



BOLOGNA PROCESS IN CROATIAN HIGHER EDUCATION AREA

Vesna Dodiković-Jurković, Ph.D.

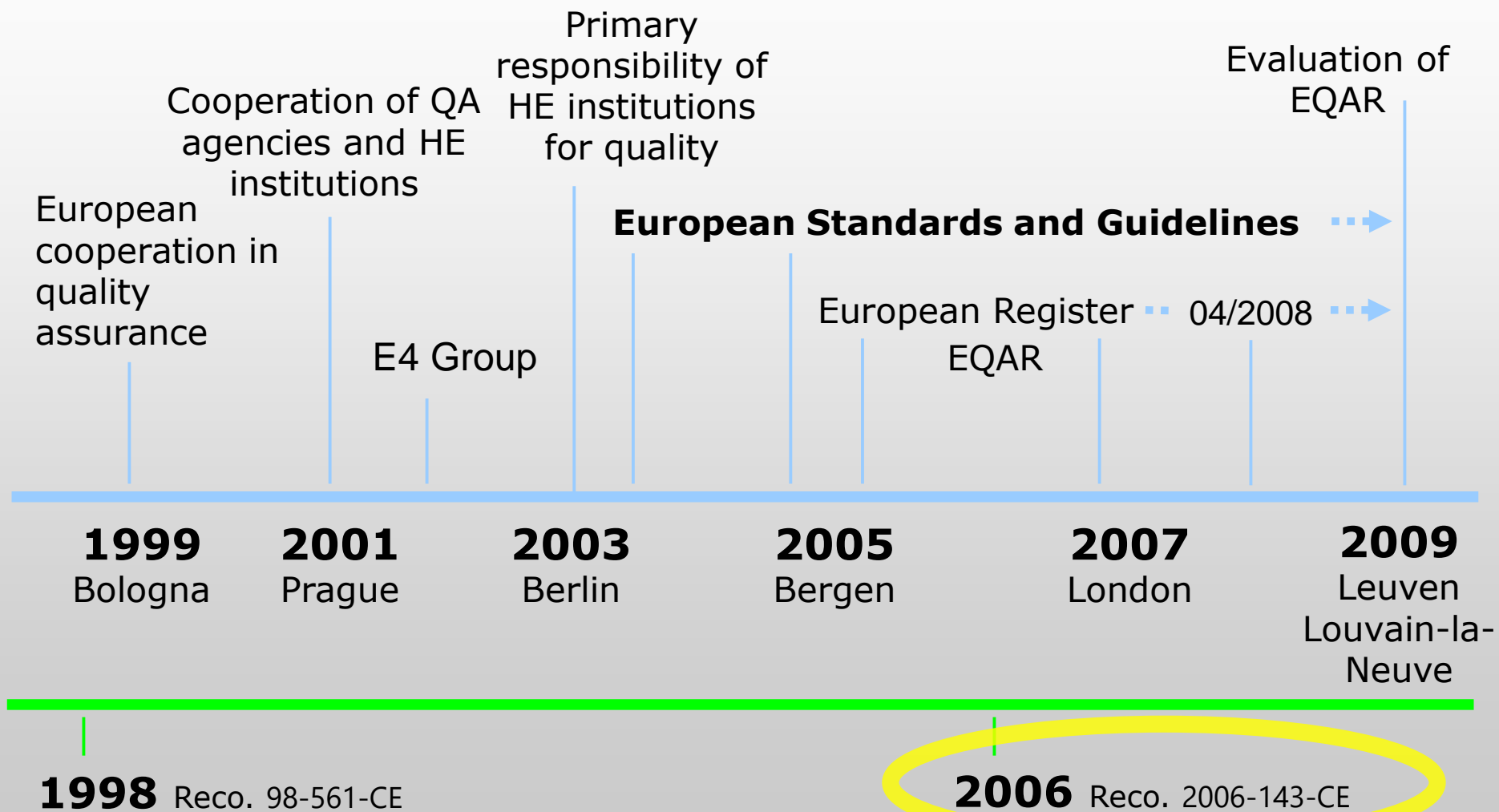


Overview

- The context of Higher Education in Croatia
- ASHE – overview
- Challenges



Bologna process and quality assurance developments



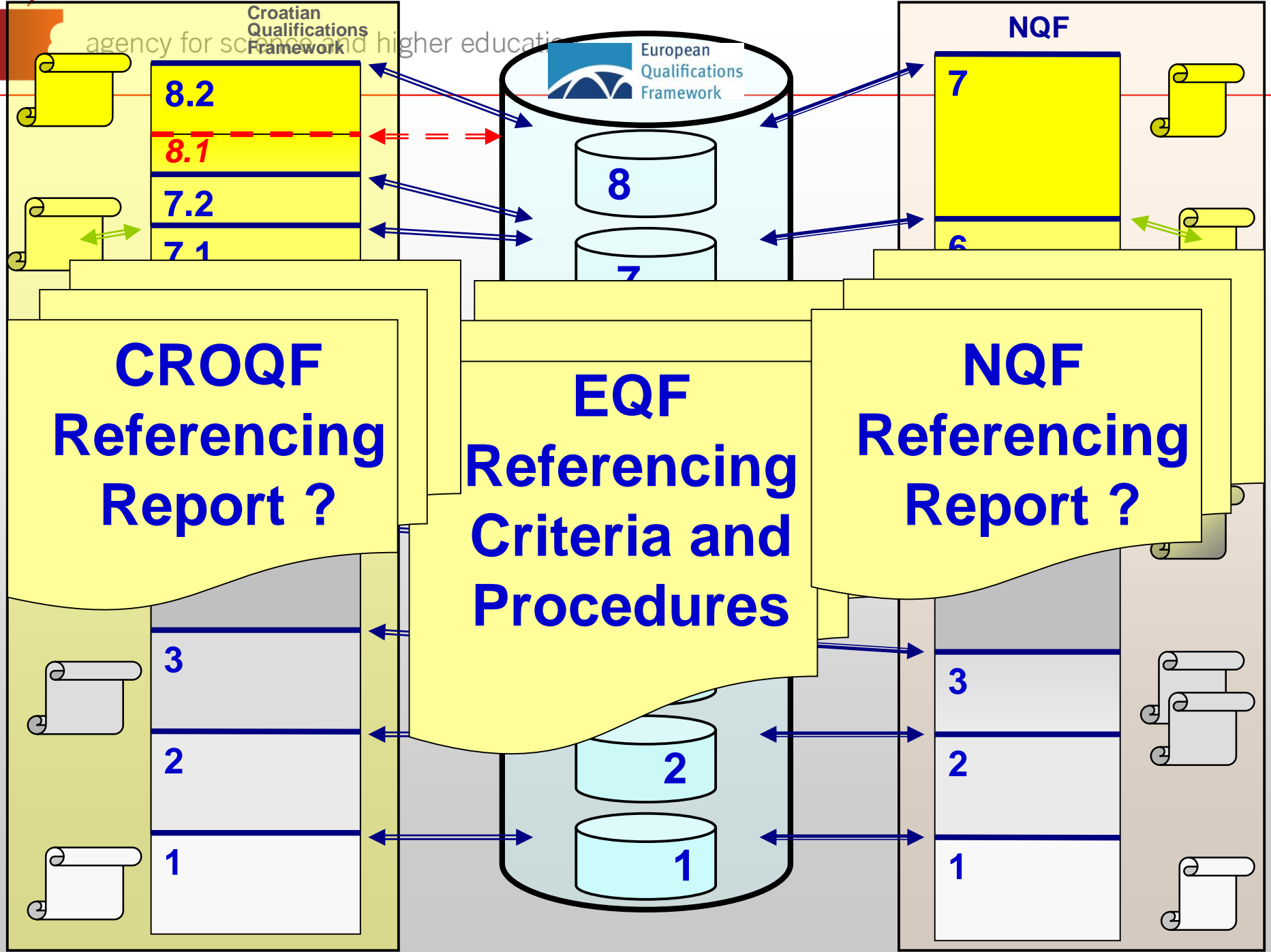


- 2001 – Croatia signed Bologna declaration
- 2003 – Act on Scientific Activity and Higher Education
- 2005 – Accreditation of Study Programmes according to Bologna process
- MSES – Education Sector Development Plan 2005-2010
- 2006 – ESG were adopted in Croatia
- 2006 – Establishment of QA Units at HEIs
- 2009 – Act on Quality Assurance in Science and Higher Education



