



NATIONAL EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION AGENCY

STATUS OF STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT IN
EXTERNAL QUALITY ASSURANCE

***Prof. Dr. Eng. Boris Stefanov - Bulgarian National Manager
of ESQA project - Member of the Accreditation Council of
NEAA***

GENT, January 2020

<https://www.neaa.government.bg>; boris@uctm.edu

MAIN ACTIVITIES WITH STAKEHOLDERS – formal position

- Undergraduates
- Doctoral Students
- Employers representatives
- Employers Branch Associations and Organisations
- Scientific Unions or Organisations
- Researchers from Scientific Organisations

According to the last amendments in HEA since November 2018 all these stakeholders formally take part in the activities of NEAA, related to evaluation, accreditation and post-accreditation monitoring.

Art. 88, para. 2 of the HEA: An expert group may be comprised of Bulgarian and/or overseas experts appointed by the Accreditation Board of the NEAA, including representatives of professional and industrial organizations and employers 'associations, as well as students' representatives.

ACTIVITIES – WHAT AND HOW

formal according Art. 88, para 2 of the Higher Education Act

- Part of expert groups in institutional evaluation
- Part of expert groups in program's evaluation – professional field
- Part of expert groups in program's evaluation – regulated professions
- Part of expert groups in doctoral program's evaluation
- Part of expert groups in program's evaluation of scientific majors – regulated professions list
- Part of expert groups in projects evaluation for opening branches of higher education units or branches of higher education institution
- Members of Standing Committees by Areas of Higher Education; SC on Post-Accreditation Monitoring and Control
- Members of the Committee on Quality Assurance of NEAA's activity – consultative, operative organ with planned meetings

SELF-EVALUATION – MAIN PURPOSE FOR STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT

- To provide for the necessary knowledge, skills and competences that are acquired in the learning process, in the academic documentation, depending on the views of the relevant stakeholders
- To provide different perspectives on the quality assessment process to ensure greater objectivity
- To provide a closer link between the labor market and more specific between employers of graduates with higher education and university

STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVEMENT FOR QUALITY INSURANCE ACTIVITIES

- As experts in experts panels in any quality assessment activity in the institutional and program accreditation procedures;
- As experts in experts panels in assessment on the implementation of the internal quality evaluation and assurance system for training and academic staff in higher schools;
- As members of the Standing Committees at NEAA – 8 SC by Area of Higher Education and SC by PAMS;
- As members of temporary committees at NEAA;
- As members of the Accreditation Council at NEAA.

Systematically involved stakeholders in QA activities

- Members of Industry
- Professional and Trade Union Organizations
- Employers Organizations
- Members of Scientific Organizations
- Bachelor and Master Students
- PhD Students

All these internal and external stakeholders work on an equal footing with other members of the SCs or of the expert groups.

PRIORITIES AND OUTCOME

- defining the necessary knowledge, skills and competences of the stakeholders representatives
- increasing the requirements for the practically acquired knowledge, skills and competences of the higher education professionals
- increasing the capacity for corrective actions to improve the quality assurance system

PRIORITIES AND OUTCOME - 2

- **SUCCESSFUL ACTIVITIES** – successful involvement of students and other external stakeholders in all NEAA Higher Education Quality Assurance Activities; legal regulation of the stakeholders involvement in the Higher Education Quality Assurance Activities.
- **MORE RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS** – raising requirements for stakeholders representatives; accounting the results from stakeholders representatives involvement; increased commitment and more effective stakeholder involvement.

FINALLY THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATENTION