

## IMINQA - Peer Learning Activity 2

### Cross-Border Quality Assurance and Quality Assurance of Transnational Education

21 March 2023 - Bucharest, Romania

Hosted by: ARACIS

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#### Venue

The event will be taking place at the University POLITEHNICA of Bucharest, ROMANIA hosted by the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS).

#### About the event

‘Cross-border Quality Assurance (CBQA) and Quality Assurance of Transnational Education (TNE)’ is the second of three Peer-Learning Activities (PLAs) on EHEA policy priorities in quality assurance organised by EQAR in the context of the ‘Implementation and Innovation in QA through Peer Learning’ (IMINQA) project<sup>1</sup>.

The aim of the PLAs is to catalyse exchange between national authorities and stakeholders on effective approaches in their openness to cross-border QA i.e., whether (some or all) higher education institutions can use a suitable EQAR-registered agency for their mandatory external quality assurance.

A thematic preparatory note will map the current state of play of countries’ openness to cross-border QA and the legal framework recognising external QA of foreign EQAR-registered QA agencies. The PLA will also reflect on key issues that need to be assured by the national system for the outgoing transnational education.

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<sup>1</sup> See EHEA website for more information about the IMINQA Project and PLAs: <http://ehea.info/page-TPG-C-on-QA-Meetings-2021-2024>

**Sources:** DEQAR data, EQAR Knowledge Base on Cross-border QA, Key considerations for cross-border QA, EQAR's Policy Paper on CBQA (2020) RIQAA project report (2014), UNESCO-OECD guidelines for quality provision in cross-border higher education (2022)<sup>2</sup>.

The Peer Learning Activity 2 (PLA 2) - Cross-Border Quality Assurance and Quality Assurance of Transnational Education will address the following three topics and related questions:

**Topic 1: Cross-Border Quality Assurance from an institutional perspective**

- What are the reasons for choosing a foreign QA agency?
- What are the obstacles/challenges for institutions when engaging in a CBQA?
- What are the conditions and specific requirements for the work of foreign QA agencies across the EHEA?

**Topic 2: Cross-Border Quality Assurance from a registered QA agency perspective**

- What is the spread and volume of cross-border QA activities across the EHEA?
- How are agencies ensuring that cross-border QA is beneficial to the local QA and HEI systems?
- What are the challenges/obstacles QA agencies are facing in carrying out cross-border QA?

**Topic 3: Quality Assurance of Transnational Education (TNE)**

- How is the national system assuring the quality of its outgoing TNE?
- How are QA agencies addressing the specific issue of TNE in its regular external QA of the (sending) higher education institution?
- Are there differences within the QA systems approaching HE provisions abroad vs. at home? If yes, what are these differences and what are the reasons for these differences?
- How are agencies ensuring the same level of quality provisions abroad vs at home? How are agencies avoiding the risk of QA being less stringent abroad (if the case)?

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<sup>2</sup><https://cdn.eventscase.com/www.whec2022.org/uploads/users/699058/uploads/dfb17c1d1b810169318779e2ffb53bc77c2adcb05154cbfee6262cbdc3a393584e620c61b3db94d30aea4fbe74914e93815f.628335e0c6cd1.pdf>

## Participants

± 30 participants representing national authorities (governmental members of the Bologna Thematic Peer Group on QA) and stakeholders.

## PLA2 - Draft Agenda

**Tuesday, 21 March 2023**

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- 9:30**                    **Welcome and opening**  
*Octavian Mădălin Bunoiu (President of ARACIS)*  
*Cristina Ghitulica (Romania) & Magalie Soenen (Belgium-Flemish Community /incoming EQAR Director)*
- 10:00**                    **Presentation – Main findings of the Thematic Analysis**  
*Blazhe Todorovski & Melinda Szab (EQAR)*
- 10:30                    Q&A
- 10:50                    Health break
- 11:00**                    **Topic 1: Cross-Border QA from an institutional perspective**  
*Romeo Cristina (Professor, University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Timișoara, Romania)*  
*Rudolf Bauer (Technical University of Munich, Germany)*
- 11:20                    **Parallel sessions on topic 1**  
Moderator group 1: Sigríður Geirsdóttir (Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Iceland)  
Moderator group 1: Bryan Maguire (QQI, Ireland)
- 12:15                    Lunch
- 13:15**                    **Topic 2: Cross-Border QA from a registered agency perspective**  
*Solange Pizarz (Executive Director, CTI, France)*  
*Philip Duffus (ESEVT Coordinator, EAEVE, England)*
- 13:35                    **Parallel Sessions on Topic 2**  
Moderator group 1: Ulf Hedbjörk (UKÄ, Sweden)  
Moderator group 2: Romiță Iucu (University of Bucharest, IMINQA project expert)
- 14:30                    Coffee break
- 15:00**                    **Topic 3: Quality Assurance of Transnational Education**  
*Simon Roy (Head of the Higher Education Policy programme, OECD)*

[Andreea Varga](#) (*Assoc. Prof. University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Science, and Technology of Târgu Mures, Romania*)

Moderator group 1: Sophie Guillet (HCERES, France) 

Moderator group 2: Giacomo Annese (MFHEA, Malta)

- 15:30        **Parallel Sessions on Topic 3**
- 16:20        **Main messages** from the parallel sessions
- Chair: Horia Onita (Vice-President, ESU)
- 17:00        End of PLA
- 17:15        Bucharest Guided Tour – the tour will be realised by bus, with stops at relevant places and will end at Zexe Restaurant.
- 19:30        Dinner
- [Zexe Restaurant](#)
- 22:00        Transportation to hotels in UPB area