



MINISTERUL EDUCAȚIEI ȘI CERCETĂRII

UNIT FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EXTERNALLY
FINANCED PROJECTS



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

Bologna Peer Support Group on Quality Assurance

Third meeting, Ghent, 16th-17th January 2020

Het Pand, Ghent University, Onderbergen 1, 9000 Ghent, Belgium

Effective involvement of Stakeholders in External Quality Assurance Activities (ESQA) – project presentation

Daniela Cristina Ghițulică – ARACIS

Jakub Grodecki - ESU



General information

► CONSORTIUM

APPLICANT

1. Ministry of National Education Romania MoNE

PARTNERS – STAKEHOLDERS ORGANIZATIONS

2. European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education ENQA
3. European Association of Institutions in Higher Education EURASHE
4. European Students' Union ESU

PARTNERS - QAA

5. Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS)
6. The Danish Accreditation Institution (DAI)
7. High Council for the evaluation of Research and Higher education (HCERES) France
8. National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (NEAA) Bulgaria
9. National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education and Research (ANACEC) Moldova

► CALL

Erasmus+ - KA3 – Support to Policy Reform

Invitation to submit: EACEA/35/2018
"Support to the implementation of EHEA reforms - 2018-2020"

STRAND 1: Support to the activities related to the Bologna Peer Groups

EU grant:
181,028.8 EURO
24 months



Objectives

- Support to the peer - learning activities on QA within the Bologna Follow – up Group and the Bologna process
- Analyze of various categories of stakeholders' involvement in QA
- Analyze of stakeholders' expectations towards external quality assurance work
- Sharing best practices among QAAs', in regard to including stakeholders in EQA activities and ongoing development of practices
- Support provided to the national authorities and QAAs in terms of stakeholders' involvement, on ways to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with stakeholders, as well as for their effective involvement in QA processes



Activities and outcomes

- 1 study at European Higher Education Area (EHEA) member countries level, mapping the involvement of stakeholders in external QA activities and identifying examples of good practices

Activities and outcomes

- **2 peer review activities**, to identify the strong and weak areas in what concerns the involvement of stakeholders in the partner QAAs procedures, governance structures etc., that included workshops, with participation of different categories of stakeholders from the respective country, as well as the national authority for HE

Bucharest,
30 October – 1 November 2019

Copenhagen,
2 – 4 December 2019

Activities and outcomes

- Thorough analysis of the way in which **stakeholders are involved in the external quality assurance activities of three of the partner agencies:**
 - National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency - **NEEA** from Bulgaria,
 - The Danish Accreditation Institution - **DAI** from Denmark
 - and Agency National Quality Assurance in Education and Research - **ANACEC** from Moldova.

Bucharest,
30 October – 1 November 2019



Activities and outcomes

- **Different categories of stakeholders** participated: student unions, teaching staff representatives, the Council of Rectors, internal quality assurance department directors, teachers' unions, employers, professional and non-governmental associations.

Bucharest,
30 October – 1 November 2019

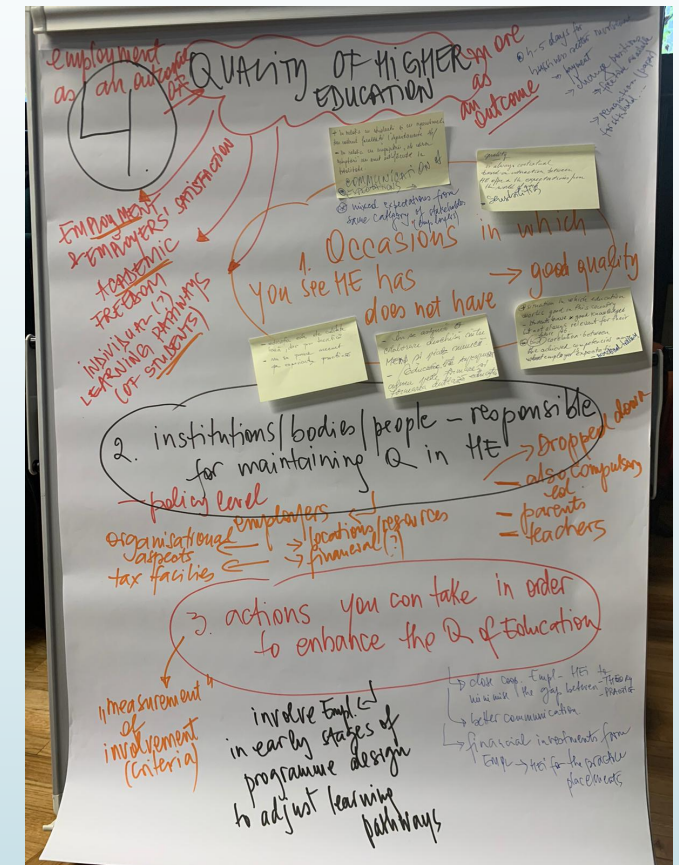


Activities and outcomes

- Two sessions of interactive “Questions and discussions”: **what is Quality** of Higher Education, what works, what doesn't work and what to be done to **enhance the contribution of Stakeholders' involvement in QA**; identify the strong and weak areas in what concerns the involvement of stakeholders.



Bucharest,
30 October – 1 November 2019



Activities and outcomes

- The High Council for Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (**Hcéres**) and The Danish Accreditation Institution (**DAI**) representatives had a presentation about Stakeholder involvement in France and Denmark - similarities and differences.

