



MINISTERUL EDUCAȚIEI ȘI CERCETĂRII

UNIT FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EXTERNALLY
FINANCED PROJECTS



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Bologna Peer Support Group on Quality Assurance

Ghent University, Belgium

16-17 January 2020,

**Status of stakeholders involvement in
external quality assurance
ARACIS - RO**

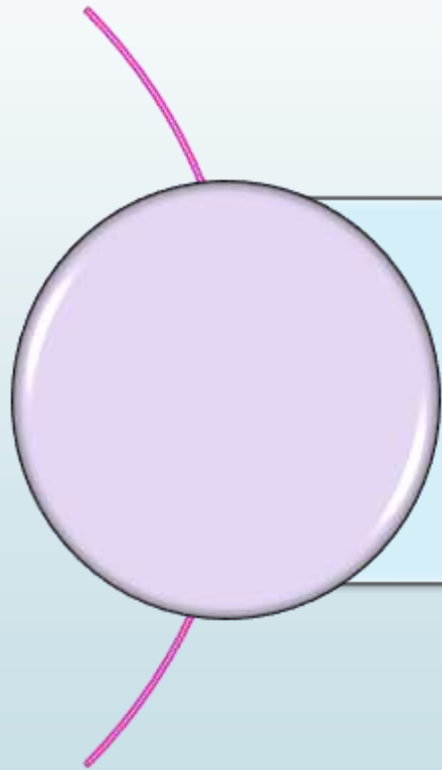
Cristina GHITULICA

Iordan PETRESCU






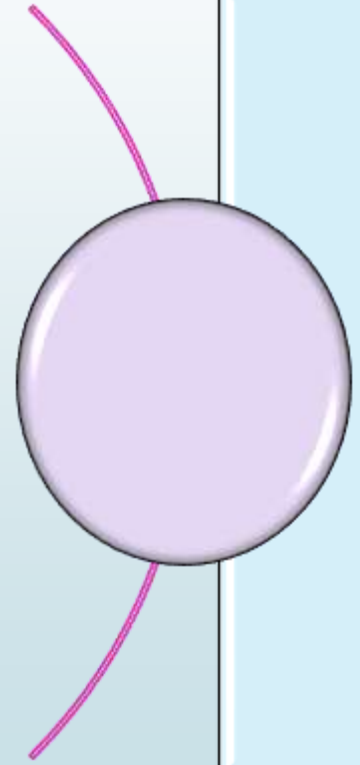
The purpose of the presentation:



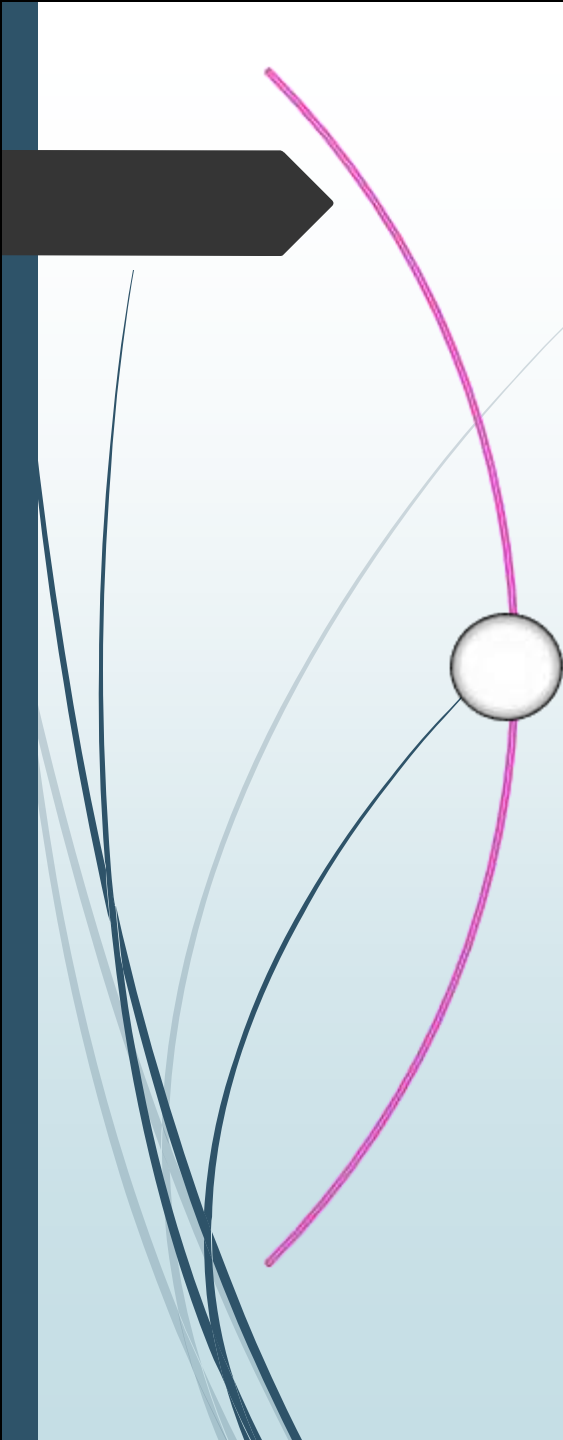
**ARACIS case study - the context
and
the present**



