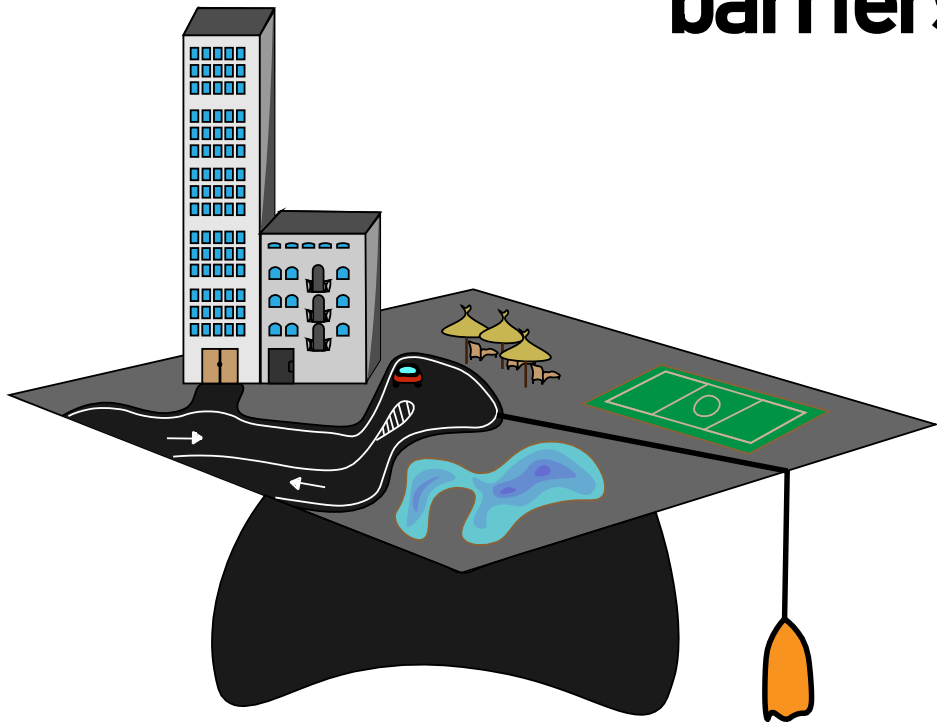# Quality assurance within student representation in Croatia: breaking the barriers between academia and community

Pegi Pavletić

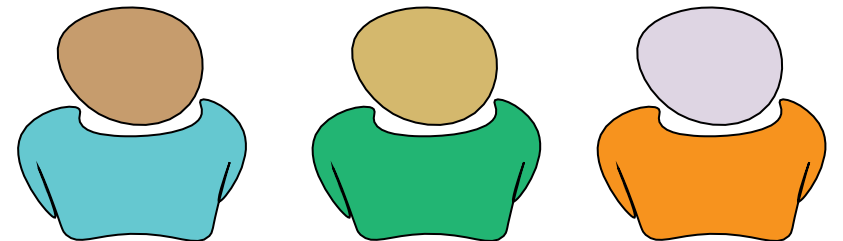European Students` Union QA pool

Introduction (1/3)

Who am I?

