

Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance
in Higher Education



Activity Report ARACIS 2025

BUCHAREST
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Member of:

European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education
ENQA



Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education
CEENQA



International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education
INQAAHE



European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education
ENAE



The European Consortium for Accreditation in Higher Education
ECA



Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment
CoARA



Global Academic Integrity Network
GAIN



EUA Council for Doctoral Education
EUA CDE



The Council for Higher Education Accreditation International Quality Group
CHEA/CIQG



Registered in:
European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education
EQAR



Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education - ARACIS

Registered office:

No. 12, Spiru Haret street, district 1, Bucharest, Romania

Mailing address:

No. 59, Mărăști Bvd., district 1, Bucharest, Romania

Phone 021.206.76.02

www.aracis.ro

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LIST OF ACRONYMS / ABBREVIATIONS

A	Accreditation
ANC	National Qualifications Authority
ANOSR	National Alliance of Students' Organisations in Romania
ARACIP	Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Pre-University Education
ARACIS	Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education
BEx	Executive Board of the ARACIS Council
BFUG	Bologna Follow-Up Group -BFUG (RO) Grupul de monitorizare a procesului Bologna
CEENQA	Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (RO) Rețeaua Central-Est Europeană a Agențiilor de Asigurarea Calității în Învățământul Superior
CoARA	Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (RO) Coaliția pentru Dezvoltarea Evaluării Cercetării
CNATDCU	National Council for Attestation of University Degrees, Diplomas and Certificates
DEQAR	The "Database of External Quality Assurance Results" Project (RO) Proiectul „Baza de date a rapoartelor de asigurare externă a calității”
DSUD	Doctoral study domains
DSUM	Master study domains
DJCCF	Legal, Cooperation, Communication and Training Directorate
ECA	The European Consortium for Accreditation in Higher Education (RO) Consorțiul European pentru Acreditare în Învățământul Superior
EHEA	(RO) Spațiul European al Învățământului Superior - SEÎS European Higher Education Area - EHEA
ENAE	European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education (RO) Rețeaua Europeană pentru Acreditarea Educației în Inginerie
ENQA	European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (RO) Asociația Europeană pentru Asigurarea Calității în Învățământul Superior
ENRF	External Non-reimbursable Funds
EQAR	European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (RO) Registrul European pentru Asigurării Calității în Învățământul Superior
ESF	European Social Fund
ESG	European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (RO) Standarde și linii directoare pentru asigurarea calității în Spațiul European al Învățământului Superior
ESQA	The "Effective involvement of stakeholders in external quality assurance activities" Project The "Effective involvement of stakeholders in external quality assurance activities" Project
ESU	European Students' Union European Students' Union
EUA	European University Association (RO) Asociația Europeană a Universităților
EURASHE	European Association of Institutions in Higher Education (RO) Asociația Europeană a Instituțiilor de Învățământ Superior
GD	Romanian Government Decision
GEO	Romanian Government's Emergency Ordinance
GO/GEO	Government Ordinance / Government Emergency Ordinance

HESP	Higher education study programmes
IOSUD	Institution organising doctoral studies
INQAAHE	International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (RO) Rețeaua Internațională a Agențiilor de Asigurare a Calității în Învățământul Superior
LC	EUR-ACE Label Committee (RO) Comitetul de certificare EUR-ACE
MICS	Managerial internal control system
MoE	Ministry of Education
NEEA	National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (RO) Agenția Națională de Evaluare și Acreditare din Bulgaria
OG	Official Gazette of Romania
OGSG	Order of the Government's Secretariat General
OOR	Organisational and Operational Regulations
PAO	Provisional authorisation to operate
PASS	Public Administration Strengthening Strategy
PE	Periodic evaluation
QAR	Quality Assurance Review for Higher Education (RO) Revista pentru Asigurarea Calității în Învățământul Superior
REI	ARACIS Register of International Evaluators
RNE-A	National Register of Evaluators
RNE-A	Register of Employers' Representatives
RNE-S	National Register of Evaluators - Students
UEFISCDI	Executive Unit for Financing in Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation
UNSR	National Union of Students in Romania
USR	Romanian Students' Union

ARACIS PRESIDENT'S FOREWORD



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

On behalf of the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS), I am thrilled to have the profound responsibility to present to you the ARACIS activity Report for 2025. The magnitude and consistency of these results entitle us to state that quality assurance in the Romanian higher education has reached a stage of full maturity. 2025 was not an ordinary year; it was the year when ARACIS celebrated its 20th anniversary - a long period during which it proved that more and better can be done, with the contribution of all the stakeholders involved in the quality assurance process. In other words, together.

2025 was the year of the international anniversary conference of ARACIS, a high-visibility event, that brought together leaders of European and global quality assurance agencies, as well as partners from ENQA, EQAR, CEENQA, INQAAHE and ENAEE, confirming our status as an active, respected member of European and global networks. A moment of pure pride for our entire Agency came in November 2025, when our Director General, Prof. Dr. Eng. Daniela-Cristina Ghițulică, took up her mandate as President of ENQA - an unprecedented token of recognition for Romanian expertise in quality assurance at European level. This adds to the constant commitment of Prof. Dr. Eng. Simona Lache on the INQAAHE and CEENQA Boards. The international projects

continued and produced concrete results, such as SIQA (which is coordinated by ARACIS), IMINQA, START, and *Academic Ethical and Integrity Conduct Supported by QAAs*, alongside our partnerships within UNITA and EC2U.

