

Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance
in Higher Education



Activity Report
ARACIS
2024

BUCHAREST
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ENAE



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[Global Academic Integrity Network](#)
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[EUA Council for Doctoral Education](#)
EUA CDE



[Council for Higher Education Accreditation International Quality Group](#)
CHEA/CIQG



Registered in:

[European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education](#)
EQAR





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LIST OF ACRONYMS / ABBREVIATIONS

A	Accreditation
ANC	National Authority for Qualifications
ANOSR	National Alliance of Students' Organisations in Romania
AP	Provisional authorisation to operate
ARACIP	Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Pre-University Education
ARACIS	Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education
BEx	Executive Board of the ARACIS Council
BFUG	Bologna Follow-Up Group
CEENQA	Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education
CoARA	Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment
CNATDCU	National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates
CNR	National Council of Rectors
DEQAR	The "Database of External Quality Assurance Results" Project
DD	Doctoral domains
DRIPCC	International Relations, Projects, Cooperation and Research Direction
ECA	The European Consortium for Accreditation in Higher Education
EHEA	European Higher Education Area
ENAE	European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education
ENQA	European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education
ENRF	External Non-reimbursable Funds
EQAR	European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education
ESF	European Social Fund
ESG	European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education
ESQA	The "Effective involvement of stakeholders in external quality assurance activities" Project
ESQA	The "Effective involvement of stakeholders in external quality assurance activities" Project
ESU	European Students' Union
ETER	European Tertiary Education Register
EUA	European University Association
EURASHE	European Association of Institutions in Higher Education
GD	Romanian Government Decision
GO/GEO	Government Ordinance / Government Emergency Ordinance
INQAAHE	International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education
IOSUD	Institution organising doctoral studies
LC	EUR-ACE Label Committee
SCIM	Managerial internal control system
MoE	Ministry of Education
NEEA	National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency
NEL	National Education Law
OG	Official Gazette of Romania
OGSG	Order of the Government's Secretariat General
OOR	Organisational and Operational Regulation
PASS	Public Administration Strengthening Strategy
EP	Periodic evaluation
QAFIN	Project "Improvement of public policies in higher education and better-quality regulations through updated quality standards"
QAR	Quality Assurance Review for Higher Education

REI	ARACIS Register of International Evaluators
RNE	National Register of Evaluators
RNE-A	Register of Employers' Representatives
RNE-S	National Register of Evaluators - Students
UEFISCDI	Executive Unit for Financing in Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation
UNSR	National Union of Students in Romania
USR	Romanian Students' Union

PRESIDENT'S NOTE

Dear members of the academic community, institutional partners, dear students,

I have the great honour to present, on behalf of the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS), the main lines of action and achievements of the Agency in 2024 – a particularly significant year, a year of both continuity and transition towards a new stage in the development of the national system of quality assurance in higher education.

In a fast-paced educational context, ARACIS kept its strong commitment to its public mission: promoting academic excellence and strengthening a transparent, credible, and performance-oriented educational system. At the same time, 2024 was a year of strategic transition towards applying new external quality evaluation methodologies, according to the provisions of the Higher education law no. 199/2023 and the specific Standards developed by the Agency.

To this purpose, ARACIS conducted an ample process of updating the regulatory and operational framework, aligning to the demands of the new legislation, and promoting a modern evaluation model, focused on learning outcomes, documented evidence, and active stakeholder engagement. This transformation stage is key in consolidating a more flexible, more oriented system focused on continuous improvement.

Throughout the year, external evaluation processes continued to focus on all the key components of higher education: higher education institutions, bachelor, master and doctoral study programmes, and other vocational training programmes. The achieved results reflect a clear trend of quality improvement and a higher level of institutional maturity, proof of the universities constantly striving for academic excellence.

Among the most relevant achievements of 2024, we mention:

- ✓ Completion of 12 institutional evaluations, with an overwhelming majority of favourable judgments („confidence” and „high degree of confidence”), which reflects the strength of the academic structures and the commitment to quality of the universities.
- ✓ Evaluation of 374 bachelor study programmes, with over 96% success rate in maintaining accreditation, which confirms the quality of initial higher education training and the capacity of the institutions to comply with national standards.
- ✓ 229 master domains and 15 master programmes have been evaluated, and most of them maintained their accreditation, which is a sign of a constant concern for quality and adaptability to the current demands of the labour market.
- ✓ 15 doctoral study domains have been evaluated, all at an advanced stage of academic development and research, indicating a strengthened direction towards scientific performance.
- ✓ Furthermore, teacher training programmes and training programmes for foreigners have been included in the evaluation process, which confirms an extended view on quality in education.

One achievement worth mentioning in particular concerns the international EUR-ACE® certifications obtained by 15 engineering programmes - a sign of external recognition for quality

assurance and close alignment of the Romanian higher education with the European Higher Education Area (EHEA).

Along with the evaluation activity, ARACIS continued to implement the recommendations formulated in the ENQA Report, taking the “ARACIS 2022–2026 Strategy” as a reference. We were active in carrying out two international ERASMUS+ projects – IMINQA and START, and ensuring sustainability of other valuable, previously completed initiatives.

The international visibility of ARACIS grew constantly with the continuation of the ENQA Vice-President mandate by Mrs Director General, Prof. Dr. Eng. Daniela-Cristina Ghițulică, and the active involvement of Mrs Prof. Dr. Eng. Simona Lache on the INQAAHE and CEENQA Boards, thus reaffirming the active role of the Agency in European and global quality assurance networks.

Even though 2024 brought changes in the permanent personnel structure, the financial activity was managed efficiently and supported the fulfilment of our institutional goals. Our priority remains to continue to analyse the costs of evaluation processes, in correlation with the recent developments in the law and regarding salaries.

To conclude, I would like to extend sincere thanks to my colleagues at ARACIS, the members of expert evaluation panels, our institutional partners in the country and abroad, and all actors involved in supporting quality in education. Your professionalism, involvement and responsibility are the key to our joint progress.

We are confidently looking forward, and convinced that rigour, dialogue, and cooperation are the only things that will help us build a higher education system capable to respond to the challenges of the future and generate real value for the entire Romanian society.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Eng. Valentin NĂVRĂPESCU,

ARACIS President

MISSION AND ATTRIBUTIONS IN QUALITY ASSURANCE

Mission

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 operate 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 strategies and policies to the Ministry of Education (MoE) in order to continuously improve the quality of higher education, closely correlated to the level of pre-university education.

Quality assurance attributions

- ✓ Regularly, based on best practices, formulates and reviews national reference standards and performance indicators for quality evaluation and assurance in higher education;
- ✓ Collaborates with the MoE and ARACIP to develop and promote policies and action strategies to improve the quality of education in Romania;
- ✓ Organises annual consultations with higher education institutions to establish the priorities in quality assurance;
- ✓ Develops and publishes its own procedures for external quality evaluation in education;
- ✓ Concludes service contracts with national and foreign education institutions for the external evaluation of the quality of education programmes and providers specific to higher education, and for the inter-institutional evaluation of similar programmes;
- ✓ Carries out quality evaluation of higher education programmes and institutions, upon the request of the Ministry of Education; The terms for carrying out the evaluation activity are established by contract;
- ✓ Publishes the results of external evaluations;
- ✓ Publishes manuals, guides, summaries of best practice in quality evaluation and assurance;
- ✓ Regularly, every three years, develops system analyses on the quality of higher education in Romania;
- ✓ Works with similar agencies in other countries to develop and implement efficient measures for the improvement of the quality of higher education programmes;
- ✓ Develops the Code of Conduct of the ARACIS experts;
- ✓ Publishes an annual report on its own activity;
- ✓ Every three years, develops self-assessment reports evaluating the quality of its own activity, in preparation for external evaluations carried out by similar agencies of other countries.

According to the provisions of chapter VI of title IV of Law no. 199/2023 on higher education, as further amended and supplemented, the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education is a legal entity with the following legal characteristics:

- a. it is an autonomous public institution,
- b. it performs an activity of national interest. External quality evaluation in education is a contract-based activity carried out upon request, charged according to the tariffs approved by Government decision. The results of the main evaluation activity are reports with advisory proposals, based on which the Ministry of Education or the Government, as applicable, grant authorisation or accreditation or maintain the accreditation for the performance of the education process in higher education;
- c. through external quality assurance and evaluation activities, it contributes to the mission of meeting the public interest, strengthening the society's trust in the Romanian higher education system, thus facilitating recognition of the studies and qualifications provided by higher education institutions, and enabling student and graduate mobility both nationally and beyond national borders;
- d. it has both sole competence to deliver the external quality evaluation for acquiring provisional operation authorisation for organising university, post-secondary, and life-long learning education activities, and shared competence together with other EQAR-registered education quality assurance entities to provide external evaluation services for education quality assurance;
- e. it operates independently, based on its own income and expenditure budget, and its revenues are generated from the tariffs charged for the various services it delivers;
- f. it is the competent authority in charge with education quality assurance under the terms of Government Emergency Ordinance no. 49/2009, as further amended and supplemented, checking compliance with external evaluation requirements based on reviewing documents issued by any European Union Member State or third country, submitted by education providers/higher education institutions coming to organise and deliver higher education and post-secondary education activities in Romania;
- g. has the obligation to meet and comply with quality assurance standards based on which EQAR member entities operate, and to maintain its membership in this register; in case of failure to comply with such obligation for a period of 2 years, a sanction shall be applied, according to which the right of ARACIS to perform external evaluations will be suspended until EQAR membership is regained.

As per Law 199/2023, ARACIS is entitled to perform contract-based professional activities in a specific field at national, European, and international level with a view to meeting a general public interest of quality assurance in education.

FOREWORD

This ARACIS 2024 Activity Report seeks to present the tasks established for and the activities carried out by the Agency between 03.01.2024 – 30.12.2024.

The Report was structured and finalised by the Research Office within the International Relations, Projects, Cooperation and Research Direction (DRIPCC).

Representatives of all the structures in charge with decision-making, coordination, execution and control at ARACIS participated in developing the report and contributed with supporting information and documents presenting the activities carried out, and proposed future measures aimed at improving the Agency's activities, namely:

Primary reporting and data processing was carried out by: Mariana Croitoru - Internal Audit Compartment; Emilia Mircea and Gianina Buiuc - Legal and Internal Quality Assurance Office; Carmen Mirian – Quality Assurance Direction; Marinela Lolea and Aureliu Perdeleanu – Organisation, and Resource Management; Adriana Popoiu - International Relations Project Implementation, Communication, and Events Service; Emilia Gogu - Research Office.

The analysis of the report was performed by: Executive Board of the ARACIS Council: Prof. Dr. Eng. Valentin Năvrăpescu – President; Professor Dr. Eng. Trașcă Teodor-Ioan – Vice-president; Professor Dr. Moldovan Nicoleta-Claudia - Coordinator of University Studies Evaluation Department; Professor Dr. Eng. Seghedin Neculai Eugen - Coordinator of the Institutional Evaluation and Audit Department; Professor Dr. Eng. Marius Petrescu - Secretary General of the ARACIS Council.

The coordination and final drafting was performed by: Prof. Dr. Eng. Valentin Năvrăpescu – President of ARACIS; Professor Dr. Eng. Daniela-Cristina Ghițulică – Director General; Professor Dr. Eng. Marius Petrescu - Secretary General of the ARACIS Council; Associate Professor Dr. Emilia Gogu – Research Office.

The drafting group thanks all the members of the ARACIS Council and everyone who contributed in producing the final form of this report.

The report was analysed and approved in the ARACIS Council – July 2025.

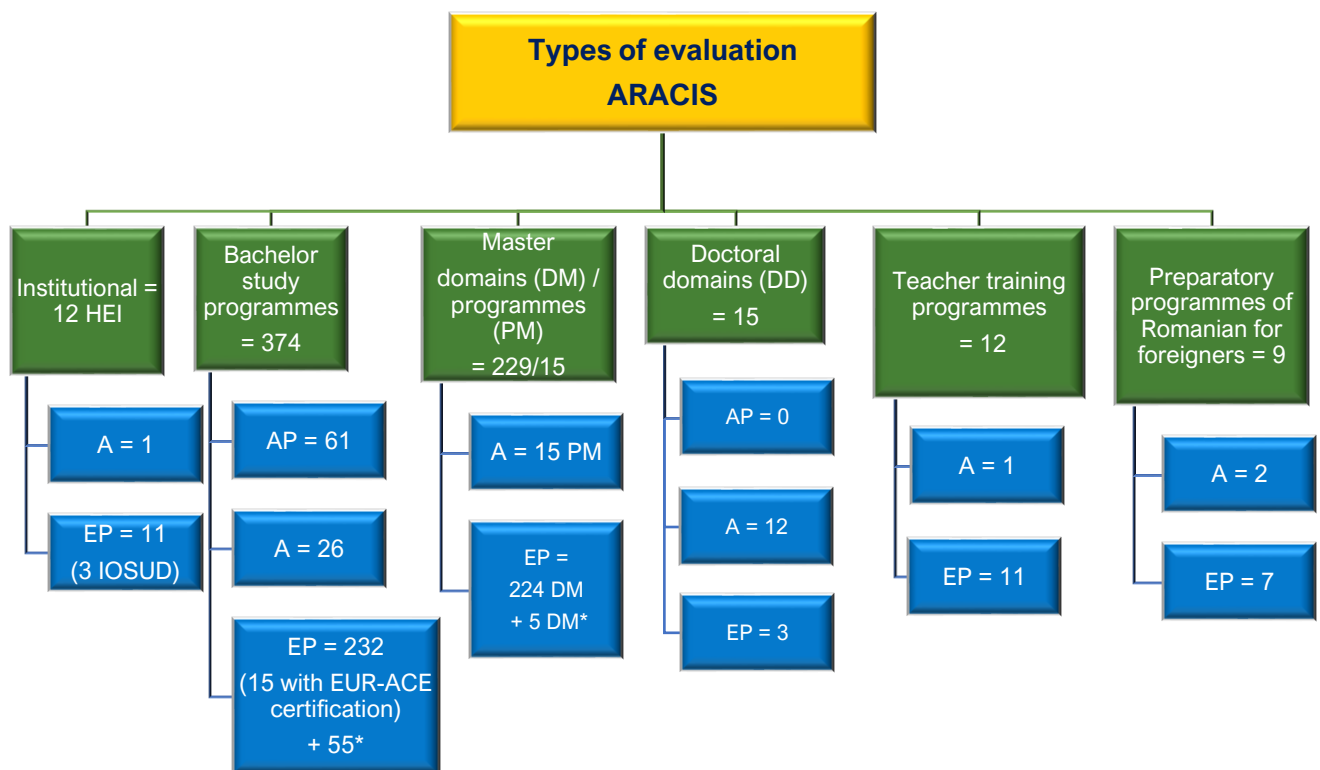
The Activity Report of ARACIS is published annually in Romanian and English language; the Report is public information, and is also available on the Agency's webpage: <https://www.aracis.ro/en/aracis-activity-reports/>

ARACIS ACTIVITY REPORT FOR YEAR 2024

In order to provide all stakeholders, structures and interested organisations, and the wider audience with a full picture of the activities of ARACIS, this report starts with a synopsis of statistic data on the results and external higher education quality evaluation activities carried out and/or completed by ARACIS in 2024, the existing human potential involved, and the Agency’s participation in national/international projects.

The results of the activities of external evaluation of the quality of higher education carried out systemically by ARACIS in 2024 are presented below:

ARACIS activity in 2024 in figures



Key: AP- Provisional authorisation to operate; A- Accreditation; EP- Periodic evaluation.

Note: * within institutional evaluations.

Figure 1. General summary of the external evaluations carried out by ARACIS in 2024

In terms of distribution, the number of external evaluations per types of evaluation at the level of the ARACIS Speciality Commissions is as follows:

C1 - Exact Sciences and Natural Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Evaluated bachelor programmes = 21 •Master domains evaluated = 27 •Master programmes = 0
C2 - Humanist Sciences and Theology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluated bachelor programmes = 31 • Master domains evaluated = 19 • Master programmes = 3
C3 - Legal Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluated bachelor programmes = 10 • Master domains evaluated = 9 • Master programmes = 0
C4 - Social, political and communication sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluated bachelor programmes = 18 • Master domains evaluated = 22 • Master programmes = 0
C5 - Administrative Sciences, Education Sciences and Psychology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Evaluated bachelor programmes = 28 •Master domains evaluated = 14 •Master programmes = 1
C6 - Economic Sciences I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Evaluated bachelor programmes = 25 •Master domains evaluated = 31 •Master programmes = 1
C7 - Economic Sciences II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Evaluated bachelor programmes = 13 •Master domains evaluated = 25 •Master programmes = 0
C8 - Arts, Architecture, Urbanism, Physical Education and Sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Evaluated bachelor programmes = 46 •Master domains evaluated = 17 •Master programmes = 3
C9 - Agricultural Sciences, Forestry Sciences and Veterinary Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Evaluated bachelor programmes = 13 •Master domains evaluated = 19 •Master programmes = 1
C10 - Engineering Sciences I	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Evaluated bachelor programmes = 42 •Master domains evaluated = 14 •Master programmes = 1
C11 - Engineering Sciences II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Evaluated bachelor programmes = 56 •Master domains evaluated = 30 •Master programmes = 2
C12 - Medical Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Evaluated bachelor programmes = 27 •Master domains evaluated = 2 •Master programmes = 3
C13 – Distance and part-time learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Evaluated bachelor programmes = 44 •Master programmes = 0

Figure 2. External evaluations performed by the ARACIS Speciality Commissions in 2024

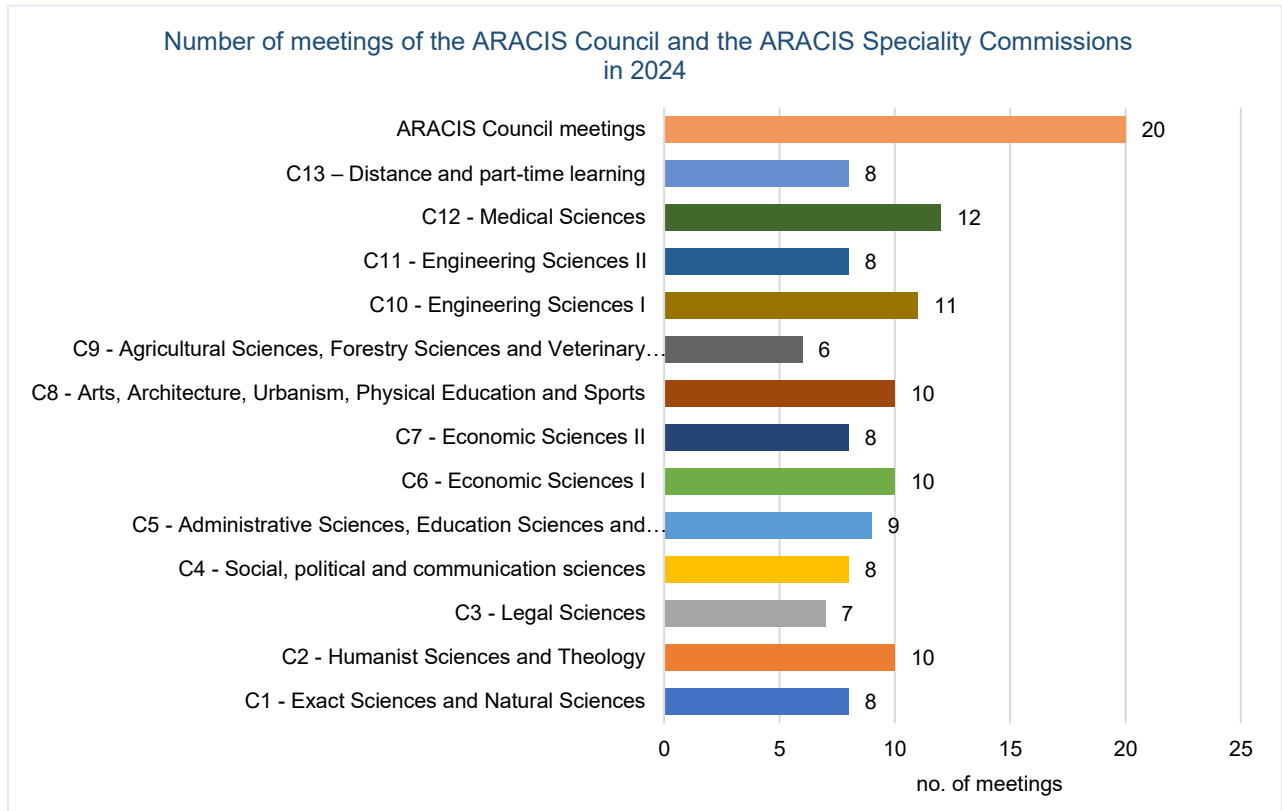


Figure 3. Number of meetings of the ARACIS Council and the ARACIS Speciality Commissions in 2024

