MINISTERUL EDUCAȚIEI ȘI CERCETĂRII

UNIT FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF EXTERNALLY FINANCED PROJECTS

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Status of stakeholders involvement in external quality assurance ARACIS - RO

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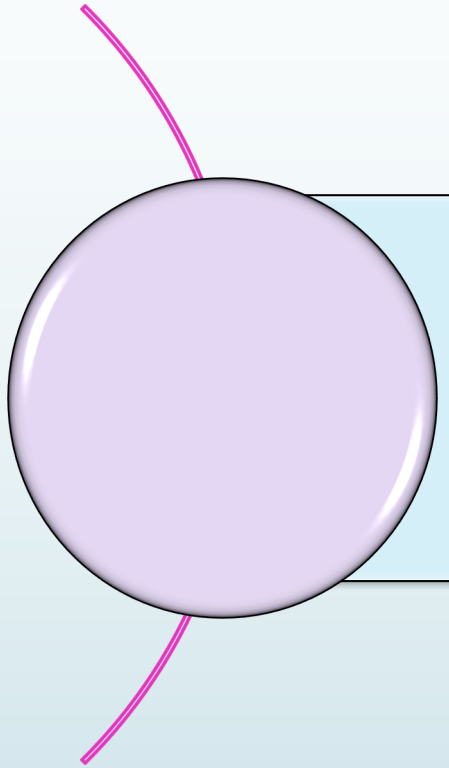
The purpose of the presentation:



ARACIS case study – the context

and

the present

The context: External quality assurance in HE in Romania: tradition from 1993 – former agency (CNEAA)

ARACIS : Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education : "new" agency "born" in 2005, after ESGs approval

ENQA full member - 2009

EQAR registered - 2009

72 permanent staff positions (34 occupied with hired personnel; 38 vacant – to be occupied for different projects)

21 Council members;

External evaluators:

1347 academics (peer-reviewers) registered in the National Register of Evaluators - RNE);

231 student evaluators registered in the National Register of Evaluators - Students - RNE-S); - **103** employers registered in the Register of Employers;

39 international (foreign) experts.

Legislative framework:
- Government Emergency Ordinance 75/2005 with further completions and modifications
- Law of national education no.1/2011

- **Secondary legislation:**

- **Government decisions**
- **Ministerial Orders**

Other, own regulations: Guide, ARACIS Council decisions, internal procedures

The present: new ESG 2015 - Yerevan

ARACIS : New Methodology

Stakeholder involvement better reflected in criteria, standards and performance indicators

METHODOLOGY

for external evaluation, standards, standards of reference and the list of performance indicators of the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education

(revised to include ESG 2015 provisions)

- Approved by Government Decision No.915/2017
- Published in the Romanian Official Gazette No. 25/11.01.2018

The METHODOLOGY includes specific provisions for stakeholder involvement in quality assurance according to all Parts of ESG

Stakeholder involvement in external quality assurance

- **Students' federations**

- Participation in the governing body of the agency;
- Participation of students in external evaluation panels for institutional, study programs and masters' domains evaluations;
- Interviews during site visits;
- Periodic systematic consultations;
- Development and revision of QA standards and processes;
- Formal - on a regular basis.

Stakeholder involvement in external quality assurance

- **National Rectors' Council**
- ARACIS participation at National Rectors' Council meetings;
- Periodic systematic consultations of university representatives
- Development and revision of QA standards and processes;
- Policy documents and proposals for enhancing and up-dating the ARACIS Methodology, Guides are discussed;
- Formal - usually 4-6 times /year.

Stakeholder involvement in external quality assurance

- **Teachers' unions**
  - Participation in the governing body of the agency;
  - Periodic systematic consultations;
  - Development and revision of QA standards and processes;
  - Formal - monthly.

Stakeholder involvement in external quality assurance

- **National HE authority**
- Development and revision of QA standards and processes;
- Preparing draft regulations for the national authorities – the Ministry of National Education, legislative bodies – according to the case.

Stakeholder involvement in external quality assurance

- **Employers**
- The Employers' Register has been completed with new members;
- Representatives of employers take part as panel members in the evaluation of engineering study programs requesting EUR ACE Label;
- Interviews during site visits;
- Formal - on request of the university / each site visit.