We ended 2025 with a total of 690 completed external evaluations, including 12 institutional evaluations, out of which all concluded with favourable qualifications.

431 bachelor study programmes were evaluated, 15% more than last year, and the success rate was remarkable: 98.84% in authorising procedures, 97.14% in accreditation procedures, and 100% in maintaining accreditation procedures. We conducted external evaluations for 223 master domains, 16 doctoral domains, and a vast follow-up evaluation operation that covered 371 doctoral domains, highlighting the true responsibility of Romanian IOSUDs for the highest-quality research.

We are particularly proud of the 9 international EUR-ACE® labels awarded in 2025, 3 of which were obtained by programmes of the National Technical University of Ukraine - "Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute" -, a gesture of academic solidarity in difficult times, and proof that ARACIS standards enjoy international recognition. Furthermore, we answered requests from the Republic of Moldova and evaluated programmes of the Academy of Economic Studies and the "Ștefan cel Mare" Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Chișinău, thus strengthening the role of ARACIS as a key player in the regional academic landscape.

An important step towards the future was made with the upgrading of the ARACIS website to include sections for professors,

students and universities, as well as an accessibility module for visually or hearing-impaired people - a first concrete step in the digital transformation of the Agency.

However, people remain our most valuable capital: 1,751 active evaluators in the National Register of Evaluators: 1,129 professors, 222 students, 294 international evaluators, and 106 employer representatives. The training session delivered in July 2025 for 64 student evaluators ensures that the voice of the most important beneficiaries of the education process, the students, will continue to be heard in every evaluation process.

Looking ahead, ARACIS is actively preparing for a higher education system where adaptability to digital transformation and the responsible use of artificial intelligence become strategic priorities. It is our intention to continue to activate the Agency's digital platform to speed up processes and enable faster, more transparent evaluations. At the same time we intend to initiate a process to identify actions to adapt to the challenges created by the development of artificial intelligence. In teaching and research Quality in the AI era requires new tools and an open mind, as well as strong ethical foundations, and ARACIS takes responsibility for its role in supporting and contributing to this balance within the Romanian higher education system.

I would like to extend my thanks to Prof. Dr. Eng. Valentin Năvrănescu, under whose leadership the results presented in this report

were consolidated. His commitment and accuracy left a lasting mark on the Agency and on the entire national higher education quality assurance system. It is my desire to continue with the same commitment on the path forged by him, with special focus on digitalisation and the responsible use of AI.

I also wish to extend my thanks to the Director General, Prof. Dr. Eng. Daniela-Cristina Ghițulică, for her commitment, exemplary leadership, and the vision with which she coordinates the work of the technical staff of the Agency. My sincere thanks also go to the members of the ARACIS Council and the Executive Board, the department coordinators, the presidents and members of the Permanent Speciality Commissions, the inspectors, and the entire technical and administrative staff of the Agency. Each individual contribution has made possible the collective results we are presenting today.

I would also like to thank the thousands of domestic and international expert evaluators, the representatives of student federations, employers and institutional partners, as the mission of ARACIS could not have been carried out without them.

I look towards the future with trust and enthusiasm. We have the people, the expertise, and the openness we need to build a modern, agile quality assurance system that will be relevant for future Romania. I invite you to continue this journey together, with accuracy, openness, and that authentic passion for education that brings us all together.

Respectfully,

Prof. Dr. Eng. Cristian – Vasile DOICIN

President of ARACIS

MISSION AND ATTRIBUTIONS IN QUALITY ASSURANCE

ARACIS mission and values¹

- ✓ ARACIS contributes to the mission of strengthening the society's trust in the Romanian higher education, part of the higher education of the European Higher Education Area, thus facilitating recognition of the studies completed in and the qualifications awarded by the higher education institutions, and the mobility of students and alumni both inside the country and beyond its borders.
- ✓ The values that underpin the activity of ARACIS and which, as a whole, define its identity and give it its specificity and uniqueness are independence, autonomy, professionalism, performance, transparency, trust, stability, creativity, and responsibility.

Duties of ARACIS.

ARACIS performs external evaluation of the quality of education, focusing on the organisation of study programmes, as applicable, by:

- a) higher education institutions and education providers in Romania,
- b) higher education institutions and education providers accredited in Romania, who conduct legal operations on the territory of other states, as provided by law.

In carrying out its duties, ARACIS complies with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG).

Concerning external evaluations, according to art. 249 para. (1) of the Law on higher education no. 199/2023, as further amended and supplemented, ARACIS performs the following duties:

- a) in consultation with stakeholders, higher education institutions and education beneficiaries, it develops and regularly updates the external evaluation methodology proposal, including external evaluation standards and indicators;
- b) conducts evaluations according to the external evaluation methodology and standards approved to this purpose and, as applicable, proposes to award / not award authorisation, award / not award accreditation, and maintain / withdraw accreditation of education providers / higher education institutions and of initial and/or continuous education study programmes / study domains;
- c) upon request, evaluates integrated study programmes based on the standards and methodologies established at European level through the European Approach to Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes, and proposes the accreditation / non-accreditation of such programs;
- d) develops and publishes its own guides for external quality evaluation in education;
- e) signs service contracts with higher education institutions in the country or abroad for the external evaluation of the quality of education in study programmes, study domains, and for institutional evaluations;
- f) validates the evaluation reports prepared by the expert panels;
- g) evaluates the quality of education in study programmes/domains and at institution level, upon the request of the Ministry of Education.