The total number of evaluators registered in the National Register of Evaluators is 1745, as follows:

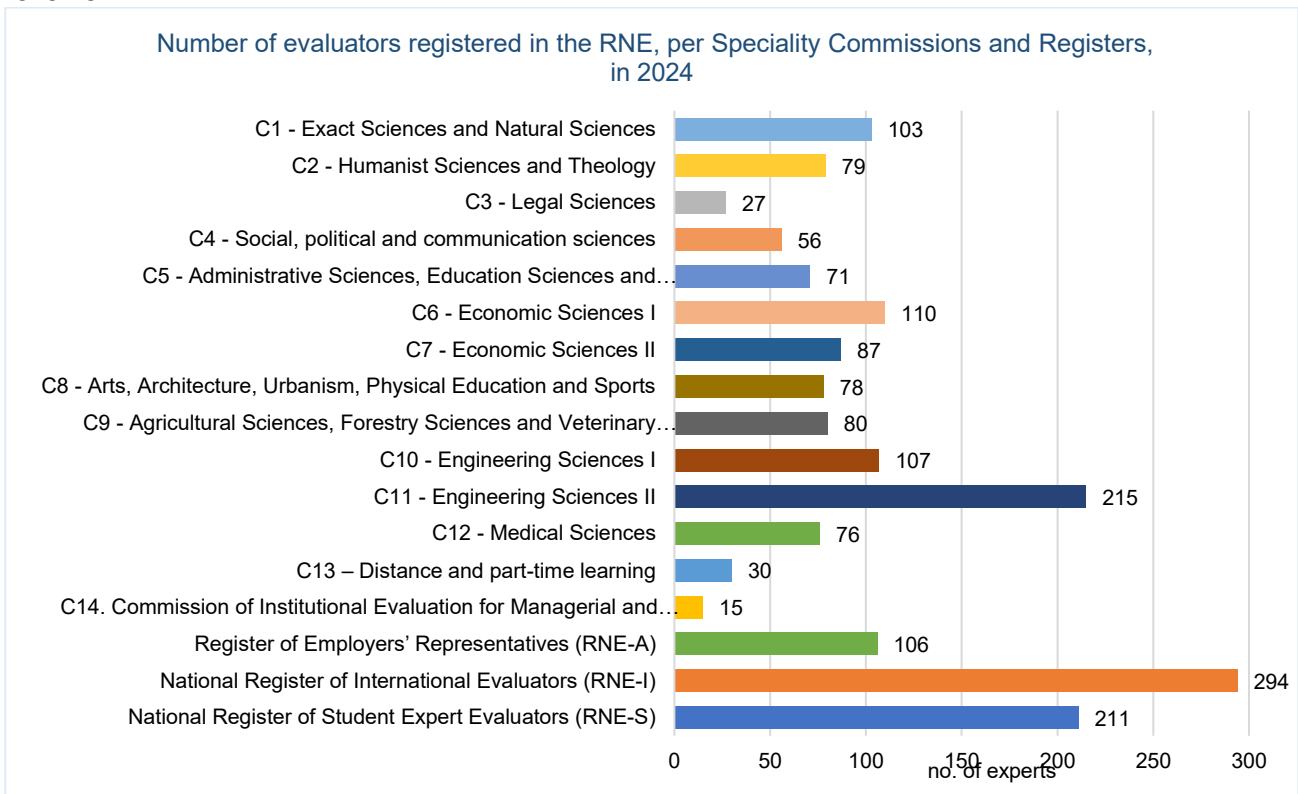


Figure 4. Number of evaluators registered in the RNE, per Speciality Commissions and Registers, in 2024

Furthermore, in 2024, ARACIS continued the implementation of the following international projects:

I. The IMINQA international project - "Implementation and Innovation in QA through peer learning (IMINQA)"

Project type: project co-funded under the ERASMUS+ Programme

Implementation period: 36 months (May 2022 – April 2025),

Budget: funding 499,855 EUR, out of which 43,642 EUR allocated to ARACIS.

This is an umbrella project developed to support the 2021-2024 proceedings of the Thematic Support Group C – Quality Assurance (created by the Bologna Follow-Up Group – BFUG).

II. The START international project – "Social inclusion, Tolerance, Acceptance and Realization for all sTudents"

Project type: project funded under the ERASMUS+ Programme, with ARACIS being a project partner.

Implementation period: 36 months, between June 2022 – May 2025.

The implementation of the START project is coordinated by the Ministry of Education and Science of Bulgaria, together with the National Agency for Evaluation and Accreditation of Bulgaria (NEAA) and the Bulgarian Council for Refugees and Migrants.

1 GENERAL ORGANISATION AND OPERATION ASPECTS

1.1 Background, legal framework, organisational structure and resources of ARACIS

1.1.1 Context

As a signatory member of the Bologna Declaration (1999), Romania has become part of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA). Ensuring the quality of education is one of the main goals of the EHEA; to this purpose, in 2005, the ministers in charge with higher education have adopted the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ESG) in the European Higher Education Area. These were drafted based on a proposal prepared by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) in cooperation with the European Students' Union (ESU), the European Association of Higher Education Institutions (EURASHE) and the European Universities Association (EUA).

Considerable progress was achieved at European and national level after 2005, both in relation to quality assurance and along other lines of action within the Bologna Process, such as the framework of qualifications, the recognition and promotion of the use of learning outcomes, which all contributed to a paradigm shift towards student-centred learning and teaching.

The [Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education - ARACIS](#) was created to evaluate quality assurance in education. The Agency is managed by the [ARACIS Council \(the Council\)](#).

The Agency operates on the grounds of the provisions of the national laws in force and of the Methodology for external evaluation, standards, reference standards and list of performance indicators of ARACIS, (further on referred to as the Methodology or the Methodology for

evaluation) approved by Government Decision (GD) no. 1418/2006, amended by GD 915/2017. The modification was necessary after the ministers in charge with higher education embraced the new Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area at the Conference in Yerevan, Armenia in 2015.

ARACIS is a member of the [European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education \(ENQA\)](#) and periodically undergoes the international external evaluation procedures required for maintaining this status.

ARACIS is registered in the [European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education \(EQAR\)](#) and periodically undergoes the international external evaluation procedures required for maintaining this registration.

ARACIS is also a member of other international organisations or networks of higher education quality assurance agencies ([CEENQA](#), [ENAAE](#), [INQAAHE](#), [ECA](#), [CoARA](#), [GAIN](#), [EUA-CDE](#) and [CHEA-CIQG](#)), and is represented in their management bodies.

1.1.2 Legal framework

The institutional articles of association and the activity of ARACIS are regulated at national level through the following normative documents:

- Romanian Government Decision (GD) no. 915/2017 modifying the appendix to GD no. 1418/2006 approving the Methodology for external evaluation, standards, reference standards and list of performance indicators of ARACIS, further on referred to as the “Methodology”;
- GD no. 1731/2006 to approve the tariffs charged by ARACIS for the authorisation and accreditation per study programmes of higher education institutions and for the external evaluation of the quality of education;
- The National Education Law no. 1/2011, as subsequently amended and supplemented (repealed on 03.09.2023);
- The Higher Education Law no. 199/2023 (in force since 04.09.2023);
- GD no. 369/2013 approving the Methodology for accreditation of Master’s study domains based on the accredited Master’s programmes;
- Orders of the Minister of Education concerning operation of and/or capitalisation on some specific evaluation activities, which are drafted periodically.

In carrying out its activities, according to the law, ARACIS drafts and uses its own regulations, which are approved by the Council:

- Guidelines for quality evaluation activities of higher education programmes and higher education institutions;
- Guidelines for the periodical external evaluation of the Master’s study domains;
- Code of ethics and rules of conduct in the activities carried out by ARACIS in assuring and evaluating the quality of higher education in Romania, further on referred to as the Code of Ethics;
- Specific standards for the external evaluation of the academic quality of bachelor and master programmes, used by the Permanent Speciality Commissions;

- Resolutions of the ARACIS Council and Decisions of the Executive Board of the ARACIS Council (BEx) to address any current issues.

According to the provisions of the Methodology for external evaluation, standards, reference standards and list of performance indicators of ARACIS, approved by GD no. 1418/2006 and amended by GD 915/2017, the Methodology provides the conceptual framework and describes the main activities and strategies envisaged in the authorisation / accreditation / periodical evaluation processes and the quality assurance and external quality evaluation processes. The operational and instrumental aspects are detailed in the Specific evaluation guidelines, further on referred to as the ARACIS Guidelines or the Guidelines, drafted by ARACIS in consultation with higher education institutions and other interested stakeholders and beneficiaries. The Guidelines, composed of several parts, are approved by the ARACIS Council. Depending on the developments concerning the requirements for quality assurance in higher education, the ARACIS Council may approve amendments and supplements to the Guidelines.

ARACIS is a body that is entitled by law to issue and submit advisory proposals and recommendations to the MoE, based on its own evaluations materialising its know-how/experience in the field; therefore, the ARACIS Guidelines and its annexes are recognised in Romania as specific reference norms and regulations in the field of higher education quality assurance. The Methodology and the Guidelines ensure alignment with the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, (hereinafter referred to as the ESG), approved in 2015 at the Yerevan Conference by the ministers in charge with higher education in the EHEA, in which the quality assurance activities, policies and processes are explicitly defined.

1.1.3 The purpose of ARACIS activities

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 operate in Romania with the aim of:

- ✓ certifying, according to quality standards, the capacity of education providing organisations to fulfil the beneficiaries' expectations;
- ✓ contribute 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 strategies and policies to the Ministry of Education in order to continuously improve the quality of higher education, closely correlated to the level of pre-university education.

ARACIS also carries out a number of other attributions contributing to fulfilling its mission to strengthen trust in the higher education, as follows:

- a) issues an advisory proposal for the draft Government Decision approving the List of higher education domains and study programmes, higher education domains and programmes that are accredited or authorised for provisional operation, the territorial-administrative unit where they are delivered, number of transferable credits for each

higher education study programme, form of education and tuition language/s, as well as the maximum number of students that can be enrolled, as proposed by the quality evaluation agencies who evaluated each programme/domain. These are established annually by Government Decision for short-cycle higher education study programmes, bachelor studies, and master/doctoral study domains; the Government Decision is initiated by the Ministry of Education before 31 March every year, in consultation with the National Council of Rectors (CNR) and according to an advisory proposal from ARACIS and the National Authority for Qualifications (ANC). The study domains in the list are correlated with the domains in the International standard classification of education, ISCED-F 2013.

- b) checks compliance of higher education institutions with the additional number of places, as approved by the Ministry of Education, within the limit of 10% of the maximum number of students that can be enrolled, as established by ARACIS or by some other quality assurance agency for the requested study programme aimed at enrolling European and third-country nationals, or for academic mobilities of the students based on governmental or university agreements or according to the approved special programmes, as provided by the law. The higher education institution has the obligation to inform ARACIS about the additional places approved;
- c) develops and approves quality standards, differentiated per domains, for the organisation of full-time education and/or research activities that can be provided in synchronous mode, by using specific electronic, IT and communication resources, differentiated per each individual study domain;
- d) draws up specific, learning outcomes-focused quality standards for the carrying out of teaching, learning, research, practical training, and evaluation activities, separately for the different forms of organisation of full-time, part-time, and distance-learning study programmes and in line with the study domains and the education cycles set forth in art. 26 para. (1) of Law no. 199/2023;
- e) may request data from universities by using the single national higher education reporting platform - PNRUIS;
- f) following consultations with ANC and CNR, proposes the list of double specialisations that can be organised, to be approved by order of the Minister of Education;
- g) together with ANC, develops and proposes the framework methodology for the organisation and delivery of post-secondary study programmes for the vocational training of adults, to be approved by order of the Minister of Education;
- h) carries out the evaluation for accreditation and the periodic evaluation of initial training programmes for pre-university teachers;
- i) upon request of the Ministry of Education, develops studies on the impact of programmes and public policies to enable adaptation of the policies and financing;
- j) in case of failure of a higher education institution to comply with the provisions of this law, upon the request of the Ministry of Education, the Agency may participate in monitoring the activity of such institution;
- k) together with ANC, drafts and proposes the methodological framework for the vocational training programmes for adults and the micro credentials that can be granted to this purpose, to be approved by Order of the Minister of Education;
- l) together with ANC, develops and proposes the methodology for the recognition of competences acquired by young people and adults in non-formal and informal education

at the evaluation and recognition centres established by higher education institutions for such purpose, to be approved by Order of the Minister of Education;

- m) contributes to drawing up the draft Government Decision on the domains and requirements for organising full-time and part-time master study programmes.

The main goal of the activity of ARACIS in Romania is to ensure high-quality higher education and vocational training, in order to enable development of competitive human capital.

According to its international status as an EQAR-registered agency, the Agency can also evaluate the quality of education in higher education institutions abroad, upon the request of such institutions, subject to compliance with the legal regulations of that country.

1.1.4 Organisational structure

The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education is an autonomous public institution of national interest, a legal entity with competences related to carrying out external evaluation for quality assurance in higher education, post-secondary education, and vocational training of adults, operating independently based on its own income and expenditure budget.

In order to organise and achieve better efficiency of its activities, ARACIS has drafted its own Organisational and Operational Regulation, approved in their new version by the ARACIS Council through its Decision no. 188/H/ 27.06.2024.

- (1) The organisational structure of ARACIS is established by ([Annex 1 - Organisational chart](#)), and includes the following components:
 - a. the ARACIS Council;
 - b. Executive Board of the ARACIS Council (BEX);
 - c. University Studies Evaluation Department;
 - d. Institutional Evaluation and Audit Department;
 - e. ARACIS Technical Staff;
 - f. National Expert Evaluators' Register (RNE).
- (2) The following permanent working structures are organised and operate under the ARACIS Council:
 - a. Permanent Speciality Commissions;
 - b. Institutional Evaluation and Audit Commission;
 - c. Consultative Commission.
- (3) The following permanent working structures are organised and operate under the ARACIS President:
 - a. Monitoring Commission;
 - b. Discipline Commission.
- (4) The following permanent working structures are organised and operate independently in ARACIS:
 - a. Ethics Commission;
 - b. Appeals Commission.
- (5) The Technical Structure of ARACIS is composed of the following structures:
 - a. subordinated to the President

- i. Public Internal Audit Compartment
 - b. subordinated to the President and coordinated by the director general
 - i. President's Office Compartment
 - c. subordinated to and coordinated by the director general
 - i. Quality Assurance Direction;
 - ii. Organisation and Resource Management Direction;
 - iii. Legal, Cooperation, Communication and Training Direction.
- (6) The National Register of Expert Evaluators includes:
- a. the National Register of Expert Evaluators (teaching staff);
 - b. the National Register of Student Expert Evaluators;
 - c. the Register of International Expert Evaluators;
 - d. the Employers' Register.

The ARACIS Council is composed of 21 members, selected through a public contest according to ARACIS's own procedure that includes professional and scientific competence criteria, professional prestige, etc., out of which: 17 university professors and/or associate professors with full tenure, employed under permanent individual employment contracts, experienced in education quality assurance; two students, representatives of nationally representative student federations; one representative of the higher education union organisation and one employers' representative.

On 02 October 2024, the procedure for appointing student members to the ARACIS Council for the academic year 2023-2024 was carried out; the appointed students were one representative of the National Alliance of Student Organisations in Romania (ANOSR) and one representative of the Romanian National Students' Union (UNSR) based on the Methodology for appointing the representatives of student federations, the representative of employers, and the representative of the higher education union to the Council of the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, approved by Decision no. 245/22.09.2023, published in the Official Gazette no. 856, Part I.

The Council is the collective management structure of ARACIS, ensuring accomplishment of the mission, responsibilities, and competences of ARACIS, according to the law. It sits monthly in an ordinary meeting, and whenever necessary in extraordinary meetings, convened by the president or the vice-president, when the president is unavailable.

The Council carries out the responsibilities laid down in the ARACIS Organisational and Operational Regulation ([Annex 2. – Members of the ARACIS Council - 2024](#)).

The Executive Board of the ARACIS Council (BEx) ensures the steering of the current operations of ARACIS between meetings of the Council or according to the mandate granted by the ARACIS Council.

The Executive Board is composed of the president, the vice president and the secretary general of the ARACIS Council, the coordinator of the Quality External Evaluation Department and the coordinator of the Accreditation Department. As a rule, the Board has weekly meetings, and it can also meet whenever necessary, convened by the president or by the vice president when the president is unavailable. The meetings are conducted with at least 3 members present; they are chaired by the president or the vice president, and are conducted in person or online/in hybrid mode. The meetings of the Executive Board may be attended by the directors of the

speciality directions of the Technical Structure, who will act as guests, and by other people invited by the president for the purpose of attending to any specific issues. The students who are members of the ARACIS Council and the representative of the higher education union having the greatest number of members are permanent guests in the meetings of the Executive Board.

The University Studies Evaluation Department and the Institutional Evaluation and Audit Department are composed of members of the ARACIS Council, with 9 (nine) members in each department, coordinated by one coordinator. These departments sit periodically for analysis and debates on the evaluation of education programmes and institutional evaluations, respectively. As a result of the debates, the departments draft their own reports, submitted to the Council, with substantiated proposals concerning the extent of compliance of the evaluated study programmes and higher education institutions with the standards and the quality indicators.

The **Consultative Commission of ARACIS** is composed of personalities from the academic community, and its mission is to represent the interests of higher education institutions, thus contributing to an efficient collaboration with them for the purpose of developing and implementing adequate evaluation and quality assurance activities in line with the education quality needs of universities ([Annex 3 - Consultative Commission](#)).

The **Ethics Commission of ARACIS** ensures compliance with the Code of ethics and rules of conduct in the activities carried out by ARACIS in assuring and evaluating the quality of higher education in Romania, and the activities related to settling any complaints of potentially unethical aspects. The activities of this Commission are presented at paragraph 1.1.9.

Permanent Speciality Commissions. The ARACIS Council decided to establish 13 Permanent Speciality Commissions. These commissions are subordinated to the ARACIS Council. The commissions operate based on the [Regulations concerning the activities of the permanent speciality experts' commissions](#), approved by the ARACIS Council, and are assisted by a body of ARACIS expert evaluators listed in the [ARACIS National Register of Evaluators](#) (RNE). This body is composed of domestic and foreign university professors and associate professors with recognised professional activities and moral integrity, competence and experience in education quality assurance nationally and internationally. In order to become RNE-listed evaluators, the candidates undergo a transparent selection process regulated through a public procedure approved by the Council, available at: <https://www.aracis.ro/en/national-register-of-evaluators/>.

Based on the Decision of the Council, the selection of new professors on the Permanent Speciality Experts' Commissions of ARACIS was conducted in January-February 2024, and new members were selected on the following commissions:

- C1 - Exact Sciences and Natural Sciences;
- C2 - Humanist Sciences and Theology;
- C3 - Legal Sciences;
- C5 - Administrative Sciences, Education Sciences and Psychology;
- C7 - Economic Sciences (II);
- C8 - Arts, Architecture, Town Planning, Physical Education and Sport;
- C11 - Engineering Sciences (II);
- C12 - Medical Sciences.

Upon the expiry of the 2-year mandates of some of the students' representatives on the Permanent Speciality Commissions of ARACIS, contests were held in October-November 2024, based on the Council's Decision, to select members on the vacant student positions in these

commissions. New student members were selected on the following commissions as a result of these contests:

- C1 - Exact Sciences and Natural Sciences;
- C2 - Humanist Sciences and Theology;
- C3 - Legal Sciences;
- C4 - Social, political and communication sciences;
- C5 - Administrative Sciences, Education Sciences and Psychology;
- C6 - Economic Sciences (I);
- C7 - Economic Sciences (II);
- C8 - Arts, Architecture, Town Planning, Physical Education and Sport;
- C9 - Agricultural Sciences, Forestry Sciences and Veterinary Medicine;
- C10 - Engineering Sciences (I);
- C11 - Engineering Sciences (II);
- C13 – Distance and part-time learning.

The **Technical Structure of ARACIS** is an executive structure with 84 staff positions at the beginning of 2024, out of which 60 staffed and 24 vacant.

A contest was organised in 2024 for the filling in of a vacant executive position; the contest was completed with no admission of a candidate.

