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Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra

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QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION THROUGH THE SELF-EVALUATION PROCESS¹

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Abstract: *Changes in the level of higher education are usually aimed at improving quality. The mechanisms of quality assurance are associated with the process of evaluation and self-evaluation. This paper discusses methods and strategies of these two processes relating to higher education.*

Key words: *quality of education, higher education, evaluation and self-evaluation.*

The question of raising the quality of education in our country must be solved taking into account the approach and direction of changes that are occurring in recent decades in Europe and worldwide. The necessity of education reform suggests that the central place in society, economy and science are the development of knowledge and human resources together with intellectual potentials which are the initiator and holder of social development. Hence there is an increasing need for higher education, as well as the requirement that as many people as possible acquire a university education.

In accordance with the new position of education in the complex conditions of globalization, democratization, as well as intensive scientific and technological development, quality assurance requirements are also specific and necessary. The changes that are implemented at the level of higher education are directed in different directions, and the main challenges are internationalization and the quality (Nikolic, 2011). Quality in education has different approaches and definitions. What is important refers to its multi-dimensionality, conditioned by various factors and elements for identification of the quality of education. Approaches that are often encountered in the discussions and determinations are focused on quality as excellence, quality as implementation of the purpose, the exercise of common standards and expected outcomes of education and quality as an ongoing development, as improvement that lasts (Nikolić, Stamatović, 2011).

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