¹ Excerpt of the [Regulation on the Organisation and Operation of ARACIS](#)

FOREWORD

This 2025 Activity Report of the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS) is designed to present the level of achievement of the institutional objectives, as well as the main activities performed by the Agency during January-December 2025 for the purpose of fulfilling its mission of higher education quality evaluation and assurance in Romania.

The report shows the results achieved in implementing the strategic and operational lines of action accepted by ARACIS, and outlines the Agency's contribution to strengthening a culture of quality, developing and updating the methodological framework of external evaluation, supporting the internationalisation and the digitalisation process, and strengthening cooperation with higher education institutions and domestic and international bodies operating in this field.

The structure and content of the report were developed based on the objectives, measures and indicators set forth in the [2025 Operational Plan of ARACIS](#), a document that operationalises the strategic priorities of the Agency, and in the [Action Plan resulted from the institutional change needs analysis](#), developed under the ESQA project, which sets the lines for the medium- and long-term organisational development and modernisation of ARACIS.

Throughout 2025, ARACIS continued to implement the recommendations and observations formulated in the ENQA Report. Within this context, the [ARACIS 2022-2026 Strategy](#), published on the Agency's web page, was the main reference document for informing and guiding the actions, measures and initiatives taken for the purpose of strengthening the institutional capacity of the Agency and improving the efficiency of quality assurance processes.

The Report was prepared by the Research Compartment of the Quality Assurance Direction (DAC).

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

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

The coordination and final drafting was performed by: Prof. Dr. Eng. Marius Petrescu - Secretary General of the ARACIS Council; Prof. Dr. Eng. Daniela-Cristina Ghițulică – Director general, and Prof. Dr. Eng. Iordan Petrescu – Adviser to the President.

The drafting group extends their thanks to the members of the ARACIS Council and everyone who contributed to producing the final form of this report.

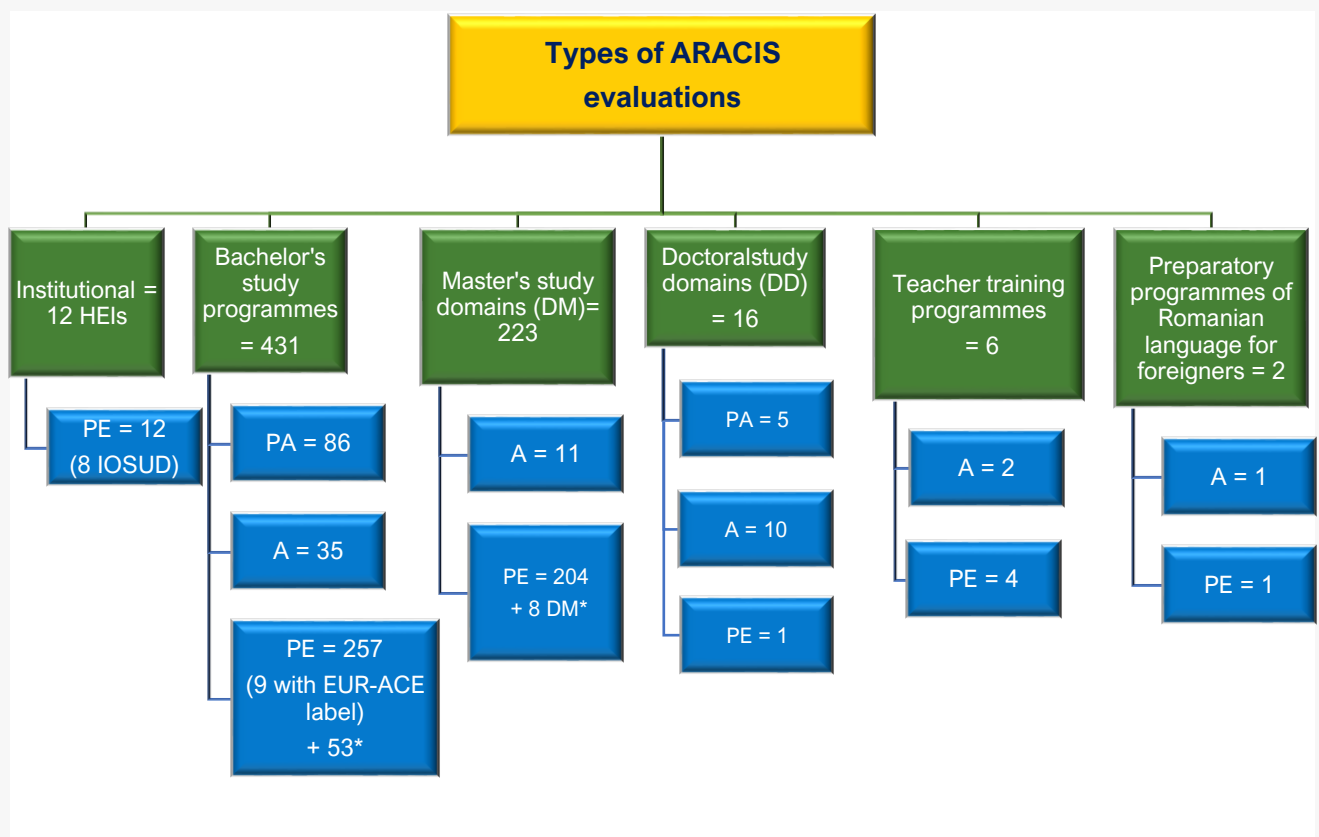
By presenting the activities carried out and the results achieved, the report provides an overall view of how ARACIS fulfilled its legal duties and its commitments, contributing to increasing institutional transparency and strengthening public trust in higher education evaluation and quality assurance processes.

ARACIS ACTIVITY IN FIGURES YEAR 2025

In order to provide all stakeholders and the wider audience with a full picture of the activities of ARACIS, the first part of the report provides a statistical synopsis of the results and the external higher education quality evaluation activities carried out and/or completed by ARACIS in 2025, the existing human potential involved, and the Agency's participation in national/international projects.

The results of the external quality evaluation activities in higher education carried out by ARACIS in 2025 are presented below:

ARACIS's Evaluation activity in 2025 - number of evaluations



Key: PA - Provisional authorisation to operate; A - Accreditation; PE- Periodic evaluation.

Note: * within institutional evaluations.

Figure 1. General summary of the external evaluations carried out by ARACIS in 2025

In terms of the level of engagement/workload of the ARACIS Speciality Commissions, workload of external evaluations was distributed as follows:

C1 - Exact Sciences and Natural Sciences	•Evaluated bachelor SP = 40 •Evaluated master SD = 21
C2 - Humanist Sciences and Theology	• Evaluated bachelor SP = 30 • Evaluated master SD = 21
C3 - Legal Sciences	• Evaluated bachelor SP = 8 • Evaluated master SD = 8
C4 - Social, political and communication sciences	• Evaluated bachelor SP = 34 • Evaluated master SD = 18
C5 - Administrative Sciences, Education Sciences and Psychology	•Evaluated bachelor SP = 22 •Evaluated master SD = 21
C6 - Economic Sciences I	•Evaluated bachelor SP = 51 •Evaluated master SD = 25
C7 - Economic Sciences II	•Evaluated bachelor SP = 27 •Evaluated master SD = 21
C8 - Arts, Architecture, Urbanism, Physical Education and Sports	•Evaluated bachelor SP = 32 •Evaluated master SD = 13
C9 - Agricultural Sciences, Forestry Sciences and Veterinary Medicine	•Evaluated bachelor SP = 18 •Evaluated master SD = 7
C10 - Engineering Sciences I	•Evaluated bachelor SP = 51 •Evaluated master SD = 32
C11 - Engineering Sciences II	•Evaluated bachelor SP = 70 •Evaluated master SD = 33
C12 - Medical Sciences	•Evaluated bachelor SP = 22 •Evaluated master SD = 3
C13 – Distance and part-time learning	•Evaluated bachelor SP = 26

Note: SP – study programmes, SD - study domains

Figure 2. External evaluations performed by the ARACIS Speciality Commissions in 2025