Regarding participation in training courses/sessions for the development of skills/competences of the institution's employees, the situation is as follows:

Table 1. Participation in staff training courses/sessions in 2024

No.	Direction/Service/Office/compartment	Training course/session title	No. of participants from the structure
1.	Internal Public Audit Compartment	Public internal audit	1
2.	Legal, Cooperation, Communication and Training Direction	Quality and performance of public services	1
		Managerial internal control system	1
		Personal data protection	1
		Public procurement	1
		Preventive financial control	1
		Ethics, integrity, and anti-corruption	1
3.	Organisation and Resource Management Direction	Communication in the public sector	1
		Budget accounting	1
		Management of human resources	1
		Digital tools in public administration	1
		Strategic leadership	1
		Occupational health and safety training	1
		Accounting in public institutions	1
		Financial management and budget accounting	1
		Financial management and budget accounting	1
4	Quality Assurance Direction	Leadership development programme 2024	1
		English language certification training - Level B1	3
Trainings in total			20

Source: ARACIS systematisation

1.1.5 Financial activity

The ARACIS budget includes revenues generated from internal sources, namely fees for the external evaluation activities for provisional authorising to operate / accreditation and/or periodical evaluation of study programmes, Master’s study domains and/or institutional evaluations, based on service contracts concluded with higher education institutions, and financial revenues such as interests and external non-reimbursable funds (ENRF).

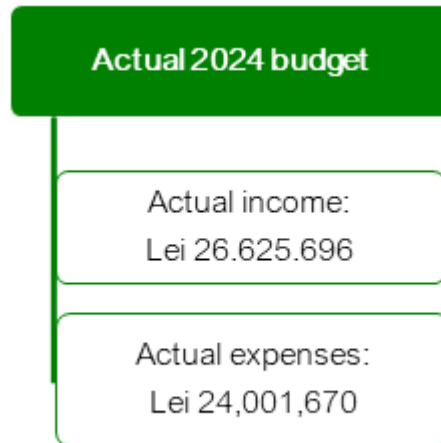


Figure 5. ARACIS income and expenditure budget for year 2024

In addition to the previously reported revenues, advance revenues in the amount of Lei 11,780,513 were also collected, related to external quality evaluation procedures that will be completed in 2025.

Payments made amounted to Lei 24,001,670, of which Lei 155,987 were from projects financed through external non-reimbursable funds (ENRF).

1.1.6 Procurement of IT equipment and services

Tender books and/or technical specifications were drafted in 2024 for the procurement of various IT products or services. Thus, the following purchases were made:

Table 2. List of IT equipment and services purchased in 2024

No.	Equipment/Services	No.
1.	Microsoft 365 A5 licenses	60 pieces
2.	Zoom Business license subscriptions	20 pcs
3.	Internet service subscription	2 pack
4.	Legislation service subscription	2 pack
5.	Videoconference software package	1 set
6.	Software for online designing-editing-publishing	1 pcs
7.	Technical services - accounting programme maintenance	1 pack
8.	Computer system maintenance services	1 pack
9.	Maintenance services for copying machines	1 pack
10.	Annual maintenance of IP addresses	1 pack

No.	Equipment/Services	No.
11.	Web design services to change the aspect of the interactivity of the ARACIS website	1 pack

1.1.7 Legal activities

Regarding the development and the issuing of opinions on the draft normative documents falling under the competence of ARACIS, the Legal, Cooperation, Communication and Training Direction, through the Legal and Internal Quality Assurance Service, contributed to developing:

1. The Methodology for the external evaluation of the quality of education in higher education - Government of Romania, approved by Government Decision no. 962/2024, published in the Official Gazette, Part I, no. 807 of 13 August 2024, entered into force on 09.02.2025;
2. The Methodology for confirming the results of the evaluations conducted by foreign quality assurance agencies registered in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) in Romania, approved by Order of the Minister of Education no. 4341/2024, published in the Official Gazette, Part I, no. 466 of 21 May 2024;
3. The Memorandum on: Unblock the process of concluding legal commitments for the expenses with the fees of national and international expert evaluators, pursuant to the provisions of the last thesis of art. XXI para. (1) letter g) of Government Emergency Ordinance 107/2024 regulating some fiscal-budgetary measures in the field of managing budget receivables and budget deficit for the general consolidated budget of Romania in 2024, and to modify and complement some regulatory documents, as amended by GEO no. 112/2024 on amending and supplementing some regulatory documents, registered at the Ministry of Education at no. 13309/16.10.2024.

Furthermore, ARACIS initiated the process for approving the Government Decision proposal on approving the tariffs for the authorisation, accreditation, and accreditation maintaining for higher education institutions/education providers and study programmes and domains, charged by the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, pursuant to art. 257 para. (3) of the Higher education law no. 199/2023, as further amended and supplemented, forwarded to the Ministry of Education through letter no. 5920/27.11.2024 of ARACIS.

Furthermore, for the approval of other regulatory documents, ARACIS contributed by sending points of view/observations/proposals to the regulatory documents initiated by the Ministry of Education and Research falling under the scope of the Agency, established as per Law no. 199/2023 on higher education, as amended and supplemented.

With respect to defending the rights and legitimate interests of ARACIS before the courts, ARACIS was a defendant in 2024 in one court case. The defence pleas were formulated for this case, de jure and de facto, by drafting denials of claims and enclosing supporting documents. The case is still pending trial at the time of writing.

In 2024, the evaluation activities required involving a significant number of expert evaluators, which resulted in 750 quality evaluation service contracts being concluded with Romanian expert evaluators and 57 similar contracts concluded with international expert evaluators.

Furthermore, 121 ARACIS Council Decisions pertaining to various circumstances and cases were drafted and approved. All the Council Decisions were subject to the internal transparency, communication, numbering and archiving procedures.

Furthermore, all templates of service contracts that ARACIS uses in its evaluation activity and signs with the higher education institutions, as well as the template contracts for quality evaluation, concluded by ARACIS with domestic and international expert evaluators have been drafted and updated.

1.1.8 Internal quality assurance

The ARACIS Legal and Internal Quality Assurance Service, through the internal quality assurance component, coordinates and provides the required logistic support for the activities related to establishing, documenting, implementing, maintaining, and continuously improving the efficacy of the internal quality assurance system of ARACIS, and collaborates with all the Agency's internal structures for this purpose.

By applying the internal quality assurance system, the ARACIS management commits to:

- promoting a culture of internal quality assurance;
- to efficiently manage and continuously improve the Agency's processes and resources;
- to identify, integrate, and establish the interaction of all the elements of the internal quality assurance system within the Agency;
- to train the employees, including the members of the ARACIS Council, on topics regarding internal quality assurance, in order to increase awareness on the importance of the individual contribution for achieving the Agency's objectives;
- to improve awareness and promote the importance of internal quality assurance among the Agency's own staff, management, and technical structures composed of expert evaluators, bearing in mind the impact that the results of the external education quality assurance evaluation services provided by the Agency has in the society.

The maintenance and continuous improvement of the Internal quality assurance system complies with the Standards and guidelines for quality assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG), integrated with the Managerial Internal Control Standards (SCIM).

For the main processes, records were kept in 2024 for all documented information/records; thus, the following documents were published by the Agency on its website: two sets of regulations; six methodologies; one procedure for general processes; one guide; one revised standard of the Speciality Commissions, and one new standard.

To ensure a homogeneous, coherent system for documenting procedures (for the support processes) at the level of the Agency, the ARACIS management maintained and supported the integration of the managerial internal control system (SCIM).

The process of controlling system and operational procedures is integrated in the activity of the technical secretariat of the Monitoring Commission, which is ensured by the Legal and Internal Quality Assurance Service personnel.

The responsibilities of the Technical Secretariat of the Monitoring Commission are established pursuant to the Order of the General Secretariat of the Government no. 600/2018 on approving the Code of managerial internal control of public entities, pursuant to the decision of the ARACIS president on setting up the Monitoring Commission for the implementation and development of the SCIM, and to the Organisational and Operational Regulation of the Monitoring Commission.

The activities carried out in 2024 for the purpose of developing the managerial internal control system (SCIM) were as follows:

- ✓ Recording, centralisation and processing of the data submitted by the internal structures of ARACIS;
- ✓ Control of the system procedures and operational procedures, by assigning codes to the procedures;
- ✓ Analysing the documented procedures for compliance with the minimal structure envisaged in the template presented in OSGG no. 600/2018, supplemented with the requirements contained in our own system procedure;
- ✓ Keeping updated records of all ARACIS system procedures and operational procedures;
- ✓ Centralisation of the self-evaluation questionnaires evaluating the progress in the implementation of the managerial internal control standards, filled in by the ARACIS structure for the purpose of drafting the Synthetic report on the self-evaluation reports and the Summary on the progress of implementation and the development of the managerial internal control system;
- ✓ Drafting of the Report on the managerial internal control system.

One operational procedure and one system procedure were revised and new editions for 8 (eight) operational procedures and 6 (six) system procedures regarding the internal activities conducted at the Agency were developed in 2024 in the Agency.

The external feedback received from representatives of higher education institutions and other stakeholders on the external evaluation process and the activity of ARACIS teams of evaluators is one of the main components of the internal quality assurance system. Thus, using the ARACIS activity evaluation questionnaires filled in by the institutions evaluated in 2024, the Legal and Internal Quality Assurance Service personnel developed the database, which is used by the Research Compartment for drafting an annual report.

Similar to the previous years, year 2024 was a year of progress in revising and implementing internal quality assurance procedures for the Agency's activities. However, the implementation of the managerial internal control system is a continuous, long-lasting process and requires comprehensive management instruments to be developed.

1.1.9 Professional and administrative activities

All ARACIS activities are carried out in compliance with the provisions of the Code of ethics and rules of conduct (hereinafter the “Code of Ethics”). The Ethics Commission of ARACIS operationally ensures compliance with the provisions of the Code of Ethics.

Through the provisions of its Code of Ethics, ARACIS aligns to the principles and provisions of the Expert Evaluators’ Code of Conduct of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). The Code of Ethics is periodically improved; the edition in force is the 3rd edition, revised and supplemented, approved in the ARACIS Council Meeting of September 28, 2017. The Code of Ethics applies to all employees and external collaborators involved in ARACIS’s activities.

The Ethics Commission of ARACIS has five members: a president, member of the Council, and four members, three of which are members of the Council – a professor, a student, and the representative of the higher education union, and the fourth one is appointed by the ARACIS Council among the permanent staff of the Agency. The Ethics Commission operates on a four-year mandate. The membership of the Ethics Committee, approved by the ARACIS Council on 14.01.2022, was modified on the occasion of changing the representative of the students’ federations, at the ARACIS Council’s meeting of 28.10.2022, and on the occasion of changing the President of the Ethics Commission in the ARACIS Council meeting of 25.01.2024. The Secretariat of the Ethics Commission is composed of two members appointed by the ARACIS President among the permanent staff of ARACIS. The membership of the Secretariat of the Ethics Commission was changed by the ARACIS Council Decision no. 12 of 02.08.2021.

The Ethics Commission is assisted by a legal adviser who approves its resolutions.

External evaluation activities involve members of the Council, external expert evaluators from the categories listed in the RNE, and the Agency’s own staff - speciality inspectors and/or experts involved in professional activities that are directly linked to the evaluation process. The ARACIS Advisory Commission plays a key role in monitoring compliance with the procedures and ethical norms during the institutional evaluation procedures.

As ARACIS assigns special importance to the compliance with evaluation procedures and ethical norms, the number of registered violations was very small throughout the operation of the Agency, and such violations were merely isolated cases. Thus, there was no motion on a suspicion of violation of the provisions of the Code of Ethics filed in 2024.

1.1.10 Activity of the Public Internal Audit Compartment

The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS) has the obligation to issue and submit its annual activity report on the public internal audit function to the Central Harmonisation Unit for Public Internal Audit (UCAAPI) and the Romanian Court of Accounts.

The annual activity report presents the progress in organising and operating the public internal audit structure as of 31 December 2024, and the public internal audit activity performed by the public internal audit structure at ARACIS during 2024.

The public internal audit function at ARACIS is established through an internal structure of the Agency, namely the Public Internal Audit Compartment.

According to the organisational chart of ARACIS, the Public Internal Audit Compartment is staffed with two public internal auditor positions. Currently, the Public Internal Audit

Compartment is staffed with one public internal auditor position, while the other internal auditor position is vacant.

In terms of its operation, the Public Internal Audit Compartment is directly subordinated to the ARACIS President, and carries out its function independently from the Agency's activities.

In 2024, the public internal auditor of the Public Internal Audit Compartment was not involved in performing any auditable activities. For every public internal audit mission in 2024, the public internal auditor filled in a "Declaration of independence" showing that there are no personal incompatibility situations.

The Public Internal Audit Compartment issued specific methodological norms on carrying out public internal audit activities, in line with the provisions of point 1.4.1 of Annex no. 1 to Government Decision no. 1086/2013 approving the General norms for carrying out public internal audit activities. The specific methodological norms regarding the public internal audit activity were approved by the ARACIS President and endorsed by UCAAPI according to the Qualified Advisory Proposal no. 40/13.05.2014.

In line with the Action plan for implementing recommendations, registered at no. 4986 on 26.07.2019, drafted following UCAAPI's Evaluation report no. 370.944/06.09.2016, which includes recommendation no. 2 on obtaining the unqualified advisory proposal of UCAAPI, the specific public internal audit norms were updated and submitted for endorsement in letters no. 7315/30.12.2021 and no. 994/21.02.2022; however, the drafts were returned with no advisory proposal, and the main cause for not granting an advisory proposal was as follows: "to provide for the necessary measures to ensure performance of the management responsibilities specific to the public internal audit structure, including the supervisory activity".

The Programme for quality assurance and quality improvement of the public internal audit activity, registered at no. 6.635/22.11.2021, was issued at the level of the Public Internal Audit Compartment of the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education. The Programme for quality assurance and quality improvement of the public internal audit activity includes: the programme drafting methodology; the action plan, and the monitoring report.

The Programme for quality assurance and quality improvement of the public internal audit activity is updated regularly; the last update of the document was registered at no. 142/05.12.2024. Furthermore, the Action plan for quality assurance and quality improvement of the public internal audit activity was drafted in 2024 and registered at no. 143/05.12.2024.

The action plan is the instrument that operationalises the Programme for quality assurance and quality improvement of the public internal audit activity, and its structure includes objectives, actions, performance indicators, deadlines, entities in charge, and comments.

The 2024 Report on the public internal audit activity quality monitoring was drafted and registered at no. 141/05.12.2024. The Report on the monitoring of the Programme for quality assurance and quality improvement of the public internal audit activity presents the results of the evaluation of the progress on the achievement of the objectives established in the action plan.

The public internal audit activity was planned by the ARACIS Public Internal Audit Compartment as follows:

- ♦ the 4-year multi-annual planning includes the missions for auditing the structures of the Technical Staff of the Agency, which are audited at least once in 4 years;

- ♦ the annual planning includes the missions to be carried out throughout one year, based on the results of the risk evaluation and the available audit resources.

The public internal audit missions included in the plan were selected according to the provisions of point 2.4.1.3. of Annex no. 1 to Government Decision no. 1086/2013 on approving the General norms for carrying out public internal audit.

The multi-annual public internal audit plan was drafted for a 4-year period, namely 2024-2027; the document was registered at no. 6563/28.11.2023 and approved on 19.12.2023.

The annual public internal audit plan was drafted and registered at no. 6564/28.11.2023 and approved on 19.12.2023.

The public internal audit missions included in the Multi-annual 2024-2027 public internal audit plan and the 2024 Public internal audit plan were substantiated by the substantiation report registered at no. 6565/28.11.2023, approved on 19.12.2023, which includes a summary of the results of the relevant risk analysis for each public internal audit mission, the flag criteria and other specific elements considered in selecting those public internal audit missions.

Considering the provisions of Law no. 296/2023, the ARACIS Council, in Decision no. 188/H/27.06.2024, ordered approval of the Organisation and Operation Regulation and of Annex 1 - Organisational chart, which led to the updating of the Multi-annual public internal audit plan for 2024-2027, registered at no. 4026/25.07.2024, and the Public internal audit plan for 2024, registered at no. 4025/25.07.2024. The update was implemented by drafting the Report for changing the multi-annual public internal audit plan for 2024-2027 and the public internal audit plan for 2024, registered at no. 4027/25.07.2024.

The public internal audit plan for 2024 includes 4 assurance missions, as follows:

1. Regularity/compliance assurance mission regarding “Evaluation of the organisation, operation and activity of the Service for Management of Evaluation Documents, Registration Office and Archives” regarding the field of specific functions; duration of auditing activities: 01.02.2024 – 27.03.2024.
2. Regularity/compliance assurance mission regarding “Evaluation of compliance with the legal provisions regarding assets registration”, regarding the field of asset management; duration of auditing activities: 28.03.2024 - 27.05.2024.
3. Regularity/compliance assurance mission regarding “Registration of documents on committing expenses, liquidations, financial management, and payments at the Agency”, regarding the field of budget; duration of auditing activities: 28.05.2024 - 23.07.2024.
4. Regularity/compliance assurance mission on “Organisation and coordination of records of medical leaves, and of the staff evaluation and professional training process”, regarding the field of human resources: 01/10/2024 – 25/11/2024.

All the 4 public internal audit missions included in the 2024 Public internal audit plan have been carried out.

No irregularities were found during the public internal audit missions carried out in 2024, and there have been no formulated recommendations that were not taken up by the ARACIS President.

18 recommendations were followed up, with the following results:

- 11 recommendations implemented within the established time limit;

- 7 recommendations not implemented, for which the time limit established for implementation has not been exceeded.

At the level of the Public Internal Audit Compartment, the attendance rate of the public internal auditor in professional training activities in 2024 was 100%. The average number of professional training days for the public internal auditor, according to Law no. 672/2002 on the public internal audit, as further amended and supplemented, is 15 days, which included:

- 5 days of training courses;
- 10 days of individual study.

1.2 Summary of activities

1.2.1 Management of current activities

During 2024, the BEx of the ARACIS Council met in meetings that were usually organised weekly, and in extraordinary meetings organised whenever necessary. On such occasions, the BEx reviewed the requests and documents received by it for review and decision, and formulated resolutions, which were forwarded directly to the applicants or submitted to the ARACIS Council for review and approval.

In all these cases, irrespective of the form of the requests (letters, e-mail, phone requests, etc.), the responses were formulated within the legal deadline and within the limits of ARACIS's competence.

During the reference period, five appeals were filed regarding bachelor study programmes; two appeals were solved by allowing them, while three were dismissed.

1.2.2 Collaboration with higher education institutions and other stakeholders

The Executive Board of the ARACIS Council organised hearings for the interested natural entities or the representatives of the interested institutions, such as: rectors of higher education institutions; presidents of associations or foundations; university professors; journalists; students, etc., and provided written answers to the requests of the higher education institutions in Romania and of other stakeholders.

The entire activity carried out by ARACIS in 2024 was based on expanding the collaboration with stakeholders with a view to assuring quality in the higher education system in Romania. ARACIS was an active partner of Romanian universities, and through its activities and projects supported their efforts towards assuring and improving quality, as well as the efforts of the MoE towards drafting and/or revising some national regulations in the field of quality assurance in higher education.

1.2.3 Students' involvement

Students are full members both in the ARACIS Council and in the Permanent Speciality Commissions; they attend the meetings of the BEx of the ARACIS Council and all evaluations carried out by the Agency, and are permanently involved in all the Agency's activities.

The National Register of Evaluators - Students (RNE-S) was updated in 2024 based on the information received from students' federations regarding continuation of the student status. The composition of the RNE-S, posted on the [webpage of ARACIS](#), is periodically updated and supplemented.

ARACIS continued to engage students in all external evaluation processes, in line with the regulations in force in Romania and the provisions of ESG 2015. The process of selecting new student representatives in the Permanent Speciality Commissions in 2024 was carried out in compliance with the provisions of the Procedure for selecting and appointing students, members of the Permanent Speciality Commissions.

1.2.4 Evaluation of the Agency’s activity by beneficiaries and other stakeholders

The Agency pays great attention to how it carries out its activities in order to enable continuous improvement of such activities. To this purpose, after introducing and disseminating a feedback questionnaire in 2017 to gather information about how the evaluated institution perceives the activity of the Agency, the analysis of the questionnaire titled “Opinion of the representatives of the evaluated higher education institutions and other stakeholders about the external evaluation process and the activity of the ARACIS evaluation panels” – year 2023 continued in 2024.

No.	Name	No. of respondents/ Target group	Thematic analyses
1.	ANALYSIS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE Opinion of the representatives of evaluated higher education institutions and of other stakeholders regarding the external evaluation process and the activity of the ARACIS evaluation panels” – Year 2023	1021 respondents from 60 HEIs	TA no. 5.3
2.	Evaluation of the quality of the services provided by ARACIS – study at the level of the national higher education system and the labour market	6220 respondents (Professors, students, alumni, employers)	TA no. 6

1.2.5 Studies and thematic analyses produced at the Research Office

According to the 2024 Operational Programme¹, the members of the Research Office, together with a team of experts from the Agency, worked on research studies and thematic analyses (TA), including:

No.	Name	Indicators / No. of respondents	Thematic analyses
1.	History and evolution of the external evaluations carried out by ARACIS in 2007-2023	Period 2007-2023	TA no. 7
2.	Trends and risks of the higher education system in the years to come - research at the level of the national higher education system and the labour market	6220 Respondents (Professors, students, alumni, employers)	TA no. 8
3.	QUALITY BAROMETER - 2023 State of quality in the Romanian higher education – study at the level of the national higher education system and the labour market	81,786 respondents* (Professors, students, alumni, employers)	

Note: * The database was supplemented with the questionnaires made and validated in the QAFIN project.

