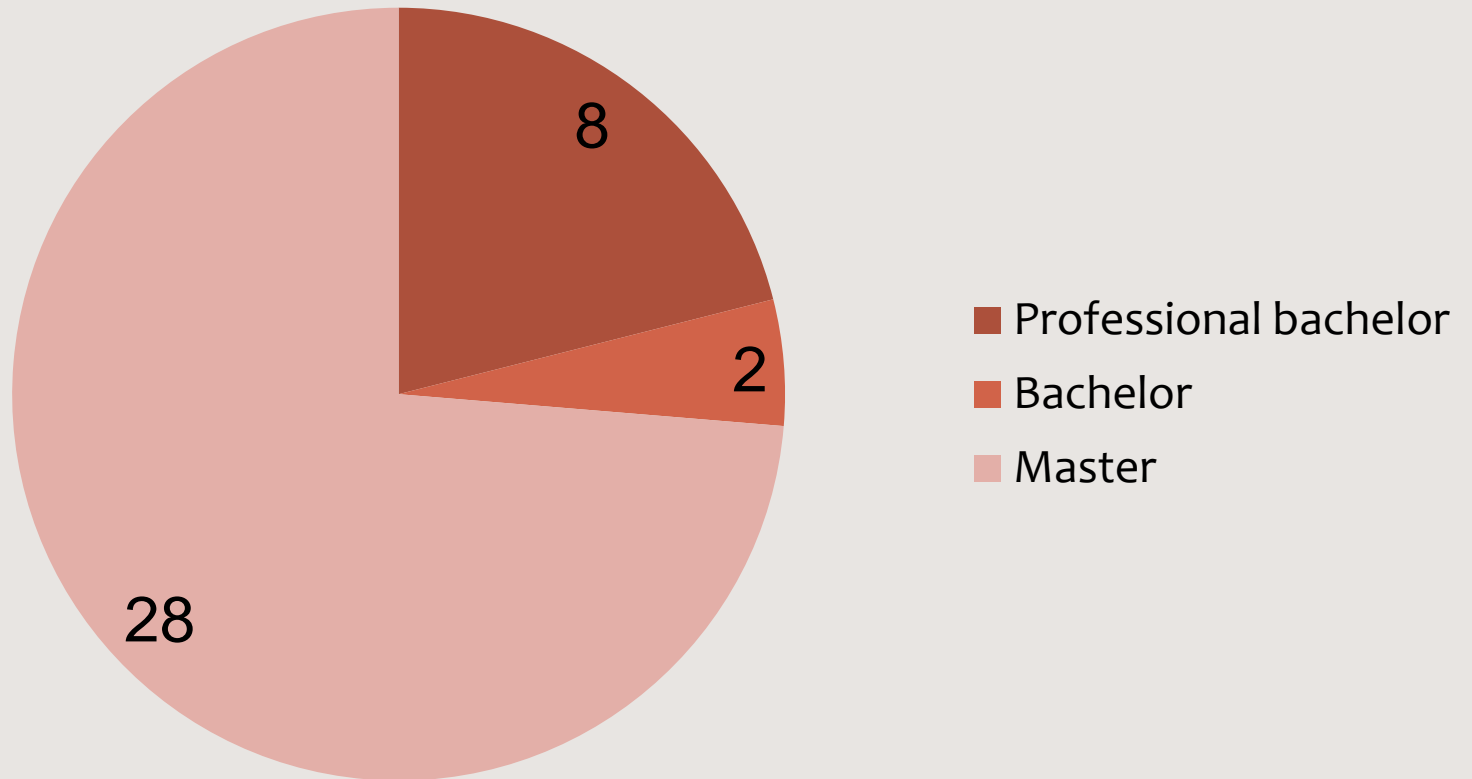
**2,9 mln. population**

~131 000 students

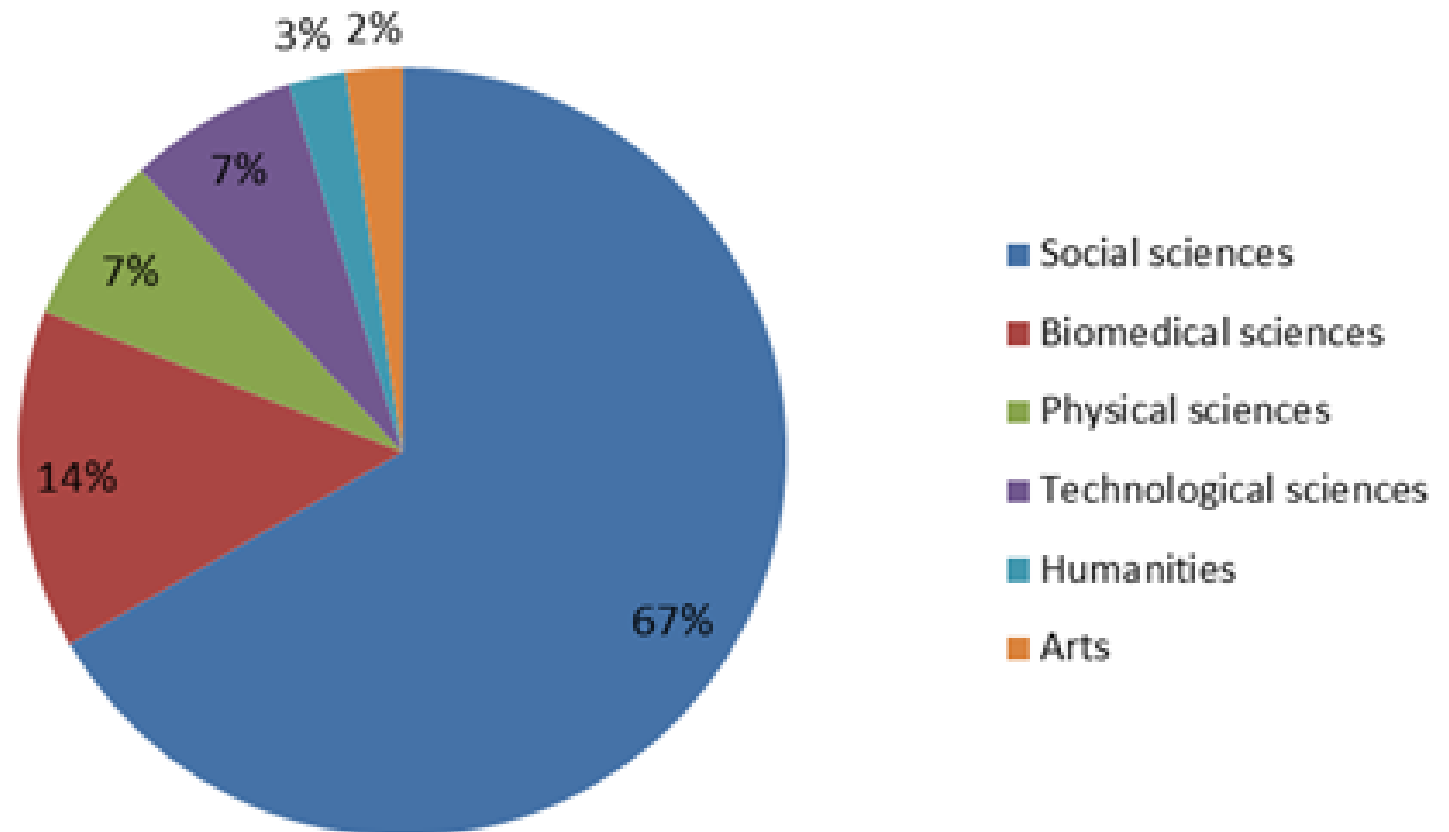
## *Current situation in Lithuania*

	<b>Number of JSP</b>	<b>Total number of programmes</b>
Professional bachelor	8	431
Bachelor	2	577
Master	28	648
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>1656</b>

## *Distribution by type*



## *Distribution by study area*



## *Legal requirements for JSP*

- All participating HEIs have to have a right to conduct studies of respective type (BA, MA)/field
- JSP could be implemented after its legal registration/accreditation in all participating countries
- Should be foreseen entering level of foreign language

## *Legal requirements for JSP*

- Content of JSP – developed by all partners
- Mobility of students and lecturers – compulsory
- Significant part of JSP should be committed for physical mobility

## *Requirements for Agreement*

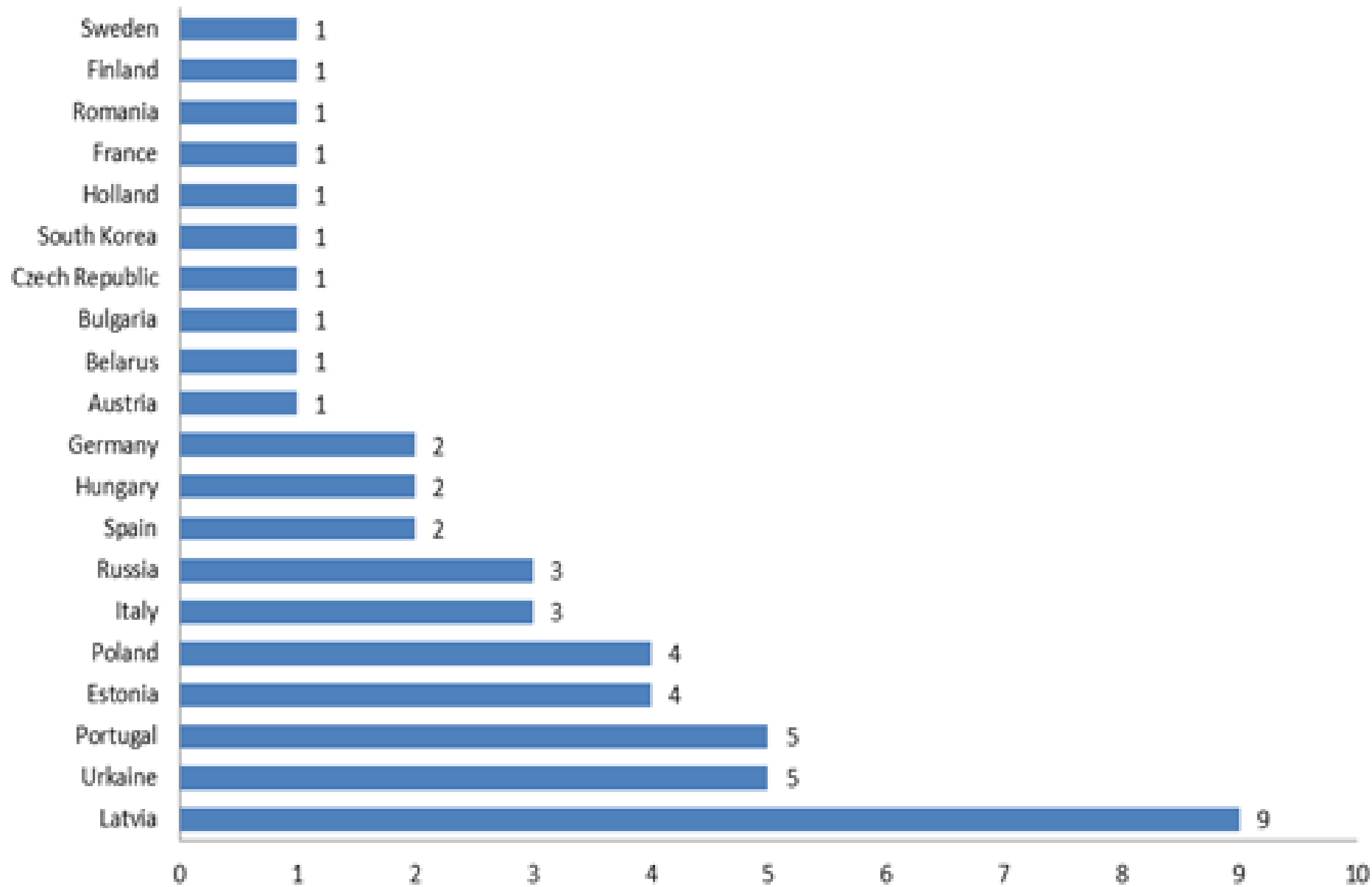
Agreement between partners should foresee:

- responsibilities of partners in implementation process,
- conditions of implementation of JSP
- financing conditions
- student support
- award of qualifications



## **Development of new Joint Study Programmes (2014-2016)**

	<b>2014</b>	<b>2015</b>	<b>2016</b>
Professional bachelor	6	-	-
Bachelor	2	2	-
Master	11	5	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>





**1<sup>st</sup> evaluation in  
2012**

**Evaluation of 8  
JSP**

## *Evaluation areas*

Every study programme has to be evaluated according to the following evaluation areas:

- 1. Programme aims and learning outcomes*
- 2. Curriculum design*
- 3. Teaching staff*
- 4. Facilities and learning resources*
- 5. Study process and students' performance assessment*
- 6. Programme management*

## **Accreditation**

Study programme can be accredited for:

- 6 years
- 3 years

Accreditation decision can be made on the basis of evaluation report of other EQAR Agency, but report:

- needs to have a table with evaluation score for each evaluation area
- every area should be graded in 4 point scale

## *Remarks from experts*

- failure to ensure compliance with legal requirements
- insufficient information about the assessment methods and systems for assessing learning achievements used in other countries
- problems in the administration of study programmes of this type

## *Remarks from experts-2*

- vague relationships with partners
- insufficient student mobility
- lack of housing and support for students
- high dropout rates
- unequal professional development opportunities for teachers
- inconsistent coordination of study programme goals, expected learning outcomes and programme curriculum

## *Joint evaluation procedure!?*

Efforts to perform joint evaluation (accreditation) procedure with other agencies:

- Notification of QAAs of involved countries
- common agreed criteria;
- one expert team;
- one site visit;
- one report;
- one decision on accreditation recognized by all agencies.





## *What is in reality?*

Evaluation implemented only by SKVC

Cooperation with QAAs – nomination of peers only

Visits only to Lithuanian HEIs (in 1 case – outside the country)

Evaluation report sent to other QAAs – **no feedback!!!**

## Interesting situations

Initiation, coordination of evaluation procedure.  
Which agency? Who covers evaluation costs? Period of accreditation?

Contacts with official authorities in other countries regarding legality of HEI and JSP, accreditation requirements, etc. Whose responsibility?

Agreement on evaluation criteria, requirements for (J)SP in all countries, requirements for SER, peer team composition, training, place for site-visit, requirements for reporting, etc.

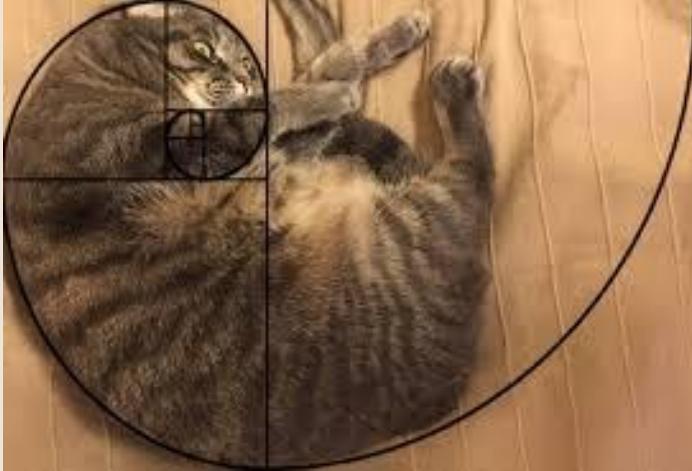
## *External Quality Assurance*



The diagram features a large, light red arrow pointing to the right, which serves as a background for two rounded rectangular boxes. The left box is labeled 'Study programme' and the right box is labeled 'Study Field'. Both boxes are filled with a darker red color and have a white border. The text inside the boxes is white.

Study  
programme

Study Field



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