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**Peer-review activities and diagnose workshop
with participation of stakeholders**

University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of
Bucharest

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Status of Stakeholders' engagement in external Quality Assurance in Higher Education – ARACIS

**Iordan PETRESCU
GHITULICA**

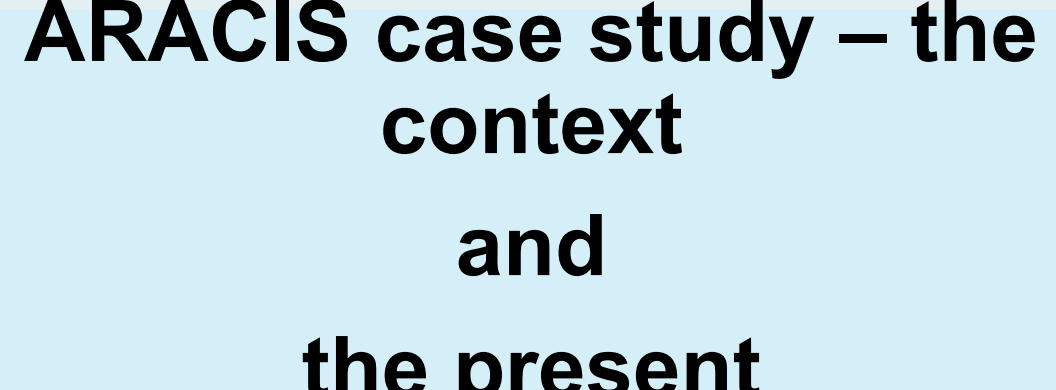
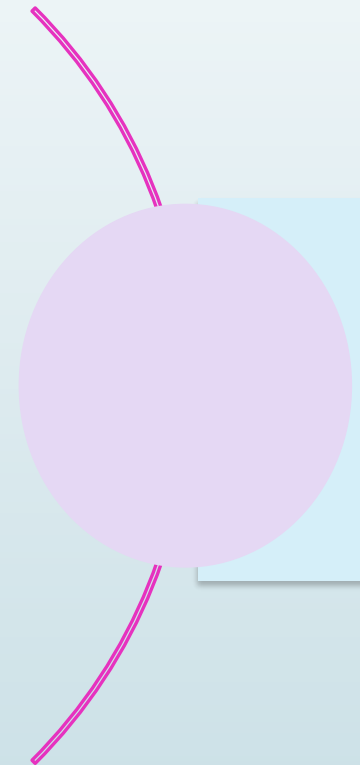
Cristina

Radu Damian





The purpose of the presentation:



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



METHODOLOGY

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

- **Approved by Government Decision No.915/2007**
- **Published in the Romanian Official Gazette No. 25/11.01.2018**



Introduction


The Methodology provides the conceptual framework and describes the main activities and strategies provided by the processes of periodic authorization, respectively of external quality assurance. The operational and instrumental aspects are detailed in the **Specific evaluation Guide**, hereinafter named the **ARACIS Guide** or **the Guide**, drafted by ARACIS **in cooperation with the higher education institutions and with other stakeholders and beneficiaries.**

PART I: PRINCIPLES OF QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

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2.2 The principles of reference of the **Methodology** are listed below:

4. *Cooperation with all educational system stakeholders:* the approach, the practices applied and the forms of technical assistance provided by ARACIS are based on cooperation and mutual confidence in its relationships with higher education institutions and other partners.



PART II: CRITERIA, STANDARDS, AND PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE AND ACCREDITATION

□ Standards (S) and performance indicators (PI)