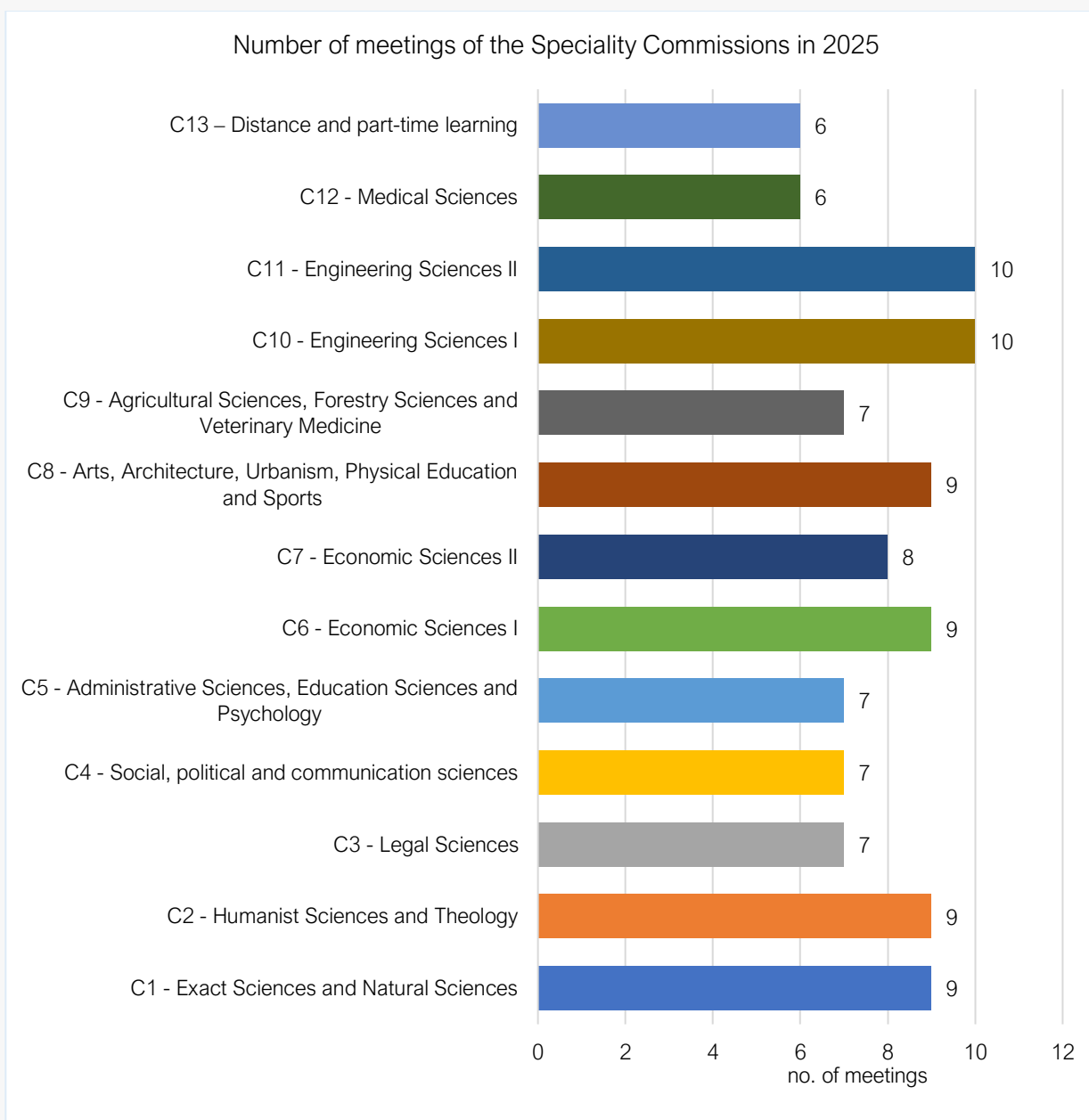


Figure 3. Number of meetings of the Speciality Commissions in 2025

Throughout 2025, the Executive Board (BEx) of the ARACIS Council sat in periodically organised meetings.

The total number of evaluators registered in the National Register of Evaluators is 1751, distributed as follows:

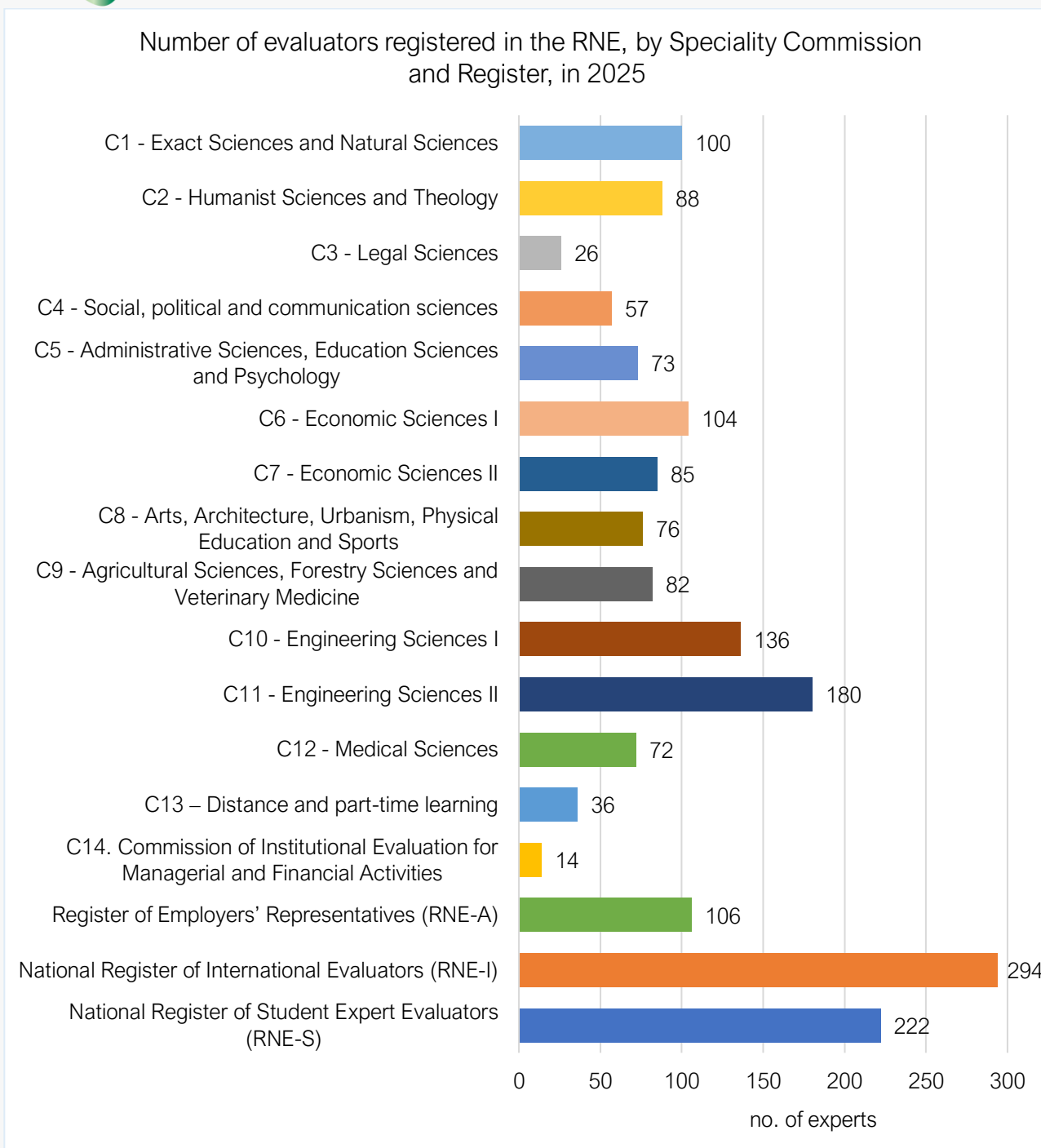


Figure 4. Number of evaluators registered in the RNE, by Speciality Commission and Register, in 2025

1 GENERAL ORGANISATION AND OPERATION ASPECTS

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

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

The Code of Ethics is periodically improved; the edition in force is the 3rd edition, revised and supplemented, approved in the ARACIS Council Meeting of September 28, 2017. The Code of Ethics applies to all employees and external collaborators involved in ARACIS's activities.

The ARACIS Ethics Commission includes five members: one chair and four members (a professor, a student, a representative of the higher education union, and an employee on the permanent staff of the Agency), serving on a four-year mandate. Its membership, approved by the ARACIS Council on 14.01.2022, was updated on 28.10.2022 by replacing the students' representative, and on 25.01.2024 by appointing a new chair. The Secretariat of the Commission is composed of two employees on the permanent staff of ARACIS, appointed by the President of the Agency; the composition of the Secretariat was modified by Decision no. 12/02.08.2021 of the ARACIS Council. The Ethics Commission is assisted by a legal adviser who approves its resolutions.

As ARACIS assigns special importance to the compliance with evaluation procedures and ethical norms, the number of registered violations was very small throughout the operation of the Agency, and such violations were merely isolated cases. Thus, there was no motion on a suspicion of violation of the provisions of the Code of Ethics filed in 2025.

The **Technical Staff of ARACIS** is an executive structure with 84 staff positions as of the beginning of 2025, out of which 61 staffed and 23 vacant.

3 competitions were organised during 2025 for the vacant management and executive positions; the results were as follows: 2 competitions where no candidate was declared admitted, one competition where one candidate was admitted.

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

Table 1. Staff Participation in training courses and sessions in 2025

No.	Direction/Service/ Office/ Compartment	Training course/session title	No. of participants
1.	Internal Public Audit Compartment	Managerial internal control system	1
		Public internal audit Legislation changes	1
2.	Legal, Cooperation, Communication and Training Directorate	Occupational health and safety inspector	2
		Ethics, integrity	1
		Quality management systems manager	1
		Management of public institutions and reorganisation of institutions	1
		Strategic leadership	1
		Methodology for committing, liquidating, and paying for budget expenses	1
		Managerial internal control system	1
3.		Communication in public administration	3
		Accounting in public institutions	4

No.	Direction/Service/ Office/ Compartment	Training course/session title	No. of participants
	Organisation and Resource Management Directorate	Management of public institutions and reorganisation of institutions	1
		Document management in public institutions	3
		Quality management systems manager	1
		Microsoft 365 endpoint administrator	1
		Methodology for committing, liquidating, and paying for budget expenses	3
		Strategic leadership	1
		Use of artificial intelligence	2
		Cyber security in public institutions	3
		Online Sharepoint	1
		Human resources in the public sector. New information in the legislation	2
4	Quality Assurance Direction	Occupational health and safety inspector	1
		Strategic leadership	4
Trainings in total			40

Source: ARACIS systematisation

Three competitions were organised throughout 2025 for the selection of new professors on the Permanent Speciality Commissions of ARACIS, and new members were selected on the following commissions:

- C1 - Exact Sciences and Natural Sciences;
- C3 - Legal Sciences;
- C4 - Social, political and communication sciences;
- C9 – Agricultural Sciences, Forestry Sciences and Veterinary Medicine;
- C10 – Engineering Sciences (I);
- C11 - Engineering Sciences (II);
- C13 – Distance and part-time learning.

Upon the expiry of the 2-year mandate of a students' representative as a member of the C12 - Medical Sciences Permanent Speciality Commission, a competition was held in November-December 2025 based on the Council's Decision to select a member for the vacant student position on the Commission. A new student member was selected as a result of the competition.

