

**Metodologie din 08-aug-2024 METHODOLOGY of August 8, 2024 on external evaluation of the quality of education in higher education (traducere)**

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Data act: 8-aug-2024

Emitent: Guvernul

**CHAPTER I: General provisions - Elaboration, purpose, principles and scope**

**Article 1: Elaboration and content**

**(1) This methodology for external evaluation of the quality of education in higher education, hereinafter referred to as the Methodology, is developed by the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, hereinafter referred to as ARACIS, in accordance with the Standards and Guidelines on Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area, hereinafter referred to as ESG, adopted at the level of the European Higher Education Area, hereinafter referred to as the EIS, and comprises:**

- a) standards and performance indicators on ethics management, according to Article 161 paragraph (2) letter c) of the Higher Education Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented;
- b) fundamental principles in addressing the quality of education;
- c) standards and performance indicators;
- d) description of the evaluation processes;
- e) the manner of initiation and evaluation of the university study programs and of acquiring the legal status of an organization providing education by the applicant institution;
- f) description of the procedures for accreditation, as well as for the establishment of higher education

institutions;

g)the modalities of adoption of decisions by ARACIS;

h)the conditions under which a higher education institution can undergo an external evaluation procedure at institutional level, simplified or, as the case may be, auditing.

**(2)This methodology concretizes the provisions of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, and shall be applied for the purpose of:**

a)accreditation of university programs and/or fields of study, within the initial training provided for in Article 26 (1) and Article 102 (3) and (4) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented;

**b)accreditation of postgraduate study programs<sup>1</sup>, within the continuing education, provided for in Article 26 paragraph (2) letters a), b) and d) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented;**

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<sup>1</sup>Letter c) provides for residency programs. According to the provisions of Article 75 paragraph (8) sentence II of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, residency training is organized and evaluated, according to the legal provisions, by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health, through accredited higher education institutions of medicine and pharmacy and higher education institutions that have faculties of medicine, dentistry and pharmacy and that have medical study programs,Â accredited dentistry and pharmacy. Consequently, the two ministries will develop and approve by joint order the procedure for the external evaluation of the residency programs.

c)accreditation of postgraduate study programs of psycho-pedagogical training, provided for in Article 201 paragraph (8) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented;

d)accreditation of continuing education vocational training programmes, as the case may be, of level 6-8 in relation to the National Qualifications Framework, hereinafter referred to as the CNC, approved by Government Decision no. 918/2013, as subsequently amended and supplemented, under the conditions provided for in Article 180(8) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, and in Article 7(1) and Article 21(2) of Government Ordinance no.Â 129/2000 on the professional training of adults, republished, with subsequent amendments and completions;

e)accreditation of Romanian language preparatory programs;

f)the acquisition of the legal status of an education provider organization;

g)the acquisition of the legal status of higher education institution;

h)maintaining the accreditation for programs and/or fields of university studies within the initial training, as well as for postgraduate study programs within the continuing training, postgraduate study

programs of psycho-pedagogical training, continuing education study programs and preparatory programs of the Romanian language;

i) maintenance of institutional accreditation.

(3) The organization and accreditation of postgraduate residency programs is carried out according to the provisions of Article 75 paragraph (8) sentence II of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, based on an external evaluation procedure, approved by joint order by the Minister of Education and the Minister of Health at the proposal of ARACIS, based on the consultation of accredited higher education institutions of medicine and pharmacy and higher education institutions that have faculties of medicine, dentistry and pharmacy and that have medical study programs,Â accredited dentistry and pharmacy.

## **Article 2: Fundamental principles**

The fundamental principles in approaching the quality of education, of reference in this methodology, are the following:

- a) European reference, the principle according to which the higher education system and institutions in Romania belong to the SEIS and ensure the level of quality according to the requirements of this space, competitiveness at European and international level and also apply ESG for the study cycles and the forms of organization of the university study programs offered. ESG focuses on quality assurance of learning and teaching in higher education, including the learning environment and relevant links to research and innovation. In addition, higher education institutions have policies and processes in place to ensure the quality of activities in order to carry out scientific research and community involvement missions, as appropriate;
- b) institutional responsibility, the principle according to which quality assurance is the obligation of each higher education institution, based on university autonomy;
- c) institutional diversity, the principle according to which the variety of institutions, their mission and objectives is respected and encouraged in the external evaluation of the quality of education;
- d) institutional identity, the principle according to which results and performance in learning and research can be obtained through a variety of practices, methods or structures, designed and applied, autonomously, by each institution, according to its own options;
- e) internal quality assessment, the principle according to which each procedure reflects the quality culture in the higher education institution or education provider organization and ensures the continuity of performance improvement;
- f) external quality assessment, a principle that is based on the demonstration by the higher education institution/education provider organization of the results and performance in the activities specific to

the assumed mission, taking into account the established standards, by verifying their compliance with the actual reality in the institution, including during the evaluation visit;

g) quality improvement, the principle according to which the continuous improvement of quality and institutional management by the higher education institution/education provider organization is one of the objectives of the external evaluation;

h) cooperation with all components of the education system, the principle according to which the approach, applied practices and forms of consultancy offered by ARACIS are based on relations of cooperation and mutual trust, in relations with higher education institutions, education provider organizations, as well as with other partners;

i) focusing on results, the principle according to which, in ensuring and evaluating quality, learning outcomes and performance in university research, a component of the educational process, are essential;

j) transparency, the principle according to which the results of all evaluation processes are finalized by reports, which are made public;

k) equal opportunities and gender equality, an essential principle for the development of a fair society, which values diversity and inclusion and promotes partnership relations and mutual respect.

### **Article 3: Purpose**

**(1) The purpose of the external evaluation process of the quality of education is to:**

a) certifying the capacity of higher education institutions, respectively of the education provider organizations to meet the expectations of the beneficiaries, by meeting the standards;

b) ensuring the protection of the direct beneficiaries of university and postgraduate education, respectively, as well as of permanent education by accrediting higher education institutions to issue recognized study documents;

c) ensuring the protection of the direct and indirect beneficiaries of university and postgraduate education, respectively of continuing education, by producing and disseminating systematic, coherent and credible, publicly accessible information on the quality of education in higher education.

(2) The purpose of the audit process is to maintain accreditation for higher education institutions that meet the conditions set out in Article 56(3).

(3) The purpose of ensuring the quality of education, according to the provisions of Article 224 paragraph (2) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, is to strengthen the capacity of higher education institutions/education provider organizations to offer university, respectively postgraduate, as well as continuing education study programs, in accordance with the

standards provided by the legislation in force, as well as to contribute to the development of an institutional culture of quality in higher education.

#### **Article 4: Law Topics**

The provisions of this methodology apply to the following legal subjects:

- a) legal persons, of public or private law, of a non-profit nature, interested in providing university-level education;
- b) higher education institutions and education providers organizations in Romania;
- c) higher education institutions and education provider organizations, accredited in Romania, operating on the territory of other states, according to the legal provisions in force in both states;
- d) higher education institutions and education provider organisations in Romania, when they contract other quality assurance agencies, from abroad, hereinafter referred to as CAS, registered in the European Register for Quality Assurance in Higher Education, hereinafter referred to as EQAR, for the purpose of external assessment of the quality of education.

### **CHAPTER II: Quality assurance system**

#### **SECTION 1: Structure of the quality assurance system**

#### **Article 5: Topics and components of the quality assurance system**

**(1) The education quality assurance system, hereinafter referred to as SACE, includes the following categories of subjects of law:**

- a) higher education institutions;
- b) organizations providing education;
- c) Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education;
- d) AAC, having competences in the external evaluation of the quality of higher education education;
- e) The Ministry of Education, as a specialized body of the central public administration, which has fundamental attributions in the field of quality assurance of higher education.

**(2) SACE consists of two systems:**

- a) the internal quality assurance system, hereinafter referred to as SIAC;
- b) the external quality assessment system, hereinafter referred to as the EEEEC.

#### **Article 6: Elements and processes of the quality assurance system**

(1) The elements of the SEEC, consisting of areas, criteria, standards and performance indicators, are provided for in Article 225(2) and Article 226 of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and

supplemented.

(2)SACE's lawsuits are provided for in Article 225(1) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented.

**(3)The powers and attributions related to the processes provided for in Article 225 paragraph (1) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, are correlated and shared between the categories of subjects of law in SACE, as follows:**

- a)planning and effective implementation of the expected learning outcomes - are fundamental attributions, as well as obligations of each higher education institution, respectively of each education provider organization, being supported by SIAC;
- b)internal evaluation - represents the attribution and obligation of each higher education institution, respectively of each organization providing education;
- c)external evaluation, in order to authorize provisional operation, which falls within the exclusive competence of ARACIS;
- d)external evaluation, in order to accredit or maintain the accreditation, which falls within the competence of both ARACIS and other CAS, according to the provisions of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented;
- e)auditing the internal evaluation, which falls within the exclusive competence of ARACIS.

#### **Article 7: Quality Assurance Actions**

**(1)Ensuring the quality of education, in order to meet the standards, represents a set of actions that take into account:**

- a)institutional capacity development;
- b)developing, planning and organizing initial training study programs, respectively continuing training and continuing education.

**(2)The actions provided for in paragraph (1) shall be carried out continuously and include a permanent process of evaluation of the quality of education, for the following categories of entities:**

- a)higher education institutions, with their programs and fields of study, organized within initial and continuing training, as well as continuing education;
- b)organizations providing education, with their programs and fields of study, organized within the framework of initial and continuing training, as well as continuing education.

#### **Article 8: Meeting standards**

(1)Higher education institutions, respectively education provider organizations, have the obligation

to meet and comply with the standards in order to meet the expectations of the direct and indirect beneficiaries of education.

**(2)The attestation of compliance with the standards is carried out through two successive processes:**

- a)the internal evaluation process - carried out by self-evaluation, by the higher education institution, the education provider organization, respectively the legal entity interested in providing university programs/fields of study;
- b)the external evaluation process - carried out by a CAA, according to Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented.

## **SECTION 2:Internal quality assurance system**

### **Article 9: SIAC structure**

**(1)The SIAC comprises the following elements:**

- a)the Commission for Quality Assessment and Assurance, hereinafter referred to as CEAC, which is established in accordance with the provisions of Article 227 of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented;
- b)technical-administrative and support structures, which have the role of facilitating the management of internal and external quality assurance and evaluation activities;
- c)strategies, action plans, regulations and procedures;
- d)activities of internal assurance and evaluation of the quality of education;
- e)reports on the internal evaluation of the quality of education.

(2)The university senate of each higher education institution, respectively the governing body of the education provider organization approves the quality assurance strategy, the CEAC operating regulations, as well as the action plan, methodologies and procedures regarding quality assurance.

(3)The CEAC prepares annually an internal evaluation report on the quality of education. The report is analyzed in the university senate and brought to the attention of the interested parties, through publication on the website of the higher education institution/education provider organization.

### **Article 10: Internal evaluation process**

(1)The internal evaluation process is carried out by the higher education institution, respectively by the education provider organization, based on internal procedures, through self-evaluation carried out in relation to ESG Part I, and includes at least the use of the criteria, standards and performance indicators provided in the annex which is an integral part of this methodology.

(2)The higher education institution, respectively the education provider organization, can develop its own standards and its own benchmark performance indicators, in accordance with the assumed mission and its own strategic objectives.

(3)Higher education institutions, respectively education provider organizations, have the right to establish annually, within the fields of master's degree studies accredited or provisionally authorized to function, new master's degree programs, based on the internal evaluation process, without changing the maximum number of students who can be enrolled in the respective field. If it is considered to increase the maximum number of students who can be enrolled, the process of external evaluation of the field is carried out.

### **SECTION 3: External Quality Assessment System**

#### **Article 11: Structure of SEEC**

The external quality assessment system includes the following elements:

- a)the subjects of law referred to in Article 5(1);
- b)Methodology and external evaluation guides;
- c)activities of external evaluation of the quality of education;
- d)acquiring the status of accredited program or field or accredited institution, as the case may be;
- e)external evaluation reports of the quality of education.

#### **Article 12: External evaluation processes and procedures**

(1)The process of external evaluation of the quality of education consists, according to the provisions of Article 223 paragraph (3) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, in the multi-criteria examination of the extent to which a higher education institution, respectively an education provider organization, as the case may be, and the programs provided by them, within the framework of initial training, continuing training, respectively continuing education, meet the standards and indicators provided in the annex.

(2)In the process of external evaluation or auditing, as the case may be, the concordance between the results of the internal evaluation of the quality of education and the real situation in the requesting institution is analyzed.

(3)Accreditation represents - according to the provisions of Article 223 paragraph (4) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented - part of the external evaluation of the quality of education, which certifies compliance with standards by higher education institutions, respectively by education provider organizations.

**(4) Accreditation is carried out by successively following two procedures, as follows:**

- a) the procedure for authorizing provisional operation;
- b) accreditation procedure.

(5) The external evaluation process is applied, according to the provisions of Article 229 paragraph (3) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, for the university study programs/fields organized within the initial training, continuing training or continuing education, as the case may be, as well as for the institutional structure of the higher education institution or education provider organization, as the case may be.

(6) The audit process is applied, according to the provisions of Article 229 paragraph (4) of Law no. 199/2023, with subsequent amendments and completions, for the institutional structure of the higher education institution.

(7) The accreditation procedure is applied, according to the provisions of Article 21 paragraph (2) of Government Ordinance no. 129/2000, republished, with subsequent amendments and completions, for the continuing education study programs.

### **Article 13: Deadlines**

**(1) The process of external evaluation of the quality of education is carried out, according to the provisions of Article 229 paragraph (1) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, as follows:**

- a) within the deadlines established for accreditation;
- b) periodically, every 5 years;
- c) at the initiative of higher education institutions or education provider organizations, as the case may be;
- d) at the initiative of the Ministry of Education.

(2) ARACIS communicates to the requesting institution the results of the evaluation, by e-mail, within 45 days from the date of validation of the proposals formulated by the commissions of expert evaluators within their own decision-making structures, a term from which the obligation of periodic evaluation runs.

(3) ARACIS, based on the request to trigger the external evaluation, accompanied by the internal evaluation report, concludes directly with the requesting institution a civil contract for the provision of services for the purpose of external evaluation. The applicant institution pays, at the conclusion of the civil contracts for the provision of appraisal services, the fees related to the external appraisal processes.

(3<sup>1</sup>) ARACIS may approve the staggering of the payment of the fees provided for in paragraph (3) by decision of the ARACIS Council.

(4) The deadline for completing the process of external evaluation of the quality of education or auditing is 9 months and runs from the date of conclusion of the civil contract for the provision of services provided for in paragraph (3).

(5) ARACIS, if it finds in an external evaluation report the non-fulfillment of the standards within the evaluation process in order to accredit or maintain the accreditation of a program/field of study, respectively of the institutional structure, as the case may be, communicates this fact, within 15 days from the date of the finding through the external evaluation report, to the Ministry of Education, which, in turn, it informs the requesting institution, within 30 days from the date of receipt of the communication from ARACIS.

(6) The term provided for in paragraph (4) may be extended, by means of an addendum to the contract referred to in paragraph (3), in duly justified cases, by a maximum of 3 months.

#### **SECTION 4: Competences and attributions regarding quality assurance**

##### **Article 14: Quality Assurance Competencies**

(1) ARACIS, as an autonomous public institution of national interest, has competence in the field of external evaluation of the quality of education at national level and contributes to the achievement of the mission of strengthening society's trust in Romanian higher education.

**(2) ARACIS has exclusive competence in the process of external evaluation of the quality of education for:**

a) acquiring the provisional operating authorization, in order to organize university-level educational activities;

b) accreditation of postgraduate study programs, as well as continuing education.

(3) ARACIS has exclusive competence in the audit process, as well as in the simplified evaluation procedure, in order to maintain the institutional accreditation.

(4) In fulfilling its competences, ARACIS applies criteria, standards and performance indicators, in accordance with ESG.

(5) As an agency registered in EQAR, ARACIS has competence in the field of external evaluation of the quality of education, both at European and international level, which is carried out under the conditions of concluding civil contracts for the provision of evaluation services with higher education institutions in the SEIS or in other third countries.

## **Article 15: Fundamental duties regarding quality assurance**

The Ministry of Education, as a specialized body of the central public administration, has, according to the provisions of Article 5(4)(b) and (d) and Article 112(1) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, in the field of quality assurance of higher education, the following fundamental attributions:

- a) ensuring the conditions and legal framework in the field of quality assurance for higher education institutions and education providers;
- b) elaboration of normative acts for the establishment of higher education structures and/or higher education institutions, as the case may be, based on the accreditation reports and the ARACIS opinion;
- c) elaboration of normative acts for granting the provisional operating authorization - mandatory condition for organizing study programs within the initial training, based on the authorization reports and the ARACIS approval;
- d) elaboration of normative acts for granting accreditation - mandatory stage in the organization of study programs within initial training, continuing training, as well as permanent education, based on the accreditation reports of ARACIS or other CAS, as the case may be, as well as the opinion of ARACIS;
- e) elaboration of normative acts for the maintenance of accreditation - mandatory stage in the functioning of the study programs within initial training or continuing training, as well as permanent education, based on the evaluation reports of ARACIS or other CAS, as the case may be, as well as the opinion of ARACIS.

## **SECTION 5: Obligations and Responsibilities Regarding Quality Assurance**

### **Article 16: Quality assurance obligations**

(1) The obligation to ensure the quality of higher education and scientific research is incumbent on each higher education institution, respectively on each organization providing education.

(2) Higher education institutions and education providers have the obligation to develop their own internal quality assurance systems, as well as to ensure their functionality and continuous improvement.

### **Article 17: Public liability**

Public liability obliges any higher education institution and education provider organization to respect, apply and comply with the regulations in force regarding quality assurance and evaluation in

higher education.

### **CHAPTER III: Standards and performance indicators**

#### **SECTION 1: Development and approval of standards**

##### **Article 18: Competence of developing standards**

**(1) According to the provisions of Article 32(1)(a) and (3) and Article 249(1)(a) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, the following legal powers:**

- a) develops and regularly updates, in consultation with stakeholders, the standards and indicators of external evaluation, which are used for each cycle of university studies, at institutional level, as well as for the procedures related to the external evaluation and audit processes;
- b) develops and approves specific quality standards, centered on learning outcomes, on the manner of conducting teaching, learning, research, practical training and assessment activities, differentiated for the forms of organization of study programs, in relation to fields of study and study cycles;
- c) develops and approves the quality standards, in a differentiated manner for each field of study, for carrying out synchronously, through the use of electronic, computer and communication resources, of educational and/or research activities within the study programs organized in the full-time education form.

(2) The periodic updating of the standards and indicators of external evaluation, provided for in paragraph (1) letter a), shall be carried out on the basis of the good practices in higher education within the SEIS, as well as as a result of legislative changes and shall be approved by decision of the ARACIS Council, which enters into force on the date of publication in the Official Gazette of Romania, Part I.

(3) The periodic updating of the standards provided for in paragraph (1) letters b) and c) shall be carried out on the basis of the good practices in higher education within the SEIS, as well as as a result of legislative changes and shall be approved by decision of the ARACIS Council, which shall be published on the ARACIS website.

##### **Article 19: Approval of standards and performance indicators**

(1) The standards and performance indicators of external evaluation that are used for programs/fields of university studies within initial training, continuing training, respectively continuing education, as well as for evaluation at institutional level, for each of the procedures related to accreditation are provided in the annex.

(2)The standards and indicators referred to in paragraph 1 shall be used by ARACIS, as well as by any other CAS, in the accreditation and accreditation maintenance procedures, at the request of the applicants referred to in Article 4.

## **SECTION 2: Guidelines on standards and performance indicators**

### **Article 20: Use of standards**

(1)ARACIS establishes, based on consultation with higher education institutions, which of the external evaluation performance standards and indicators, provided in the annex, are used for the evaluation of the university study programs/fields of each study cycle, as well as for the study programs within the continuing training and continuing education, related to higher education.

(2)ARACIS approves, by decision of the ARACIS Council, the guidelines on the procedures for carrying out the evaluation processes, the standards and the performance indicators of external evaluation, established according to the provisions of paragraph (1), hereinafter referred to as guidelines, which it publishes, by posting on its own website.

## **CHAPTER IV: Initiating, organizing and carrying out higher education activities**

### **SECTION 1: Competences regarding the organization of higher education activities**

#### **Article 21: Initiation of higher education activities**

Any legal entity, public or private, of a non-profit nature, interested in providing education within the initial training at university level, is subject to the process of external evaluation of the quality of education for accreditation, according to Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented.

#### **Article 22: Organization of higher education activities**

**(1)The following categories of legal entities have the right to organize study programs within initial training, continuing training and continuing education, as well as professional training of adults level 5 according to the CNC:**

- a)higher education institutions established and accredited, according to the legal provisions;
- b)organizations providing education, according to the legal provisions, based on the provisional operating authorization.

(2)The legal status of higher education institution, according to the provisions of Article 7 paragraph (5) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, is acquired following

accreditation and establishment by law.

(3) The legal status of an education provider organization is acquired on the basis of the provisional operating authorization of at least one university study program within the short/bachelor's cycle, respectively field of master's degree studies, and is granted until the date of publication of the law on establishment as a higher education institution in the Official Gazette of Romania, Part I, but not more than 2 years from the date of graduation of the first generation/class of students.

## **SECTION 2: Rights of the higher education institution/organization providing education**

### **Article 23: Rights of the higher education institution**

#### **(1) The higher education institution has the following rights:**

- a) to use the names of university, academy of studies, institute, higher education school or similar;
- b) to organize, according to the legal provisions, study programs within initial training and continuing training;
- c) to organize study programs for dual education;
- d) to organize adult professional training programs, only for level 5 CNC, in the areas in the area of transversal competences, which ends with a certificate of attestation of transversal competences, according to the provisions of Article 26 paragraph (3) and (4) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented;
- e) to organize preparatory programs for the Romanian language;
- f) to organize postgraduate study programs of psycho-pedagogical training, as well as postgraduate study programs of professional conversion for teachers, in accordance with the provisions of Article 102 paragraph (3) letter e) and Article 201 paragraph (8) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented;
- g) to organize continuing education professional training programs, as the case may be, at level 5-8 CNC, under the conditions provided for in Article 180 paragraph (8) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, and in Article 7(1) and Article 21(2) of Government Ordinance no. 129/2000, republished, with subsequent amendments and completions;
- h) to organize graduation exams, from the categories provided for in Article 36 paragraph (1) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented;
- i) to issue study documents, according to the legal provisions.