DOMAIN (AREA) B. Educational efficiency

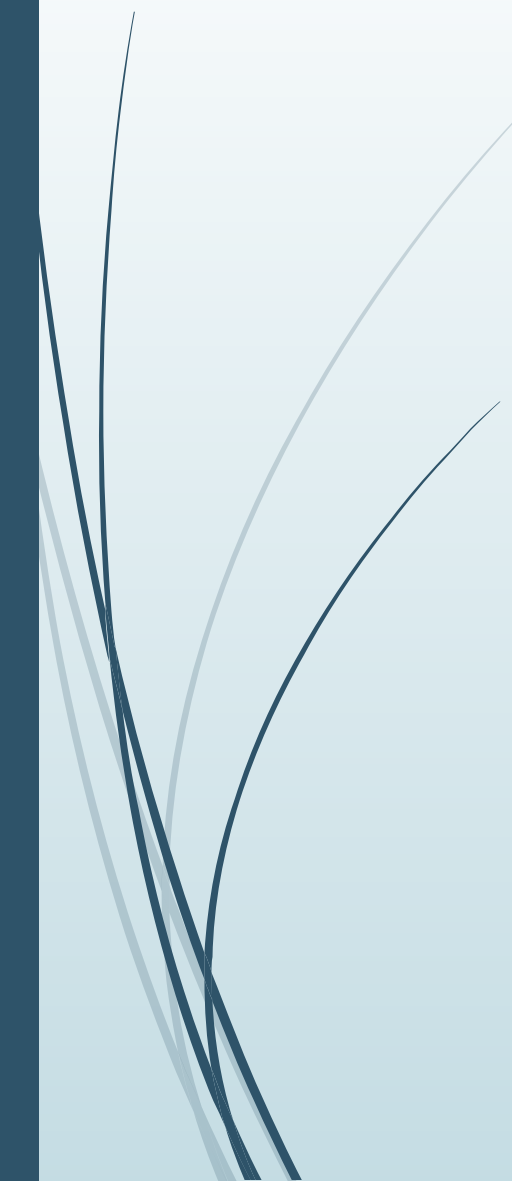
□ Criterion B.1 - Content of Study Programs

□ *IP.B.1.2.3. Relevance of study programs*

- The design of study programs is defined with the involvement of students and other stakeholders. **The term of stakeholders refers to all internal actors, including students and staff, as well as to external actors, such as graduates, employers, or external partners of the institution.**



DOMAIN (AREA) C - Quality Management



The activity of internal quality assurance, conducted by **internal stakeholders**, namely academic staff, students, auxiliary teaching staff, administrative staff, quality assurance staff, also involves **external stakeholders**, such as employers, graduates and other foreign partners of an institution.



PART III: EXTERNAL QUALITY EVALUATIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

□ Stages of academic quality evaluation


- The **self-evaluation report** is an official document drafted by the education provider, institution or university which applies for the provisional authorization to operate (for a program or an institution), the accreditation of a program of an institution, or the periodic external evaluation of quality assurance. **The self-evaluation report is drafted by consulting students and other stakeholders, such as graduates and employers.**



3.1 External evaluation standards: an external evaluation of quality assurance or for authorization and accreditation applies the European standards mentioned in the “Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area”, adopted by the Ministers for higher education.

a) The continuous improvement of the ARACIS Council’s performance

- ☐ **The ARACIS Council must permanently improve its own procedures, techniques and standards, with the cooperation of the stakeholders.** The ARACIS Council presents annually a report on the results of its own activities and submits this report to accredited higher education institutions for analysis and consultation, in order to establish quality assurance priorities.



4.2 Normative requirements concerning the provisional authorization to operate and accreditation/periodic evaluation for Licence (1st cycle) study programs

- The normative requirements are detailed in specific standards by Licence degree fields and by study programs, by each Permanent specialty commission, depending on the specificity of the specialization (*study program*) and on the form of education, on the language of teaching and are subject to the ARACIS Council approval. **The specific standards are drafted with the participation of all stakeholders, namely employers, graduates, students and other persons representing professional categories, as applicable.**

What is the degree of stakeholders' involvement at ARACIS?

Questions and Answers

Q: Are the stakeholders involved in ARACIS Governing Body?

A: See the structure of internal stakeholders at ARACIS

Q: Do stakeholders participate in the methodology design?

A: Through consultation (HEIs, Council of Rectors, Qualification Agency...)

The consultation process helps to disseminate quality culture

Submitting suggestions (ARACIS take them into account)

Actively being part of the designing committee

The methodology takes into account both institutional context and legal framework

Q: Do stakeholders participate in the assessment procedures design and implementation?

A: As part of the design committee and part of each permanent commission and assessment panel (see internal stakeholders at ARACIS)

Q: Has ARACIS permanent stakeholder committees?

