



THE ROMANIAN AGENCY FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION  
*Member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education - ENQA*  
*Listed in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education - EQAR*

# The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS)

*General presentation and cross-border QA activities*



The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance  
in Higher Education



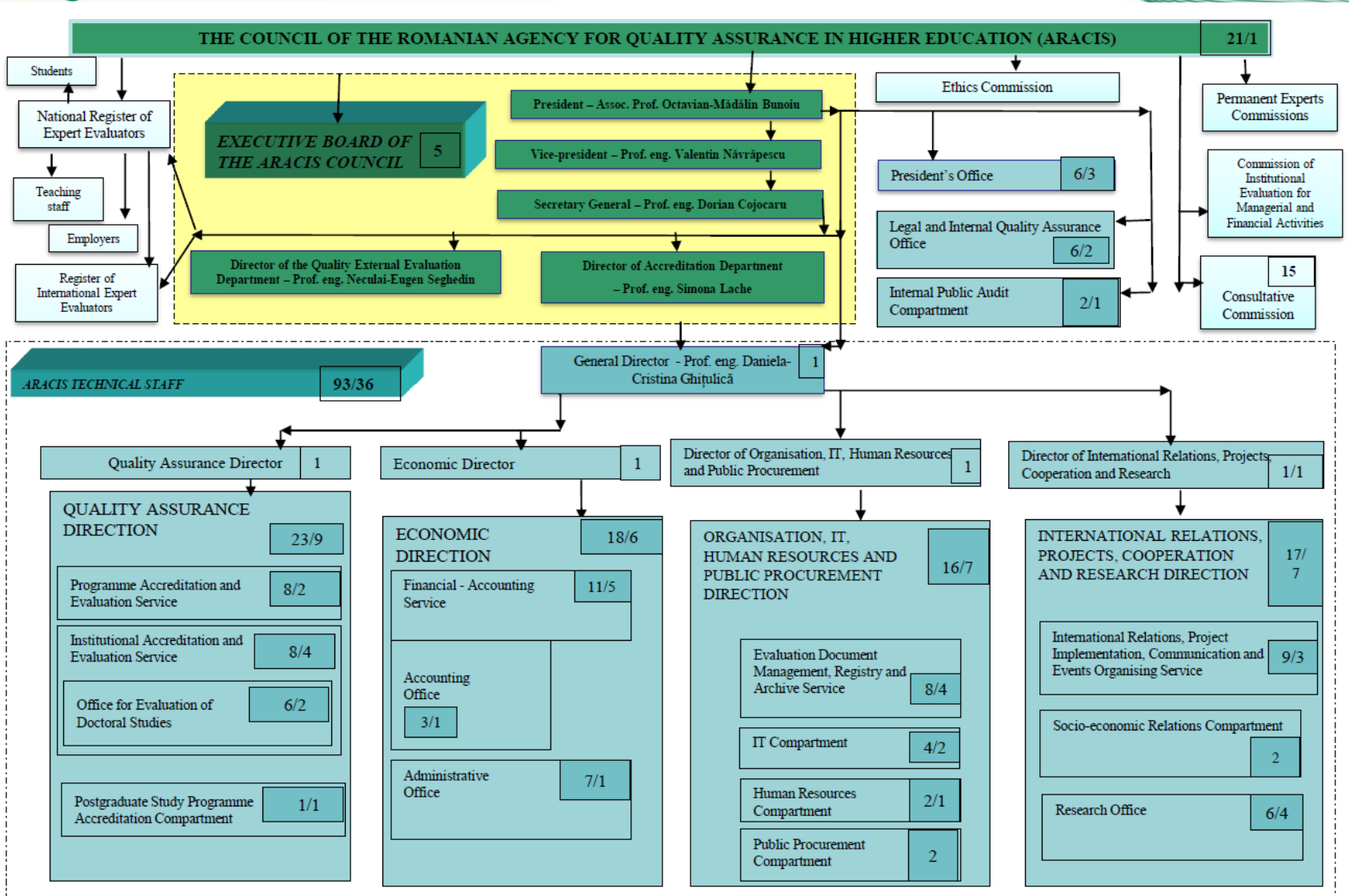
CEENQA  
ENAE  
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EQAR  
HIGHER  
EDUCATION  
QUALITY  
STANDARDS  
ESG-2015  
QUALITY  
CULTURE  
CNR  
EXTERNAL  
EVALUATION  
EUR-ACE

## About ARACIS

- Was established in 2005, as a continuation of the National Council for Academic Evaluation and Accreditation in Romania, founded in 1994;
- Autonomous public institution of national interest, funded from evaluation fees and from projects;
- **Main mission:** the external quality evaluation of higher education in Romania, with the purpose of accreditation.



# The organisational chart of ARACIS





## External evaluation activities conducted by ARACIS

Evaluation activity	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Total
Institutional Evaluation	9	11	6	23	21	70
Programme Authorisation (First Cycle)	42	31	40	47	47	207
Programme Accreditation (First Cycle)	264	358	189	499	434	1.744
Programme Accreditation and awarding of EUR-ACE Label (First Cycle)	5	2	7	5	16	35
Programme Accreditation (Second Cycle)	2	8	5	12	7	34
Study domain Accreditation (Second Cycle)	13	285	146	117	164	725
Evaluation of institutions organising doctoral study programs (IOSUD)	-	-	-	50	-	50
Study domain Accreditation (Third Cycle)	-	-	-	398	-	398
Study domain Authorisation (Third Cycle)	-	-	-	-	14	14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>695</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>1.151</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>3.277</b>



## Other activities

- periodically formulates and reviews, on the basis of good practice, **national reference** standards and performance indicators for quality evaluation and assurance in higher education, in collaboration with stakeholders;
- promotes **policies** and strategies of action, in order to increase quality of education in Romania;
- publishes the external evaluations' results, manuals, guides, studies on quality assurance and evaluation;
- draws up, every 3 years, **system analyses** on the Romanian higher education system quality.



