Project **Effective Involvement of Stakeholders in External Quality Assurance Activities / ESQA**

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**Coordinator:** Ministry of National Education - Romania

**Partners:** European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), European Association of Institutions in Higher Education (EURASHE), European Students’ Union (ESU), Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS), High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher education (HCERES) - France, National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (NEAA) - Bulgaria, The Danish Accreditation Institution (DAI), National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education and Research (ANACEC) - Republic of Moldova

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OBJECTIVES
Involvement of various categories of stakeholders’ in quality assurance (QA) will be explored, including discussions on stakeholders expectations towards external quality assurance work and sharing best practices among quality assurance agencies (QAAs), concerning inclusion of stakeholders in external QA activities and ongoing development of practices. Recommendations will be provided to the national authorities and QAAs in terms of stakeholders involvement, regarding ways to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with stakeholders and for their effective involvement in QA processes.

IMPACT
Diversification of stakeholders’ involvement in QA activities across EHEA, also providing the means for making their involvement effective. The interest of stakeholders’ organizations to participate in QA activities will be raised, while they will feel empowered to increase engagement and for more effective participation.

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ACTIVITIES

- a Study at European Higher Education Area (EHEA) member countries level will be developed, mapping the involvement of stakeholders in external QA activities and identifying examples of good practice;
- the five quality assurance agencies members in the consortium will participate in peer review activities, to identify the strong and weak areas related to the involvement of stakeholders. The peer-review activities will include workshops, with participation of different categories of stakeholders from the respective country, as well as the national authority for HE;
- a peer-learning activity will be organised, with the participation of QAAs from EHEA countries;
- a Guideline on involvement of stakeholders will be developed, that will mainly define the profile and role of different stakeholders, procedures for their recruitment, aligned to the defined profile, effective ways for their involvement in external QA activities, including approaches for increased communication, and specific training outlines, in accordance with the profile and role of different categories of stakeholders;
- an online peer-learning activity will be organized, based on the Guideline, with the participation of QAAs from EHEA countries;
- an analyse of how the provisions of the Guideline on involvement of stakeholders can be applied in QA activities by each partner agency.