The context: External quality assurance in HE in Romania: tradition from 1993 – former agency (CNEAA)



ARACIS : Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education : “new” agency “born” in 2005, after ESGs approval
ENQA full member - 2009
EQAR registered - 2009



72 permanent staff positions (34 occupied with hired personnel; 38 vacant – to be occupied for different projects)

21 Council members;

External evaluators:

1347 academics (peer-reviewers) registered in the National Register of Evaluators - RNE);

231 student evaluators registered in the National Register of Evaluators - Students - RNE-S); - **103** employers registered in the Register of Employers;

39 international (foreign) experts.



Legislative framework:

**- Government Emergency Ordinance
75/2005 with further completions and
modifications**

- Law of national education no.1/2011

► Secondary legislation:

- Government decisions**
- Ministerial Orders**

**Other, own regulations: Guide, ARACIS Council
decisions, internal procedures**



The present: new ESG 2015 - Yerevan



ARACIS : New Methodology
Stakeholder involvement better
reflected in criteria, standards
and performance indicators



METHODOLOGY

for external evaluation, standards, standards of reference and the list of performance indicators of the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education

(revised to include ESG 2015 provisions)

- **Approved by Government Decision No.915/2017**
- **Published in the Romanian Official Gazette No. 25/11.01.2018**

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The METHODOLOGY includes specific provisions for stakeholder involvement in quality assurance according to all Parts of ESG



Stakeholder involvement in external quality assurance

► Students' federations

- Participation in the governing body of the agency;
- Participation of students in external evaluation panels for institutional, study programs and masters' domains evaluations;
- Interviews during site visits;
- Periodic systematic consultations;
- Development and revision of QA standards and processes;
- Formal - on a regular basis.

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Stakeholder involvement in external quality assurance

► National Rectors' Council

- ARACIS participation at National Rectors' Council meetings;
- Periodic systematic consultations of university representatives
- Development and revision of QA standards and processes;
- Policy documents and proposals for enhancing and up-dating the ARACIS Methodology, Guides are discussed;
- Formal - usually 4-6 times /year.

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Stakeholder involvement in external quality assurance

► Teachers' unions

- Participation in the governing body of the agency;
- Periodic systematic consultations;
- Development and revision of QA standards and processes;
- Formal - monthly.

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Stakeholder involvement in external quality assurance

► National HE authority

- Development and revision of QA standards and processes;
- Preparing draft regulations for the national authorities – the Ministry of National Education, legislative bodies – according to the case.



Stakeholder involvement in external quality assurance

► Employers

- The Employers' Register has been completed with new members;
- Representatives of employers take part as panel members in the evaluation of engineering study programs requesting EUR ACE Label;
- Interviews during site visits;
- Formal - on request of the university / each site visit.



Stakeholder involvement in external quality assurance

► Alumni

- Interviews during site visits;
- Formal - each site visit.



Stakeholder involvement in external quality assurance

- ▶ **Representatives of the Romanian Agency for Quality assurance in Pre-university Education - ARACIP**
 - Informal - periodic consultations.



Challenges/Obstacles identified

- Lack of sufficient knowledge or experience in higher education of external stakeholders makes very difficult their engagement in quality assurance activities on a permanent basis.
- Lack of specialized staff in HEIs to become more involved and responsible in IQA
- Engagement of other stakeholders, such as NGOs, professional organizations - difficult
- Lack of time for external stakeholders to participate at training sessions.
- Possible lack of motivation or interest to be involved in time-consuming quality assurance activities, such as training sessions, participation in evaluation panels

ARACIS

ARACIS Council

17 academic experts + 2 students + 1 teachers union
+ 1 employer

Evaluators Register
Academics
Students
Employers

Executive Bureau

5 members + 2 students + 1 teachers union

Accreditation Department

8 academic experts + 1 student + 1 employer

ARACIS Staff

EQA Department

9 academic experts + 1 student + 1 trade union

Permanent Commission C1

9 experts + 1 student

Permanent Commission C1

9 experts + 1 student

Permanent Commission Ci

9 experts + 1 student

Permanent Commission C13

9 experts + 1 student

Assessment Panels

3-4 experts + 1 student

Assessment Panels

3-4 experts + 1 student

Assessment Panels

3-4 experts + 1 student

Assessment Panels

3-4 experts + 1 student

INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS at ARACIS



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

www.aracis.ro