Bologna Process in Croatia:

- Harmonisation Croatian HEA with EHEA
- Croatian Qualifications Framework
- 3 cycles (3+2+3)
- Binary system
- Mobility
- Quality Assurance
- Sustainable employability



Basic elements in the CROQF:

Qualification

Competences

**Learning
Outcomes**

Their basic properties:

PROFILE

LEVEL

VOLUME

QUALITY (2 dimensions)

Competences

Knowledge
(factual and theoretical)

Skills
(cognitive, practical
and social)

**Autonomy and
responsibility**

VALIDATION

Qualification

**Learning
outcomes**





The Context of Higher Education in Croatia

- **The main stakeholders:**

MSES - Ministry of Science, Education and Sports

NCHE - National Council for Higher Education

NCS - National Council for Science

ASHE - Agency for Science and Higher Education

SU - Students' Union

Rectors' conference

The Croatian Council of Universities and University

Colleges of Applied Sciences

NFS - National Foundation for Science

HEIs

Scientific organizations

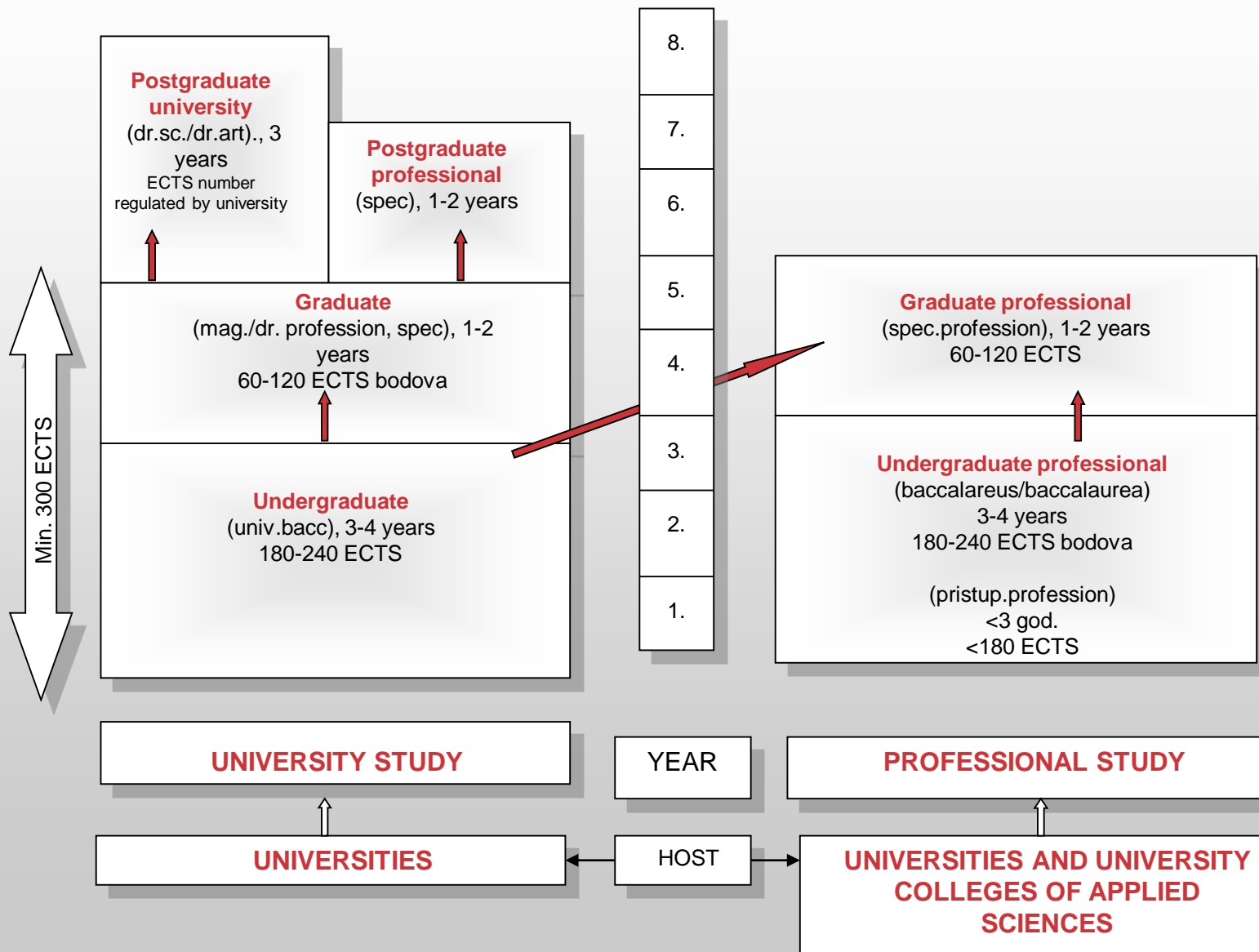


