National Alliance of Student Organisations in Romania

Student participation in the National QA Processes

Engagement and Procedures

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ANOSR - National Alliance of Students Organizations in Romania

Who are we?

Who are we?

The National Alliance of Student Organisations in Romania (ANOSR) is the national union of students in Romania, a **non-governmental** and **non-partisan entity** that is officially representing the common **interests of students in Romania**, defending and promoting their rights and stimulating their participation in the educational, social, economic and cultural life.

Who are we?

- **ANOSR's** activity is governed by **certain values and principles**, which guide us on the path of student representation.

- These principles are **democracy, liberty, legitimacy** and **representativeness**, **openness, transparency, non-partisanship, legality, competence, non-violence, unity** and **continuity**.

anosr

REPRESENTING THE FUTURE!

National Alliance of Student Organisations in Romania

Who are we?

ANOSR brings together students from:

19
university centres

30
universities

117
member organisations

Who are we?

Our activity consists of **influencing educational and youth policies** in Romania, **identifying** and **formulating** the position of students through **studies, consultations, analysis** and **positions**.

ANOSR is also a **major stakeholder** of the Romanian civil society, being **actively involved in Romania's daily civic issues**, being a well established national students union in Romania, with relevant reach across civil society.

Who are we?

Legislative changes that positively impacted students' life:

- **The Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities**, following the largest student consultation conducted nationwide,
- **Increasing the minimum amount of scholarships** at national level with almost 200%
- **Obtaining free rail transport** for all students.

Who are we?

ANOSR is oriented towards **representation** and **promotion** the interests of Romanian students in terms of education, social, economic and cultural, both at the level **national**, and also **international**. We are first and foremost a **communication platform** between member organizations, in order to facilitate partnerships and the exchange of resources between student organizations.

ANOSR its main objective is to represent the common interests of students, its members, the formation of leaders at national and international level, as well as their promotion in society. In our relationship with member organizations we rely on principles **transparency** and **non-partisanship**, making it easy for anyone to access representative and apolitical student structures, at our initiative. We support their involvement in decision-making at all levels.

Who are we?

- **ANOSR** gets involved in developing **national** and **international education** and **youth policies**, formulating and supporting the position of students, providing support to member organizations in the effective implementation of these policies at the local level.

- **ANOSR** advocates for a non-demagogic, non-partisan style of work, based on facts, relevant documents and quality standards, as well as real proposals from both dialogue partners to address the issues raised in the reform process.

ARACIS

Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education

Full member of the *European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education*

ENQA

ARACIS

Registered in the *European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education*

EQAR

Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education

ARACIS' mission is to carry out the quality external evaluation of education provided by higher education institutions and by other organisations providing higher education study programmes, which operates in Romania with the aim of:

CERTIFYING

according to quality standards, the capacity of education providing organisations to fulfil the beneficiaries' expectations;

contributing to the development of an institutional culture of higher education quality;

ASSURING

the protection of direct beneficiaries of study programmes at higher education level by producing and disseminating systematic, coherent and credible information, publicly accessible, about education quality;

PROPOSING

to the Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation strategies and policies of permanently improving higher education quality, in close correlation with pre-university education.

Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education

ARACIS's tasks in accreditation

ARACIS shall have the following tasks relating to the field of accreditation:

- Periodically **draws up the methodology and standards for various types of programmes and higher education providers**, which are endorsed by **ME** and approved by **Government** decision;

- **Evaluates**, according to the standards and methodology approved by Government decisions, on demand or on its own initiative, and proposes the authorisation, respectively accreditation of **higher education providers and study programmes**. On the basis of accreditation reports, MECI draws up the normative acts for setting up higher education structures.

Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education

ARACIS shall have the following tasks in the field of quality assurance:

- Periodically **formulates and reviews**, on the basis of good practice, national reference standards and performance indicators for quality evaluation and assurance in higher education;
- **Collaborates with ME and ARACIP** in drawing up and promoting policies and strategies of action, in order to increase education quality in Romania;
- Annually **organises consultations with higher education institutions** in order to establish the priorities of quality assurance;
- **Draws up and publishes its own procedures** of external evaluation of education quality;
- Concludes, with Romanian and foreign education institutions, **service contracts for the external quality evaluation of higher education programmes** and programme providers, as well as for the inter-institutional evaluation of similar programmes;

Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education

ARACIS's tasks in quality assurance

- Carries out the quality evaluation of higher education institutions and programmes, at the Ministry of Education, Research and Innovation’s request. The conditions concerning the evaluation activity are established by contract;
- Publishes the external evaluations’ results;
- Publishes manuals, guides, synthesis papers of good practice in quality assurance and evaluation;
- Periodically draws up, every 3 years, system analyses on the Romanian higher education quality;
- Collaborates with similar agencies in other countries in order to develop and apply efficient measures of improving the quality of higher education programmes;

Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education

ARACIS's tasks in quality assurance

- **Collaborates with similar agencies** in other countries in order to **develop and apply** efficient measures of i**mproving the quality of higher education programmes**;
- **Draws up** the Professional code of ethics of ARACIS experts;
- **Annually publishes a report** on its own activity;
- **Draws up**, every 3 years, quality self-evaluation reports of its own activity, in order to prepare external evaluation by similar agencies from other countries.