Stakeholder involvement in external quality assurance

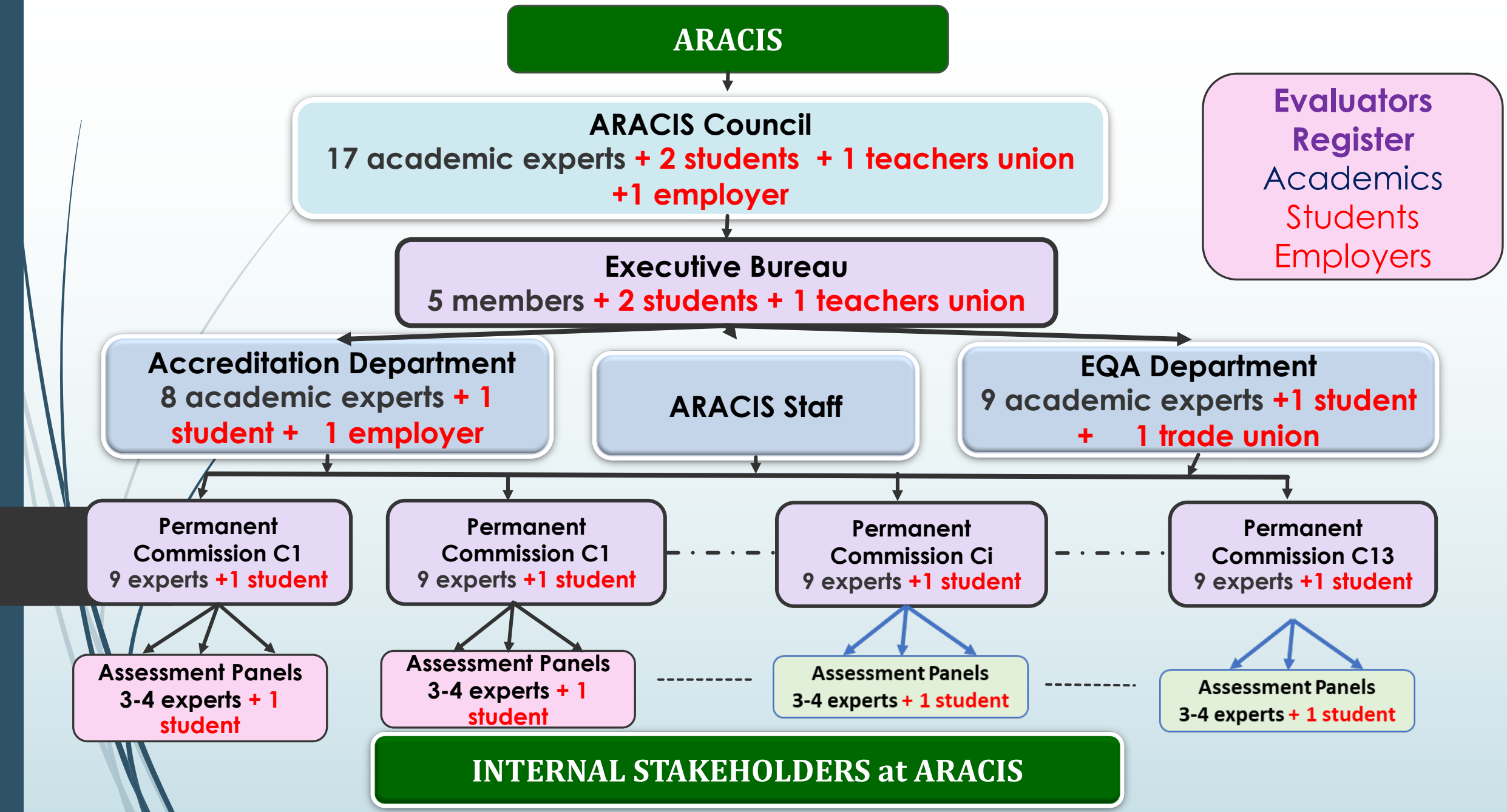
- **Alumni**
- Interviews during site visits;
- Formal - each site visit.

Stakeholder involvement in external quality assurance

- **Representatives of the Romanian Agency for Quality assurance in Pre-university Education** - ARACIP
  - Informal - periodic consultations.

Challenges/Obstacles identified

- Lack of sufficient knowledge or experience in higher education of external stakeholders makes very difficult their engagement in quality assurance activities on a permanent basis.
- Lack of specialized staff in HEIs to become more involved and responsible in IQA
- Engagement of other stakeholders, such as NGOs, professional organizations - difficult
- Lack of time for external stakeholders to participate at training sessions.
- Possible lack of motivation or interest to be involved in time-consuming quality assurance activities, such as training sessions, participation in evaluation panels


ARACIS
ARACIS Council
17 academic experts + 2 students + 1 teachers union
+1 employer
Evaluators Register
Academics
Students
Employers
Executive Bureau
5 members + 2 students + 1 teachers union
Accreditation Department
8 academic experts + 1 student + 1 employer
ARACIS Staff
EQA Department
9 academic experts +1 student
+ 1 trade union
Permanent Commission C1
9 experts +1 student
Permanent Commission C1
9 experts +1 student
Permanent Commission Ci
9 experts +1 student
Permanent Commission C13
9 experts +1 student
Assessment Panels
3-4 experts + 1 student
Assessment Panels
3-4 experts + 1 student
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3-4 experts + 1 student
Assessment Panels
3-4 experts + 1 student
INTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS at ARACIS

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

www.aracis.ro