A: Yes. For EUR-ACE label a Register of employers

Q: Can stakeholders submit suggestions to QAA about processes and their results?

A: During the visit on site (members of the panel)

Feedback questionnaire from HEIs

Q: Does ARACIS conduct stakeholder satisfaction surveys?

A: Periodically – Quality Assurance Monitor (Barometer)

Studies on the evaluation of the quality of ARACIS activity (Thematic analysis)

Q: Has ARACIS well established criteria for the stakeholder appointment?

A: Yes. Set by official regulations

Conclusion: ARACIS has mapped its approach to stakeholder involvement and management against the relevant ESGs to establish a good correlation to them.

ARACIS

ARACIS Council

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

Executive Bureau

5 membrs + 2 students + 1 teachers union

Evaluators
Register
Academics
Students
Employers

Accreditation Department

8 academic experts + 1 student +
1 employer

ARACIS Staff

EQA Department

9 academic experts +1 student +
1 teachers 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

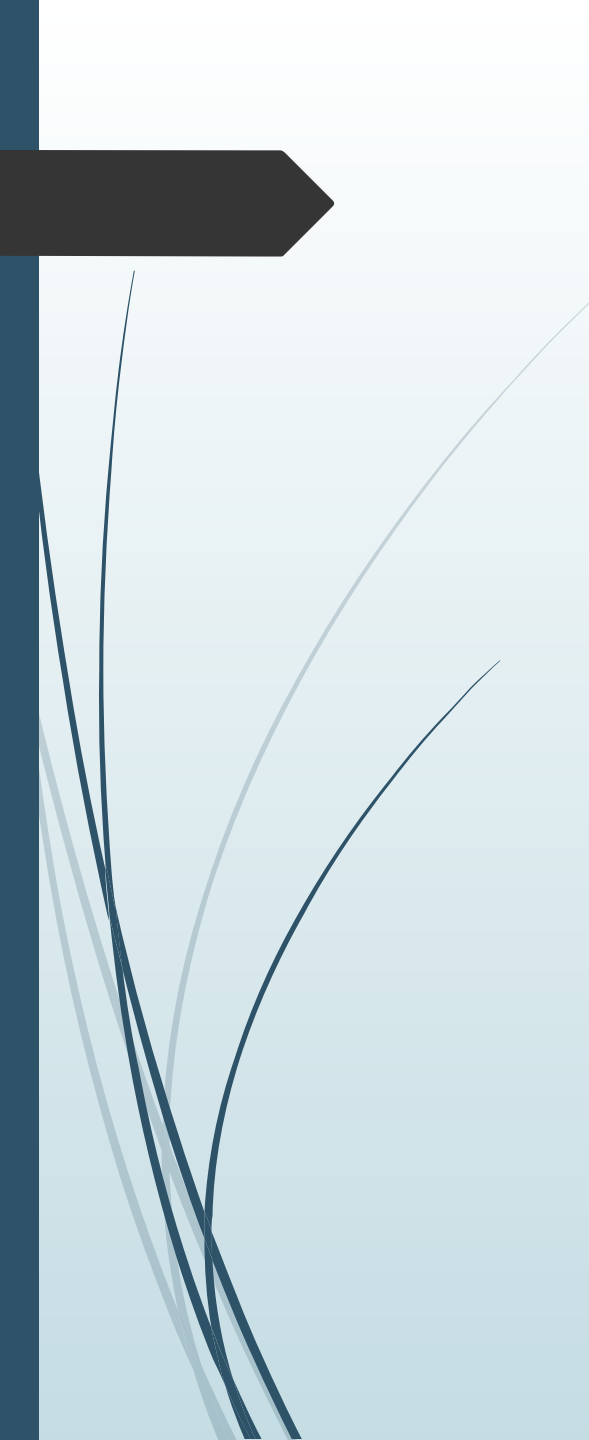
Assessment Panels
3-4 experts + 1
student

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

A dark grey arrow points to the right from the top left corner. Below it, several thin, curved lines in shades of blue and grey sweep across the left side of the slide.

**THANK YOU FOR WORKING WITH
ARACIS**

**TO IMPROVE STAKEHOLDERS'
INVOLVEMENT IN QUALITY
ASSURANCE!**