Some of the thematic analyses were disseminated by the Agency’s management in various domestic and international conferences.

Besides the studies, the following activities were conducted by the Research Office:

- a) Drawing up of the 2023 ARACIS Activity Report (bilingual – Romanian and English)

¹ <https://www.aracis.ro/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Plan-operational-al-ARACIS-pentru-anul-2024.pdf>

- b) Launching of the call for QAR Journal no. 13, vol. 1 and vol. 2 – year 2024, and enlargement of the editorial and international reviewers’ committee, centralisation and reviewing of articles.

2 EXTERNAL EVALUATION ACTIVITIES AND THE NATIONAL EXPERT EVALUATORS’ REGISTER

Approval by the ministers in charge with higher education of the new Standards and guidelines for quality assurance in higher education – ESG 2015 at the Ministers’ Conference of Yerevan (Armenia, May 14-15, 2015) brought about the need to revise the Methodology for external evaluation of ARACIS, approved by GD no. 915/2017 published in the Official Gazette of Romania, Part I, no. 25/11.01.2018².

For ARACIS, improving the criteria, standards and performance indicators is a continuous concern and a continuous process.

2.1 Evaluations conducted by ARACIS in 2024

The Agency’s current portfolio of external higher education quality evaluation activities includes the following types of evaluation: Institutional evaluations; Bachelor study programmes evaluations; Evaluations of master programmes / study domains; Evaluations of doctoral domains; Evaluations of teacher training programmes, and Evaluations of Romanian language programmes for foreign citizens (figure 6).

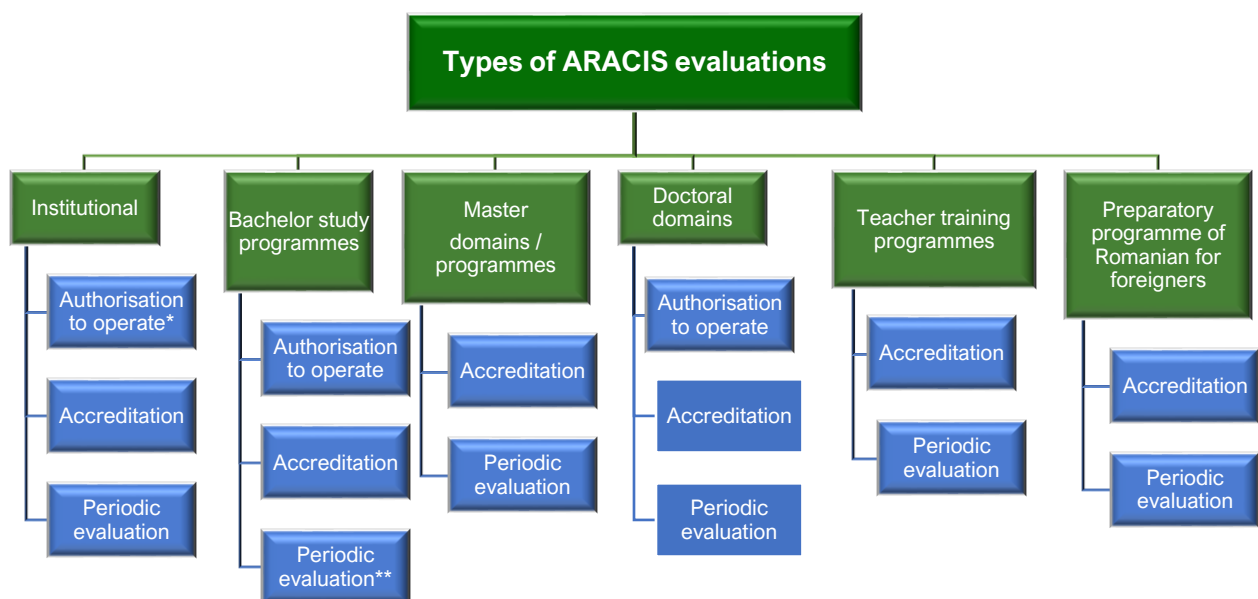


Figure 6. Types of evaluations in the ARACIS portfolio

Key:

* Granted by the Ministry of Education

** Implicitly EUR-ACE evaluations

² [Decision no. 915 of 14 December 2017 modifying the annex to Government Decision no. 1418/2006 approving the Methodology for external evaluation, standards, reference standards and list of performance indicators of the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education](#)

In 2024, ARACIS received the following from higher education institutions:

- ❑ 500 requests for external quality evaluation of bachelor and master study programmes;
- ❑ 279 requests for external quality evaluation for maintaining accreditation of master study domains (DSUM) – 51 requesting universities;
- ❑ 14 requests for external quality evaluation of the teacher training programme for certification of competences for the teaching profession;
- ❑ 4 requests for external quality evaluation of the preparatory programme of Romanian language for foreigners;
- ❑ 15 requests for external quality evaluation at institutional level;
- ❑ 15 requests for external evaluation of the setting up of new doctoral study domains – 11 requesting institutions organising doctoral studies (IOSUD).

Furthermore, ARACIS also received:

- ❑ from the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova - one request for external quality evaluation of a master study domain, and one request for external quality evaluation for 11 bachelor study programmes and 4 master study programmes;
- ❑ from the National Technical University of Ukraine „Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute“ – a request for external quality evaluation of 3 bachelor study programmes and EUR-ACE label.

In order to respond to these requests, the Accreditation Department of ARACIS operated according to its prerogatives laid down in the OOR, as follows:

- ❑ drafting of the internal reports of ARACIS, with support from the staff of the technical structure of ARACIS, for the validation of the results of the missions for the evaluation of programmes for provisional authorisation (AP), accreditation (A) or periodical evaluation (EP) (for continuation of the accreditation);
- ❑ organising and managing the database of education programme evaluations;
- ❑ management and updating of the ARACIS National Register of Evaluators.

Table 3 gives a status of the study programmes in universities in Romania evaluated by ARACIS in 2024. Most of the evaluation activities were for accredited study programmes, evaluated periodically to maintain their accreditation.

Table 3. Total external evaluations carried out by ARACIS, per types of evaluation, in 2024

TYPE OF EVALUATION	No. of evaluations
Institutional evaluations (12
Bachelor study programmes	374
Master study programmes	15
Master study domains	229
Preparatory programmes of Romanian language for foreigners	9
Teacher training programmes for certification of skills for the teaching profession	12
Doctoral study domains	15
Total evaluations	678

Source: Processed by ARACIS

The activities carried out by each Speciality Commission are summarised in Table 4. Most of the times, the Speciality Commissions had monthly meetings.

Table 4 Number of meetings and evaluated programmes, per Speciality Commissions and ARACIS Council meetings in 2024

Permanent Speciality Commissions	No. of meetings	Bachelor programmes	Master domains	Master programmes
ARACIS Council meetings	20	-	-	-
C1 - Exact Sciences and Natural Sciences	8	21	27	0
C2 - Humanist Sciences and Theology	10	31	19	3
C3 - Legal Sciences	7	10	9	0
C4 - Social, political and communication sciences	8	18	22	0
C5 - Administrative Sciences, Education Sciences and Psychology	9	28	14	1
C6 - Economic Sciences I	10	25	31	1
C7 - Economic Sciences II	8	13	25	0
C8 - Arts, Architecture, Urbanism, Physical Education and Sports	10	46	17	3
C9 - Agricultural Sciences, Forestry Sciences and Veterinary Medicine	6	13	19	1
C10 - Engineering Sciences I	11	42	14	1
C11 - Engineering Sciences II	8	56	30	2
C12 - Medical Sciences	12	27	2	3
C13 – Distance and part-time learning	8	44	-	-
Total evaluated programmes	-	374	229	15

Source: Processed by ARACIS

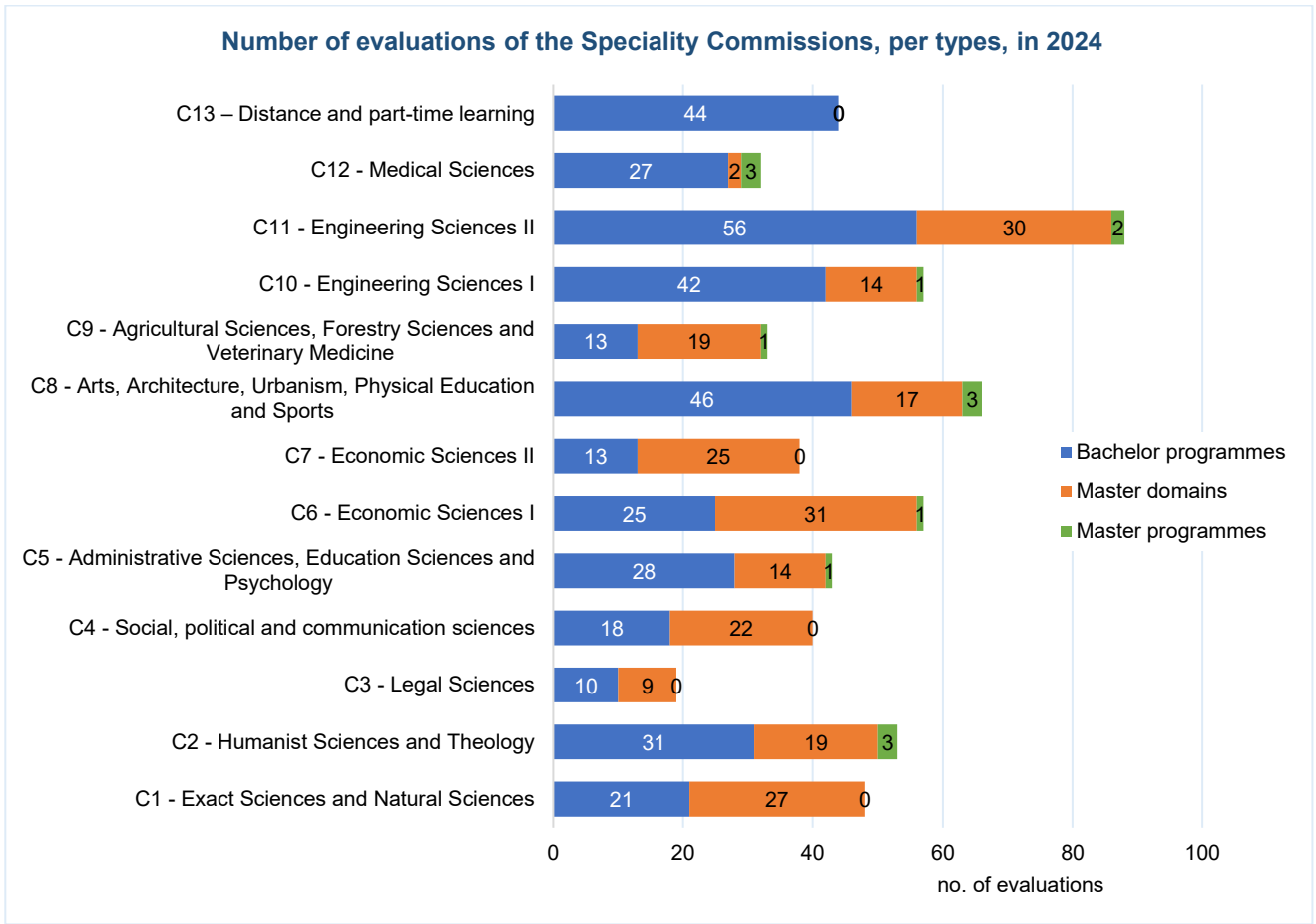


Figure 7. Number of evaluations of the Speciality Commissions, per types, in 2024

2.1.1 Institutional evaluations

In 2024, the figures related to the external evaluation of higher education institutions are as follows:

Table 5. Judgments obtained in the institutional evaluations in 2024

Indicator	Judgments obtained						Total institutional evaluations
	High degree of confidence	Confidence	Limited degree of confidence	No confidence	Institutional accreditation	Institutional non-accreditation	
No. of evaluations	3	5	3	-	1	-	12

Table 6. Programmes/domains evaluated within the institutional evaluations carried out in 2024

Type of programmes	Form of education			TOTAL
	Full time	Part-time	Distance learning	
Bachelor programmes	53	0	2	55
Master domains	-	-	-	5
Master programmes evaluated in the 5 DM	7	-	-	7

In 2024, ARACIS provided the higher education institutions with the certificates attesting to the judgments awarded after the institutional evaluations performed by the Agency during the 2023/2024 academic year.

2.1.2 Evaluation of bachelor study programmes

A statistic report on the evaluations of bachelor study programmes evaluated by ARACIS in 2024 is given below:

Table 7. Evaluations of bachelor programmes by form of education in 2024

Indicator	Form of education			Total evaluations
	Full time	Part-time	Distance education	
No. of programmes	330	14	30	374
Share %	88,24%	3,74%	8,02%	100%

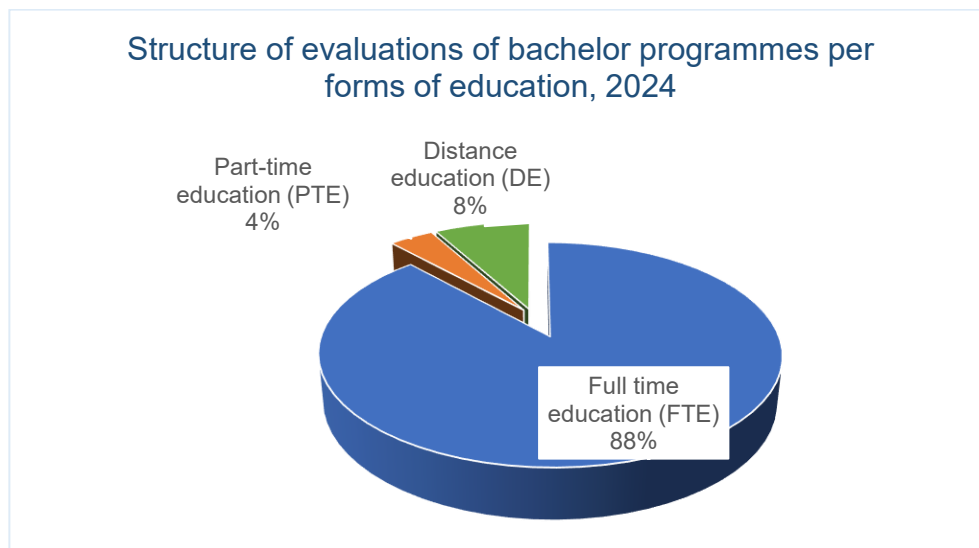


Figure 8. Structure of evaluations of bachelor programmes by forms of education

Table 8. Distribution of bachelor programme evaluations by type of evaluation in 2024

indicator	Type of evaluation			Total evaluations
	Provisional authorisation (AP)	Accreditation (A)	Periodic evaluation (EP)	
No. of programmes	61	26	287	374
Share %	16.31%	6.95%	76.74%	100%

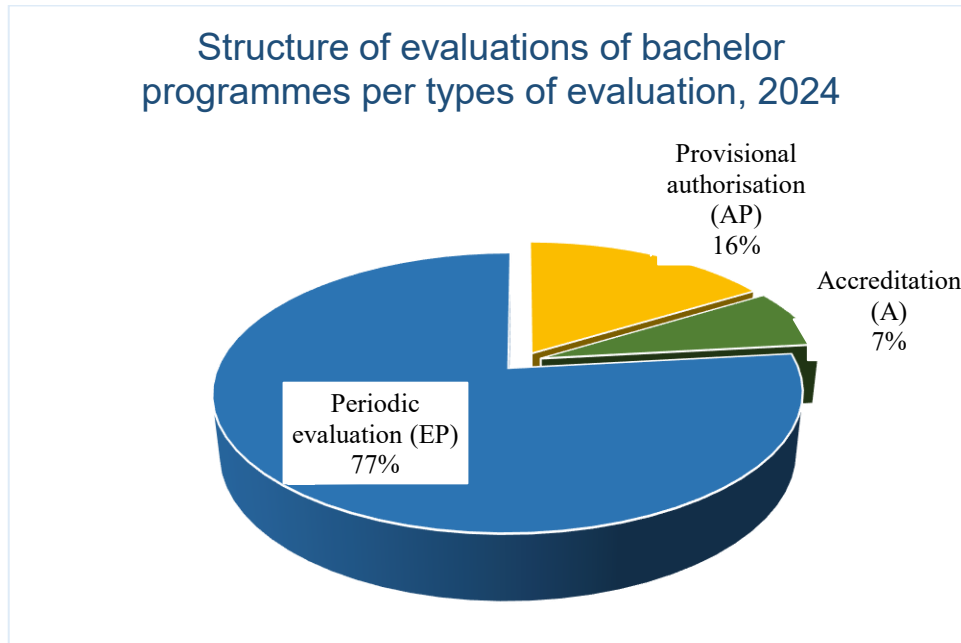


Figure 9. Structure of evaluations of bachelor programmes by types of evaluation

Table 9. Advisory proposals obtained in the evaluation of bachelor programmes for Authorisation in 2024

Authorisation / Type of evaluation	Advisory proposals obtained		Total
	Authorisation	Non-authorisation	
No. of programmes	56	5	61
Share %	91.8%	8.2%	100%

Table 10. Advisory proposals obtained in the evaluation of bachelor programmes for Accreditation in 2024

Accreditation / Type of evaluation	Advisory proposals obtained			Total
	Accreditation	Accreditation with monitoring	Non-accreditation	
No. of programmes	23	3	0	26
Share %	88.46%	11.54%	0%	100%

Table 11. Advisory proposals obtained in the periodic evaluation of bachelor programmes during the periodic evaluation in 2024

Periodic evaluation/ Type of evaluation	Advisory proposals obtained			Total
	Maintaining accreditation	Maintaining accreditation under monitoring	Accreditation withdrawn	
No. of programmes	277	9	1	287
Share %	96.51%	3.14%	0.35%	100%

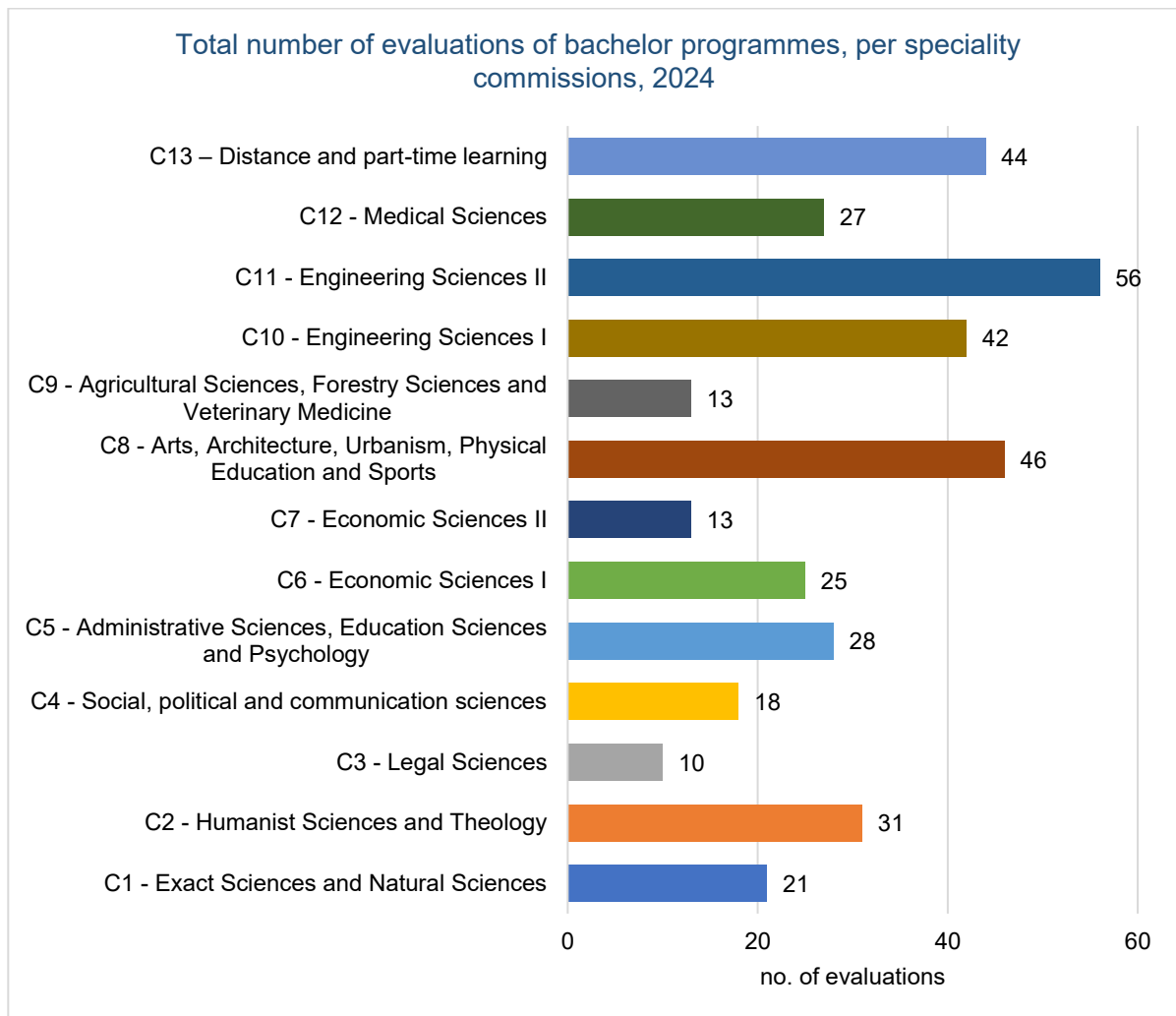


Figure 10. Total number of evaluations of bachelor programmes, per Speciality Commissions

