**Maruša Hauptman Komotar**

AMEU – ISH

*Quality Assurance of Internationalisation in Higher Education: Slovenia in the*

*Comparative Perspective of Western Balkan Countries*

Abstract

This presentation addresses the relationship between internationalisation and quality assurance in higher education from the perspective of Slovenia and seven Western Balkan countries (Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Kosovo, Albania). To this end, it questions how the quality of internationalisation is assured, assessed and measured at the national and institutional levels of these higher education systems. Initially, it highlights the broader European-level development of initiatives and tools in this field over

the past two decades. On this basis, it provides a proper starting point for exploring policies, strategies, activities, instruments and other initiatives aimed at ensuring the quality of internationalisation in Slovenian higher education. It then places the Slovenian example in the comparative framework of higher education systems and institutions from the Western Balkans, identifies similarities and differences in their development and implementation at the national and institutional levels, and explains why they occur. In conclusion, it highlights the need to consider unique characteristics of diverse (supra-)national, institutional and disciplinary environments, which either encourage or hinder the development of policies and practices aimed at ensuring the quality of internationalisation. Methodologically, the presentation is based on a (critical) analysis of various documentary sources, findings from semi-structured interviews with various stakeholders and actors working in the field of internationalisation and quality assurance in selected countries, and expert interviews. Research results derive from a postdoctoral research project (Z5-2658),

funded by the Slovenian Research Agency.

*Keywords*:

quality assurance of internationalisation, Slovenia, Western Balkans, comparison