(2) The continuing training programmes referred to in paragraph 1(b) as well as those referred to in paragraph 1(d), (f) and (g) may have low learning volumes and may be completed with micro-credentials.

## **Article 24: Rights of the education provider organization**

### **(1) The organization providing education has the following rights:**

- a) to organize, based on and under the conditions of the provisional operating authorization, as the case may be: short-cycle study programs; study programs in the first cycle of studies; study programs in the second cycle of studies;
- b) to organize postgraduate study programs, as well as continuing education, only if it has accredited university study programs from the first cycle of studies;
- c) to manage teaching, research and administrative staff, according to its own development strategy, according to the legal provisions.

(2) The organization providing education has the right, according to the provisions of Article 245 paragraph (1) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, to use university or other similar names, only after obtaining accreditation.

(3) The organization providing education is part of the national higher education network, with all the rights and obligations conferred by law.

## **SECTION 3: External evaluation - the basis of the legality of carrying out higher education activities**

### **Article 25: External evaluation of the quality of education**

**(1) The external evaluation of the quality of education, in order to accreditation, is carried out, according to the provisions of Article 230 paragraph (3) of Law no. 199/2023, with subsequent amendments and completions, distinctly, for each cycle of studies, as follows:**

- a) for each study program within the short-term university study cycle;
- b) for each study program within the bachelor's degree cycle;
- c) for each field of master's degree studies;
- d) for each field of doctoral studies.

(2) The undergraduate and postgraduate psycho-pedagogical training programs are subject to external evaluation for accreditation, at program level or for both types of programs, as the case may be.

(3) Postgraduate study programs, as well as continuing education programs are subject to external evaluation for accreditation, at field level, taking into account the fields of bachelor's or master's degree established by the nomenclature provided for in Article 30(8) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, hereinafter referred to as the Nomenclature.

(4) The preparatory programs of the Romanian language are subject to external evaluation in order to

be accredited, at institutional level, for the fundamental fields in which the applicant institution wishes to organize such study programs.

## **Article 25<sup>1</sup>**

(1) The external evaluation process in order to maintain the accreditation of the bachelor's degree programs in the branch of science "Philology" is carried out unitarily for a group of university study programs with the same structure, corresponding to a specialization inscribed in the Nomenclature, which differs from each other, as the case may be, by the Romanian language and literature/modern language and literature/classical language and literature/Hungarian language and literature/universal and comparative literature.

(2) In the branch of science "Philology", within the group of accredited bachelor's degree programs defined in paragraph (1), higher education institutions have the right to establish annually new programs related to different modern or classical languages and literatures, under the conditions and within the limits of the specializations included in the Nomenclature, based on an internal evaluation process completed by an internal evaluation report, if they already have that language in the structure, within another university study program. In the internal evaluation commission it is mandatory to include a teacher from outside the higher education institution and a student. These new programs are communicated to the Ministry of Education and Research by February 1 of each year, for centralized publication.

(3) The internal evaluation process is preceded by registration in the National Register of Higher Education Qualifications, managed by the National Qualifications Authority.

## **Article 26: Requesting institution**

It has the status of applicant institution, in order to submit, under the conditions of this methodology, an application for external evaluation of the quality of education at ARACIS or at another CAA, as the case may be:

- a) higher education institution;
- b) the organization providing education;
- c) the legal entity interested in organizing study programs within the initial training, according to the legal provisions.

## **CHAPTER V: Accreditation**

### **SECTION 1: Procedure regarding the provisional operating authorization**

### **Article 27: Authorisation procedure**

(1) The authorization for the provisional operation of the university study programs within the initial training is carried out, according to the provisions of Article 30 paragraph (4) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, distinctly for each form of organization, for each language of instruction/association of two or more languages of instruction within the same study program and for each administrative-territorial unit in which it takes place.

(2) A university study program is legally organized, according to the provisions of Article 30 paragraph (3) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, if it is provisionally authorized or accredited and operates under the conditions established by the authorization act, respectively accreditation.

### **Article 28: Exceptions**

**(1) The external evaluation of the quality of education, in order to accreditation, is carried out, according to the provisions of Article 231 of Law no. 199/2023, with subsequent amendments and completions, without going through the provisional operating authorization procedure, for:**

- a) the Romanian language preparatory program;
- b) university and postgraduate study programs of psycho-pedagogical training, as well as for postgraduate study programs of professional conversion for teachers, organized in accordance with the provisions of Article 102 paragraph (3) letter a), e) and Article 201 paragraph (8) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented;
- c) fields of master's degree studies, organized by higher education institutions;
- d) fields of doctoral studies, organized by higher education institutions, in the same fields of master's degree studies, which they have accredited;
- e) fields of doctoral studies, organized by the Romanian Academy;
- f) integrated study programs, organized by higher education institutions;
- g) postgraduate study programs, organized by higher education institutions or education provider organizations;
- h) lifelong learning programs, organized by higher education institutions or education provider organizations.

(2) The exceptions to the provisions of Article 27(1) are established by the provisions of Article 30(5) and (7) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented.

### **Article 29: Stages of the procedure regarding the provisional operating authorization**

(1)The procedure for authorizing provisional operation includes the steps provided for in Article 235(3)-(4) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented.

(2)The requesting institution, within the framework of its internal quality assurance processes, shall carry out, on the basis of its own standards, as well as in accordance with the standards set out in the Annex, the self-assessment, which shall culminate in an internal evaluation report.

(3)The applicant institution formulates a request to initiate the external evaluation process, which it submits to ARACIS, accompanied by the internal evaluation report. In the case of subsidiaries established in accordance with Article 8(4) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, the applicant institution shall attach to the application for the initiation of the external evaluation process the proof of compliance with the legal regulations in the country where the study program is organized.

**(4)ARACIS, following the registration of the request referred to in paragraph (3) and on the basis of the civil contract for the provision of services concluded for the purpose of evaluation, shall appoint a commission of experts in external quality evaluation, which, on the basis of the guidelines:**

a)analyzes the internal evaluation report;

b)verifies, through visits to the requesting institution, the fulfillment of the standards set out in the Annex;

c)draw up its own evaluation report.

(5)The duration of the visit referred to in paragraph 4(b) to the applicant institution shall be 2 or 3 days.

(6)The commission of experts, provided for in paragraph (4), is usually made up of 2-5 teachers and 1 student.

(7)ARACIS may include in the structure of the committee of experts provided for in paragraph 6, depending on the type of external evaluation, an international expert and/or a representative of employers, as appropriate.

## **SECTION 2:Procedure regarding the authorization of provisional operation of the university study programs in the short cycle and the first cycle**

### **Article 30: Authorization for the provisional operation of the university study programs in the short cycle**

(1)The short-term university study programs are organized, according to the provisions of Article 52

paragraph (2) of Law no. 199/2023, with subsequent amendments and completions, in the fields of undergraduate studies included in the Nomenclature.

(2)The authorization of a short-term university study program and the establishment of the maximum number of students who can be enrolled in the respective program and who can be awarded a diploma is carried out following the external evaluation carried out by ARACIS, by Government decision, at the proposal of the Ministry of Education.

### **Article 31: Procedure for authorizing the provisional operation of the university study programs in the short cycle**

(1)The application for authorization is submitted by the applicant institution to ARACIS, for each short-term university study program.

(2)The provisions of Article 29 shall apply accordingly to the procedure for authorising the provisional operation of short-cycle university study programmes.

### **Article 32: Authorization for the provisional operation of bachelor's degree programs**

(1)The bachelor's degree programs are provided for in Article 54 paragraph (1) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented.

(2)The authorization of a bachelor's degree program and the establishment of the maximum number of students who can be enrolled in the respective program and who can be awarded a diploma is carried out following the external evaluation carried out by ARACIS, by Government decision, at the proposal of the Ministry of Education.

### **Article 33: Procedure for authorizing provisional operation of bachelor's degree programs**

(1)The application for authorization is submitted by the applicant institution to ARACIS, for each bachelor's degree program.

(2)The provisions relating to the stages of the procedure for the authorisation of provisional operation, provided for in Article 29, shall apply accordingly to the authorisation of provisional operation of bachelor's degree programmes.

## **SECTION 3: Procedure regarding the provisional operating authorization for master's degree fields**

### **Article 34: Authorization for the provisional operation of the master's degree fields**

(1)The master's degree programs are provided for in articles 57 and 58 of Law no. 199/2023, as

subsequently amended and supplemented.

(2)The authorization for the provisional operation of a field of master's degree studies and the establishment of the maximum number of students who can be enrolled and who can be awarded a diploma is made by Government decision, following the external evaluation of the respective field of master's degree studies by ARACIS.

#### **Article 35: Procedure for authorizing provisional operation of master's degree fields**

(1)The application for authorization shall be submitted by the applicant institution, provided for in Article 26 letters b) and c), for each field of master's degree studies in which it intends to organize master's degree programs.

(2)The provisions relating to the stages of the procedure for the provisional authorisation of operation, provided for in Article 29, shall apply accordingly to the authorisation for the provisional operation of the master's degree fields.

#### **Article 36: Introduction of new Master's degree programs**

(1)Within the authorized field for master's degree studies, the university senate may approve the introduction of new master's degree programs, without exceeding the maximum number of students established by ARACIS, and communicates them to the Ministry of Education by February 1 of each year, to be published centrally.

(2)In order to promote and introduce new master's degree programs within an authorized master's degree field of study, the higher education institution, respectively the provider organization, as the case may be, must go through the internal evaluation process on quality assurance and draw up an internal evaluation report.

(3)The internal evaluation commissions for the master's degree programs, organized under the conditions of paragraph (2), must include a student, as well as teaching staff, as experts, from outside the higher education institution, respectively the education provider organization.

### **SECTION 4: Procedure regarding the provisional operating authorization for fields of doctoral studies**

#### **Article 37: Provisional operating authorization for fields of doctoral studies**

(1)Doctoral studies are provided for in Article 61 of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented.

(2)The authorization of a field of doctoral studies is carried out by order of the Minister of

Education, based on the external evaluation carried out by ARACIS.

(3)The higher education institution shall acquire the recognition of the quality of institution organizing doctoral studies, hereinafter referred to as IOSUD, based on the order provided for in paragraph (2), under which it organizes doctoral degree programs.

### **Article 38: Procedure regarding the provisional operating authorization for fields of doctoral studies**

(1)The provisional operating authorization for a field of doctoral studies is made at the request of the higher education institution that does not have accredited the field of master's degree studies, in the requested field of doctoral studies, based on the external evaluation by ARACIS.