Table 12. Number of evaluations of bachelor programmes, per Speciality Commissions

Commission	Bachelor program mes	Out of which:		
		Authori- sation	Accred itation	Periodic evaluatio n
C1 - Exact Sciences and Natural Sciences	21	4	1	16
C2 - Humanist Sciences and Theology	31	1	2	28
C3 - Legal Sciences	10	1	0	9
C4 - Social, political and communication sciences	18	2	2	14
C5 - Administrative Sciences, Education Sciences and Psychology	28	2	0	26
C6 - Economic Sciences I	25	7	0	18
C7 - Economic Sciences II	13	0	2	11
C8 - Arts, Architecture, Urbanism, Physical Education and Sports	46	3	8	35
C9 - Agricultural Sciences, Forestry Sciences and Veterinary Medicine	13	3	0	10
C10 - Engineering Sciences I	42	6	2	34
C11 - Engineering Sciences II	56	12	2	42

Commission	Bachelor programmes	Out of which:		
		Authorisation	Accreditation	Periodic evaluation
C12 - Medical Sciences	27	10	5	12
C13 – Distance and part-time learning	44	10	2	32
Total evaluations	374	61	26	287

Source: Processed by ARACIS, February 2025

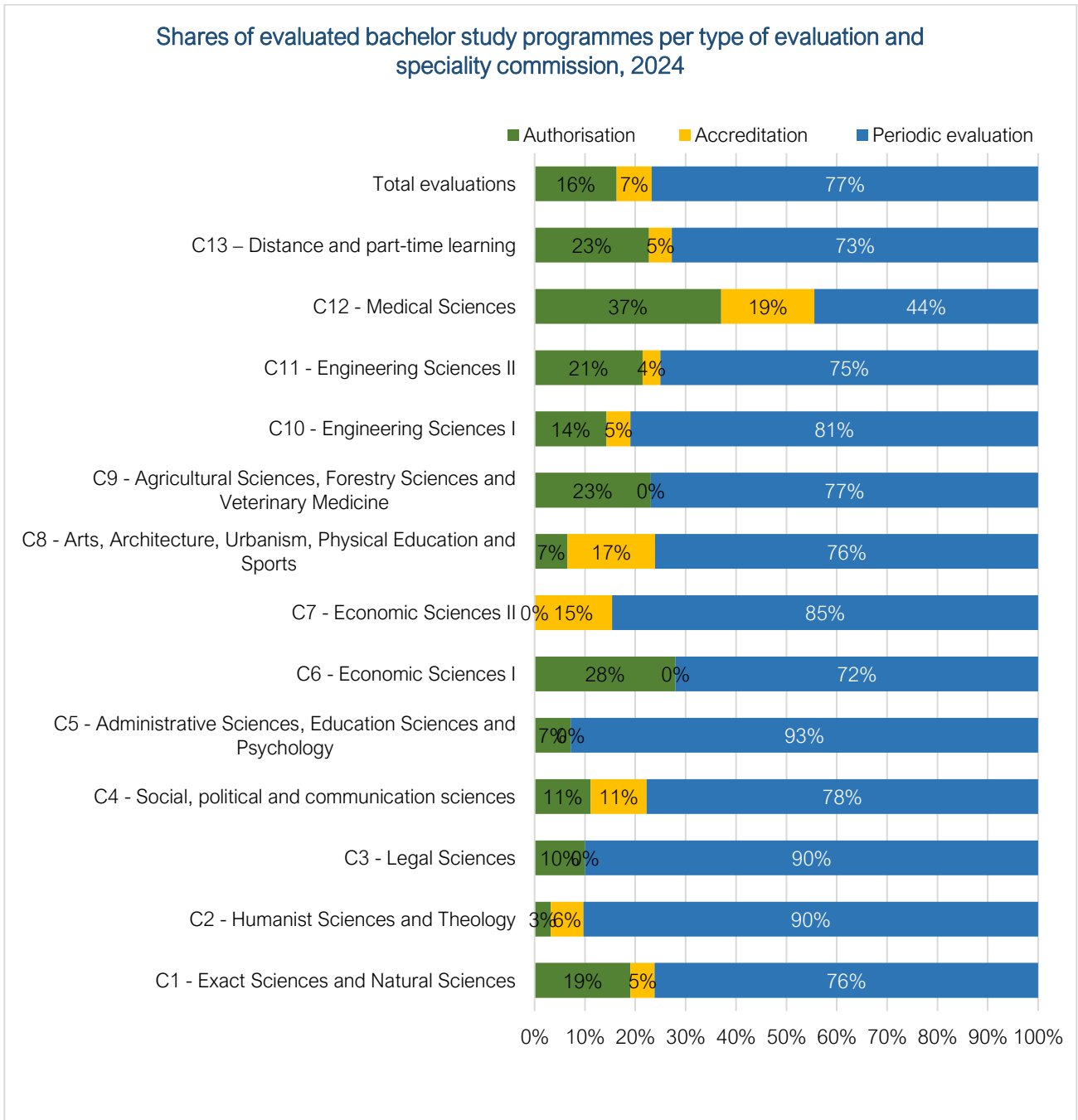


Figure 11. Structure of evaluated bachelor programmes, per types of evaluations and Speciality Commissions

Out of a total of 86 bachelor study programmes in engineering sciences that have undergone periodic evaluations, 15 programmes also applied for EUR-ACE® label evaluation.

The list of bachelor programmes with EUR-ACE® label awarded by ARACIS in 2024 is given in Table 13:

Table 13. Bachelor programmes with EUR-ACE label awarded by ARACIS in 2024

No.	University	Study programme
1.	“Politehnica” National Science and Technology University, Bucharest	Robotics
2.	“Transilvania” University of Braşov	Engineering and design of finished wood products
3.		Engineering and management in public catering and rural tourism
4.		Applied electronics
5.		Control and expert analysis of food products
6.		Engineering of food products
7.		Information Technologies
8.		Computers
9.		Industrial security engineering
10.		Renewable energy system engineering
11.		Engineering and quality management
12.		Mechanical engineering (IFR)
13.		Electrotechnics
14.		Technical University of Cluj-Napoca
15.	“Regele Mihai I” University of Life Sciences of Timișoara	Stock breeding

2.1.3 Evaluations of master study programmes

A statistic report on the evaluations of master domains and study programmes evaluated by ARACIS in 2024 is given below:

Table 14. Evaluations of master study domains, by judgments obtained in 2024

Indicator	Master domains evaluated		Total
	Maintaining accreditation	Accreditation withdrawn	
No. of domains	223 + 5 monitoring	1	229

Table 15. Evaluations of master programmes, by judgments obtained in 2024

Indicator	For accreditation		Total evaluations
	Accreditation	Non-accreditation	
No. of programmes	14	1	15

Table 16. Number of evaluations of Master domains and programmes, per Speciality Commissions

Commission	Master domains	Master programmes
C1 - Exact Sciences and Natural Sciences	27	0

Commission	Master domains	Master programmes
C2 - Humanist Sciences and Theology	19	3
C3 - Legal Sciences	9	0
C4 - Social, political and communication sciences	22	0
C5 - Administrative Sciences, Education Sciences and Psychology	14	1
C6 - Economic Sciences I	31	1
C7 - Economic Sciences II	25	0
C8 - Arts, Architecture, Urbanism, Physical Education and Sports	17	3
C9 - Agricultural Sciences, Forestry Sciences and Veterinary Medicine	19	1
C10 - Engineering Sciences I	14	1
C11 - Engineering Sciences II	30	2
C12 - Medical Sciences	2	3
C13 – Distance and part-time learning	-	-
Total evaluations	229	15

Source: Processed by ARACIS

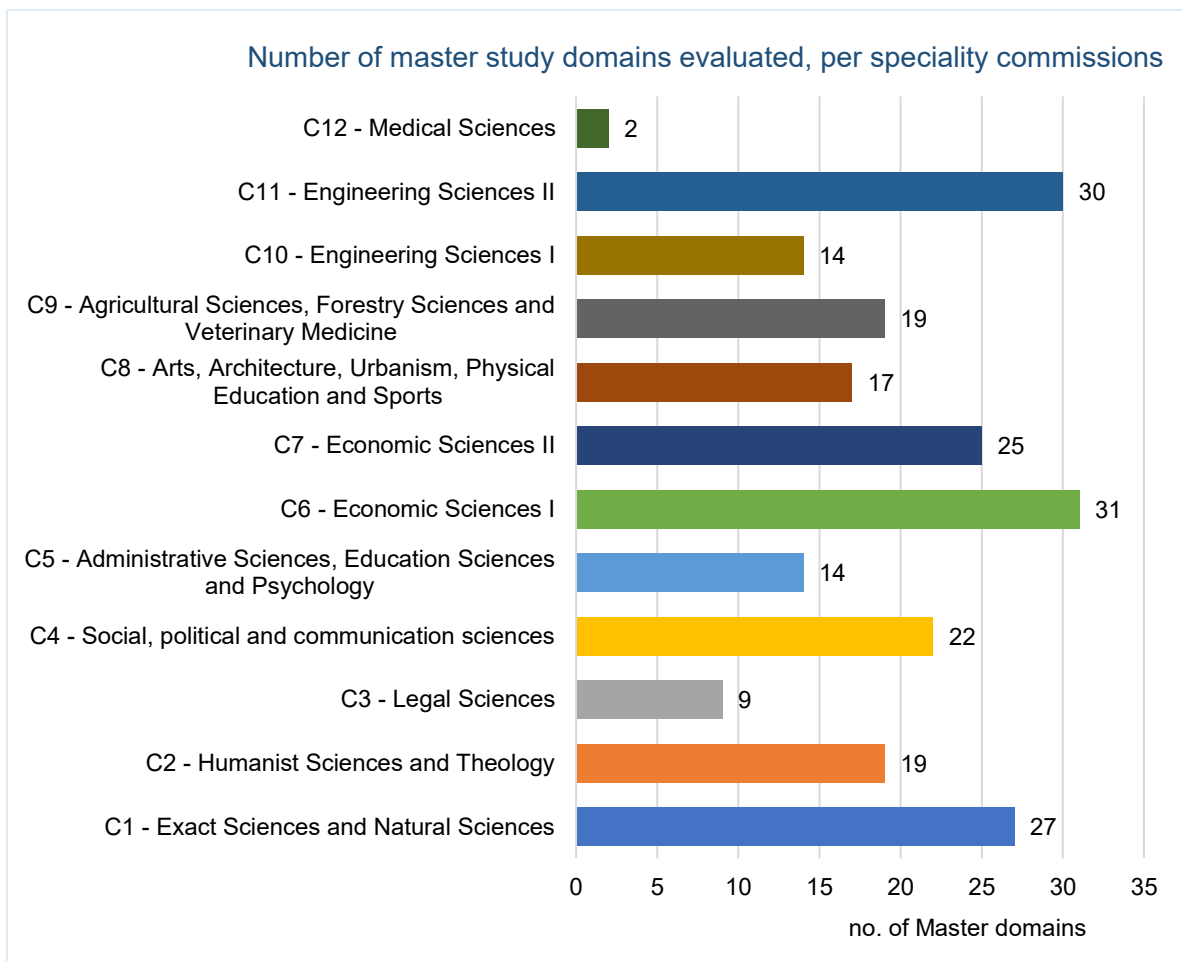


Figure 12. Number of Master domains evaluated, per Speciality Commissions

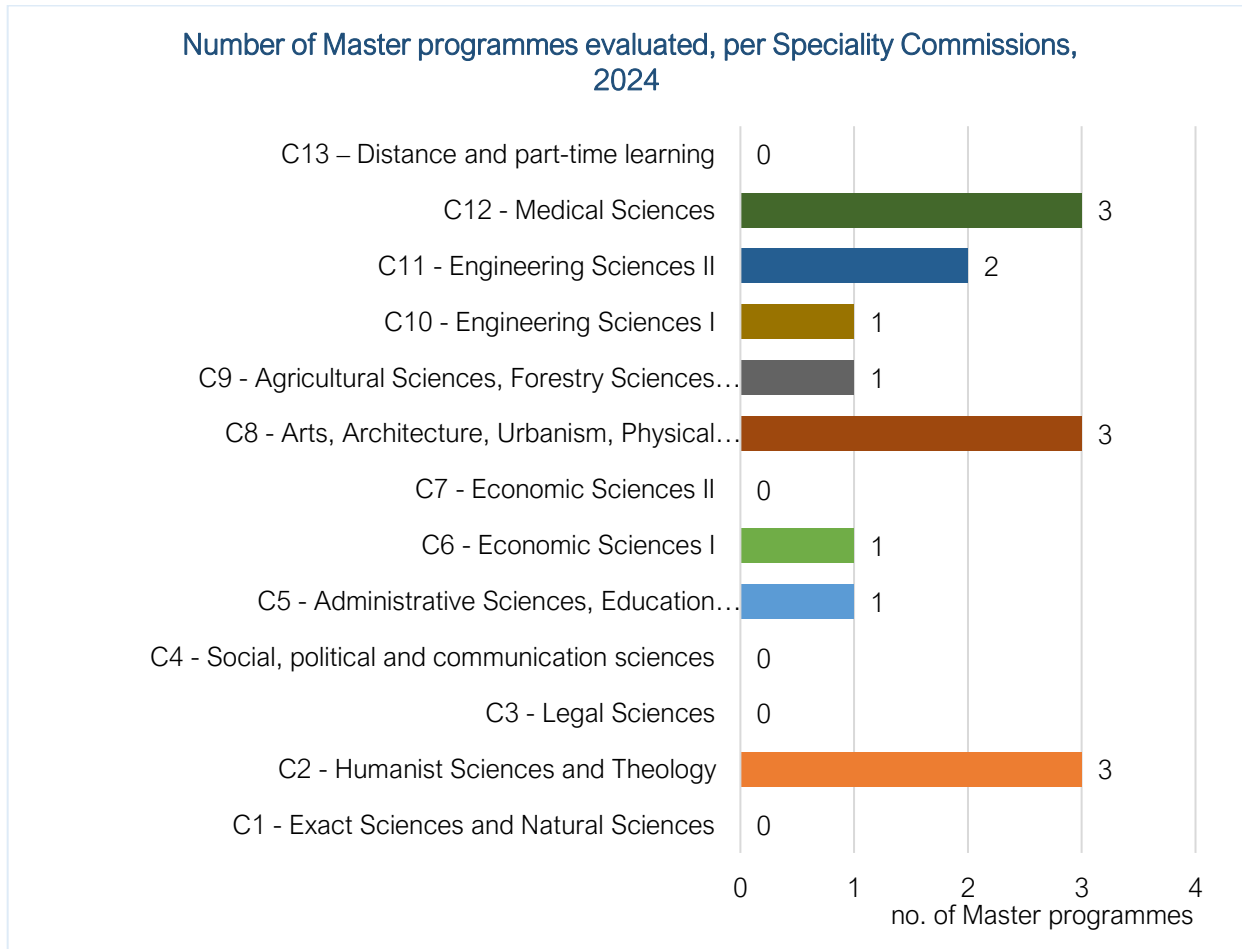


Figure 13. Number of Master programmes evaluated, per Speciality Commissions

2.1.4 Evaluations of doctoral study programmes

In 2024, ARACIS carried out the external evaluation of doctoral studies for 15 doctoral study domains (DD).

Table 17. Distribution of doctoral domain evaluations by type of evaluation in 2024

Type of evaluation	Type of evaluation			Total evaluations
	Provisional authorisation (PA)	Accreditation (A)	Periodic evaluation (PE)	
Doctoral domains	0	12	3	15

2.1.5 Evaluations of teacher training programmes

Table 18. Evaluations of teacher training programmes in 2024

Indicator	Type of evaluation		Total evaluations
	For accreditation (A)	Periodic evaluation for maintaining accreditation (EP)	
No. of programmes	1	11	12

2.1.6 Evaluations of “Preparatory programmes of Romanian for foreigners”

Table 19. Evaluations of “Preparatory programmes of Romanian for foreigners”, by type of evaluation, in 2024

Year	Type of evaluation		Total evaluations
	For accreditation (A)	Periodic evaluation for maintaining accreditation (EP)	
2024	2	7	9

2.2 The ARACIS National Register of Evaluators

The National Register of Evaluators is composed of: the National Register of Expert Evaluators (teaching staff), the National Register of Student Expert Evaluators, the Register of International Expert Evaluators, and the Register of Employers’ Representatives (<https://www.aracis.ro/en/national-register-of-evaluators/>).

The ARACIS National Register of Evaluators (RNE teaching staff), managed through the <http://pfe.aracis.ro> platform and later on through the platform developed under the QAFIN project, <https://rne.aracis.ro>, was built according to the provisions of art. 18 letter a) and b) and art. 191 point (10) of Government Emergency Ordinance no. 75/2005 on education quality assurance, as further amended and supplemented. The ARACIS National Register of Evaluators (RNE) was updated after the coming into force of Law no. 199/2023 on higher education, which, in art. 255, para. (1) letter a), stipulates that “ARACIS expert evaluators can be tenured professors who have a permanent employment contract, lecturers, associate professors or professors with experience in education quality evaluation”.

RNE Teaching Staff is composed in line with the bachelor study domains included in the List of domains and specialisations/study programmes, approved every year by a Government Decision on approving the List of domains and specialisations/study programmes and the structure of higher education institutions, plus a section dedicated to distance learning and part-time study programmes.

Candidates are admitted into the RNE Teaching Staff via an electronic platform, based on the Procedure for the admission of candidates into the National Register of Expert Evaluators (teaching staff), approved by Council decision 73/H/31.03.2023 and updated by Council decision 262/H/28.09.2023.

