

**ENQA/UNESCO-GIQAC PROJECT –**

**WORKSHOP FOR AGENCIES IN THE  
BALKAN REGION**

**8-9 MARCH 2012, ZAGREB, CROATIA**

**ARACIS - ROMANIA:  
SELF EVALUATION REPORT and VISIT**

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# GENERAL PLAN OF THE SER

- *I. Background description of the current situation of the agency*
- *II. Analysis and appraisal of the current situation*
- *III. Summary of perceived strengths and weaknesses, constraints and opportunities*
- *IV. Proposals for improvement and measures already planned and under implementation*  
*Note: important to plan and draft a fit-for-purpose SER!*

*\*the SER of ARACIS and other documents can be found on [www.aracis.ro](http://www.aracis.ro)*



# ANNEXES

(ALL DOCUMENTS TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH)

- **Annex 1 - Ordinance no. 75/2005 and Law no. 87/2006**
- **Annex 2 - CNEAA's activity, as precursor of ARACIS**
- **Annex 3 - ARACIS Mission Statement**
- **Annex 4 - Methodology for External Evaluation – Government Decision No. 1418 /2006**



# ANNEXES

(ALL DOCUMENTS TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH)

- **Annex 5 - Quality evaluation activities guide for university study programs and for higher education institutions:**
  - Part I - Study programs (Bachelor's and Master's degrees) accreditation external evaluation
  - Part II - Institutional authorization/accreditation external evaluation
  - Part III – Academic quality external evaluation of accredited higher education institution
  - Part IV – External evaluation of Teaching staff training departments (TSTD)
  - Part V – External evaluation guide for distance learning programs and part-time programs



# ANNEXES

(ALL DOCUMENTS TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH)

- **Annex 6 - Programs evaluated (number, list ....)**
- **Annex 7 - Action plan. Policy Matrix**
- **Annex 8 - ARACIS Monitoring Report (National)**
- **Annex 9 – Presentation of the Romanian Education System**
- **Annex 10 - ARACIS Code of Professional Ethics**



# ANNEXES

(ALL DOCUMENTS TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH)

## **SPECIAL CASE OF ARACIS:**

- **Annex 11 - EUA External Review of ARACIS  
– Report**
- **Annex 12 - ESU External Review on ARACIS  
- Report**



# **SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS RAISED BEFORE AND DURING THE VISIT (1)**

- Human and financial resources available to the Agency?**
- How is the student involvement in the QA processes ensured?**
- How is the governing structure organized ?**



## **SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS RAISED BEFORE AND DURING THE VISIT (2)**

- What are the selection and appointment procedures for the expert panel members? What is the composition of the panels?**
- How is the independence of the Council members from the HEI's effectively ensured?**





## **SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS RAISED BEFORE AND DURING THE VISIT (3)**

- Is ARACIS's Methodology defined and operated independently from the Government?**



# **SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS RAISED BEFORE AND DURING THE VISIT (4)**

- **What is the difference between “evaluation” and “review” in the activities of ARACIS?**



## **SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS RAISED BEFORE AND DURING THE VISIT (5)**

- What are the internal feed-back mechanisms of the Agency? Are there any follow-up or improvement measures?**



## **SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTIONS RAISED BEFORE AND DURING THE VISIT (6)**

- **How are the reports made public ?**



# THE VISIT (1)

Meetings of the panel during the 3-days visit (most at ARACIS premises):

- **ARACIS Council**
- **Evaluators (Experts) ARACIS (Romanian and foreign)**
- **Technical and administrative staff**



## **THE VISIT (2)**

- **Ministry of Education, Research, Youth and Sports**
- **National Rectors' Council**
- **Parliament – Senate**
- **Parliament – Chamber**



# THE VISIT (3)

- **Student organizations:**
  - **ANOSR (ESU member)**
  - **USR (ESU candidate)**



## THE VISIT (4)

- **Representatives of other agencies which were established in Romania at the moment of the visit.**





# LESSONS LEARNED (1)

## ○ ABOUT THE SER:

- Should be clear and not too long
- Must refer to compliance with ESGs and ENQA standards
- Must refer to provisions of National legislation in relation with ESGs



## LESSONS LEARNED (2)

### ○ ABOUT THE SER:

- Translating into English and from English in Romanian may cause problems of terminology: list (glossary) of terms is useful!
- The complexity of the SER is “proportional” to the number of additional questions raised by the panel! (proportionality in the mathematical sense not really verified).



## LESSONS LEARNED (3)

### ○ FROM THE VISIT:

- Logistics must be well taken care in advance.
- The first day is the most difficult: openness is a must to avoid possible “mutual suspicion”.
- Avoid translation – if possible!



# LESSONS LEARNED (4)

## ○ FROM THE VISIT

- **Students representatives must meet the student member of the panel (alone!)**
- **The panel needs time to discuss “in private”.**
- **Do not get nervous if panel member(s) ask the same question several times: could be a result of “cultural” or “assumed best practice” differences.**



## **LESSONS LEARNED (5)**

**“Redundant” recommendation:**

- **Read carefully (before drafting the SER):**

**Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area**

**Guidelines for external reviews of quality assurance agencies in the European Higher Education Area**

**(ENQA publication)**



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**THANK YOU!**

**Questions welcomed ...**