(2)The provisions relating to the stages of the procedure for provisional authorisation of operation, provided for in Article 29, shall apply accordingly to the provisional authorisation for doctoral fields of study.

## **SECTION 5: Accreditation procedure**

### **Article 39: Procedure regarding the accreditation of programs and fields of study**

**(1)The organization providing education, as a requesting institution, is obliged to request, in compliance with the accreditation deadlines, the initiation of the external evaluation procedure, in order to accredit, for:**

- a)short-term university study programs, authorized to operate provisionally;
- b)bachelor's degree programs, authorized to operate provisionally;
- c)the fields of master's degree studies, authorized to operate provisionally.

**(2)The organization providing education, as a requesting institution, is obliged to request the initiation of the external evaluation procedure, in order to accreditation, for:**

- a)postgraduate study programs within continuing education, only if he/she has accredited bachelor's or master's degree fields;
- b)continuing education programs, only if he/she has accredited bachelor's or master's degree fields.

**(3)The higher education institution, as an applicant institution, has the obligation to request, in compliance with the accreditation deadlines, the initiation of the external evaluation procedure, in order to accredit, for:**

- a)short-term university study programs, authorized to operate provisionally;
- b)bachelor's degree programs, authorized to operate provisionally;
- c)the fields of doctoral studies, authorized to operate provisionally.

**(4)The higher education institution, as an applicant institution, has the obligation to request the initiation of the external evaluation procedure, for accreditation, for:**

- a)university and postgraduate study programs of psycho-pedagogical training, as well as for postgraduate study programs of professional conversion for teachers, organized in accordance with the provisions of Article 102 paragraph (3) letter a), e) and Article 201 paragraph (8) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented;
- b)fields of master's degree studies;
- c)fields of doctoral studies, only if they organize them in fields of master's degree studies that they already have accredited;
- d)integrated university study programs;
- e)postgraduate study programs within continuing education;
- f)continuing education programs;
- g)the Romanian language preparatory program.

(5)The Romanian Academy, as an applicant institution, has the right to request the initiation of the external evaluation procedure, for accreditation, for fields of doctoral studies.

#### **Article 40: Stages of the accreditation procedure**

(1)The accreditation procedure includes the steps provided for in Article 239(6) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented.

(2)The requesting institution shall, within the framework of its internal quality assurance processes, carry out, on the basis of its own reference standards, as well as in accordance with the standards set out in the Annex, the self-assessment which shall culminate in an internal evaluation report.

(3)The applicant institution formulates a request to trigger the external evaluation process, which it submits to ARACIS or to another AGS, accompanied by the internal evaluation report.

**(4)ARACIS or the CAA, based on the documents submitted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (3), shall directly conclude with the applicant institution a civil contract for the provision of external evaluation services, on the basis of which it appoints a commission of experts in external evaluation, which shall perform the following activities, based on its own guides:**

- a)analyzes the internal evaluation report submitted by the requesting institution;
- b)verifies, through visits to the requesting institution, the fulfillment of the standards set out in the Annex;
- c)draw up its own evaluation report.

(5)The duration of the visit referred to in paragraph 4(b) to the applicant institution shall be 2 or 3 days.

(6)The commission of experts, provided for in paragraph (4), is made up of 2-5 teachers and 1 student.

(7)ARACIS or AAC shall include an international expert in the committee of experts referred to in paragraph (4) for the evaluation of doctoral studies.

(8)The CAA has the obligation to appoint, within the commission provided for in paragraph (4), at least one expert who can prove knowledge of the higher education system in Romania.

## **SECTION 6: Accreditation of university study programs in the short cycle and first cycle**

### **Article 41: Accreditation of Short-Cycle University Study Programs**

(1)The application for accreditation of a short-term university study program, authorized to operate provisionally, shall be submitted by the applicant institution to ARACIS or to another CAA, in compliance with the deadline provided for in Article 237 of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented.

(2)The external evaluation of a short-term university study program in order to accredit and establish the maximum number of students who can be enrolled and who can be awarded a diploma is carried out by ARACIS or by another AAC.

(3)If the external evaluation, referred to in paragraph 2, is carried out by another AGS, the external evaluation process, as well as the report drawn up by that AGS, shall be confirmed by ARACIS by means of an opinion, based on an analysis of compliance with the legal provisions.

(4)The confirmation notice provided for in paragraph (3), together with the evaluation report of the respective AAC, shall be sent to the Ministry of Education by ARACIS, in order to grant accreditation or non-accreditation, as the case may be.

(5)The provisions relating to the stages of the accreditation procedure, provided for in Article 40, shall apply accordingly to the accreditation of short-cycle university study programmes.

### **Article 42: Accreditation of first-cycle university study programs**

(1)The application for accreditation of a first-cycle university study program, authorized to operate provisionally, shall be submitted by the applicant institution to ARACIS or to another AAC, in compliance with the deadline provided for in Article 237 of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented.

(2)The external evaluation of the quality of education of a university study program within the first cycle, in order to accredit and establish the maximum number of students who can be enrolled and who can be awarded a diploma, is carried out by ARACIS or by another AAC.

(3)If the external evaluation, referred to in paragraph 2, is carried out by another AGS, the external evaluation process, as well as the report drawn up by that AGS, shall be confirmed by ARACIS by means of an opinion, based on an analysis of compliance with the legal provisions.

(4)The confirmation notice provided for in paragraph (3), together with the evaluation report of the respective AAC, shall be sent to the Ministry of Education by ARACIS, in order to grant accreditation or non-accreditation, as the case may be.

(5)The provisions relating to the stages of the accreditation procedure, provided for in Article 40, shall apply accordingly to the accreditation of first-cycle university study programmes.

## **SECTION 7: Accreditation of Master's degree fields**

### **Article 43: Accreditation of Master's degree fields**

(1)The application for accreditation is submitted by the applicant institution for each field of master's degree in which it intends to organize master's degree programs.

(2)If the external evaluation is carried out by another CAS, the external evaluation process, as well as the report prepared by that CAS, shall be confirmed by ARACIS through an opinion, based on an analysis of compliance with the legal provisions.

(3)The confirmation notice provided for in paragraph (2), together with the evaluation report of the respective CAA, shall be sent to the Ministry of Education by ARACIS, in order to grant accreditation or non-accreditation, as the case may be.

(4)ARACIS or another AAC, as the case may be, shall analyze, within the external evaluation process of the master's degree fields, including the manner in which the internal quality assessment process for the master's degree programs promoted under the provisions of Article 36 was fulfilled.

(5)The provisions relating to the stages of the accreditation procedure, provided for in Article 40, shall apply accordingly to the accreditation of the fields of master's degree studies.

### **Article 44: Accreditation of Master's degree fields authorized to operate provisionally**

(1)The application for accreditation for each field of master's degree studies, authorized to operate provisionally, is submitted by an education provider organization, as an applicant institution, in compliance with the deadline provided for in Article 237 of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently

amended and supplemented.

(2)The provisions of Articles 40 and 43(2) to (4) shall apply accordingly to the accreditation of master's degree fields authorised to operate provisionally.

#### **Article 45: Introduction of new master's degree programs in accredited master's degree fields**

(1)The provisions on the introduction of new Master's degree programmes referred to in Article 36 shall apply accordingly to the introduction, as the case may be, by the higher education institution or the education provider organisation of new Master's degree programmes within an accredited Master's degree field.

(2)In order to increase the maximum number of students who can be enrolled, when introducing new master's degree programs in the accredited field of study, the applicant institution goes through the external evaluation procedure in order to maintain the accreditation of the field.

### **SECTION 8:Accreditation of doctoral fields of study**

#### **Article 46: Accreditation of doctoral fields of study**

(1)The application for accreditation is submitted by a higher education institution, as an applicant institution, if it has accredited fields of master's degree studies, for each field of doctoral studies in which it intends to organize doctoral degree programs.

(2)The higher education institution acquires the recognition of the quality of IOSUD following the issuance of the order of the Minister of Education regarding the accreditation of a field of doctoral university studies, based on the opinion of ARACIS.

(3)The provisions of Article 40 and Article 43(2) and (3) shall apply accordingly to the accreditation of doctoral fields of study.

(4)The external evaluation of a field of doctoral studies is carried out only once for that field, regardless of whether it is organized in one or more doctoral schools and/or administrative-territorial units within IOSUD.

#### **Article 47: Accreditation of Licensed Doctoral Fields of Study**

(1)The application for accreditation shall be submitted by a higher education institution, as an applicant institution, in compliance with the deadline provided for in Article 237 of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, for each field of doctoral studies authorized to operate provisionally, in which it organizes doctoral degree programs.

(2)The provisions regarding the accreditation of doctoral fields of study, provided for in Article 46(2)

and (3), shall apply accordingly to the accreditation of authorized doctoral fields of study.

## **SECTION 9: Accreditation of the Romanian language preparatory program**

### **Article 48: Accreditation of the Romanian language preparatory program**

(1) The Romanian language preparatory program is organized by higher education institutions under the conditions established by order of the Minister of Education.

(2) The accreditation for the Romanian language preparatory program and the establishment of the maximum number of students who can be enrolled and who can be granted a graduation certificate is carried out by order of the Minister of Education, following the external evaluation carried out by ARACIS.

(3) The accreditation provided for in paragraph (2) shall be carried out at the level of the higher education institution, for each fundamental field for which the evaluation is requested.

### **Article 49: Stages of accreditation of the Romanian language preparatory program**

(1) The accreditation procedure includes the steps provided for in Article 239(6) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented.

(2) The application for evaluation is submitted to ARACIS by a higher education institution, as an applicant institution, for the fundamental areas in which it wants to organize the Romanian language preparatory program.

(3) The requesting institution, within the internal quality assessment processes, shall carry out, on the basis of its own standards as well as in accordance with the standards set out in the Annex, the self-assessment which shall culminate in an internal evaluation report.

(4) The applicant institution formulates a request to initiate the external evaluation process that it submits to ARACIS, accompanied by the internal evaluation report.

**(5) ARACIS, on the basis of the documents submitted in accordance with the provisions of paragraph (4), shall directly conclude with the applicant institution an external evaluation contract, based on which it appoints a commission of experts in external evaluation, which shall perform the following activities, based on the guidelines:**

- a) analyzes the internal evaluation report, submitted by the requesting institution;
- b) verifies, through visits to the requesting institution, the fulfillment of the standards set out in the Annex;
- c) draw up its own evaluation report.

(6)The duration of the visit referred to in paragraph 5(b) to the applicant institution shall be 1 or 2 days.

(7)The commission of experts, referred to in paragraph (5), is made up of 1-2 teachers and 1 student.

## **SECTION 10: Accreditation of undergraduate and postgraduate psycho-pedagogical training programs**

### **Article 50: Accreditation of psycho-pedagogical training programs**

(1)The university psycho-pedagogical training programs are organized in accordance with the provisions of Article 102 paragraph (3) letter a) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented.

(2)The postgraduate psycho-pedagogical training programs for higher education are organized in accordance with the provisions of Article 102 paragraph (3) letter e) or Article 201 paragraph (8) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented.

(3)The accreditation for the psycho-pedagogical training programs provided for in paragraphs (1) and (2) and the establishment of the maximum number of students who can be schooled and who can be granted a graduation certificate shall be carried out by order of the Minister of Education, following the external evaluation by ARACIS or another AAC, at the level of the higher education institution.

### **Article 51: Stages of accreditation of psycho-pedagogical training programs**

(1)The application for accreditation shall be submitted to ARACIS or to another AAC, as the case may be, by a higher education institution, as the requesting institution, for the psycho-pedagogical training programs provided for in Article 50(1) and (2) or only for one of the respective types of programs.

(2)The provisions regarding the accreditation of the university study programs of the first cycle provided for in Article 42 (3) and (4), as well as those regarding the stages of accreditation of the preparatory program of the Romanian language, provided for in Article 49 paragraph (3) to (7), shall apply accordingly to the accreditation of the psycho-pedagogical training programs.

## **SECTION 11: Accreditation of postgraduate and continuing education programs**

### **Article 52: Accreditation of postgraduate and continuing education programs**

(1)The postgraduate study programs are provided for in Article 72(4)(a) and (b), Article 73 and 74 of

Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, and is organized by higher education institutions.

(2)The organizations providing education may organize postgraduate study programs in the bachelor's or master's fields that they have accredited, among those provided for in Article 74 of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented.

(3)The continuing education programs are organized under the provisions of Article 180 paragraph (8) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, and of Article 7 and Article 21 paragraph (2) of Government Ordinance no. 129/2000, republished, with subsequent amendments and completions.

(4)The accreditation for the programs provided for in paragraph (1)-(3) shall be carried out by order of the Minister of Education, following the external evaluation carried out by ARACIS.

(5)The accreditation of the study programs organized in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs (1)-(3) shall be carried out at the level of the bachelor's/master's degree established by the Nomenclature.

### **Article 52<sup>1</sup>: Introduction of new postgraduate and continuing education programmes**

(1)Higher education institutions, respectively education provider organizations, have the right to establish annually, within the fields of postgraduate studies accredited or authorized to operate provisionally, as the case may be, new postgraduate study programs, based on the internal evaluation process, finalized with an internal evaluation report. The internal evaluation commission must include a teacher from outside the higher education institution or, as the case may be, the education provider organization and a student.

(2)Higher education institutions may promote and introduce, within the areas provided for in Article 52(5), new postgraduate study programmes which they communicate to the Ministry of Education and Research, for centralised publication.

(3)The organizations providing education may promote and introduce, within the bachelor's or master's fields for which they are accredited, new postgraduate programs of professional training for adults among those provided for in Article 74 paragraph (2) of Law no. 199/2023, with subsequent amendments and completions, which it communicates to the Ministry of Education and Research, for centralized publication.

### **Article 53: Stages of accreditation of postgraduate and continuing education programs**

(1)The application for accreditation shall be submitted to ARACIS by a higher education institution

or by an educational provider organization, as the case may be, as an applicant institution, for each of the fields in which it is desired to organize study programs provided for in Article 52(1)-(3).

(2)The provisions regarding the stages of accreditation of the Romanian language preparatory program, provided for in Article 49(3)-(7), shall apply accordingly to the accreditation of postgraduate studies and continuing education programs.

## **SECTION 12: Institutional accreditation of education provider organizations**

### **Article 54: Institutional accreditation**

(1)The external evaluation procedure for institutional accreditation shall be initiated at the request of an organization providing education, as an applicant institution, in compliance with the deadlines provided for in Article 237 paragraph (2) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented.

(2)The institutional accreditation and the establishment as a higher education institution are made by law, promoted by the Government, at the initiative of the Ministry of Education, based on the proposal of ARACIS.

(3)The application for accreditation referred to in paragraph 2 shall be submitted to ARACIS or another CAS.

(4)The commission of experts for institutional accreditation is made up of 2-6 teachers and 1-2 students.

(5)The provisions relating to the stages of the accreditation procedure, referred to in Article 40, with the exception of paragraph 6, shall apply accordingly to the accreditation of organisations providing education.

## **SECTION 13: Periodic external evaluation procedure for maintaining accreditation**

### **Article 55: Periodic external evaluation to maintain accreditation**

**(1)The higher education institution, respectively the education provider organization, as the case may be, has the obligation to undergo the periodic external evaluation procedure in order to maintain the accreditation. This procedure is carried out every 5 years, as follows:**

- a)at institutional level;
- b)at the level of IOSUD;
- c)at the institutional level for each fundamental field in which the Romanian language preparatory program is organized;

d)at institutional level, both for the psycho-pedagogical training university study program and for the postgraduate psycho-pedagogical training program;

e)at the level of each short-term university study program;

f)at the level of each bachelor's degree program;

**g)at the level of each field of university studies**

master's degree;

h)at the level of each field of doctoral studies;

**i)at the level of each field of postgraduate studies, respectively field of continuing education.**

(2) The periodic evaluation in order to maintain the quality of IOSUD shall be carried out simultaneously with the institutional evaluation.

(3) The maintenance of accreditation may also be achieved through the audit process or the simplified evaluation procedure, as the case may be.

(4) The provisions regarding the external evaluation of the quality of education for the purpose of accreditation in this methodology shall be applied accordingly to the procedure for maintaining accreditation through periodic external evaluation.

## **SECTION 14: Auditing**

### **Article 56: Auditing**

(1) Auditing is the process by which the quality of education is ensured and is applied, according to the provisions of Article 229 paragraph (4) of Law no. 199/2023, with subsequent amendments and completions, for the institutional structure of the higher education institution.

(2) The audit process is carried out, according to the provisions of Article 225 paragraph (4) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, through the external evaluation of the internal quality assurance mechanisms, established by the higher education institution, in order to continuously improve its activities and processes at the level of programs and fields of study, as well as at institutional level.

**(3) The audit process is carried out by ARACIS, at the request of the higher education institution, as an applicant institution, which cumulatively meets the following conditions:**

a) complied with the deadlines for accreditation and maintenance of accreditation, established by Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, until the date of submission of the audit request;

b) has completed at least two consecutive periodic evaluations, at institutional level, concluded with

reports on maintaining accreditation;

c)it has legal acts of authorization, accreditation, respectively of maintaining accreditation for all the programs/fields of study evaluated.

(4)ARACIS verifies within the audit process the compliance with the criteria, standards and performance indicators related to domain C - Quality management, described in Article 226 paragraph (4) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented.

(5)If the audit process finds the existence of premises for non-compliance with some of the standards related to domains A and/or B, ARACIS requests the introduction of those standards in the process.

(6)The audit process analyzes the systematic implementation, during the period under evaluation, of the internal quality assurance system.

(7)The higher education institution that has undergone an audit process may request, for the next periodic evaluation, only an external evaluation process, based on a simplified evaluation procedure or maintenance of accreditation.

## **SECTION 15:Simplified assessment**

### **Article 57: Simplified assessment**

(1)The simplified assessment involves the use of a system of standards and indicators established in agreement with the higher education institution, according to the provisions of Article 234 paragraph (2) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, and applies to the institutional structure of the higher education institution.

**(2)The simplified evaluation process is carried out by ARACIS, at the request of the higher education institution, as an applicant institution, which cumulatively meets the following conditions:**

a)complied with the deadlines for accreditation and maintenance of accreditation, established by Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, until the date of submission of the simplified assessment application;

b)has completed at least two consecutive periodic evaluations, at institutional level, concluded with reports on maintaining accreditation;

c)it has legal acts of authorization, accreditation, respectively of maintaining accreditation for all the programs/fields of study evaluated.

(3)ARACIS establishes, in agreement with the requesting higher education institution, the system of standards and indicators for the simplified institutional external evaluation process, which contains at

least 50% of the indicators provided in the annex.

(4)The applicant institution may propose the inclusion of benchmark standards and performance indicators, in relation to the mission assumed by that institution, and/or the deletion of some of the performance indicators contained in the Annex.

## **SECTION 16:Mid-term evaluation**

### **Article 58: Mid-term evaluation**

(1)The applicant institution benefits, according to the provisions of Article 233 of Law no. 199/2023, with subsequent amendments and completions, to support quality assurance, from ARACIS or the CAA that carried out the external evaluation process, as the case may be, within an interim evaluation procedure.

(2)The provisions of paragraph (1) shall also apply to the audit process carried out by ARACIS.

(3)As part of the mid-term evaluation process, the applicant institution may request a change in the maximum number of students who can be enrolled in the case of the evaluations referred to in Article 55(1)(c) to (g).

(4)The approval of the request referred to in paragraph (3) shall be granted by ARACIS or the AAC that carried out the evaluation, only if it is found in the mid-term evaluation that all the performance indicators have been met.

## **SECTION 17:Meeting or failing to meet standards**

### **Article 59: Decisions in the provisional operating authorization procedure**

(1)The fulfillment of the standards within the evaluation process for the provisional operation authorization leads to the ARACIS proposal for the authorization of the program/field of study, as well as the institutional structure.

(2)The failure to meet the standards in the evaluation process for the provisional operation authorization leads to the ARACIS proposal for the non-authorization of the program/field of study, as well as the institutional structure.

### **Article 60: Decisions in the accreditation process/maintenance of accreditation**

(1)The fulfillment of the standards within the evaluation process for accreditation or maintenance of accreditation leads to the proposal of ARACIS or AAC for accreditation or maintenance of accreditation of the program/field of study, respectively of the institutional structure, as the case may

be.

(2) The failure to meet the standards within the evaluation process in order to accredit or maintain the accreditation of the program/field of study, respectively of the institutional structure, as the case may be, ascertained in an external evaluation report, shall be communicated, within 15 days from the date of the finding by the external evaluation report, by ARACIS to the Ministry of Education, which, in turn, informs the requesting institution, within 30 days from the date of receipt of the communication from ARACIS. In these cases, ARACIS proposes the conditional maintenance of the authorization or the conditional maintenance of the accreditation.

(3) The applicant institution has the obligation, within one year, calculated from the date of information by the Ministry of Education on the report referred to in paragraph (2), to request a new evaluation from ARACIS or the AAC that has carried out the previous evaluation of the respective program/field of study within any study cycle. The costs of the new assessment shall be borne by the requesting institution.

(4) Failure to comply with the obligation to undergo a new assessment will result in the decision finding that the standards have not been met will become final.

(5) Failure to comply with the obligation to undergo a new evaluation or the finding of non-compliance with the standards following the completion of that evaluation leads to the proposal of non-accreditation or withdrawal of accreditation formulated by ARACIS or AAC, as the case may be. In these cases, the Ministry of Education orders the measures provided for by the provisions of Article 241 paragraph (3) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented.

(6) Within 2 years, calculated from the date of information by the Ministry of Education on the report provided for in paragraph (2), the applicant institution has the obligation to request a new evaluation from ARACIS or the AAC that carried out the previous evaluation. The costs of the new assessment shall be borne by the requesting institution.

(7) Failure to comply with the obligation to undergo a new assessment will result in the decision finding that the standards have not been met will become final.

(8) Failure to comply with the obligation to undergo a new evaluation or the finding of non-compliance with the standards following the completion of that evaluation leads to the proposal of non-accreditation or withdrawal of accreditation formulated by ARACIS or AAC, as the case may be. In these cases, the Ministry of Education shall order the measures provided for by the provisions of Article 241 paragraph (6) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented.

## **SECTION 18: Non-fulfilment of external evaluation obligations**

### **Article 61: Non-fulfilment of evaluation obligations**

(1)The failure by any higher education institution, respectively an education provider organization, to go through the evaluation procedures for accreditation, respectively to maintain accreditation, for the initial training and/or continuing education university study programs, as well as permanent education, as the case may be, entails the cumulative application by the Ministry of Education of the measures provided for in Article 242 paragraph (1) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented.

(2)The failure of any higher education institution, respectively by any education provider organization, to go through the evaluation procedures for accreditation, respectively for periodic institutional evaluation, entails the cumulative application by the Ministry of Education of the measures provided for in Article 242 paragraph (2) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented.

## **SECTION 19: Adoption of decisions**

### **Article 62: Validation of the proposals of the expert evaluation committees**

(1)ARACIS validates, based on the verification of compliance with this methodology, by open vote, within its decision-making structures, the proposals formulated by the commissions of expert evaluators in their own evaluation reports.

(2)In the process of analysis and validation, ARACIS may request the commissions of expert evaluators to redraw the reports, if it finds that the provisions of this methodology have not been complied with or do not include sufficient data and evidence for the adoption of decisions.

(3)The external evaluation reports, including the names of the experts, are published in full on the ARACIS website and in electronic databases managed by international structures to which ARACIS has adhered, in order to ensure transparency and to inform the beneficiaries of education.

### **Article 63: Expert evaluators' assessments of the indicators**

(1)**The results of the evaluation for each performance indicator or reference performance indicator, as the case may be, are specified as follows:**

- a)fulfilled;
- b)partially fulfilled;
- c)unfulfilled.

(2)**Expert evaluators can determine that an indicator is:**

- a) fulfilled, when all the aspects contained in its description are carried out;
- b) partially fulfilled, when essential aspects, contained in its description, are not achieved, but can be remedied within no more than 1 year, in the case of programs/fields of study, respectively within no more than 2 years, in the case of the institutional structure;
- c) unfulfilled, when all the aspects of its description are not and do not exist the premises that they can be carried out within the deadlines provided in letter b).

**(3) A non-compliance decision is taken when:**

- a) a standard is not met, except for the performance indicators related to the criterion provided for in Article 226 paragraph (4) letter h) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented;
- b) more than 20% of the performance indicators included in the Annex are partially met;
- c) More than 10% of the performance indicators contained in the Annex are partially met and are part of the same evaluation area.

(4) For the failure to meet the performance indicators related to the criterion provided for in Article 226 paragraph (4) letter h) of Law no. 199/2023, as subsequently amended and supplemented, paragraph (3) letter b) or c) shall apply.

(5) In case of a decision not to meet the standards for the program/field of study, respectively the institutional structure, as the case may be, the conditional maintenance of the authorization or the conditional maintenance of the accreditation shall be granted, as the case may be, and the applicant institution must comply with the provisions of Article 60(3) and (6).

## **SECTION 20: Appeals and notifications**

### **Article 64: Appeals**

- (1) The applicant institution has the right to challenge the results of the external evaluation of the quality of education to ARACIS.
- (2) The appeal shall be lodged in writing, on behalf of the legal representative of the applicant institution referred to in paragraph 1, within 15 days from the date of receipt of the communication referred to in Article 13(2).
- (3) The deadline for solving appeals by ARACIS is a maximum of 120 days from the date of their registration.

### **Article 65: Complaints**

- (1) The applicant institution, students and teaching staff, as well as other interested legal or natural

persons may notify ARACIS aspects regarding the conflict of interest in relation to the quality of the expert evaluator or the violation of the norms of ethics and professional deontology by the expert evaluators, in the processes of external quality evaluation.

(2)The deadline for solving complaints by ARACIS is a maximum of 120 days from their registration.

## **CHAPTER VI:Final provisions**

### **Article 66: External evaluation of continuing education programmes**

ARACIS will carry out, starting with 2025, the external evaluation of the study programs within continuing education, as well as those of permanent education.

### **Article 67: Evaluation of postgraduate programs**

The postgraduate study programs organized under the provisions of Article 173 of the National Education Law no. 1/2011, with subsequent amendments and completions, and according to the provisions of the Order of the Minister of National Education, interim, no. 4.750/2019 regarding the approval of the Framework Methodology for the organization and registration of postgraduate programs by higher education institutions, with subsequent amendments and completions, maintain their accreditation until the periodic evaluation process is carried out, but no later than July 1, 2027 inclusive.

### **Article 68: Introduction of postgraduate study programs during the maintenance of accreditation**

Higher education institutions may promote and introduce new postgraduate study programs for the duration of maintaining the accreditation provided for in Article 67.

## **ANNEX:**

### **I.Standards and indicators for the external evaluation of the institutional structure**

DOMAIN A. Institutional capacity	
Criterion A.1. Managerial and administrative institutional structures and processes involving students and other stakeholders	
Standard S.A.1.1. Mission, strategy and actions	
The ÅZS has established its mission, strategic objectives and annual actions, in accordance with the legal provisions in force and the assumed values and principles.	
I.P.A.1.1.1 indicator	The Higher Education Institution (HEI) has assumed its mission through its own charter and defines its strategic objectives through the multiannual strategic plan for institutional development, ensuring their implementation through correlated actions provided for in the annual operational plans.
Standard S.A.1.2. Components, organizational structures, as well as institutional processes	
The ÅZS has in its structure organizational components, directorates and technical-administrative services, which operate on the basis of appropriate skills, attributions, processes and application procedures, through which an effective management system is ensured.	

Indicator I.P.A.1.2.1	In order to carry out the actions established by the strategic documents, the SI has an adequate organizational structure and a management system, the functioning of which is based on methodologies, regulations and procedures periodically reviewed, under the law.
Standard S.A.1.3. Stakeholder engagement	
The SIE demonstrates that it involves relevant stakeholders in the development of strategic documents and implementation procedures.	
Indicator I.P.A.1.3.1	The views of members of the university community and other stakeholders are taken into account in the process of adopting and revising strategic documents and methodologies, regulations and application procedures.
Criterion A.2. Material base and optimization of its use	
Standard S.A.2.1. Material Base	
The ISS has adequate immovable and movable property for the fulfillment of the assumed mission.	
Indicator I.P.A.2.1.1	The IĂŽS holds, under the law, spaces dedicated to the appropriate educational, research and administrative processes, as well as for services for students, doctoral students and students, which ensure a favorable environment for life and study, including for those with disabilities. Optimal spaces are also provided for the activities of the members of the university community. They are adequately equipped.
Standard S.A.2.2. Material Base Management	
The IĂŽS manages the immovable and movable assets it owns optimally and sustainably.	
Indicator I.P.A.2.2.1	Immovable and movable property shall be adequately maintained so as to ensure optimal conditions for study, research and living, as well as for work.
Criterion A.3. Adequate human resources and transparent procedures for staff recruitment, developed in accordance with the law	
Standard S.A.3.1. Human Resources	
The ĂŽS has the necessary human resources to fulfill the assumed mission.	
Indicator I.P.A.3.1.1	The human resources of the IES are adequate to carry out the activities arising from the assumed mission.
Indicator I.P.A.3.1.2	The IIS ensures the professional and personal development of the staff.
Standard S.A.3.2. Recruitment procedures	
The recruitment procedures for teaching, auxiliary and administrative staff comply with the legal provisions.	
Indicator I.P.A.3.2.1	The recruitment procedures are in accordance with the legal provisions, established and carried out in a transparent manner.
Criterion A.4. Financial resources	
Standard S.A.4.1. Financial resources	
The SI allocates sufficient resources, in order to obtain adequate results, in accordance with the assumed mission.	
Indicator I.P.A.4.1.1.	The ĂŽS intends to attract sufficient financial resources, from various sources, to support the activities arising from the established strategic objectives and the assumed mission.
Indicator I.P.A.4.1.2	The financial resources provided for in the IES budget are managed and used effectively and efficiently. Sustainable institutional development is envisaged.
Criterion A.5. Digitization of institutional processes	
Standard S.A.5.1 Digital transformation	
The digital transformation process at the level of the IIS envisages administrative simplification and increasing the quality of services offered to members of the university community and third parties.	
Indicator I.P.A.5.1.1	The HEIs use IT tools in their own procedures, in order to improve access and ensure quality services for members of the university community and indirect beneficiaries of education.
Indicator I.P.A.5.1.2	The CIS aims to ensure the interoperability of its own electronic databases, as well as with those arising from the application of the legal provisions in force.
Criterion A.6. Collection, analysis and use of data in order to streamline processes and adopt evidence-based managerial policies at institutional level	
Standard S.A.6.1. Data collection and analysis	
The SI has developed robust and reliable processes for collecting and analyzing relevant institutional data to support managerial decisions.	
Indicator I.P.A.6.1.1	The SI systematically collects and periodically analyzes data on its own activities, resulting from the assumed mission.
Standard S.A.6.2. Use of data	
In the managerial process, the CIS adopts decisions based on evidence.	
Indicator I.P.A.6.2.1	The CIS uses the evidence resulting from the analysis of the collected data in the decision-making process.
DOMAIN B. Educational effectiveness	
Criterion B.1. Content and relevance of study programs	
Standard S.B.1.1. Content of study programs	
Each study program is based on a curriculum that aims to achieve the expected learning outcomes for students, doctoral students and students.	

1	Students, doctoral students, and trainees are hereinafter referred to as students.
Indicator I.P.B.1.1.1	Each university study program is developed and structured in relation to the expected learning outcomes and is organized on the basis of transferable study credits. It encompasses the totality of learning, teaching, practical training, research and assessment experiences, which together lead to a university qualification.
Standard S.B.1.2. Relevance of study programs	
The study programs respond to the professional and personal development needs of the graduates, as well as the socio-economic ones and are organized in conditions designed to ensure the trust of the beneficiaries.	
Indicator I.P.B.1.2.1	The study programs operate under the conditions of the act of authorization, respectively of accreditation, aiming at the realization of the educational ideal of higher education according to the law.
Criterion B.2. Concordance between curriculum and qualification	
Standard S.B.2.1. Consistency with the level of qualification and the competences targeted	
In the process of curriculum design and development, the IIS aims to ensure the level of qualification and correlation with the targeted occupations.	
Indicator I.P.B.2.1.1	The learning outcomes are consistent with the level of qualification.
Indicator I.P.B.2.1.2	The expected learning outcomes are correlated with the competencies required by the corresponding occupations, according to occupational standards and/or the European Occupational Classification (ESCO).
Criterion B.3. Student-centered learning, teaching and assessment	
Standard S.B.3.1. Principles	
HEIs implement the principles of student-centered learning.	
Indicator I.P.B.3.1.1	HEIs ensure the implementation of the principles of student-centered learning within the curriculum and through the didactic strategies used in learning and teaching activities and experiences.
Indicator I.P.B.3.1.2	IAŽS provides students with opportunities to participate in academic mobility programs, carried out with physical and/or virtual presence.
Standard S.B.3.2. Equity	
HEIs ensure fair opportunities for students.	
Indicator I.P.B.3.2.1	HEIs provide equitable opportunities for students, in line with their potential and aspirations, taking into account the diversity of learning styles and abilities.
Criterion B.4. Accessibility and efficiency of appropriate learning resources and support services	
Standard S.B.4.1. Access to resources and services	
The IES ensures access to resources and support services appropriate to the needs of students.	
Indicator I.P.B.4.1.1	HEIs ensure access for students, including those with special educational needs/disabilities, to resources and services designed to support the learning process, appropriate in relation to individual learning needs, the field of study, the cycle of studies and the form of organization of the study programs.
Criterion B.5. Learning outcomes	
Standard S.B.5.1. Definition and evaluation	
The definition and evaluation of learning outcomes is carried out adequately.	
Indicator I.P.B.5.1.1	The learning outcomes are adequately described and support the understanding of the student's and teacher's expectations regarding the content of the subjects in the curriculum.
Indicator I.P.B.5.1.2	The verification of the achievement of the learning results is carried out through evaluation exams along the way and through graduation exams.
Criterion B.6. Insertion and retention on the labor market of graduates according to the level of qualification obtained	
Standard S.B.6.1. Insertion	
The IES supports the insertion of graduates on the labor market.	
Indicator I.P.B.6.1.1	HEIs carry out systematic activities to ensure a smooth transition of graduates from apprenticeship to the labour market.
Standard S.B.6.2. Insertion and retention data	
The IIS collects data on the career path of graduates.	
Indicator I.P.B.6.2.1	The IES collects and analyzes data, in accordance with the law, on the professional career of graduates, in relation to the level of qualification obtained, and analyzes the demands of the labor market.
Criterion B.7. Procedures and practices regarding the admission competition, the course, recognition and equivalence of studies, as well as the certification of results	
Standard S.B.7.1. Admission	
The admission procedures and principles ensure access to higher education.	
Indicator I.P.B.7.1.1	The IIS establishes and applies the procedures regarding admission, in compliance with the deadline for publication of the admission conditions and in compliance with the framework methodology for organizing the admission process in higher education.

Indicator I.P.B.7.1.2	Admission to university study programs is carried out in compliance with the principles of equity and equal opportunities, as well as with the establishment of support measures to ensure access to vulnerable groups, in situations of social and educational risk, including candidates with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
Standard S.B.7.2. Students' academic path	
The IĂŽS establishes rules and carries out actions in support of the academic path of students.	
Indicator I.P.B.7.2.1	The IES establishes and applies the regulations regarding the professional activity of students.
Standard S.B.7.3. Recognition and equivalence of studies	
The IES ensures the recognition and equivalence of diplomas and periods of university studies.	
Indicator I.P.B.7.3.1	The institution establishes and applies its own methodology for the recognition and equivalence of diplomas, as well as for the recognition of studies or periods of study carried out in the country or abroad, developed on the basis of the framework methodology, approved by order of the Minister of Education. Its own methodology also includes appeal procedures.
Standard S.B.7.4. Certification of results	
The IIS issues diplomas, certificates and other study documents, under the conditions of the law.	
Indicator I.P.B.7.4.1	The IĂŽS issues diplomas, certificates, attestations, as well as supplements to them, free of charge, in Romanian and in an international language. The IĂŽS can make and issue, upon request, free of charge or for a fee, official translations of its own documents and other academic documents.
Criterion B.8. Internationalization process	
Standard S.B.8.1. Internationalization	
Increasing the quality of education and research <sup>2</sup> through internationalization actions.	
<sup>2</sup> Depending on the field of study, research refers to artistic creation or sports performance.	
Indicator I.P.B.8.1.1	IIS carries out international cooperation actions through which the mobility of the members of the university community, the organization of study programs, collaboration in research activity and in projects with social and community impact are supported, in accordance with the assumed mission.
Criterion B.9. Results of scientific research	
Standard S.B.9.1. Scientific research in the education process	
Scientific research activities support students' acquisition of learning outcomes.	
Indicator I.P.B.9.1.1	Inquiry-based learning and research results support and are capitalised in the acquisition of the targeted learning outcomes through the study programmes organised by HEIs.
Standard S.B.9.2. Scientific research related to the mission of IĂŽS	
IĂŽS carries out scientific research activities in accordance with the assumed mission.	
Indicator I.P.B.9.2.1	The results of scientific research are visible at national and international level in the respective scientific fields and adequately capitalized.
DOMAIN C. Quality Management	
Criterion C.1. Strategies and procedures for quality assurance, including in the field of university ethics and deontology, that involve students, employers and other stakeholders and are applied consistently and transparently	
Standard S.C.1.1. Strategies and procedures	
The IES has strategic and operational planning tools for quality assurance.	
Indicator I.P.C.1.1.1	The multiannual strategic plan for institutional development, the Commission's strategy for evaluation and quality assurance and the annual operational plans include elements and measures regarding quality assurance in education and the development of the culture of quality.
Indicator I.P.C.1.1.2	The SI approves and periodically revises methodologies, procedures, regulations on quality assurance.
Indicator I.P.C.1.1.3	The IAS approves and includes in the Code of Ethics and University Deontology norms of ethics and university deontology, the description of deviations, sanctions and necessary measures, according to the law.
Standard S.C.1.2. Application	
Strategic directions, actions and procedures adequately implemented	
Indicator I.P.C.1.2.1	HEIs carry out actions and apply procedures consistently, proving their impact in improving the quality of education.
Standard S.C.1.3. Stakeholder engagement	
The SI demonstrates that it involves stakeholders with relevant activity in the development and implementation of strategic documents and implementation procedures.	
Indicator I.P.C.1.3.1	The opinions of members of the university community and other stakeholders are taken into account in the process of adopting and revising the strategic documents and related procedures, as well as for their implementation.
Criterion C.2. Functionality of education quality assurance structures, including in the field of university ethics and deontology, according to the law	

Standard S.C.2.1. Structures	
The IĂŽS has organizational structures in the field of quality assurance and university ethics and deontology, established under the law.	
Indicator I.P.C.2.1.1	The organizational structure of the IIS is constituted by the CEAC, as well as technical-administrative and support structures in the field of quality assurance.
Indicator I.P.C.2.1.2	The IĂŽS has organized the University Ethics Commission, within which the subcommittee dedicated to research ethics is established.
Standard S.C.2.2. Operation	
The organizational structures in the field of quality assurance and university ethics and deontology fulfill their specific role and functions adequately.	
Indicator I.P.C.2.2.1	The CEAC and the technical-administrative and support structures within the higher education institution operate on the basis of the regulation approved by the university senate, in order to carry out the activities of internal assurance and evaluation, as well as external evaluation of the quality of education.
Indicator I.P.C.2.2.2	The University Ethics Commission operates on the basis of the regulation approved by the University Senate and acts independently of any other structure or person within the higher education institution, in compliance with the law.
Criterion C.3. Procedures for initiating, monitoring and periodically reviewing programmes and fields of study and activities carried out, involving students, employers and other stakeholders	
Standard S.C.3.1. Procedures and their application	
The IES has procedures for initiating, monitoring and periodically reviewing the programmes and fields of study and the activities carried out and applies them systematically.	
Indicator I.P.C.3.1.1	The IES approves and revises procedures regarding the initiation, monitoring and periodic review of programs and fields of study, aiming at the educational ideal of higher education.
Indicator I.P.C.3.1.2	The IAS approves and revises procedures for the conduct of learning, teaching, practical training, research and evaluation.
Indicator I.P.C.3.1.3	The IES applies the procedures consistently, proving their impact in quality assurance.
Indicator I.P.C.3.1.4	Members of the university community and other stakeholders are involved in the process of adopting, reviewing and implementing the procedures.
Standard S.C.3.2. Procedures for the introduction of new programs in an authorized/accredited master's degree field IĂŽS organizes new master's degree programs in compliance with the standards.	
Indicator I.P.C.3.2.1	The IES approves, reviews and applies internal quality assessment procedures for the development of new master's degree programs.
Criterion C.4. Procedures for periodic evaluation of the quality of the activities of teaching, auxiliary and administrative teaching staff	
Standard S.C.4.1. Procedures	
The application of methodologies and procedures contributes to improving the quality of staff activities.	
Indicator I.P.C.4.1.1	The IIS periodically evaluates, at intervals of maximum 5 years, the performances and results of the teaching and research staff, based on a methodology approved by the Senate.
Indicator I.P.C.4.1.2	The IĂŽS analyzes the results of the semester evaluation process by students of the teachers' performance.
Criterion C.5. Systematically updated databases on internal quality assurance	
Standard S.C.5.1. Databases	
The IES uses databases to support internal quality assurance activities.	
Indicator I.P.C.5.1.1	The CIS establishes relevant indicators in relation to the assumed mission, systematically collects and analyzes the data necessary for the internal quality assurance process.
Criterion C.6. Transparency of information of public interest, including information on the programmes and fields of study offered, as well as on the related certificates, diplomas and qualifications	
Standard S.C.6.1. Transparency	
The CIS ensures the transparency of information, according to the law.	
Indicator I.P.C.6.1.1	The SI ensures the publication and access to information of public interest arising from the institution's activity.
Indicator I.P.C.6.1.2	The IES ensures the transparency of decision-making processes.
Criterion C.7. Compliance with the deadlines and reporting standards provided by the legislation in force	
Standard S.C.7.1. Preparation and submission of reports	
The IIS prepares and transmits or publishes reports, according to the law.	
Indicator I.P.C.7.1.1	The CIS collects and transmits the requested data, respectively prepares and publishes reports, ensuring compliance with the obligations arising from public liability.
Criterion C.8. Participation in external evaluation processes, according to the law	
Standard S.C.8.1. The observance of the obligation of external evaluation of the IS is subject to the process of external quality evaluation, according to the law.	
Indicator I.P.C.8.1.1	The IIS is subject to the procedures related to the external quality assessment process, in order to organize, under the law, programs and fields of study, within the initial, continuous and permanent education training, as well as at institutional level.