Table 20. Number of evaluators on the RNE, per speciality commissions 2024

Commission	No. of RNE evaluators
C1 - Exact Sciences and Natural Sciences	103
C2 - Humanist Sciences and Theology	79
C3 - Legal Sciences	27
C4 - Social, political and communication sciences	56
C5 - Administrative Sciences, Education Sciences and Psychology	71
C6 - Economic Sciences I	110
C7 - Economic Sciences II	87
C8 - Arts, Architecture, Urbanism, Physical Education and Sports	78
C9 - Agricultural Sciences, Forestry Sciences and Veterinary Medicine	80
C10 - Engineering Sciences I	107
C11 - Engineering Sciences II	215

Commission	No. of RNE evaluators
C12 - Medical Sciences	76
C13 – Distance and part-time learning	30
C14. Commission of Institutional Evaluation for Managerial and Financial Activities	15
Total RNE Teaching Staff	1134
National Register of Student Expert Evaluators (RNE-S)	211
National Register of International Evaluators (RNE-I)	294
Register of Employers' Representatives (RNE-A)	106
Total RNE evaluators	1745

Source: Processed by ARACIS

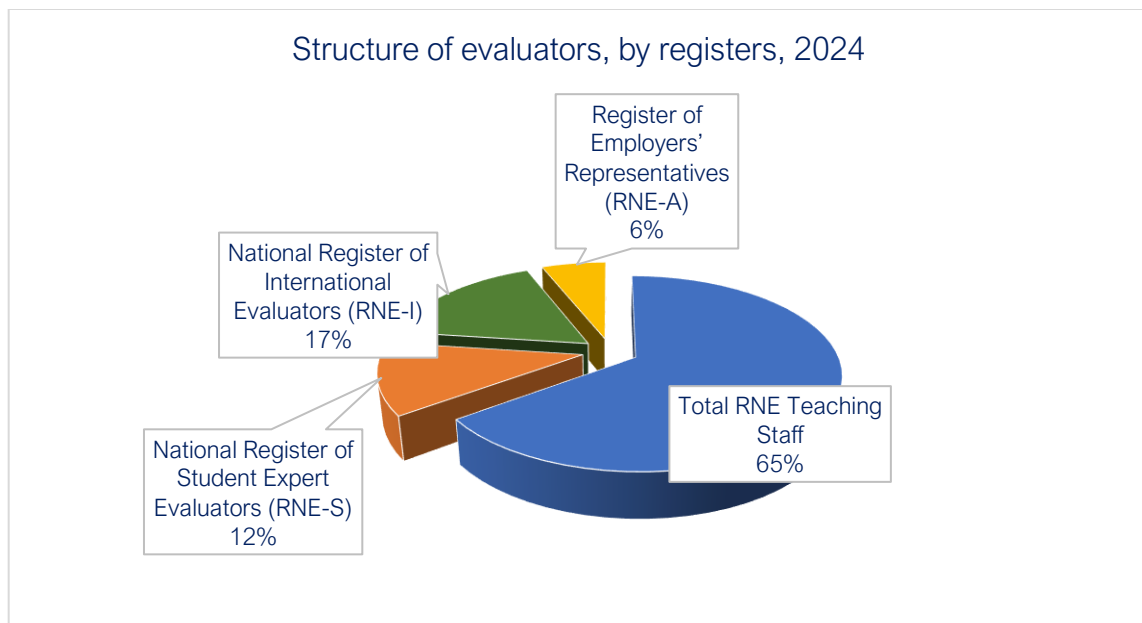


Figure 14. Structure of evaluators, by registers

2.3 Compartment for Relations with the Social-Economic Environment

In 2024, ARACIS supported student federations in organising one training session for students to become ARACIS student evaluators. The student training session on external quality evaluation in higher education was conducted between 17 – 25 July 2024, and was attended by 64 students.

After this training session, according to the provisions of art. 38 para. (13) letter h) of the ARACIS Organisational and Operational Regulation of ARACIS, the RNE-S was updated by including 4 students and excluding 70 students (33 – ANOSR, 24 – UNSR, and 13 – USR), according to the updated lists for 2024-2025 sent by the student federations and drafted by the student federations based on the academic records communicated by the evaluator students for the 2024-2025 academic year, and depending on the availability or eligibility of the students.

Therefore, after including the new members and excluding 70 students, RNE-S has now 211 students (107 - ANOSR, 65 - UNSR, 39 - USR) who participated in at least one training session on the topic of quality assurance in higher education, including hands-on activities.

As of the beginning of the 2024 - 2025 academic year, the status of the evaluator students registered in RNE-S is given in the table below:

Table 22. Number of student evaluators in the RNE-S, per nationally recognised federations, in 2024

Students federation	Number of student evaluators
National Alliance of Students' Organisations in Romania (ANOSR)	107
National Union of Students in Romania (UNSR)	65
Romanian Students' Union (USR)	39
Total student evaluators on the RNE – S	211

Source: Processed by ARACIS

3 COOPERATION

3.1 National cooperation

ARACIS is in permanent cooperation with higher education institutions in carrying out its responsibilities in the field of external evaluation for education quality assurance in higher education, postgraduate education, and permanent education, in line with the standards and evaluation methodologies.

Thus, the ordinary meeting of the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Pre-University Education was held on 30 January, and attended by the ARACIS representative on the ARACIP Board; the meeting included an analysis of evaluation files for various pre-university programmes/education institutions.

ARACIS representatives attended the online meeting on the Gender Equality Plan, organised by the University of Bucharest on 21 March, as well as the National conference for launching and disseminating the national report on the implementation of the EUROGRADUATE 2022 study in Romania, organised by the Executive Unit for Financing in Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation (UEFISCDI) on 27 March in Bucharest.

In July, the president of ARACIS, Prof. Dr. Eng. Valentin Năvrăpescu, attended a number of events, among which: the anniversary of 160 years since the Bucharest University was established (16 July); the meeting of the National Rectors' Council, hosted by the Cluj-Napoca Agricultural Science and Veterinarian Medicine University and the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca (25-27 July); the 155-year anniversary of USAMV-Cluj Napoca (25 July).

Furthermore, ARACIS attended the Annual meeting in the field of military education, on the topic of "NATO 75 – Romania 20. The 2024-2025 academic year – the year of redefining educational competences and performances in line with the national and Euro-Atlantic standards", hosted by the "Henri Coandă" Airforce Academy of Braşov in 2-4 September. The event brought together representatives of the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of National Defence, high-level military and civilian officials, notable personalities of the institution, professors, scientific researchers. At the event, the representative of ARACIS, Prof. Dr. Eng. Marius Petrescu, Secretary General, focused his intervention on the particulars of military education within the context of the national legislation and the methodologies of ARACIS.

Furthermore, ARACIS representatives attended the following events organised at national level, as follows:

- ✓ Presentation of the Methodology for external quality evaluation in higher education, at the Oil and Gas University of Ploieşti on 9 October;
- ✓ [Meeting of the National Rectors' Council and Anniversary of 80 years of the "Victor Babeş" Medicine and Pharmacy University of Timișoara](#), organised in 17-19 October;
- ✓ [Conference on the topic of "Best practices in quality management"](#), organised by the "Alexandru Ioan Cuza" University of Iași (UAIC) under the UniE-Quality project: Developing a quality culture and improving teaching at UAIC, 28-29 October;

- ✓ [International conference on “Academic diplomacy within the context of European university alliances. Strategic directions for Romania”](#), organised by the West University of Timișoara, 31 October - 1 November;
- ✓ [International conference on “Rethinking Research Assessment”](#), organised by the Executive Unit for Financing in Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation (UEFISCDI) in partnership with Open and Universal Science project (OPUS), Science Europe, Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA), and UNESCO Chair on Science and Innovation Policies; the conference was organised in Bucharest on 14 November.

3.2 International cooperation

ARACIS is registered in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR); the Agency is also a member in the following organisations: European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA); Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEENQA); European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education (ENAE); International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE); European Consortium for Accreditation in Higher Education (ECA); Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA); Global Academic Integrity Network (GAIN), International Quality Group of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation International Quality (CHEA-CIQG), and an affiliate member of the Council for Doctoral Education of the European Universities Association (EUA – CDE).

3.2.1 Activities within ENQA – The European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education

The Agency is represented at ENQA by Mrs Professor Dr. Eng. Daniela-Cristina Ghițulică, who was re-elected at the 26-27 October 2023 General Meeting of ENQA for a new mandate as ENQA Board member and ENQA Vice-president.

ENQA external review of ARACIS

ARACIS is a member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) since 2009, and it periodically undergoes the international external review procedures required for maintaining this status.

The Agency’s external review is conducted every 5 years, and seeks to check the operations of the Agency against the Standards and guidelines for quality assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG). Within this context, [in 2022-2023](#), ARACIS was evaluated by ENQA, which is a prerequisite for [renewing registration in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education \(EQAR\)](#). Thus, on 8 February 2024, ARACIS forwarded to ENQA the Agency’s application to renew its membership, including the letter of intent and the proof of EQAR registration.

At the ENQA Board meeting of 28 February, the status of ARACIS as ENQA member was reconfirmed for the next five years. The external evaluation coordinated by ENQA confirms that ARACIS continues to comply with the ESG provisions, and every standard included in the evaluation was assessed as “Compliant” by the ENQA panel of evaluators.

Furthermore, at the ENQA Members' Forum of 2024, held on 18-19 April in Hanover, Germany, the President of ENQA, Douglas Blackstock, handed over to the Director General of ARACIS, Prof. Dr. Eng. Daniela-Cristina Ghițulică, the certificate reconfirming the Agency's ENQA membership for the next five years.

Participation in events

ARACIS periodically attends the events organised by ENQA and is involved in the activities initiated by this association.

Therefore, ARACIS representatives attended the main events/meetings organised by ENQA in 2024, namely:

- ✓ Meetings of the ENQA Executive Board between February - December 2024;
- ✓ [ENQA members' forum 2024](#) organised in Hanover, Germany, on 17-19 April;
- ✓ The [ENQA member CEO](#) online meeting with representatives of the European Commission, on 9 July;
- ✓ [Seminars within the ENQA Leadership Development Programme 2024](#), hosted by the Hungarian Accreditation Committee (MAB) in Budapest, Hungary (5-7 June), the Swedish Higher Education Authority - UKÄ in Stockholm, Sweden (18-20 September), and the Agency for Quality Assurance through Accreditation of Study Programmes - AQAS in Cologne, Germany (27-29 November), with the last seminar also including the Alumni ENQA LDP event;
- ✓ [ENQA seminar for evaluation panel secretaries](#), held online on 4 October;
- ✓ [ENQA General Meeting](#), organised on 24-25 October in collaboration with the Malta Further and Higher Education Authority - MFHEA in St. Julian's, Malta;
- ✓ [Webinar on "Supporting the academic integrity culture: Role of quality assurance agencies in promoting and strengthening academic integrity and ensuring learning"](#), organised by ENQA on 31 October;
- ✓ [Follow-up seminar](#) for agencies who have recently undergone a targeted review, organised by ENQA online on 8 November;
- ✓ [Seminar on the European Dimension of Quality Assurance](#) organised by ENQA in Brussels, Belgium on 11 December 2024;
- ✓ [Workshop on the development of staff in quality assurance agencies](#) organised by ENQA in Brussels, Belgium on 12 December 2024.

3.2.2 Activities at EQAR - European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education

ARACIS has the obligation, under the law, to register in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) and periodically undergo the external evaluation procedures envisaged for keeping this status.

ARACIS is registered in EQAR since 2009, and until now it has been through three periodic external review processes to renew its EQAR registration, with the last review completed in 2023, based on which the EQAR Board approved continuation of EQAR registration for another 5-year period until 30.09.2028.

Participation in events

- ✓ The webinar organised by the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) on 26 February about including providers of micro-credentials in the DEQAR database and other technical aspects regarding the uploading of external evaluation reports onto the DEQAR platform.

As part of the collaboration between ARACIS and EQAR, the sustainability activities under [„The Database of External Quality Assurance Reports \(DEQAR\)” Project](#) continued in 2024; the project is coordinated by EQAR, and ARACIS was one of the partner quality assurance agencies; the external evaluation reports of ARACIS are also entered in DEQAR.

3.2.3 Activities within ENAEE – The European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education

ARACIS is a member of the European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education (ENAEE), and since 2013 it is authorised to award the EUR-ACE® Label certification for bachelor study programmes in the field of engineering, accredited based on ARACIS evaluations. ENAEE promotes the quality of education in engineering through EUR-ACE® certification as a means to strengthen trust in the engineering study programme accreditation systems.

Therefore, ARACIS was represented at the events organised by ENAEE in 2024, as follows:

- ✓ [ENAEE European Accreditation Agencies' Summit](#) on 17-19 June. The event brought together presidents and other representatives of ENAEE member agencies for an in-depth dialogue about the challenges and practices in education; it included panel discussions on the current trends in accreditation standards, workshops on adapting to changes in educational systems, interactive sessions on managing diversity in accreditation, accreditation in a post-pandemic world, and implementing sustainability in accreditation practices. The event was attended by Prof. Dr. Eng. Neculai Eugen Seghedin, Coordinator of the Institutional Evaluation and Audit Department, ARACIS representative in the EUR-ACE Label Committee;
- ✓ Consultations within the group ENAEE members on reviewing EUR-ACE® indicators;
- ✓ Consultations on the proposal to review the learning descriptors for the EUR-ACE® programmes;

- ✓ [General meeting of the European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education \(ENAE\), and awards gala](#), organised in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 14-16 November; at this event, Prof. Dr. Eng. Simona Lache, member of the Institutional Evaluation and Audit Commission and former representative of the Agency at the EUR-ACE® Label Committee of ENAE, was awarded the excellence award as evaluator of the agencies authorised by ENAE to award EUR-ACE® label. This award is given to ENAE evaluators who demonstrated excellence in ensuring the highest quality standards in engineering higher education.

3.2.4 Activities within CEENQA – The Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education

ARACIS is a founding member of the Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEENQA).

The Agency is represented at CEENQA by Mrs Professor Dr. Eng. Simona Lache, who was re-elected on 3 June 2023 on the CEENQA Executive Board.

ARACIS published in [CEENQA Newsletter](#) (the January-November 2024 issue) a contribution on the topic of “New activities and significant simplification of Romania procedures introduced by the new Methodology for the external evaluation of the quality of higher education implemented by ARACIS”, in which it presented the key novelty elements, and aspects related to the simplification of external evaluation procedures, as stipulated in the new [External higher education quality evaluation methodology](#).

Participation in events

ARACIS representatives continued to attend the main events organised by CEENQA in 2024, as follows:

- ✓ Periodic meetings of the board members [CEENQA](#);
- ✓ [Bi-monthly meeting of CEENQA members](#) attended online by ARACIS representatives on 17 January. At the meeting, they delivered the presentation on “QA and internationalisation”, together with representatives of the agencies from Slovenia, Germany, Kosovo, and Slovakia;
- ✓ [Periodic online meetings](#) of the CEENQA members, held on 20 March, 17 July, 18 September, and 20 November;
- ✓ [CEENQA General Meeting](#) and the Cross-border Cooperation workshop held in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 15-18 May.

3.2.5 Activities within INQAAHE – The International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education

Ever since it was established, ARACIS is a member of INQAAHE and participates in the activities of INQAAHE, such as polls, electing the Network’s management, promoting the events organised by INQAAHE, etc.

The Agency continues to be represented at INQAAHE by Mrs Professor Dr. Eng. Simona Lache, who was re-elected on the Network's Board of Directors, according to the result of the elections completed on 17 April 2024 at the INQAAHE General Meeting.

Organisation of the INQAHEE 2024 Forum

On 10-12 June 2024, ARACIS, in collaboration with the "Politehnica" National Science and Technology University of Bucharest (UNSTPB), hosted the [INQAAHE Forum 2024](#), an event that brought together more than 170 participants from 52 countries.

The topic of the INQAAHE Forum 2024 was "Transforming Society: Social Responsibility through Quality Assurance of Tertiary Education". The three days of the Forum (10-12 June) included 5 pre-forum workshops, 7 plenary sessions, 15 round tables, and 5 workshops.

The participants from ARACIS and Romanian higher education institutions were:

- Prof. Dr. Eng. Valentin Năvrănescu, ARACIS President, who spoke in the opening session, together with Ligia Deca, Minister of Education, Mihnea Costoiu, Rector of UNSTPB, and Deborah Adair, President of INQAAHE;
- Prof. Dr. Eng. Marius Gabriel Petrescu, ARACIS Secretary General, delivered the round table on Curricular mapping for societal impact: a strategic framework for curriculum design, together with Associate Professor Dr. Alexandru Popovici (Petroleum Gas University of Ploiesti).
- Prof. Dr. Eng. Daniela-Cristina Ghițulică, Director General of ARACIS, attended the plenary session on the methodology and state of global research organised by INQAAHE about current trends in higher education quality assurance. The plenary discussion moderated by Susanna Karakhanyan, former INQAAHE president, from the Abu Dhabi Education and Knowledge Department, was attended by: Sylvia Demas, South-African Quality Assurance Network(SAQAN); Kevin Kinser, University of Pennsylvania, expert in the INQAAHE Global Study on Trends in QA, and Horia Oniță, president of the European Students' Organisation (ESU), former member of the ARACIS Council.
- Prof. Dr. Eng. Simona Lache, member of the INQAAHE Board and of the Institutional and Audit Commission of ARACIS, who moderated the session on "Social responsibility and quality assurance at systemic and institutional level". The following participated in this debate: Francesc Pedró, UNESCO; Olusola Bandele Oyewole, Association of African Universities; Renato Bartet, National Accreditation Commission of Chile; Marioara Dobrescu, Ministry of Education, Romania, and Horia Oniță (ESU).
- Professor Dr. Romiță Iucu, president of the Orientation and Strategic Analysis Council of the Bucharest University, member of the ARACIS Advisory Commission, who was the keynote speaker from ARACIS and delivered the presentation on Qualifying lifelong Learning: fostering opportunities for all ages.
- Prof. Dr. Eng. Iordan Petrescu, Adviser, ARACIS President Office; Prof. Dr. Eng. Mircea Neagoe, Secretary of the Permanent Speciality Commission for Distance and Part-time Learning (C13), Associate Professor Dr. Alexandru Chiș, member of the C13 Permanent

Speciality Commission, and Prof. Dr. Florin Mihai, Member of the ARACIS Council, delivered a presentation on how external quality assurance mechanisms are implemented in Romania within the context of distance and blended education.

13 June was dedicated to a socialising programme, which included visits to the Parliament Palace, the National Arts Museum of Romania, the National Research-Development Institute for Nuclear Physics and Engineering “Horia Hulubei”, and the campus and research centres of UNSTPB.

The INQAAHE 2024 was sponsored by the Ministry of Education and company SCC Erbașu, led by Eng. Cristian Romeo Erbașu. Media partners of the event were Euronews and RFI Romania.

Participation in events

ARACIS was represented at the events organised by INQAAHE in 2024, as follows:

- ✓ The weekly online meetings of the working group for organising the [INQAAHE Forum 2024](#), which ARACIS hosted on 10-12 June in Bucharest in collaboration with the “Politehnica” National Science and Technology University of Bucharest;
- ✓ The monthly meetings of the Board of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAHEE) and the meetings of the INQAAHE committees and working groups (online);
- ✓ The meeting of the INQAAHE Board, hosted by ARACIS in Bucharest on 9 June;
- ✓ The monthly meetings in the Global Study project, organised by INQAAHE online.

3.2.6 Activities within the ECA - European Consortium for Accreditation in Higher Education

ARACIS is a member of the European Consortium for Accreditation in Higher Education (ECA) since 12 September 2022.

In 2024, the Agency’s representatives attended the events organised by ECA, as follows:

- ✓ The ECA members’ workshop, the ECA General Meeting, and the training on European Higher Education for Entry-Level Quality Assurance Professionals, held in Hamrun, Malta between 1 - 6 June;
- ✓ [The ECA members’ seminar](#), hosted by the Swedish Higher Education Authority (UKÄ) on 7 October in Stockholm, Sweden;
- ✓ The online meeting of 22 November, at which the main features of the ECA Expert Exchange Platform and how member agencies can contribute to developing the Platform were presented.

3.2.7 Activities within GAIN – The Global Academic Integrity Network

ARACIS joined the Global Academic Integrity Network (GAIN) early in 2023. On this occasion, as a member of GAIN, ARACIS joined similar agencies of the world and launched a call to social networks and online platforms to stand against academic fraud.

In September 2024, the GAIN network, which represents 40 quality assurance and education integrity agencies from everywhere in the world, including ARACIS, published an [open letter](#) asking social platforms and online platforms to take steps to stop advertising for commercial services for academic fraud.

By a collaboration of the main online platforms with GAIN, and by reviewing and complying with the community guidelines, GAIN deems that the visibility and the impact of academic fraud services can be significantly reduced, and a strong message can be sent globally about the value of legitimate academic results.

Participation in events

During 2024, the Agency's representatives attended the online meetings of GAIN on 22 May and 2 October.

3.2.8 Activities in CHEA/CIQG - The Council for Higher Education Accreditation International Quality Group

In September 2023, ARACIS became a member of the Council for Higher Education Accreditation International Quality Group [CHEA/CIQG](#). As a member of the CHEA/CIQG, ARACIS can attend annual conferences/events/webinars, and has the possibility to collaborate with other experts in the CIQG community. Furthermore, the Agency has access to the Quality International News (QI News) quarterly informative newsletter of CIQG, and can submit contributions for publication in the newsletter.

Thus, in 2024, ARACIS attended the following events:

- ✓ [Annual conference on the following topic: "Quality Assurance Matters"](#) - the event was held in Washington, US, between 29 January - 1 February. At the conference, the Director General of ARACIS delivered a presentation on the "Role of quality assurance in building the European Higher Education Area", together with Ann Katherine Isaacs, vice president of the Bologna Follow Up Group (BFUG); the central focus of the session was on the development of higher education quality assurance systems.
- ✓ The CHEA webinar – [Micro-credentials: Protecting Consumers through Quality Assurance](#), held on 17 April.

3.2.9 Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA)

EHEA Ministerial Conference

[The EHEA Ministerial Conference](#), as well as the Global Policy forum were organised in Tirana, Albania, between 28 - 31 May.