1.1 Financial activity

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

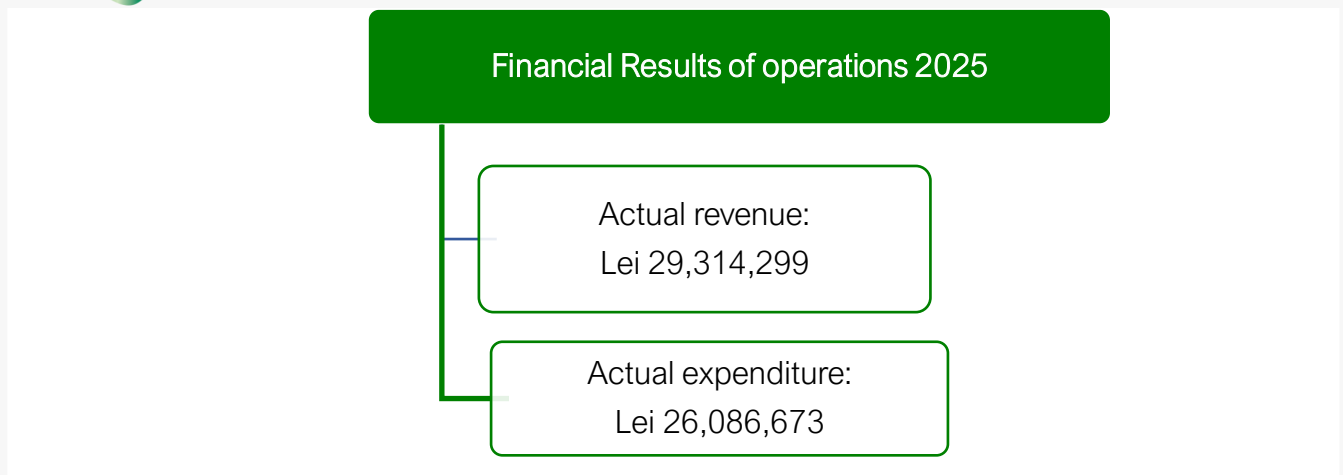


Figure 5. Result of operations of ARACIS for 2025

1.2 Legal activities

Throughout 2025, ARACIS contributed to the development of several normative papers by sending points of view/observations/suggestions to the Ministry of Education and Research. Two examples are provided below:

1. The framework methodology for organising and carrying out higher education study programmes for the vocational training of adults, approved by Order of the Minister of Education and Research no. 4148/2025, published in the Official Gazette, Part I, no. 543 of 12 June 2025.
2. The Memorandum on: Approving for the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS) a Memorandum for the purpose of removing the ban on concluding legal commitments for the categories of expenses included in the category of expenses under title II "Goods and services", item "Other expenses with goods and services", to enable expenses with the fees of expert evaluations (both domestic and international), on the grounds of art. XVII para. (12) of Government Emergency Ordinance no. 52/2025 amending and supplementing some normative papers, establishing measures regarding the implementation of national programmes related to public works, and establishing measures regarding the budget, as further amended and supplemented

With respect to defending the rights and legitimate interests of ARACIS before courts, ARACIS was a plaintiff in one court case and a defendant in another case before the court in 2025. Defence pleas were formulated and filed in these cases by drafting statements of defence, enclosing evidence and representing the Agency in court. No final rulings were issued in the cases before the court until now.

In 2025, the evaluation activities required involving a significant number of expert evaluators, which resulted in 848 quality evaluation service contracts concluded with expert evaluators specialising in external quality evaluation and 32 similar contracts concluded with international external quality evaluation experts.

Furthermore, 105 ARACIS Council Decisions pertaining to various circumstances and cases were drafted and approved. All Council Decisions were subject to the internal transparency, communication, numbering and archiving procedures.

Furthermore, all service contract templates that ARACIS uses in its evaluation activity and signs with higher education institutions, as well as external quality evaluation contract templates that ARACIS signs with domestic and international external quality evaluation experts were drafted and updated.

1.3 Internal quality assurance

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

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

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

The process of controlling system and operational procedures is integrated in the activity of the technical secretariat of the Monitoring Commission, which is ensured by the SJAIC personnel.

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

The activities carried out in 2025 for the purpose of developing the managerial internal control system (MICS) were as follows:

- ✓ Recording, centralisation and processing of the data submitted by the internal structures of ARACIS;
- ✓ Control of the system procedures (PS) and operational procedures (PO), by assigning codes to the procedures;
- ✓ Analysing the documented procedures for compliance with the minimal structure envisaged in the template presented in OSGG no. 600/2018, supplemented with the requirements contained in our own system procedure;
- ✓ Keeping updated records of all system procedures (SP) and operational procedures (OP) of ARACIS;

- ✓ Centralisation of the self-evaluation questionnaires evaluating the progress in the implementation of the managerial internal control standards, filled in by the ARACIS structure for the purpose of drafting the Synthetic report on the self-evaluation reports and the Summary on the progress of implementation and the development of the managerial internal control system;
- ✓ Drafting of the Report on the managerial internal control system.
- ✓ Progress on the measures/actions included in the Agency's 2025 Managerial Internal Control System Development Programme;
- ✓ ARACIS's 2025 Managerial Internal Control System Development Programme.

3 (three) operational procedure and 2 (two) system procedures were revised and new editions for 8 (eight) operational procedures and 2 (two) system procedures regarding the internal activities conducted at the Agency were developed in 2025 at the Agency.

The external feedback received from representatives of higher education institutions and other stakeholders on the external evaluation process and the activity of ARACIS teams of evaluators is one of the main components of the internal quality assurance system. Thus, based on the ARACIS activity evaluation questionnaires filled in by the higher education institutions evaluated in 2025, the SJAIC personnel developed a database that the Research Compartment uses to draft an annual report.