## II. Standards and indicators for the external evaluation of university programs/fields of study organized within initial training, continuing training or continuing education

DOMAIN A. Institutional capacity	
Criterion A.1. Managerial and administrative institutional structures and processes involving students and other stakeholders	
Standard S.A.1.1. Organizational components and institutional processes	
The SI has in its structure organizational components that operate on the basis of appropriate competences, attributions, processes and application procedures, through which an effective management system is ensured.	
I.P.A.1.1.1 indicator	For the development of the program/field of university studies, the IIS has adequate organizational components and a management system, whose functioning is based on methodologies, regulations and procedures periodically reviewed, under the conditions of the law.
Standard S.A.1.2. Stakeholder engagement	
The SII demonstrates that it involves relevant stakeholders in the development of methodologies and regulations, as well as implementation procedures.	
Indicator I.P.A.1.2.1	<p>The opinions of faculty and department, branch or extension members, and other interested parties are taken into account in the process of adopting and revising methodologies, regulations, and application procedures.</p> <p>_____</p> <p><b>3</b> Faculty, department, branch, extension are hereinafter referred to as organizational components.</p>
Criterion A.2. Material base and optimization of its use	
Standard S.A.2.1. Material Base	
The IĂŽS has immovable and movable property suitable for the development of the program/field of university studies.	
Indicator I.P.A.2.1.1	The IIS holds, under the law, spaces dedicated to the corresponding educational, research and administrative processes, as well as for services for students, doctoral students and students, which ensure a favorable environment for life and study, including for those with disabilities. Optimal spaces are also provided for the performance of staff activities. They are adequately equipped.
Standard S.A.2.2. Material Base Management	
The organizational components optimally and sustainably manage the immovable and movable assets that they use for the evaluated program/field of university studies.	
Indicator I.P.A.2.2.1	Immovable and movable property shall be adequately maintained so as to ensure optimal conditions for study, research and living, as well as for work.
Criterion A.3. Adequate human resources and transparent procedures for staff recruitment, developed in accordance with the law	
Standard S.A.3.1. Human Resources	
The IES has the necessary human resources for the organization and development of the evaluated program/field of university studies.	
Indicator I.P.A.3.1.1	The human resources of the organizational component are adequate for carrying out the activities related to the evaluated program/field of university studies. The teaching staff has the necessary qualifications and professional competences to teach the subjects that correspond to them in the list of functions.
Indicator I.P.A.3.1.2	The IIS ensures the professional and personal development of the staff.
Standard S.A.3.2. Recruitment procedures	
The recruitment procedures for teaching staff comply with the legal provisions.	
Indicator I.P.A.3.2.1	The recruitment procedures are in accordance with the legal provisions, established and carried out in a transparent manner.
Criterion A.4. Digitization of institutional processes	
Standard S.A.4.1. Digital transformation	
The digital transformation process at the level of the organizational component envisages administrative simplification and increasing the quality of services offered to members of its own community and third parties.	
Indicator I.P.A.4.1.1	The organizational component uses IT tools within its own procedures in order to improve access and ensure quality services for members of its own community and indirect beneficiaries of education.
DOMAIN B. Educational effectiveness	
Criterion B.1. Content and relevance of study programs	
Standard S.B.1.1. Content of the study program(s)	
_____	
<b>4</b> The term of the programs refers to the external evaluation of the quality for the study programs included in a master's/doctoral field. The program name will continue to be used.	
The study program is based on a curriculum that aims to achieve the expected learning outcomes for students.	
Indicator I.P.B.1.1.1	The university study program is developed and structured in relation to the expected learning outcomes and is organized on the basis of transferable study credits. It encompasses the totality of learning, teaching, practical training, research and assessment experiences that together lead to a university qualification.
Standard S.B.1.2. Relevance of the study program	

The study program responds to the professional and personal development needs of the graduates, as well as the socio-economic ones and are organized in conditions designed to ensure the trust of the beneficiaries.	
Indicator I.P.B.1.2.1	The study program operates under the conditions of the authorization and accreditation acts, aiming at achieving the educational ideal of higher education according to the law.
Criterion B.2. Concordance between curriculum and qualification	
Standard S.B.2.1. Consistency with the level of qualification and the competences targeted	
In the process of curriculum design and development, the organizational component aims to ensure the level of qualification and correlation with the targeted occupations.	
Indicator I.P.B.2.1.1	The learning outcomes are consistent with the level of qualification.
Indicator I.P.B.2.1.2	The expected learning outcomes are correlated with the competencies required by the corresponding occupations, according to occupational standards and/or the European Occupational Classification (ESCO).
Criterion B.3. Student-centered learning, teaching and assessment	
Standard S.B.3.1. Principles	
The organizational component implements the principles of student-centered learning.	
Indicator I.P.B.3.1.1	The organizational component ensures the implementation of the principles of student-centered learning within the curriculum and through the didactic strategies used in the learning and teaching activities and experiences.
Indicator I.P.B.3.1.2	The organizational component provides students with opportunities to participate in academic mobility programs, carried out with physical and/or virtual presence.
Standard S.B.3.2. Equity	
The organizational component ensures fair opportunities for students.	
Indicator I.P.B.3.2.1	The organisational component ensures fair opportunities for students, in line with their potential and aspirations, taking into account the diversity of learning styles and skills.
Criterion B.4. Accessibility and efficiency of appropriate learning resources and support services	
Standard S.B.4.1. Access to resources and services	
The organizational component ensures access to resources and support services appropriate to the needs of students.	
Indicator I.P.B.4.1.1	The organizational component ensures access for students, including those with special educational needs/disabilities, to resources and services designed to support the learning process, appropriate in relation to the individual learning needs, the field of study, the study cycle and the form of organization of the study program.
Criterion B.5. Learning outcomes	
Standard S.B.5.1. Definition and evaluation	
The definition and evaluation of learning outcomes is carried out adequately.	
Indicator I.P.B.5.1.1	The learning outcomes are adequately described and support the understanding of the student's and teacher's expectations regarding the content of the subjects in the curriculum.
Indicator I.P.B.5.1.2	The verification of the achievement of the learning results is carried out through evaluation exams along the way and through graduation exams.
Criterion B.6. Insertion and retention on the labor market of graduates according to the level of qualification obtained	
Standard S.B.6.1. Insertion	
The organizational component supports the insertion of graduates on the labor market.	
Indicator I.P.B.6.1.1	The organizational component carries out systematic activities to ensure an easy transition of graduates from learning to the labor market.
Criterion B.7. Procedures and practices regarding the admission competition, the course, recognition and equivalence of studies, as well as the certification of results	
Standard S.B.7.1. Admission	
The admission procedures and principles ensure access to higher education.	
Indicator I.P.B.7.1.1	The organizational component applies the procedures regarding admission.
Indicator I.P.B.7.1.2	Admission to university study programs is carried out in compliance with the principles of equity and equal opportunities, as well as with the establishment of support measures to ensure access to vulnerable groups, in situations of social and educational risk, including candidates with special educational needs and/or disabilities.
Standard S.B.7.2. Students' academic path	
The organizational component carries out actions in support of the students' academic career.	
Indicator I.P.B.7.2.1	The organizational component applies the regulations regarding the professional activity of students.
Criterion B.8. Internationalization process	
Standard S.B.8.1. Internationalization	
Increasing the quality of education and research through internationalization actions.	

Indicator I.P.B.8.1.1	The organizational component carries out international cooperation actions through which the mobility of the members of its own community and the collaboration in academic and research activity are supported.
Criterion B.9. Results of scientific research	
Standard S.B.9.1. Scientific research in the education process	
Scientific research activities support students' acquisition of learning outcomes.	
Indicator I.P.B.9.1.1	Inquiry-based learning and research results support and are leveraged in the acquisition of the targeted learning outcomes through the curriculum.
Standard S.B.9.2. Scientific research related to the objectives of the study program	
The organizational component carries out scientific research activities in accordance with the objectives of the evaluated study program.	
Indicator I.P.B.9.2.1	The results of scientific research are visible at national and international level in the respective scientific field and adequately capitalized.
DOMAIN C. Quality Management	
Criterion C.1. Strategies and procedures for quality assurance, including in the field of university ethics and deontology, that involve students, employers and other stakeholders and are applied consistently and transparently	
Standard S.C.1.1. Application	
Strategic directions, actions and procedures adequately implemented	
Indicator I.P.C.1.1.1	The organizational component carries out actions and applies procedures, consistently, proving their impact in improving the quality of education at the level of the study program.
Standard S.C.1.2. Stakeholder engagement	
The SII demonstrates that it involves stakeholders with relevant activity in the application of the procedures.	
Indicator I.P.C.1.2.1	The opinions of members of the own community and other interested parties are taken into account in the process of implementing the procedures.
Criterion C.2. Functionality of education quality assurance structures, including in the field of university ethics and deontology, according to the law	
Standard S.C.2.1. Structures	
The IĂŽS has organizational structures in the field of quality assurance, established under the law.	
Indicator I.P.C.2.1.1	The CEAC is constituted in the organizational structure of the HEI. There can be such structures at the level of the organizational component as well.
Standard S.C.2.2. Operation	
The organizational structures in the field of quality assurance and that of university ethics and deontology fulfill their specific role and functions adequately.	
Indicator I.P.C.2.2.1	The CEAC and the structures established, as the case may be, at the level of the organizational component operate on the basis of the regulation approved by the university senate, in order to carry out the activities of internal assurance and evaluation, as well as external evaluation of the quality of education.
Indicator I.P.C.2.2.2	The University Ethics Commission operates on the basis of the regulation approved by the University Senate and acts independently of any other structure or person within the higher education institution, in compliance with the law.
Criterion C.3. Procedures for initiating, monitoring and periodically reviewing programmes and fields of study and activities carried out, involving students, employers and other stakeholders	
Standard S.C.3.1. Procedures and their application	
The IES has procedures for initiating, monitoring and periodically reviewing the programmes and fields of study and the activities carried out and applies them systematically.	
Indicator I.P.C.3.1.1	The organizational component consistently applies the procedures, proving their impact in quality assurance.
Indicator I.P.C.3.1.2	Members of their own community and other interested parties are involved in the process of implementing the procedures.
Standard S.C.3.2. Procedures for the introduction of new programs in an authorized/accredited master's field	
The organizational component carries out new university study programs in the field of master's degree evaluated in compliance with the standards.	
Indicator I.P.C.3.2.1	The organizational component applies internal quality assessment procedures for the development of new master's degree programs in the field of evaluated master's degree.
Criterion C.4. Procedures for periodic evaluation of the quality of the activities of teaching, auxiliary and administrative teaching staff	
Standard S.C.4.1. Procedures	
The application of methodologies and procedures contributes to improving the quality of staff activities.	
Indicator I.P.C.4.1.1	The organizational component analyzes the results of the semester evaluation process by students of the teachers' performance.
Criterion C.5. Systematically updated databases on internal quality assurance	
Standard S.C.5.1. Databases	
The IES uses databases to support internal quality assurance activities.	
Indicator I.P.C.5.1.1	The organizational component systematically collects and analyzes data necessary for the internal quality assurance process.
Criterion C.6. Transparency of information of public interest, including information on the programmes and fields of study offered, as well as on the related certificates, diplomas and qualifications	

Standard S.C.6.1. Transparency	
The organizational component ensures the transparency of information, according to the law.	
Indicator I.P.C.6.1.1	The organizational component ensures the publication and access to information of public interest regarding the evaluated study program.
Indicator I.P.C.6.1.2	The organizational component ensures the transparency of the decision-making processes.
Criterion C.7. Compliance with the deadlines and reporting standards provided by the legislation in force	
Standard S.C.7.1. Preparation and submission of reports	
The IIS prepares and transmits or publishes reports, according to the law.	
Indicator I.P.C.7.1.1	The organizational component collects and transmits the requested data, respectively prepares and publishes reports, ensuring compliance with the obligations arising from public liability.
Criterion C.8. Participation in external evaluation processes, according to the law	
Standard S.C.8.1. The observance of the obligation of external evaluation of the IS is subject to the process of external quality evaluation, according to the law.	
Indicator I.P.C.8.1.1	The organizational component carries out the procedures related to the external quality evaluation process, in order to organize, under the law, the evaluated study program.

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