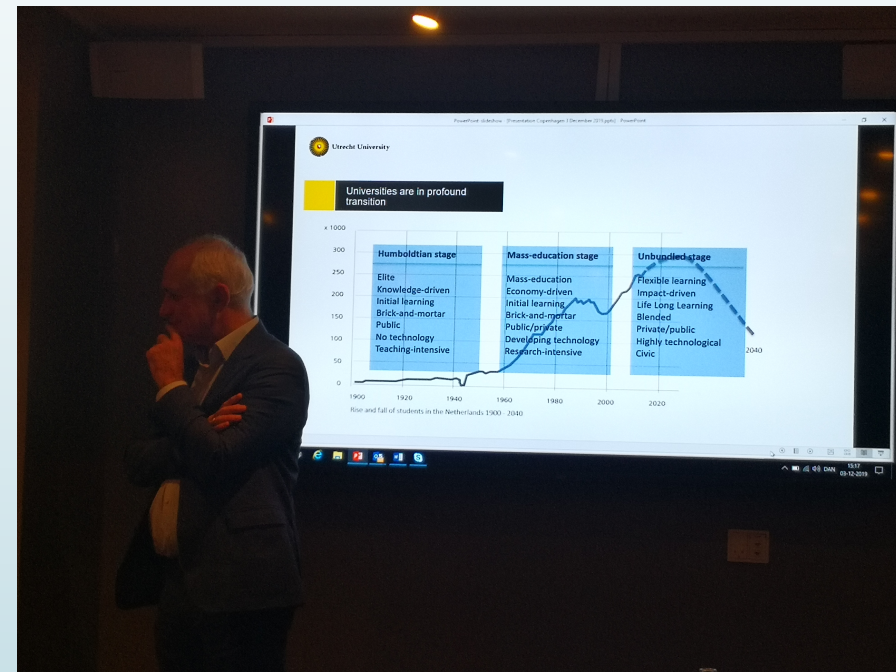
Copenhagen,
2 – 4 December 2019



Activities and outcomes

- ▶ Adam Gajek, former President of the European Students' Union (ESU), talked about New opportunities/challenges for students' participation brought by the **latest trends in learning** (digitalization, remote learning etc.).
- ▶ Professor Bert van der Zwaan has presented his perspective upon Stakeholder's Involvement in the Changing Landscape of Higher Education in 2020-2040, **identifying students, employers, faculties and government as the most influent stakeholders in higher education in the future.**

Copenhagen,
2 – 4 December 2019



Activities and outcomes

- One session of interactive discussions: on what good practices, as well as deficiencies, have encountered by involving in quality assurance activities and how can **stakeholders and institutions work closely together** in the light of changing environments to meet future challenges;
- DAI shared their **experience on student involvement** and how to cultivate a rewarding collaboration, as well as on the development of new guidelines for **institutional evaluation through dialogue with the external stakeholders, especially representatives of higher education institutions.**

Copenhagen,
2 – 4 December 2019



Activities and outcomes

- Signe Tolstrup Mathiasen, Vice President of The National Union of Students in Denmark (DSF), has presented the perspective of students on involvement in internal and external quality assurance activities.

Copenhagen,
2 – 4 December 2019





Activities and outcomes

➤ 2 peer review activities

- **Diversity** of knowledge, perspective and expectations on QA by different categories of stakeholders;
- Provide **feedback** back to the Stakeholder's and showing the **impact and value** of their work are essential to motivate and strengthen their further actions and involvement;
- Continuous **cooperation and co-ownership** within the process;
- National and local **context** should be always considered.



Activities and outcomes

- 1 peer-learning activity, as part of one of the meetings of the Group on QA within the BFUG, with the participation of QAAs from the EHEA
- 1 Guideline on involvement of stakeholders (July 2020)
 - define the profile and role of different stakeholders,
 - procedures for their recruitment, in accordance with the profile defined,
 - effective ways for their involvement in external QA activities, including approaches for increased communication, and
 - specific training outlines, in accordance with the profile and role of different categories of stakeholders.



Activities and outcomes

- 1 online peer-learning activity, based on the *Guideline*, with the participation of QAAs from EHEA countries (*June – July 2020*)
- 5 analyses on how the provisions of the *Guideline on involvement of stakeholders* can be applied in EQA activities of the partner QAAs, including concrete milestones and a timeline for the implementation of the *Guideline* (*February 2021*)



Impact

- It is expected to bring important **changes in the practices of QA agencies** related to stakeholders' involvement, which on long term will result in increased relevance and impact of QA activities in higher education.
- The three European organizations members in the partnership will reflect the outcomes of the project upon their own **tools and instruments focused on stakeholders'** engagement and communication.
- **Benchmarking** and development of recommendations in evaluation activities.
- The interest of stakeholders' organizations to participate in QA activities will be raised, while they will be **empowered for increased engagement and more effective participation.**



Sustainability

- Each QAAs partner in the consortium will **implement the recommendations established in the analyse reports**, allocating the necessary human resources and funds, accordingly.
- The consortium will continue to **promote involvement of stakeholders in QA** in HE, according to the ESG and the Paris Communiqué, as a core value of quality assurance.
- Building a **quality culture and empowering stakeholders** to participate in EQA are long term effects of the project, assuring the sustainability of its activities and results.



Thank you!

For more information:

esqa@pmu.ro

<https://esqa.ro>