



Higher Education Policy as it applies to EIE programmes in Romania

This document applies only to education at Level 6 and above of the European Qualifications Framework. All terms used in this document have the meaning specific for Romania and may have different meaning when used in any other country.

Overview of Quality Assurance

The Romanian quality assurance system entails:

- **Internal quality assurance** (at the level of universities). The university has quality assurance bodies at department, faculty university level, which are responsible for the evaluation of educational process and have to prepare an **Internal Evaluation Report** for temporary authorisation or for accreditation obtained by an external evaluation for study programmes (bachelor, master, doctoral) or institutions.
- **External quality assurance** - Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (RAQUAHE). The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education was established in 2005 and is an autonomous public institution, of national interest, whose main mission is the external evaluation of quality in Romanian higher education, at the level of study programmes, as well as from an institutional point of view. As of September 2009, RAQUAHE is a full member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education – ENQA and is registered in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education - EQAR.

External Evaluation

The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (RAQUAHE) has the **mission** to constantly assure and improve quality in the Romanian higher education, and may be described by the following major objectives: improving the external evaluation methodology, in full compliance with the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education - ESG; increasing the role of students and employers, as final beneficiaries, within the process of evaluation and assurance of education quality; creating a quality culture in Romanian higher education; establishing a permanent partnership with all institutions in the national higher education system, as well as with the economic-social environment, in order to correlate higher education with the labour market. The Agency is carrying out its activity according to the best international practices, which are adopted in its own Methodology and whose implementation is geared towards quality assurance and evaluation of the Romanian higher education, as part of the **European Higher Education Area**. Based on the evaluation process, RAQUAHE can give temporary authorisation or accreditation to study programmes (bachelor, master, doctoral).

New programme creation

A new study programme could be proposed by a department, approved by the Faculty Council, and by the Senate of the University. Following this procedure, an internal evaluation is performed and the resulting report is sent to RAQUAHE, which will perform the external evaluation and will take the final decision about authorisation. The university must prove: its legal status, established by the constitutive document; that the study programme has a well-defined teaching and research mission; elements of specificity and opportunity in compliance with the national qualifications framework.

On the basis of the application to start the external evaluation procedure for temporary authorisation, submitted to the accreditation department of RAQUAHE by the education provider, the RAQUAHE Council decides to commence the external evaluation procedure if the following conditions are cumulatively met: the education provider submitted an internal evaluation report together with the application, and the education



**Project funded by the EU Lifelong Learning Programme
Project Reference No. 527877-LLP-1-2012-1-UK-ERASMUS-ENW**

provider proves, with relevant documents, to have paid the fee provided for by the law for the temporary authorisation procedure.

Compulsory normative requirements for the study programme's temporary authorisation refer to: the legal organisation framework; teaching staff; the content of the educational process; students; scientific research; educational equipment/facilities.

After a 2-year period between the graduation date of the first series of graduates, the university has to submit/apply for accreditation of the proposed programme. Exceeding this time limit implies the proposal to cancel the temporary authorisation. The accreditation procedure has to be repeated every 5 years.

Changes to existing programmes

The changes to existing programmes can be proposed by departments as follows: changes in course content, changes in curriculum, and changes in the number of ECTS credit points and in the number of hours allocated to a specific course/module, etc. All the changes proposed by departments have to be approved by the faculty council and university senate. There are some rules to be respected regarding changes in the existing programmes. At the next accreditation process, RAQUAHE will verify/evaluate all of the implemented changes.

Student influence of programme content

In a formal way, at the end of each semester the students evaluate the courses through questionnaires and can propose changes in content or teaching for evaluated courses. The representatives of the students in the Faculty Council can also propose some changes in course content or teaching process. The dean of the faculty then discusses these proposed changes with the staff. In an informal way, the students can propose and discuss with the faculty changes in the content of courses, teaching or assessment process. By law, the percentage of students in both councils and senates is 25%. This way they are able to be involved in all decisions regarding the teaching system, including the programme content.

Industry influence of programme content

In a formal way, the representative of companies in the faculty council, or in an informal way, the representatives of companies, can propose some changes: in the content of courses or teaching process; in the practical trainings; in programme content (to introduce new courses). Companies have their own representative in the Council of RAQUAHE. The representatives of companies are deeply involved in the evaluation of institutions.

Students with disabilities/special needs/unconventional needs

In Romania there are some legislative regulations for students with disabilities, but they refer to general aspects, for example financial issues/support (50% discount in accommodation, meals etc.). From 2013 onwards, the universities started to organise offices for students with disabilities (e.g. Babes-Bolyai University of Cluj). The affected student, as an individual, might approach individual academics to convince them that an adjustment should have to be granted. The academic institution decides on the adjustment.

Mobility and life-long learning processes

In this regard there are entities at both national and institutional level:



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- At national level: National Agency for Community Programs for Education and Professional Development (entity of the Ministry of Education and Scientific Research). This entity establishes national policies or rules relating to accessibility of facilities, in accordance with EU rules.
- At institutional level: offices for mobility programmes. Each university establishes internal rules relating to accessibility, facilities, exchanges, in accordance with EU and national rules.

Information management

All Romanian universities offer institutional information for students, available in Romanian, and most of them offer in English, too. All public information is accessible without login.

Any other relevant information

The Romania education system acts under a law of education from 2011. Until then an important number of changes concerning the original form of this law were adopted.

References:

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