# International collaboration

- Full member of:

- European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (**ENQA**)
  - International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (**INQAAHE**)
  - Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (**CEENQA**)
  - European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education (**ENAE**)
  - **ECA** - European Consortium for Accreditation in Higher Education
  - **CoARA** - Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment
  - **GAIN** - Global Academic Integrity Network
- and registered in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (**EQAR**).

- Collaborates with:

- **NEAA** (Bulgaria)
- **ANACEC** (Republic of Moldova)
- **MAB** (Hungary)
- **NAQA** (Ukraine)
- **HCERES** (France)
- **CTI** (France)



## Legal framework – TNE incoming

- Article 116 of [Law no. 1/2011 of National Education](#)

(2) **Higher education institutions abroad**, legally recognized as such, in the state of origin, may organize branches on the territory of Romania, alone or in partnership with accredited higher education institutions in Romania, only in compliance with the legislation in force on the authorization, accreditation and quality assurance of study programs.

No record of such provisions available

## Legal framework – TNE outgoing

- Article 116 of [Law no. 1 of National Education](#)

(3) Romanian higher education institutions may organize, in Romania or in other states, joint study programs with higher education institutions from abroad, recognized as such by the state of origin, or their own study programs, within extensions, abroad. If these programs are organized abroad, they must **comply with the legal regulations in force both in Romania and in the respective states.**

Same rules for QA  
procedures





# ARACIS QA - TNE outgoing

- Evaluations of abroad extensions of Romanian HEI conducted by ARACIS between 2010-2022

No. crt.	Country	University	No of programmes
1	Germany	"George Emil Palade" University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Sciences and Technology, Târgu Mureş	1
2	Greece	University of Bucharest*	1
3	Italy	University of Bucharest	6
		University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Cluj-Napoca*	
		"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galaţi	
4	Kazakhstan	Maritime University of Constanta*	1
5	Republic of Moldova	"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galaţi	22
6	Ukraine	"Dunărea de Jos" University of Galaţi	2

\* These programmes of study are no longer existing.



# Legal framework – joint programs

Guide to be finalised

- Article 116 of [Law no. 1 of National Education](#)

(4) Romanian higher education institutions may organize, **jointly** with other accredited higher education institutions in the European Higher Education Area, **joint study programs**, recognized as such by the state of origin.

- Article 11 of [Emergency Ordinance no. 75/2005 on education quality assurance](#)

(1<sup>1</sup>) In the case of integrated study programmes provided by two or more universities, quality assurance refers to the areas and criteria established at European level by the **European Approach to Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes**, approved by the Ministers of Education of the countries in the European Higher Education Area, hereinafter referred to as the European approach.

- Article 29 of [Emergency Ordinance no. 75/2005 on education quality assurance](#)

(7) [...] in the case of integrated study programmes, the specific standards for each accreditation stage, the external accreditation methodology, and the timeframe of the accreditation process are those established at the European level by the **European approach**.

# Legal framework – Cross Border QA

- ✓ Higher education institution may request external evaluation from any quality assurance agency, domestic or foreign, registered in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR).

- Article 192 of Law no. 1 of National Education

(1<sup>1</sup>) The external quality assurance activities of higher education carried out on the territory of Romania by the agencies in the country or abroad registered in EQAR are **regulated by a methodology** approved by the order of the Minister of National Education and Scientific Research.

- Article 2 of Methodology approved by the [Ministry Order of 6154/2016](#)

Before the start of the evaluation process, education providers who intend to request external evaluation from an authorised agency registered in EQAR **shall consult** with the The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS) on the terms of reference and the external evaluation methodology to be used in the evaluations.

- Article 3 and 4 of Methodology approved by the [Ministry Order of 6154/2016](#)

External quality evaluation reports produced by the authorised agencies shall be submitted to ARACIS [...] regarding the **compliance of the external evaluation process and report with the national legislation, the methodology and the terms of reference**, manifested both during the external evaluation and during the drafting of the evaluation report.



# Cross Border QA activities

Agencies that have conducted evaluations in Romania	Universities that have requested international evaluations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• AHPGS</li><li>• AQAS</li><li>• ASIIN</li><li>• EAEVE</li><li>• HCEERES</li><li>• IAAR</li><li>• IEP</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• "Dimitrie Cantemir" University of Targu Mures</li><li>• "Vasile Goldis" Western University of Arad</li><li>• "Transilvania" University of Brasov</li><li>• "Iuliu Hațieganu" University of Medicine and Pharmacy Cluj-Napoca</li><li>• "Regele Mihai I" University of Life Sciences of Timisoara</li><li>• Technical University of Civil Engineering Bucharest</li><li>• "Grigore T. Popa" University of Medicine and Pharmacy Iasi</li><li>• "Victor Babes" University of Medicine and Pharmacy Timisoara</li><li>• "Aurel Vlaicu" University of Arad</li><li>• "Ion Ionescu De la Brad" University of Life Sciences of Iasi</li><li>• The Politechnica University of Bucharest</li></ul>



# ARACIS Cross Border QA

- Cross border evaluations conducted by ARACIS between 2014-2022

No. crt.	Type	Country	Number
1	Bachelor degree	Republic of Moldova	17
		Ukraine*	3
2	Master's degree	Republic of Moldova	1
3	Institutional	Republic of Moldova*	5

\* *ongoing*

- ✓ In collaboration with the national QA agency, which delegates the student, an academic expert and the employer representative, if it is the case as members, of the panel
- ✓ Adapted methodology to the national legislation, as per request of the institution/national QA agency



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# Thank you for your attention!

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