

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Between

The National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance (NAQA)

and

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

The National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance is a permanent collegial body, a legal entity of public law that operates in accordance with the Law "On Higher Education" and the Statute approved by the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine.

The mission of the NAQA is to catalyse positive changes in higher education and to shape its quality culture. NAQA strategic goals are realized in three main directions: Quality of educational services, Recognition of the quality of scientific results, Ensuring the systemic impact of the National Agency's activities.

NAQA is mandated to formulate requirements for the higher education quality assurance system; develop regulations on accreditation of study programmes; analyse the quality of educational activities of higher education institutions; carry out institutional accreditation; conduct accreditation of study programmes; form criteria for evaluating the quality of educational activities; develop the procedure for awarding and revoking the PhD degree; accredit independent evaluation and quality assurance institutions; exercise other powers provided by law.

NAQA's values are: partnership, innovation, responsibility, integrity, openness, transparency, independence, reliability, professionalism, demand, trust.

NAQA is a member of CEENQA, INQAAHE, ICAI and it is an ENQA Affiliate.

and

The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education is established for the purpose of performing external evaluation of education quality. ARACIS is an independent, autonomous, non-governmental, non-profit organization, of national interest, for the quality assurance and quality improvement in higher education, and focused on the evaluation and accreditation of study programs, higher education institutions, master study domains, institutions organizing doctoral studies, doctoral study domains.

ARACIS 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, and promotes policies and strategies of action, in order to increase education quality in Romania. ARACIS publishes the external evaluations' results, manuals, guides, studies and synthesis of papers of good practice in quality assurance and evaluation. The agency periodically draws up, every 3 years, system analyses on the Romanian higher education quality.

ARACIS is a member of ENQA, CEENQA, INQAAHE, ENAEE and it is registered in EQAR while also contributing to DEQAR.

ARACIS collaborates with similar agencies in other countries in order to develop and apply efficient measures of improving the quality of higher education.

Recognising the importance of quality assurance and the ESG (Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area) in the enhancement of higher education provisions and for promoting trust;

Mindful of each Party's achievements in the quality assurance field; and

Aiming to strengthen and broaden cooperation and mutual assistance in the quality assurance of higher education in their respective countries, in accordance with the principle of equality, mutual benefit and mutual interaction, and the exchanging experiences in quality assurance;

Have reached the following understanding *inter alia*:

CLAUSE 1

The Parties aim to better understand the national approaches to assuring quality in higher education, and the respective systems in place.

CLAUSE 2

This Memorandum provides the areas of cooperation for developing and implementing joint projects, events and other forms of cooperation.

In order to reach common goals and results, Parties consider the following ways (not limited to):

- i. Collaborating in designing and implementing joint quality assurance procedures and in conducting evaluations of higher education institutions (institutional and programme level), trainings, consulting activities, innovation and research projects;
- ii. Participation in events, seminars or conferences organized by either of the Parties;
- iii. Staff exchange and capacity building of national experts' bodies from both organizations, in particular, submitting scientific articles in the journals of the two agencies; in addition, recommend experts to join the body of international experts of both agencies.

CLAUSE 3

Both Parties agree that all activities specified in Clause 1 and in Clause 2 of the present Memorandum are to be realized on the basis of specific agreements, to be concluded by Parties on each joint project, and detailed work plans which shall include specific information on planned joint activities, organizational forms, and implementation requirements.

CLAUSE 4

Both Parties regard the present Memorandum as a declaration of intentions, which entails no legal and financial liabilities on joint activities of the Parties.

CLAUSE 5

The Parties shall not disclose any confidential data and information which has become known in the process of the cooperative activities, except such data and information which has become public knowledge through no fault of the Parties.

CLAUSE 6

The memorandum will take effect from the date of signing for a period of 5 years. The memorandum may be altered at any time with the consent of both Parties. The Memorandum may be terminated by either Party giving 6 (six) months prior notice.

CLAUSE 7

The Head of NAQA and the President of ARACIS will have responsibility for managing the Memorandum of Understanding. This responsibility may be delegated to a relevant member of their staff in relation to particular areas of cooperation.

Date: July 25, 2022

Andrii BUTENKO

Head of
NAQA



Assoc. Prof. Octavian-Mădălin BUNOIU

President of
ARACIS