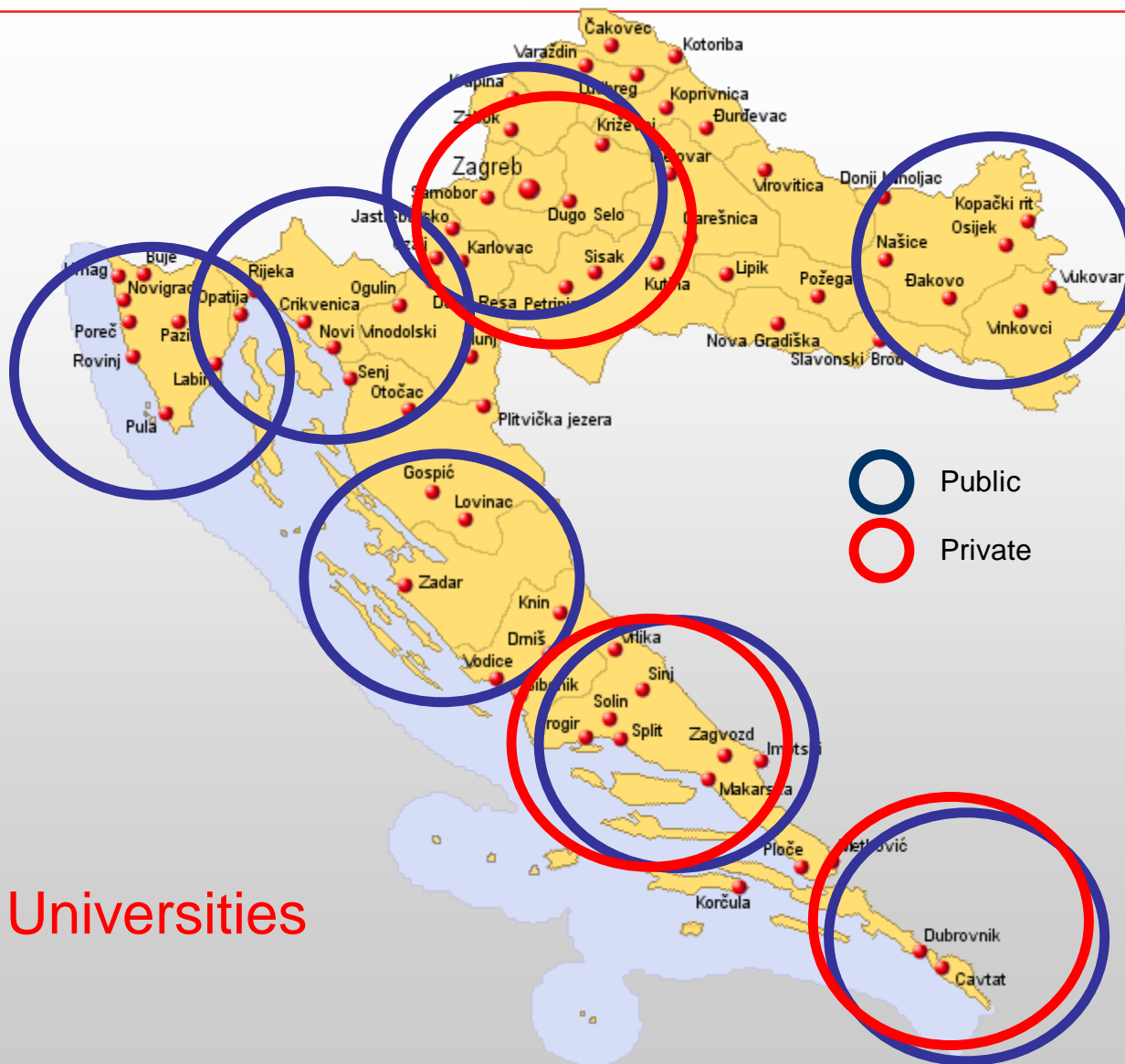
HE and scientific sector

- Number of HEIs:
 - 119 (90 public / 29 private)
 - 10 universities (7 public / 3 private)
 - 15 universities of applied sciences / 27 university colleges of applied sciences)
- Number of students: cca 170 000
- Number of scientific organizations: 203
(126 public scientific institutes / 77 others)



Scheme of studies in Croatia





Croatian Universities



Croatian Universities of Applied Sciences



Croatian University Colleges of Applied Sciences



HEIs are obligated to :

- work in line with ESG part 1
- have internal QA units
- develop internal QA system.

Internal quality culture - Primary responsibility on HEI.

HEIs are regularly exposed to external QA processes.



ESG Part I

- 1.1 Policy and procedures for quality assurance
- 1.2 Approval, monitoring and periodic review of programmes and awards
- 1.3 Assessment of students
- 1.4 Quality assurance of teaching staff
- 1.5 Learning resources and student support
- 1.6 Information systems
- 1.7 Public information