Our involvement in ARACIS

Firstly, **two representatives** nominated by student unions sit on the decision-making body

The Council

elected for one year based on criterias regarding experience such as:

- their experience within the student movement;
- their active participation in the management structures within the higher education institutions;
- the experience in the field of quality assurance of higher education;
- the academic results and the moral prestige;
- the level of knowledge of a foreign language of international circulation.

Our involvement in ARACIS

- **certifying**, according to quality standards, the capacity of education providing organisations to fulfil the beneficiaries' expectations;
- **contributing** to the development of an institutional culture of higher education quality;
- **assuring** the protection of direct beneficiaries of study programmes at higher education level by producing and disseminating systematic, coherent and credible information, publicly accessible, about education quality;
- **proposing** to the Ministry of Education strategies and policies of permanently improving higher education quality, in close correlation with pre-university education.

Our involvement in ARACIS

We are part of the Executive Office – invited member from the Council:

The Executive Office adopts decisions regarding the current activity of ARACIS, between the meetings of the Council, or according to the mandate granted by the Council, supervises the operation of the Agency and the implementation of the Council's decisions.

Our involvement in ARACIS

We are part of the Permanent expert commissions

Permanent expert commissions cover all areas of specialty and the forms of education in which study programs are developed within higher education institutions in Romania

Our involvement in ARACIS

We are part of the following Permanent expert commissions:

- Mathematics, informatics and natural sciences
- Humanities and theology
- Legal Sciences
- Social, political and communication sciences
- Administrative sciences, education and psychology
- Economic Sciences (I)
- Economic Sciences (II)
- Arts, architecture, urbanism, physical education and sports
- Agricultural sciences, forestry and veterinary medicine
- Engineering Sciences (I)
- Engineering Sciences (II)
- Medical sciences
- Distance and part-time education

- **All comissions have one student who has a two years mandate.**
- The students are elected after a competition that is similar to the one for the students in Council and takes part in all the decisions that are being taken within the Comission

Our involvement in ARACIS

We are also part of the Ethics Committee

In order to ensure compliance with the Code of Ethics and the rules of conduct, in addition to the ARACIS Council, the Ethics Commission is established and operates constantly

Our involvement in ARACIS

We are also part of the Inquiry Committee

In case a HEI does not agree with the result of the evaluation, the Inquiry Commitee can be noticed. The committee includes two students

Our involvement in ARACIS

Finally, we are included in all **ARACIS quality external evaluation types**:

Institutional evaluations;

- Evaluations for undergraduate programs;
- Evaluations for master's university fields;
- Evaluations for psycho-pedagogical training programs for the teaching professions;
- Evaluations for Romanian language preparatory programs for foreign citizens;
- Evaluations of doctoral studies.

Our involvement in ARACIS

- Students are **paid equally** within the team and have the same rights and obligations.
- Regarding **public policies** and **standards that legislate the quality assurance process** of the Romanian higher education system, **students are usually consulted**.
- Moreover, each **Permanent Committee of Experts** adopts and amends, when necessary, **a list of specific standards** for each cluster of fields of study, with a permanent involvement of the student representatives.
- Institutionally, students are full members of the **Committees for the Evaluation and Assurance of Quality**, established by law in each higher education institution, in addition to the regular avenues where students fill out satisfaction surveys.

The National Register of Student Experts (RNE-S)

- The student unions **maintain a pool of student experts**, updated at least twice a year.
- Student experts which are members of the pool are provided regularly with QA initial and further training and development.
- **Any student can apply for membership în the pool**, and the selection process for the experts pool is a thorough one, including several selection stages.

Should we include students in QA processes?

The National Register of Student Experts (RNE-S)

Students are experts of their own learning and crucial stakeholders.

Partnership in which students are competent, active and constructive partners.

Challenges of involving students

Challenges of involving students

POWER:

Different perceptions due to power imbalance

–

rights and number of seats.

Laws to secure participation in decision-making

–

not only preparatory phase.

Decrease in student participation in formal decision

–

making bodies.

Challenges of involving students

Student self-administration:

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- Students have the right to self-organize and create unions
- Turnover of students
- Financial independence

Implementation:

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- Lack of student involvement in implementation processes
- Implementations of reforms - poor quality

Actual challenges of involving students

Group discussion

- How is **student involvement in QA** seen in your country?
- How are **students involved in the documents framing** for the **HEIs evaluations**?
- How the **national unions** and **QA agencies** select, **delegate and coordinate** the national students pools and what are the main obstacles in the whole process?

Presenting conclusions

Actual challenges of involving students

The ideal external QA process

How should students have a louder voice in all the structures and procedures they are included in?

Thank you!
Any questions?

Alianța Națională a Organizațiilor Studențești din România