The [Tirana Communiqué](#), which includes the priorities established for the Bologna Process for the next three years, was adopted at the conference. An assessment of the status of implementation of the commitments at the level of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) is available in the Bologna Process Implementation Report presented at the conference.

The delegations of the EHEA member states included representatives of the higher education quality assurance agencies of over 20 countries. Furthermore, the proceedings were attended by a delegation of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA). At the conference, EHEA ministers of education approved Romania and Moldova taking over the EHEA Secretariat as of 1 July 2024. Thus, in 2027, Romania and the Republic of Moldova will organise together the Ministerial Conference and the Global Policy Forum, in Iași and in Chișinău.

Participation in events

In 2024, Prof. Dr. Eng. Daniela-Cristina Ghițulică, Director General of ARACIS and vice president of the BFUG, attended the following meetings:

- ✓ [The 10th meeting of the Task Force on Enhancing Knowledge Sharing in the EHEA community](#) hosted by the Malta Further and Higher Education Authority (MFHEA) in Hamrun, 8-9 January;
- ✓ [The 8th meeting of the Bologna Implementation Coordination Group - BICG](#) held in Vatican on 22 January;
- ✓ [BFUG Board meeting](#) organised on 23 January in Vatican, Italy;
- ✓ [BFUG meeting](#), in Brussels, Belgium, 19-20 February;
- ✓ [BFUG Board meeting](#) organised in Vatican, Italy on 12 March;
- ✓ [BFUG meeting](#) organised in Brussels (Belgium), 11-12 April 2024;
- ✓ [BFUG Board meeting](#) in Reykjavik, Iceland, on 3 September;
- ✓ [BFUG meeting](#), organised in Budapest, Hungary, 25-27 September;
- ✓ Meeting of the co-chairs of the BFUG working groups, organised on 5 November in Brussels (Belgium);
- ✓ [First meeting of the BFUG TPG C](#), organised in Ghent, Belgium on 27-29 November.

3.2.10 Other international collaborations and activities

Cooperation with other quality assurance agencies

New collaboration agreement with the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) of the United Kingdom

ARACIS together with the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education ([QAA](#)) of the United Kingdom will collaborate under a Memorandum signed on 12 June 2024.

The Memorandum was signed by the ARACIS president, Prof. Dr. Eng. Valentin Năvrăpescu, and Mrs Vicki Stott, CEO of QAA, while attending the 14 Biannual Forum of the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), hosted in Bucharest

by ARACIS in collaboration with the “Politehnica” National Science and Technology University, Bucharest.

This collaboration marks another important step for our agency, with a view to developing and expanding our cooperation and mutual support in higher education quality assurance in Romania and the United Kingdom, and ensuring better understanding of the national approaches to higher education quality assurance and of the existing systems in the two countries.

In addition, the two agencies will collaborate to exchange information and best practices regarding quality assurance and improving the quality of cross-border education, and also for the purpose of enabling recognition of qualifications.

In 2024, ARACIS representatives attended the following events organised by QAA:

- ✓ [Webinar: Understanding QAA's international institutional review and accreditation](#), 3 December;
- ✓ [International forum of the partners of Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\) UK](#), held online on 17 December.

New collaboration agreement with the Polish Accreditation Committee (PKA)

ARACIS and the Polish Accreditation Committee (PKA) will collaborate under a Memorandum signed on 20 September 2024 by the ARACIS president, Prof. Dr. Eng. Valentin Năvrăpescu, and the president of PKA, Dr. hab. inż. Janusz Uriasz.

The Memorandum seeks to develop and expand cooperation and mutual support in higher education quality assurance in Romania and Poland, and to achieve better understanding of the national approaches and the existing quality assurance systems in the two countries.

In addition, the two agencies will collaborate to develop and promote higher education quality assurance standards, strengthen the international dimension of the external evaluation activities performed by the two agencies, and for the professional development of the staff in the two agencies through activities such staff mobility, exchange of information and best practices about evaluation processes, and other particularities of the quality assurance systems in the two countries.

ARACIS was represented in the [12th Quality Forum on the topic of “Education Quality Assurance in the context of environmental challenges. Internationalisation](#), organised by the PKA on 20-21 November, by the General Secretary of the Agency, Prof. Dr. Eng. Marius Petrescu, who participated in the debates on the role of comprehensive evaluations in the internationalisation of study programmes.

Study visit of the Education Quality Assurance Agency (TKTA) of Azerbaijan and the German Institute for Accreditation, Certification and Quality Assurance (ACQUIN)

In 17-19 June, ARACIS hosted the study visit of a delegation from Azerbaijan, with members from the Education Quality Assurance Agency (TKTA), the Ministry of Science and Education, and Edumedia-Azerbaijan LLC.

The topic of this mobility was “Digitalisation of education quality assurance processes”. Thus, the Agency’s representatives delivered presentations about the digital platforms used by ARACIS.

Furthermore, visits were organised at the Bucharest “Politehnica” National Science and Technology University and the Research Centre for Development of Smart Products, Processes, and Innovative Services (PRECIS), the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Pre-University Education (ARACIP), and the Executive Unit for Financing in Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation (UEFISCDI).

In 9 - 13 December, ARACIS hosted the study visit of an expert from the Azerbaijan Education Quality Assurance Agency (TKTA) and an expert from the German Institute for Accreditation, Certification and Quality Assurance (ACQUIN).

Presentation sessions and debates on various topics were held during the visit, such as: presentation of the ARACIS, TKTA and ACQUIN agencies; internal quality assurance and staff development policies; ARACIS’s ENQA membership; ARACIS’s IT and communication platforms; digitalisation of education quality assurance processes; management of the register of student evaluators.

Other international events attended by ARACIS representatives

As part of the international cooperation activities in 2024, ARACIS representatives attended the following:

- ✓ Forum for partnerships in higher education between the United Kingdom and Romania, organised by the British Council in Bucharest on 5 February;
- ✓ [Annual summit of EURIE/EURASIA Higher Education 2024](#), in Istanbul, Turkiye between 26-29 February;
- ✓ [Meeting of the Board of the European Association of Higher Education Institutions \(EURASHE\)](#) in Shannon, Ireland, between 6 - 10 March;
- ✓ [Deep Dialogues: Scalable and sustainable internationalisation and transnational education \(TNE\) – locally relevant and globally connected](#), event organised by the British Council in Edinburgh, Scotland on 15 March;
- ✓ The closing meeting of the JEDI project (Joint European Degree Label in engineering), organised online on 15 March;
- ✓ The sixth online meeting organised by AQ Austria on the topic of “Equality and diversity in external quality assurance” on 11 April;
- ✓ [The European Digital Credentials for Learning Team: Micro-credentials and European Digital Credentials for Learning](#), webinar organised by the European Commission on 24 April;
- ✓ Quality Audit Network Meeting, organised by the Swedish Higher Education Authority in Stockholm, Sweden on 14-16 May;

- ✓ [Annual EURASHE conference: Stronger Together](#), hosted by St. Pölten University of Applied Sciences; EURASHE Board meeting and General Meeting, organised in Sankt Pölten, Austria (20-24 May);
- ✓ NAFSA 2024 annual conference and exhibition, hosted by [NAFSA Association of International Educators](#) in New Orleans, Louisiana (United States of America) between 25 May - 1 June 2024. The Romanian delegation included representatives of prestigious universities in Romania, representatives of the National Council of Rectors and representatives of ARACIS;
- ✓ Online meeting of the European Higher Education Sector Observatory (EHESO)/ European Tertiary Education Register (ETER) technical support group, organised on 18 June;
- ✓ [Joint meeting of the National Council of Rectors of Romania and the Council of Rectors of Moldova](#), hosted by the Technical University of Moldova between 12-14 September;
- ✓ [The 34th edition of the Annual Conference and Exhibition of EAIE \(European Association for International Education\)](#), organised in Toulouse, France between 17-21 September. The ARACIS delegation participated as part of the programme for promoting the higher education system of Romania in the international area, Study in Romania;
- ✓ The two events dedicated to cross-border education and joint study programmes, organised by the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency of Bulgaria (NEAA) in partnership with the British Council in Sofia, Bulgaria on 19-20 September;
- ✓ [The International scientific conference – Competitiveness and innovation in the knowledge-based economy](#), organised by the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova in Chişinău, Republic of Moldova in 19-21 September;
- ✓ [Conference on the topic of Student-centred learning: Various stakeholders' view](#), organised by the Unibasq agency and hosted by Universidad Pontificia de Salamanca, organised on 24 September in Salamanca, Spain;
- ✓ [MusiQuE conference and celebration of the 10th anniversary of the organisation](#), organised in Brussels, Belgium on 2 October;
- ✓ [The World Academic Summit 2024](#) on the following topic: “Making a difference: The purpose of universities in a rapidly changing world”, hosted by the University of Manchester (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) during the year of its bicentennial; the event was held on 7 - 9 October 2024;
- ✓ [Online information session organised by EACEA](#) on 15 October to support potential applicants in preparing project proposals for the Erasmus+ Call for the European Higher Education Area (EHEA);
- ✓ [Annual event “All hands on deck: Making academic integrity everyone's job”](#), organised online on 16 October on the occasion of the International Day of Action for Academic Integrity by the International Centre for Academic Integrity (ICAI);

- ✓ [Online workshop on “Shaping EHESO user tools together with the higher education community”](#); the EHESO user tools were presented to the higher education community, and the workshop was organised on 21 October;
- ✓ [Online workshop on “Dedicated provisions for TNE and new legislation in Romania”](#) organised by the British Council on 13 November;
- ✓ [European Quality Assurance Forum \(EQAF\) 2024 on “Enhancing education, research and societal engagement through quality assurance”](#), 14 - 16 November in Enschede, The Netherlands;
- ✓ FREE online launch conference of World Access to Higher Education Network and the UNESCO Right to Higher Education Report, organised online on 10 December.

4 INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AND COMMUNICATION

4.1 The ARACIS web page

The ARACIS webpage, www.aracis.ro was the main means used for communicating the activities carried out by ARACIS during 2024. The webpage was constantly updated with information of public interest, including evaluation results, schedule of external evaluation visits, details on the recent developments in our activity and events organised by ARACIS, as well as other relevant actions.



4.2 The ARACIS Facebook page

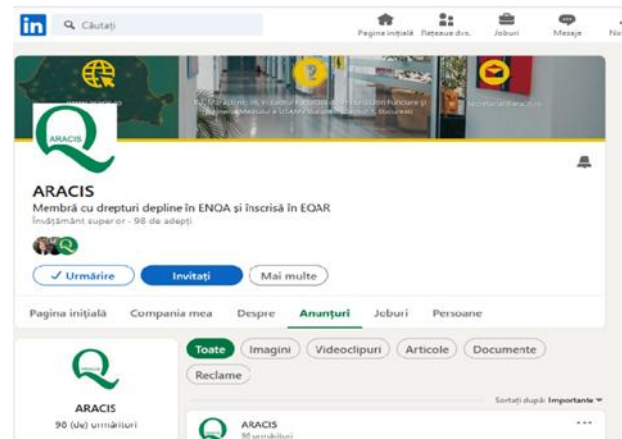
In 2024, ARACIS remained active on the [Facebook page](#), and constantly informed the audience of its activities. At the end of the year, the page had over 2,900 followers. In 2025, the Agency will continue its efforts to increase the transparency of its activities and decisions, at the same time promoting information and dialogue in the field of quality in higher education at both national and international levels.



4.3 The ARACIS LinkedIn page

In 2024, ARACIS continued its activity on its [LinkedIn page](#), aimed at increasing the accessibility and visibility of the information regarding ARACIS's international activities, so that such information can reach a wider audience interested in higher education quality assurance.

Furthermore, in 2025, the Agency will continue to promote events and relevant information on higher education quality assurance.



4.4 Newsletter

In 2024, ARACIS continued developing a regular [online Newsletter](#) disseminated through publication on the Agency's web page and sending to the representatives of higher education institutions and other stakeholders interested in quality assurance in higher education.

4.5 National press monitoring

ARACIS also continued to daily monitor the Agency's coverage in the national media, and centralise articles on the higher education, published in the online media. These articles were included in the "Press Review" and sent to the members of the ARACIS Council and the Technical Staff of the Agency.

4.6 Press releases and news

Furthermore, in 2024, ARACIS drafted and issued numerous press releases, offering key information about its activities and initiatives. The role of these press releases was to disseminate relevant information to the Romanian audience, ensuring increased transparency of the Agency's actions and facilitating access to important information.

Moreover, ARACIS had a significant international component in its information dissemination activities. The Agency sent contributions and information about its activity to various international organisations and partners in the field of quality in higher education. The goal of this effort was to increase the international visibility of ARACIS and promote an exchange of best practices in higher education. Moreover, this approach allowed the Agency to strengthen its image and international reputation, by highlighting its commitment to ensuring high quality standards in higher education.

4.7 Subscriptions with international publications

To keep up to date with the current status and the trends in quality assurance in higher education in Europe, and disseminate its own experiences related to the quality of higher education in Romania, ARACIS uses electronic and printed information means. Thus, ARACIS extended its

subscription to the publication “Internationalisation of Higher Education - Policy and Practice” for 2024.

4.8 Subscriptions with national publications

In 2024, ARACIS extended its subscriptions to the two national publications, “Tribuna învățământului” and “Market watch”. Both are valuable sources of qualified information in the field of higher education, and are of interest for the Agency’s activity.

4.9 “Quality Assurance Review for Higher Education (QAR)”

The QAR is an appreciated academic publication that focuses on aspects concerning quality assurance in higher education in Romania. The Review is intended as an instrument to facilitate practice sharing and communication between internal and external experts, including internationally, and contribute to promoting the development of a quality assurance culture. QAR targets the public interested in the theory, practice and policies in the above-mentioned field. ARACIS enjoyed the support of the ENQA and CEENQA Secretariats to disseminate information on the possibilities and requirements for publishing papers in the QAR.

5 PROJECTS

5.1 International projects - ongoing

5.1.1 IMINQA project

Overview

[IMINQA](#) is an umbrella project developed to support the 2021-2024 proceedings of the [Thematic Peer Group C on Quality Assurance](#) (TPG C on QA) created by the Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG).

Together with ENQA and EQAR, ARACIS is a partner in the IMINQA project; the consortium is led by the Flemish Ministry of Education and Training.

The IMINQA project is co-financed under the ERASMUS+ Programme, and it is implemented over a period of 36 months (May 2022 – April 2025); the funding amounts to 499,855 EUR, out of which 43,642 EUR allocated to ARACIS.

Project aim

On one hand, the project focuses on the wider topic of quality assurance, and contributes to the implementation of the key commitment in this field in all EHEA states; on the other hand, it addresses specific topics with an innovative focus, such as micro credentials, quality assurance for European Universities, digitalisation of quality assurance processes.

Working packages

1. Project management, quality assurance, communication, monitoring and evaluation, dissemination;

2. Organising the meetings of the Thematic Peer Group C on Quality Assurance (TPG C);
3. Staff mobility;
4. Peer learning activities;
5. Quality assurance for micro credentials;
6. Quality assurance for the European University Alliances;
7. Digitalisation of quality assurance processes.

Activities

The main activities carried out under the project in 2024 were:

- 17 January: Online meeting of the Working Group on QA of Micro-credentials, focused on presenting the progress on the Group's activities, including providers of micro-credentials in the DEQAR database, and conducting a feasibility study for granting a quality label for micro-credentials.
- 11-16 February: Under the staff mobility programme in the IMINQA project, ARACIS representatives, together with representatives of the Ministry of Education and the National Council of Rectors, participated in the [study visit hosted by the Irish quality assurance agency, Quality and Qualifications Ireland \(QQI\)](#), in Dublin.
- 29-30 April: Meeting of the Working Group on QA of Micro-credentials, held in Brussels (Belgium).
- 12-14 June: ARACIS organised the [fifth meeting of the TPG C](#) in Constanța, bringing together representatives of the education systems in the EHEA member states. Romania was represented by the General Manager of ARACIS, Prof. Dr. Eng. Daniela-Cristina Ghițulică, co-chair of the TPG C. At the meeting, Prof. Dr. Eng. Iordan Petrescu and Petrișor Laurențiu Țucă delivered the presentation titled [“Digitalisation of quality assurance processes”](#). Furthermore, Cezar Mihai Hâj, from the Executive Unit for Financing in Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation (UEFISCDI), presented the [“Statements on the fundamental values of the EHEA”](#);
- 18 September: ARACIS representatives attended the sixth online meeting of the Working Group on the QA of Micro-credentials. A presentation was delivered on the progress on the activities of the Working Group, as well as the main results of the interim report on the feasibility study for granting quality labels to micro-credentials, and new steps regarding the reporting interface of the DEQAR database. The Slovenian higher education quality assurance agency delivered a presentation on how Slovenia prepares the implementation of micro-credentials;
- 24-25 October: Activities aimed at disseminating the results of the IMINQA project at the [General Meeting of ENQA](#) in St. Julian's (Malta), where presentations were delivered on the digitalisation of quality assurance processes;
- 27-29 November: [First meeting of the TPG C of BFUG](#) in Ghent (Belgium); the conclusions of the focus groups on quality assurance for the European Universities Alliances were presented.

5.1.2 The START project

Overview

In February 2022, the European Commission approved the project proposal for the [“Social inclusion, Tolerance, Acceptance and Realization for all sTudents – START” project](#), funded under ERASMUS+, where ARACIS is a project partner.

The implementation of the [START project](#) is coordinated by the Ministry of Education and Science of Bulgaria, together with the National Agency for Evaluation and Accreditation of Bulgaria (NEAA) and the Bulgarian Council for Refugees and Migrants.

The project started on 1 June 2022 and will continue for 36 months, between June 2022 - May 2025.

Specific objectives of the project

The objectives of the project include developing a set of specific policy proposals, tools and legislative changes supporting social inclusion in higher education, and ensuring a required level of understanding of this phenomenon to facilitate the transition to open, more inclusive academic communities. Social inclusion will be supported along three lines of action, namely quality assurance, legal framework, and inclusive academic environment.

Working packages

1. Preparation, management, monitoring and evaluation;
2. Research, development of a mechanism and social inclusion policies;
3. Information events and conferences.

Activities

- 6 March: Online meeting in the project - the implementation team completed the interview guides and discussed the results of the focus groups conducted in Romanian universities. The focus groups included experts in education, practitioners, representatives of universities, students, and other relevant categories for this field. These were meant to highlight various points of view and suggestions on how the new set of indicators should be developed.
- 11 June: Round table on “Reducing gaps towards high-quality education. Integrating social inclusion criteria in the European Standards and Guidelines for quality assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG)”, delivered by the representatives of the START project, Prof. Dr. Siyka Chavdarova-Kostova and Dyani Kurulenko, at the INQAAHE 2024 Forum. The round table focused on social inclusion in higher education, targeting vulnerable groups, especially groups of disabled students and migrant/refugee students. The purpose of the discussion was, on one hand, to check how sensitive quality assurance agencies are to this issue, and on the other hand, to collect information on potential and/or existing social inclusion practices in higher education quality assurance agencies.

- 18 - 19 September: International conference on inclusion and micro-credentials, in Sofia, Bulgaria. The conference brought together quality assurance experts, professors, student representatives and representatives of stakeholders in higher education quality assurance, in presentations and discussion sessions on various aspects included in the project being implemented, and other topics related to the topic of the event. The ARACIS project implementation team attended the event, including Prof. Dr. Eng. Daniela-Cristina Ghițulică, Prof. Dr. Adrian Opre, Mrs Crinela Gheoldea and Mr Sorin Tomșa. At this event, Prof. Dr. Eng. Daniela-Cristina Ghițulică moderated the discussions session on “Views of the European Higher Education Area”, where speakers included Mrs Tamara Ciobanu, Associate Professor Anna Ivanova, and Stanimir Boyadzhiev. Professor Dr. Adrian Opre delivered a presentation on the results of the research conducted in the project, on the social inclusion of disabled students and migrant students in the higher education system in Romania; the research was based on focus groups and questionnaires.

5.2 International projects where ARACIS acts as an associate partner

5.2.1 UNITA Recipes for internationalisation project

Overview

The main goal of the [UNITA Recipes for Internationalisation](#) project is to promote internationalisation of the study programmes of the UNITA partner universities in order to enhance opportunities for all students to develop international and intercultural skills.

ARACIS’s role in this project is to provide support by contributing to and disseminating the study programme evaluation methodology.

At the same time, ARACIS will participate to developing and testing the international digital self-evaluation instrument, and disseminating this instrument to higher education institutions in Romania (who could use it in their own self-evaluation) along with all the results of the project.

Partners

The project is implemented by members of the UNITA Alliance of European Universities, and ARACIS is an associate partner.