External QA

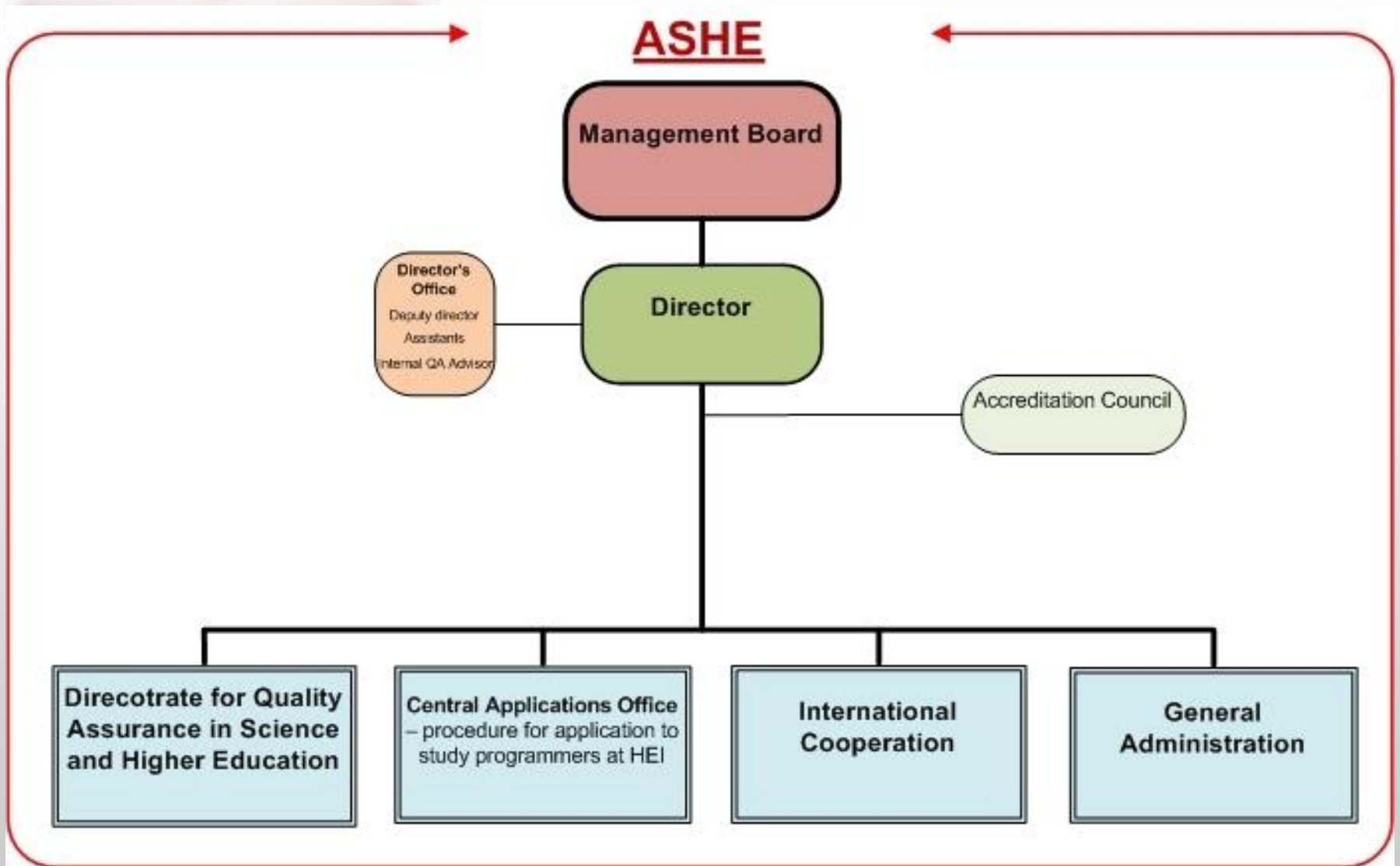
- ASHE
- Strategic bodies
 - NCHE – HEIs Network
 - NCS – Scientific organisations' Network



ASHE

- 2004 established by the Government of the Republic of Croatia on July 15
- 2005 registered at the Commercial Court in Zagreb on March 8
- ASHE is a legal entity that autonomously and independently performs activities defined by Scientific Activity and Higher Education Act, Act on Recognition of Foreign Educational Qualifications and Act on Quality Assurance in Science and Higher Education

Organizational structure



Main activities:

- Initial accreditation
- Re-accreditation
- Thematic evaluation
- Audit
- Collect and process information on systems of science and HE - analyses
- Professional recognition of foreign HE qualifications

Main activities:

- Provide information on conditions for enrolment into HE system and collect information on fulfilment of conditions for enrolment of candidates into HEIs
- Integrating systems of HE and science into international associations

Accreditation 2005-2009

Programme accreditation

- part of Bologna transition (4-year programmes > 3+2 years)
- in 2005 ~800 study programmes accredited (mostly Bacc./Master)
- cooperation with the National Council for Higher Education
- in total, ~1300 programmes accredited
- desk exercise – 2 referees appointed, one usually outside Croatia
- specialised software developed due to huge workload (MOZVAG)

Accreditation 2005-2009

Institutional accreditation

- 1) Accreditation of new HEIs (~60 requests, half approved)
 - outcome: YES/NO/CONDITIONAL (related to staff only)
 - site visits, mostly Croatian panels of experts, no students
 - reports not public

- 2) Re-accreditation of existing HEIs (~20)
 - outcome: YES/NO/LETTER OF EXPECTATION + recommendations for improvement (elements of institutional evaluation)
 - site visits, international experts required by regulations, in latter stage 2 foreign experts in 5-member panel, students obligatory
 - reports published on Agency website

Accreditation 2009-

In April 2009 – new Act on Quality Assurance in Science and Higher Education

- more independence to the Agency, National Council for Higher Education oriented towards strategic issues
- new approach to accreditation: public universities self-accredit their programmes in line with European Standards and Guidelines

Accreditation 2009-

Changes:

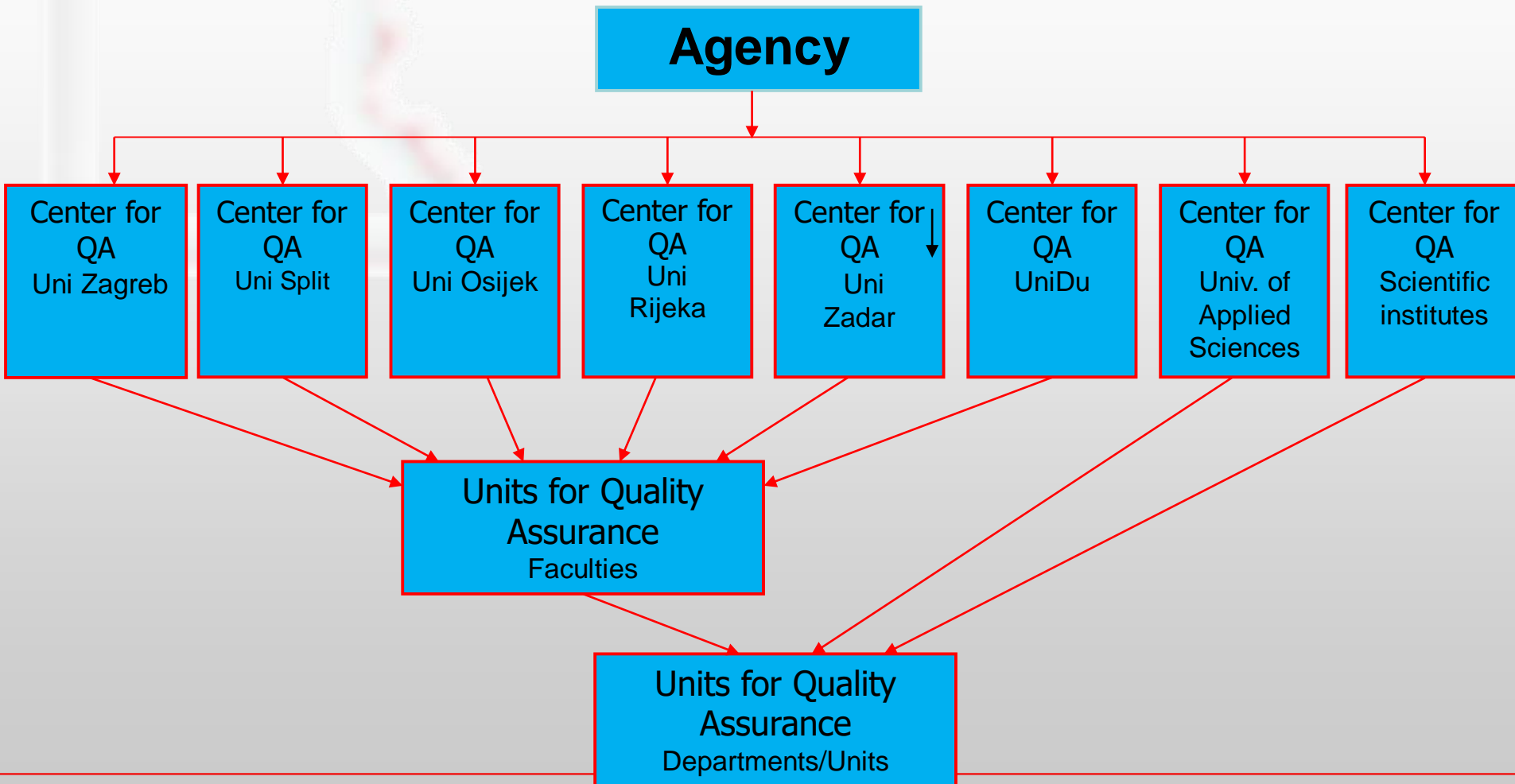
Accreditation Council – new body within Agency, all stakeholders, makes accreditation recommendations

Initial accreditation – similar to English system, a new provider must enter into cooperation with already existing HEIs, may submit accreditation request only after 2 years

Re-accreditation – results proportional to financial incentives from the state budget

Development of the Quality Assurance System in HEIs

National network for quality assurance in HEI



National Information System for Science and Higher Education

- Should be **central database** with all relevant and official data and information on Croatian higher education and scientific research,
- The Information System shall be official **Study Programme Register**
- Should provide relevant information for national bodies in the context of accreditation, reaccreditation and licensing of study programmes and institutions,
- Should provide Croatian higher education institutions and scientific organizations with relevant information for their own quality management.