- Member of ESU QA Pool of Experts

- PhD student at the University of Camerino, Italy

- Graduate from the University of Rijeka, Croatia

- Former President of University of Rijeka Students` Council and an Incumbent President of Croatian Students` Council
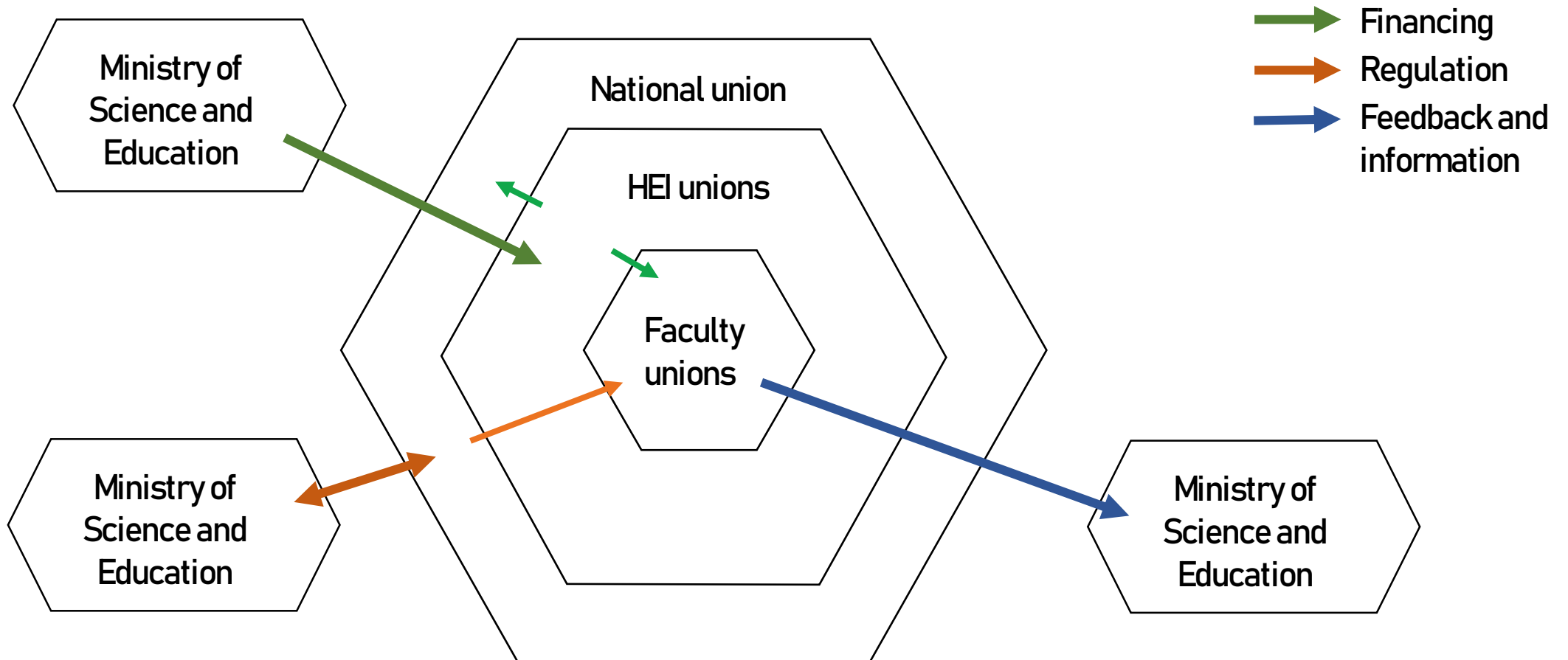
Introduction (2/3)

Why introduce QA within student representation?

- Increase in the number of international students

- Drop in the total number of students

- No connection to the local community

- Distrust in scientific facts

- Disconnection between different student unions in autonomy, set goals and role
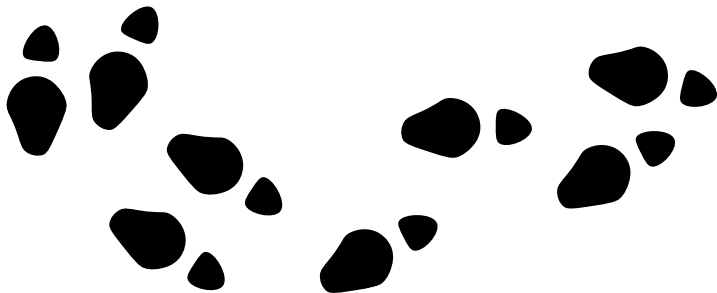
Introduction (3/3)

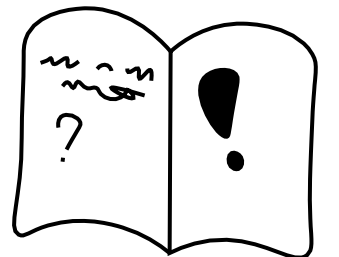The structure of Croatian students` representative bodies

Problems we encounter at the national level (1/1)

- No consistency
- Slow introduction of changes
- Clear division within HE system- distrust in students` organisations
- Difference in quality of student representation
- No connection to the community
- Local organisations more operational than national
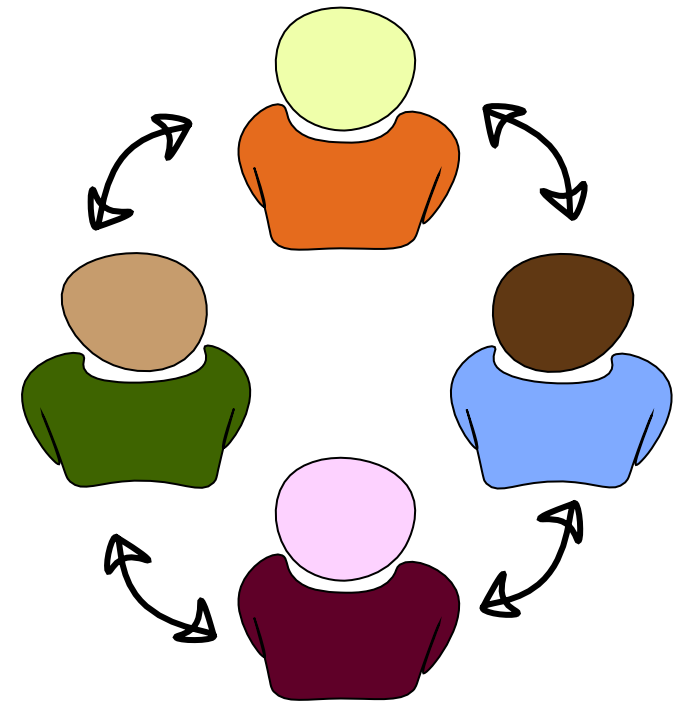
QA within student representation (SQA) (1/4)