Implementation period: December 2023-2026

Specific objectives of the project

- ✓ Promote internationalisation of study programmes;
- ✓ Develop a digital handbook for the internationalisation of study programmes;
- ✓ Create a digital tool to support self-evaluation of the level of internationalisation of higher education study programmes;
- ✓ Training in internationalisation.

5.2.2 European Campus of City-Universities, EC2U project

Overview

The [European Campus of City-Universities \(EC2U\)](#) project is funded under the European Union's Erasmus+ programme, European Universities Alliances call.

The vision of the EC2U Alliance is to strengthen the European dimension in higher education and research, support universities as symbols of the European way of life, increase the accountability of university as drivers of change in the environmental and digital transition, and strengthen the role of universities as vectors of the role of the European Union in the world.

Partners

The project is implemented by an alliance composed of eight universities in various regions of the European Union: University of Coimbra (Portugal), University of Iași (Romania), University of Jena (Germany), University of Linz (Austria), University of Pavia (Italy), University of Poitiers – coordinator (France), University of Salamanca (Spain), and University of Turku (Finland). ARACIS is an associate partner in this project.

Implementation period: 2023-2027

Specific objectives of the project:

- ✓ sustainable joint governance with joint resources;
- ✓ active involvement of students in the governance of the Alliance, and support for their societal commitment;
- ✓ joint cultural and sports events, and an integrated green inter-university campus, and inclusive academic life;
- ✓ sustainable joined multidisciplinary master programmes;
- ✓ increased opportunities for physical, virtual, blended mobility of students, academic, and administrative staf, focusing on inclusive and environmental mobility, etc.

Activities:

ARACIS representatives attended the online meeting of the EC2U Plenary Council on 17 June.

5.3 National and international projects completed - in the sustainability-ensuring period

5.3.1 The QAFIN project

The Ministry of National Education (MEN) – Project Management Unit for Externally Funded Projects, in partnership with ARACIS, with technical assistance from the World Bank, implemented the project on “Improving public policies in higher education and better-quality regulations through updated quality standards – QAFIN” (SIPOCA code/SMIS2014+ 16).

Implementation period: 29.05.2017 - 28.10.2021

Financing: The project was co-funded from the European Social Fund (ESF) through the Administrative Capacity Operational Programme 2014 - 2020, Priority Axis 1: Efficient public

administration and judicial system, Specific objective/Operation 1.1: Development and introduction of joint systems and standards in the public administration to optimise citizen- and business environment-oriented decision-making processes, in line with the Public Administration Strengthening Strategy (PASS).

Total eligible value: 14,639,415.97 Lei, out of which 2,344,699.00 Lei was the applicant's contribution covered by the leader

The purpose of the project was the achievement and implementation of evidence-based public policies, respectively the correlation of strategic planning with programme budgeting, in the field of financing of higher education institutions, through the enhancement of regulations regarding external quality assurance, classification and ranking of higher education institutions and study programmes. Also, the project aims at the improvement of the administrative capacity of the MEN and of ARACIS, by adapting structures, optimizing processes and training human resources, and enhancing the use of transparent public consultation mechanisms that ensure citizen participation in decision-making and by applying European quality standards.

In 2024, under the QAFIN project, ARACIS continued to develop and improve supporting IT instruments for the application of the developed guides, standards and procedures, and improve the IT system for the management of ARACIS's National Register of Evaluators, including the development / optimisation of the ARACIS website.

5.3.2 The ESQA project

General presentation

The project "Effective involvement of stakeholders in external quality assurance activities (ESQA)" was funded under the Erasmus + Programme, Key Action 3 – Support for (educational) policy reforms.

The project was implemented between May 2019 - June 2021.

In this project, ARACIS was a partner in the consortium led by the Ministry of Education (ME) as the national authority; the consortium included three European organisations that represent quality assurance (ENQA), universities (EURASHE) and students (ESU), along four other quality assurance agencies from France, Bulgaria, Denmark and the Republic of Moldova. The project was proposed in 2018 to support the Peer Support Group PS - C Quality Assurance created by the Bologna Follow-Up Group - BFUG to respond to the requirements of the topic concerning the Role and involvement of stakeholders in internal quality assurance, which was identified to require additional activities and clarifications.

Project aim

The project was concerned with how the involvement of wider categories of stakeholders in external quality assurance activities can be increased, starting by identifying a wider definition of the concept of "stakeholders", as well as the ways in which their interest to participate in activities for quality assurance in higher education institutions could be encouraged.

Specific objectives of the project

- improve the quality of higher education, in correlation with the beneficiaries' expectations, namely students, employers, and the whole society.

ARACIS aimed at extending the concept of “stakeholder” and identifying a specific way, in line with the social-economic state of facts in Romania, in which such stakeholders could be involved in the external evaluation process.

Results

The main results achieved in this project are available at: <https://www.aracis.ro/esqa/>

5.4 Completed international projects where ARACIS was as an associate partner

5.4.1 ED AFFICHE project

Overview

The ED AFFICHE project was funded under the European Union's Erasmus+ programme - “Pilot a joint European degree label” call for projects. The objective of the call was to allow alliances of higher education institutions and national authorities to examine, test, and facilitate the realisation of a “European degree” label based on a set of criteria co-created at European level. The [ED AFFICHE](#) project brought together six European Universities Alliances (Una Europa, Unite!, EU-CONEXUS, 4EU+, EC2U, and CHARM-EU) and their 51 higher education institutions, covering 22 countries in Europe. ARACIS was an associate partner in this project.

The specific objectives of the project were:

- ✓ to provide an overview of the status of the joint programmes in the six participating European university alliances;
- ✓ to develop recommendations for designing a “European Degree” label with a view to maximising its appeal and potential impact;
- ✓ to contribute to developing a more inclusive, accessible, and transparent framework for the development of joint programmes;
- ✓ to ensure promotion of the Bologna instruments, as well as greater flexibility, capitalising on the synergies of the Bologna instruments and encouraging their full implementation;
- ✓ to promote innovative learning experiences stimulating the visibility, appeal, and competitiveness of the European higher education.

5.4.2 The SMARTT project

Overview

Screening, Mapping, Analysing, Recommending, Transferring and Transforming higher education international programmes (SMARTT) is an innovative project aimed at analysing, testing, and piloting the new criteria for realising a “European Degree” label. The SMARTT

project was funded under the European Union's Erasmus+ programme - "Pilot a joint European degree label" call for projects.

This project was implemented between April 2023 - April 2024; it was coordinated by the [Bucharest University](#), together with Universidad Autónoma de Madrid and [CIVIS - Europe's Civic University Alliance](#).

ARACIS was an associate partner in the SMARTT project, which is implemented by four European Universities Alliances; 29 universities participated in the project, together with representatives of national authorities, non-government organisations and students organisations.

Objectives:

The objective of the call was to allow alliances of higher education institutions and national authorities to examine, test, and facilitate the realisation of a "European Degree" label, based on a set of criteria co-created at European level. The "European Degree" label is a complementary certificate attached to the qualification of students who graduate from joint programmes delivered by multiple collaborating higher education institutions.

6. ACTIVITY SELF-ASSESSMENT IN 2024

In 2024, the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education continued the process of external quality evaluation in higher education, with the goal to maintain and improve academic and institutional standards. The current activities continued in compliance with the regulations in force with a view to carrying out the mission undertaken by the Agency.

The evaluation process included higher education institutions, bachelor, master, and doctoral study programmes, as well as other categories of education programmes. The obtained results reflect a general trend of strengthening quality and active involvement of universities in the self-assessment and institutional development process.

Institutional evaluations. In the reporting year, ARACIS conducted 12 institutional evaluations, out of which:

- 3 institutions obtained the "high degree of confidence" judgment,
- 5 obtained a "confidence" judgment,
- 3 were evaluated with "limited degree of confidence",
- one institution was accredited following the institutional evaluation,
- there were no cases of no confidence or non-accreditation.

The results confirm that most of the institutions subject to evaluation demonstrated institutional capacity and educational performance, and in general were aligned with the national quality standards.

Evaluation of bachelor study programmes. Concerning bachelor programmes, a total of 374 programmes were evaluated in 2024, out of which:

- ❑ 330 full time education (IF) programmes,
- ❑ 14 part-time education (IFR) programmes,
- ❑ 30 distance learning (ID) programmes.

Their distribution per types of evaluation is as follows:

- ❑ 61 programmes were evaluated for provisional authorisation,
- ❑ 26 for accreditation,
- ❑ 287 underwent periodic evaluations.

The results of the evaluations show a high level of compliance with quality standards:

- ❑ For provisional authorisation, 91.8% of the programmes received a favourable advisory proposal.
- ❑ In the case of accreditation, all 26 programmes were accredited, out of which 88.46% with no observations, and 11.54% with monitoring.
- ❑ Concerning periodic evaluation, 96.51% of the analysed programmes maintained their accreditation, and one programme (0.35%) had its accreditation withdrawn.

Per speciality domains, most evaluations were for engineering domains, economic sciences, education and psychology, and part-time distance education, which reflects a balanced diversity and spread of the evaluations.

EUR-ACE® label

Evaluations for the granting of EUR-ACE® label, a certification recognised at European level for engineering, is particularly worth mentioning. Out of the 86 engineering programmes that underwent periodic evaluation, 15 requested EUR-ACE® label evaluation, and all programmes were successfully granted the label. The programmes are hosted by prestigious institutions, such as the “Politehnica” National Science and Technology University of Bucharest, the “Transilvania” University of Braşov, the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca, and the “Regele Mihai I” University of Life Sciences of Timișoara.

Evaluation of master study programmes

229 master domains were evaluated in 2024, out of which:

- ❑ 223 programmes maintained accreditation,
- ❑ 5 maintained accreditation under monitoring,
- ❑ 1 domain had its accreditation withdrawn.

Concerning master programmes, 15 programmes were evaluated:

- ❑ 14 were accredited,
- ❑ 1 programme did not obtain accreditation.

Evaluations were conducted in all scientific domains, and the results show an advanced level of institutional maturity and constant concern for quality in master studies.

Evaluations of doctoral study programmes

In 2024, ARACIS evaluated 15 doctoral study domains:

- ❑ 12 domains were evaluated for accreditation,
- ❑ 3 domains underwent periodic evaluation.

The fact that no requests were received for provisional authorisation to operate shows that the evaluated domains were already at an advanced stage of academic development.

Other evaluated categories of programmes

Besides institutional and programme evaluations, ARACIS also performed evaluations of other training categories:

- ❑ 12 teacher training programmes were evaluated, out of which 1 for accreditation and 1 to maintain accreditation.
- ❑ 9 preparatory programmes of Romanian for foreigners were evaluated, 2 for accreditation and 7 in periodic evaluation.

An analysis of the evaluation activity conducted by ARACIS in 2024 shows an overall positive trend regarding quality assurance and quality improvement in higher education. The high rate of accreditations and the high number of programmes maintaining accreditation reflect both the capacity of the universities to meet the requirements of quality standards and the efficiency of the external evaluation process.

Furthermore, the openness of the institutions towards international accreditations such as EUR-ACE® is a sign of the Romanian higher education system aligning to the European Higher Education Area.

2,398 bachelor study programmes have been evaluated in the last 5 years, between 2020 – 2024 (including programmes subject to external evaluation within institutional evaluations). In a historical comparison of the evaluations of bachelor study programmes in that period, the share of programmes being awarded the maximum judgment is as follows: in 2020, 92.63%; in 2021, 96.1%; in 2022, 94.4%; in 2023 - 96.2%, and in 2024 - 96.5%.

The recommendations and observations included in ENQA's Report continued to be implemented: [The 2022-2026 ARACIS Strategy](#), published on the Agency's webpage, was the document based on which the actions and steps undertaken by the Agency were decided.

Regarding the projects, activities were carried out in 2024 for the implementation of two international projects and to ensure sustainability of three other projects:

- ❑ The IMINQA project is co-financed under the ERASMUS+ Programme, and it is implemented over a period of 36 months (May 2022 - April 2025).
- ❑ The START project is co-financed under the ERASMUS+ Programme, and it is implemented over a period of 36 months (June 2022 - May 2025).
- ❑ The "Improvement of public policies in higher education and better-quality regulations through updated quality standards - QAFIN" project; implementation period: 29.05.2017 - 28.10.2021.
- ❑ The "Effective involvement of stakeholders in external quality assurance activities (ESQA)" project; implementation period: May 2019 - June 2021.

The enhanced international visibility of the Agency contributes to connecting the Romanian higher education to the EHEA by:

- ✓ The Director General, prof. Dr. Eng. Daniela-Cristina Ghițulică, continued to carry out her mandate as Vice-president of ENQA;
- ✓ continued activities on the Boards of INQAAHE and CEENQA by Prof. Dr. Eng. Simona Lache, member of the Institutional Evaluation and Audit Commission of ARACIS.

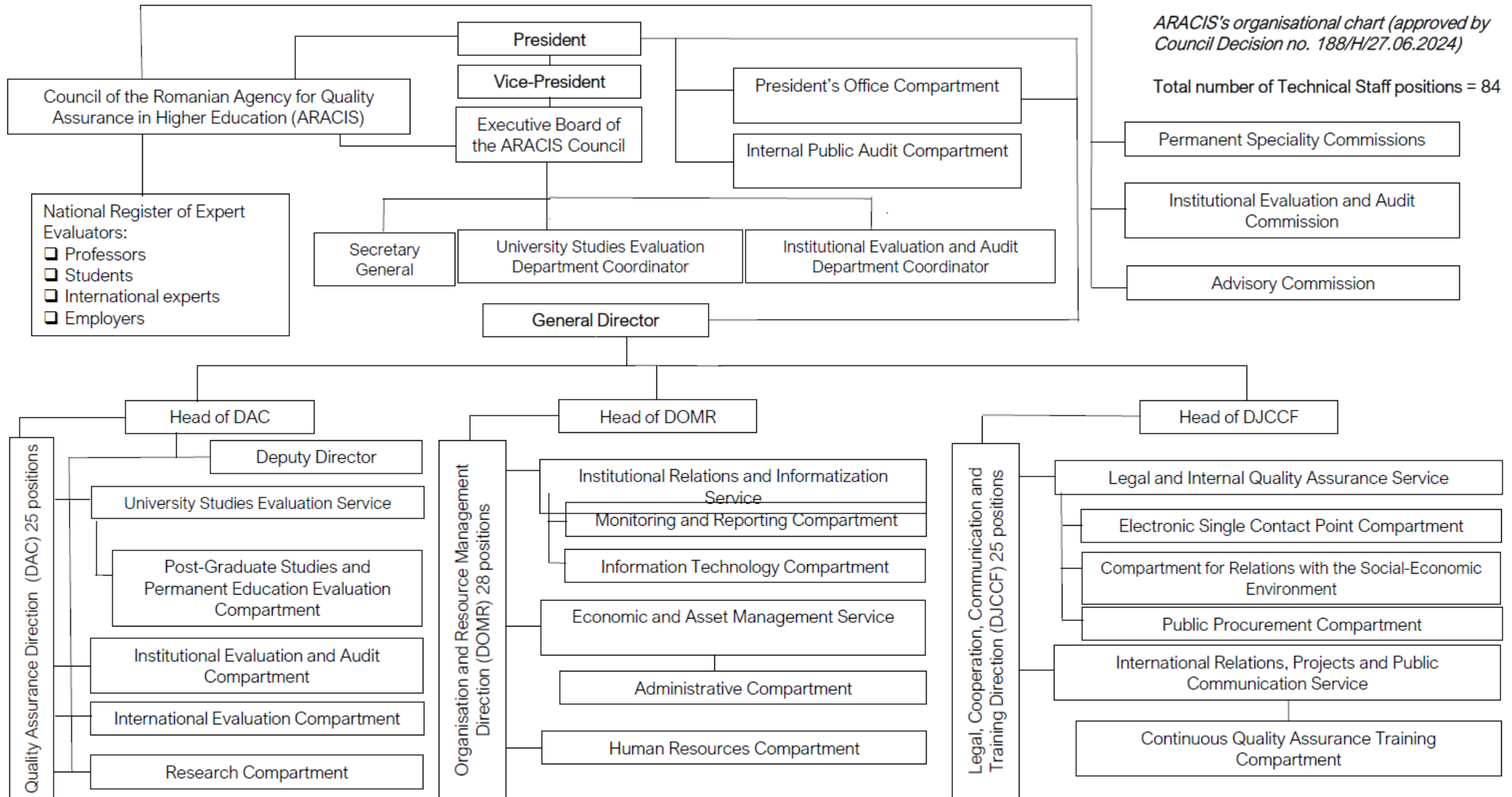
The structure of the permanent staff in the Agency's internal directions and services changed significantly in terms of the number of positions and the people employed.

The financial activity of the Agency was appropriate and supported its mission. Continued analysis of evaluation costs and re-correlation with salary increases and other measures to keep up with the changes in the law continue to be necessary.

It is appropriate to mention that the quality and intensity of ARACIS's activity has increased in 2024 as a result of the measures taken by the Agency and the inclusion of the ENQA and EQAR recommendations; this is a trend that remains constant, in line with the requests and aspirations that all stakeholders have in connection with quality assurance in higher education.

ANNEXES

Annex 1 – ARACIS organisational structure



Annex 2 – Members of the ARACIS Council - 2024

Position	Name, surname
President:	1. Prof. Dr. Eng. Năvrăpescu Valentin
Vice-President:	2. Prof. Dr. Eng. Trașcă Teodor-Ioan
Secretary General:	3. Prof. Dr. Eng. Petrescu Marius
Coordinator of the Institutional Evaluation and Audit Department:	4. Prof. Dr. Eng. Neculai Eugen Seghedin
Institutional Evaluation and Audit Department	5. Prof. Ecaterina Ionescu – University of Medicine and Pharmacy “Carol Davila” Bucharest 6. Prof. Gabriela Prelipcean – “Ștefan cel Mare” University of Suceava 7. Prof. Roșca Ioan Călin – Transilvania University of Brasov 8. Prof. Muntean Daniela Lucia – University of Medicine, Pharmacy, Sciences and Technology “George Emil Palade” from Târgu Mureș 9. Prof. Bîzdoacă Nicu George – University of Craiova 10. Prof. Bács Miklós – “Babeș-Bolyai” University 11. Dr. Eng. Romeo-Cristian Erbașu 12. Student Covaci Sergiu – The National Alliance of Student Organizations in Romania (ANOSR)
Coordinator of the Evaluation of University Studies Department:	13. Prof. Moldovan Nicoleta-Claudia
Evaluation of University Studies Department:	14. Prof. Anton Hadăr – Politehnica University of Bucharest (representative of the trade union with the highest number of members in higher education) 15. Prof. Mihail Anton – National Defense University “Carol I” 16. Prof. univ. dr. Andreica Anca-Mirela – “Babeș-Bolyai” University 17. Prof. Lucian-Ion Ciolan – University of Bucharest 18. Prof. Florin Mihai – Bucharest University of Economic Studies 19. Prof. Teodora Cristina Roman– „Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași 20. Prof. Roxana Vidican – The University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca 21. Student Pascaru Romina Cătălina The National Union of Students in Romania (UNSR)

Annex 3 – ARACIS Consultative Commission

No.	Name and surname	Institution	Position
1	Academician Ioan-Aurel Pop	“Babeş-Bolyai” University of Cluj-Napoca	President of Honour
2	Professor Dr. George Darie	Politehnica University of Bucharest	Member
3	Professor Dr. Laurențiu Rece	Constructions Technical University of Bucharest	Member
4	Professor Dr. Valentina Tudor	Agronomy Science and Veterinarian Medicine University of Bucharest	Member
5	Professor Dr. Romiță Iucu-Bumbu	University of Bucharest	Member
6	Professor Dr. Ioan Lascăr	"Carol Davila" Medicine and Pharmacy University of Bucharest	Member
7	Professor Dr. Mirela Stoian	Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest	Member
8	Professor Dr. Dan Dediu	National Music University of Bucharest	Member
9	Professor Dr. Marko Balint	“Babeş-Bolyai” University of Cluj-Napoca	Member
10	Professor Dr. Dan Selișteanu	University of Craiova	Member
11	Professor Dr. Iulian Ciocoiu	“Gheorghe Asachi” Technical University of Iasi	Member
12	Professor Dr. Viorel Negru	West University of Timișoara	Member
13	Professor Dr. Vasile Căruțașu	“Nicolae Bălcescu” Terrestrial Forces Academy of Sibiu	Member
14	Professor Dr. Ovidiu Folcuț	Romanian-American University of Bucharest	Member
15	Professor Dr. Florentina Munteanu	“Academica Plus” University Consortium “Aurel Vlaicu” University of Arad	Member
16	Professor Dr. Viorel Șerban	Romanian Alliance of Technical Universities – ARUT Politehnica University of Timișoara	Member

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