National Information System for Science and Higher Education

The fundamental requirements of this system are:

- to provide an IT system to **support all evaluation procedures** carried out by the ASHE
- to build a database capable of **generating statistical overviews** and analyses
- to **collect and maintain data** which would be used by policy makers to assist in decisions relating to the development and enhancement of the network of Croatian higher education institutions and scientific organizations

Study Programme Register

- The aim of this Register is to provide information regarding accredited study programmes and Croatian HEIs
- Database enables searches according to various criteria:
 1. type of study
 2. institution providing the programme
 3. name of study programme
 4. study field
 5. place of study etc.

Study Programme Register

- approximately 1250 study programmes;
- undergraduate \approx 450
- graduate \approx 525
- postgraduate \approx 275

BINARY SYSTEM

- university \approx 1035
- professional courses \approx 215

DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Development of international relations of the Republic of Croatia in the field of higher education & science, planning and creation of international network of contacts and integration of Croatia into European Higher Education Area - EHEA.

ASHE membership in international networks:

- full member of **INQAAHE** (International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education) since 2006
- associate status within **ENQA** (European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education) since 2007 (currently preparing for full membership)
- full member of **CEEN** (The Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education) since 2008
- member of **OECD IMHE Forum** (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development Forum on Institutional Management in Higher Education) since 2008

• International projects:

- **CARDS 2002** - *Higher Education Mobility: Diploma Recognition Policy and Legislation*; September 2004 – March 2006
- **CARDS 2003** - *Furtherance of the Quality Assurance Agency and supporting a Management Information System in Higher Education*; September 2006 – March 2008
- **MATRA** - *Strengthening the Role of Croatian ENIC/NARIC Office* (24 Months – starting 2007)
- **TEMPUS SCM**
 - *Enhancing Mobility of the Croatian Academic Community*
 - *Training for EU-liaison officers in Croatian Universities: pursuing Bologna and EU integration aims*
 - *Towards Equitable and Transparent Access to Higher Education in Croatia*
- **TAIEX:**
 - *Study visit on recognition of higher education qualification*
 - *Expert Mission on Capacity Building for Croatian Quality Assurance System Development*



National TEMPUS office

Responsible for administration and promotion of the EU Tempus programme in Croatia.

Tempus supports the modernisation of higher education in the Partner Countries of Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Western Balkans and the Mediterranean region, mainly through university cooperation projects.

National TEMPUS office

Activities:

- Evaluation of project proposals;
- Monitoring of running projects;
- Organization of national and local Tempus Info days and workshops on writing project proposals, promotional materials;
- Coordination of the Higher Education Reform Experts team;
- Cooperation with the European Commission, the relevant ministries etc.;



National ENIC/NARIC office

- information centre for academic mobility and recognition of foreign higher education qualifications and a part of the ENIC Network, established by the Council of Europe and UNESCO.

ENIC: European National Information Centres (on academic recognition and mobility)

NARIC: National Academic Recognition Information Centres

- upon the accession of Croatia to the European Union, National ENIC/NARIC Office will also operate as the National contact point in the sense of the Directive 2005/36 EC on recognition of professional qualifications



National ENIC/NARIC office

Activities:

- Activities concerning academic and professional recognition of foreign higher education qualifications
- providing information on foreign higher education systems
- providing information on national higher education system
- cooperation with other ENIC and NARIC centres



Challenges:

- Enhancement of quality culture
- New curricula
- LO
- Mobility
- External evaluation of whole HE system
- Ranking



Thank you for your attention!

vdjurkov@azvo.hr