- **Centralised assessment system run by the CSC QA office**
- **National Plan of Work development and implementation (SRPW)**

- Addressing the real needs within community and assuring impact
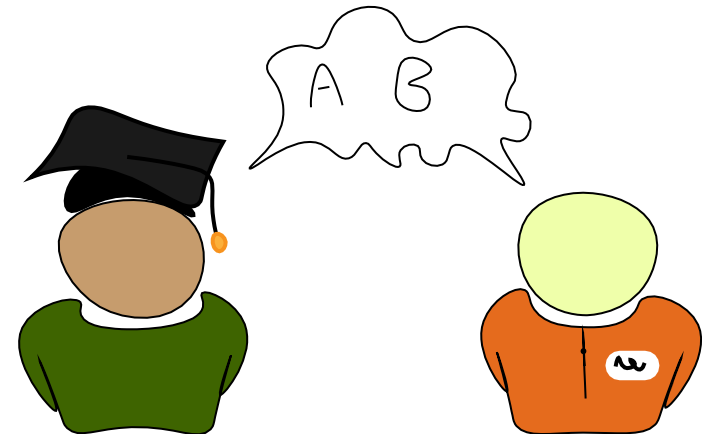- Yearly assessment
- Periodical reassessment

Benefits:

- Tracking the development of unions
- Creating motivational surroundings
- Increasing relevance of student representation

QA within student representation (SQA) (3/4)

Centralised assessment system run by the CSC QA office

- Based on the SRPW: build from current needs within academia and community

- Assessment of local needs in representation and community

- Yearly self-reassessment

QA within student representation (SQA) (4/4)

National Plan of Work development and implementation (SRPW)

- Based on the work and policy of European Students` Union (ESU)
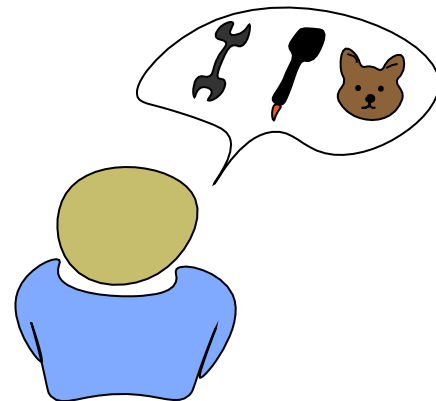- In line with the EU agenda for higher education

SQA Goals 2020-2025 (1/1)

Tackling future skills mismatches and promoting excellence in skills development

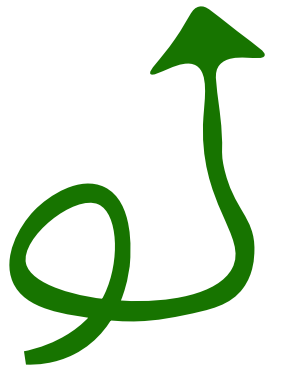Building inclusive and connected higher education systems

Ensuring higher education institutions contribute to innovation

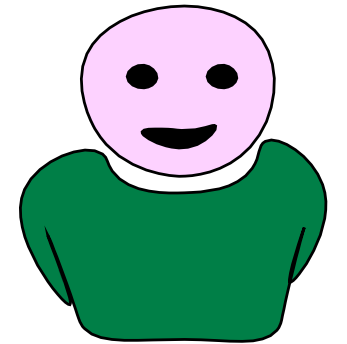Supporting effective and efficient higher education system

Conclusion (1/1)

- Centralised system for student representation is long overdue in Croatia
- Priorities should be set and accomplished in accordance to the policy of ESU and other related topics of national interest
- Creating SQA in Croatia contributes to the significance of student representation
- SQA built on the needs of community for the advancement in higher education

Thank you for your attention!

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