

# European Universities Association's Institutional Evaluation Program at University of Szeged, Hungary

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## Abstract

### Introduction

With due consideration of the criteria stipulated by the Hungarian Accreditation Committee on the Directives of the European Higher Education Area and with focused attention on the various international rankings of Higher Education Institutions, as a Research University of National Excellence, the University of Szeged, in the spirit of “internationalisation,” has decided to participate in the Institutional Evaluation Program of the European Universities Association (EUA-IEP) in the Academic year of 2103/2014. Aim The IEP is a full member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and is listed in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR). With our participation, we wished to receive an external evaluation and feedback if the directions of our institutional development and quality goals, and the efforts made to meet these goals are competitive in international terms.

### Method

The evaluation was guided by four key questions, which are based on a “fitness for (and of) purpose” approach: (1) What is the institution trying to do? (2) How is the institution trying to do it? (3) How does the institution know it works? (4) How does the institution change in order to improve? Self evaluation of the organisation was made based on the EFQM model, followed by the on site visits of the Evaluation Team. After visiting the main units of the University, meeting leaders, researchers, teachers and students; the external experts summarized their evaluation in form of an Evaluation Report. Results, „Evaluated by the European Universities Association Institutional Evaluation Program” logo can be used for the period of 5 years. Presently University of Szeged is the only Higher Educational Institution in Hungary, holding this position.

### Summary

The authors and the main management bodies of the University found this international procedure very useful and handle the results a strong basis for initiating changes in the institution in order to maintain and improve the level of education and research in Szeged for ensuring international competitiveness.