Similar to the previous years, year 2025 was a year of progress in revising and implementing internal quality assurance procedures for the Agency's activities. However, the implementation of the managerial internal control system is a continuous, long-lasting process and requires comprehensive management instruments to be developed.

1.4 Activity of the Public Internal Audit Compartment

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

The annual activity report presents the progress in the organisation and operation of the public internal audit structure as of 31 December 2025, and the public internal audit activities carried out in 2025.

The public internal audit function at ARACIS is established through an internal structure of the Agency, namely the Public Internal Audit Compartment (CAPI). According to the organisational chart of ARACIS, there are two public internal auditor positions in the structure of CAPI. One public internal auditor is currently employed in the Compartment, while the other position is vacant.

In terms of its operation, the CAPI is directly subordinated to the ARACIS President and carries out a function that is independent from the Agency's activities.

In 2025, the auditor was not involved in carrying out auditable activities. For every public internal audit mission carried out in 2025, the public auditor filled in a "Statement of independence"

stating that no personal incompatibility situations were present.

The Programme for quality assurance and improvement of the public internal audit activity (PAIC), registered at no. 6635/22.11.2021 was issued by CAPI. The programme includes the drafting methodology, the action plan, and the monitoring report. The PAIC is updated regularly, with its last update carried out in December 2025. An Action Plan for Quality Assurance and Improvement of Public Internal Audit was developed for 2025; the Plan is the implementation document for the PAIC, and sets forth objectives, actions, performance indicators, time limits, persons in charge, and observations. Furthermore, a Public Internal Audit Quality Monitoring Report was developed for 2025, presenting the results of the progress with the objectives of the Action Plan.

CAPI's public internal audit activity was planned as follows:

- ♦ 4-year multi-annual planning, including the missions for auditing the structures of the Technical Staff of the Agency, with each structure audited at least once in 4 years;
- ♦ annual planning, including includes the missions to be carried out throughout one year, based on the results of the risk evaluation and the available audit resources.

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

The Multi-Annual Public Internal Audit Plan 2025–2028, registered at no. 5924/28.11.2024, and the Annual Public Internal Audit Plan 2025, no. 5925/28.11.2024 were developed. The public internal audit missions included in the two plans were substantiated in the Substantiation Note no. 5926/28.11.2024, a document that provides a summary of the results of the analysed risk for each mission, the signal criteria, and other specific elements considered in selecting them. All documents were approved on 12.12.2024.

The 2025 Public Internal Audit Plan included four regularity/compliance assurance missions, which were all conducted according to the planning; the topics and durations of the actions were as follows:

1. Evaluation of the corruption prevention system, 2025, conducted 03.02.2025 to 28.03.2025;
2. Evaluation of the organisation, functioning and activity of the Administrative Compartment, 31.03.2025 to 28.05.2025;
3. Evaluation of the organisation, functioning and activity of the International Relations, Projects and Public Communication Service, 29.05.2025 to 24.07.2025;
4. Evaluation of the organisation, functioning and activity of the Economic and Asset Management Service, 03.10.2025 to 27.11.2025.

No irregularities were found during these 4 missions, and all the recommendations of the auditor were accepted by the ARACIS President.

28 recommendations were followed up on in 2025, with the following results:

- 24 recommendations implemented within the established time limit;
- 1 recommendation partially implemented (ongoing), for which the established time limit was not exceeded.
- 3 recommendations not implemented, for which the time limit established for implementation was not exceeded.

In 2025, the auditor attended 100% of the professional training activities. The average number of professional training days, according to Law no. 672/2002 on the public internal audit, reissued, as further amended and supplemented, is 15 days; all days included training courses.

1.5 Students' involvement

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

Based on the information sent by student federations regarding continuation of the student status of the evaluators, the process of updating the National Register of Evaluators - Students (RNE-S) continued in 2025 with the inclusion of new members and deletion of 45 students no longer meeting the eligibility requirements. At the end of the reporting period, RNE-S included 222 student evaluators, out of which 99 appointed by ANOSR, 76 by UNSR, and 47 by USR. The composition of the RNE-S, posted on the webpage of ARACIS, (<http://www.aracis.ro/registrul-national-al-evaluatorilor>) is periodically updated and supplemented.

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

1.6 Evaluation of the Agency's activity by beneficiaries and other stakeholders

The Agency pays great attention to how it carries out its activities in order to enable continuous improvement of such activities. To this purpose, after introducing and disseminating a feedback questionnaire in 2017 to gather information about how the evaluated institution perceives the activity of the Agency, the analysis of the questionnaire titled "Opinion of the representatives of the evaluated higher education institutions and other stakeholders about the external evaluation process and the activity of the ARACIS evaluation panels" pertaining to year 2024 continued in 2025.

No.	Name	No. of respondents/ Target group	Thematic analyses
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1.	ANALYSIS OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE Opinions of the representatives of evaluated higher education institutions and of other stakeholders regarding the external evaluation process and the activities of the ARACIS evaluation panels” – Year 2024	No. of evaluations = 678 No. of respondents = 561 out of 50 HEIs	AT no. 5.4
2.	EVALUATION OF DOCTORAL STUDY DOMAINS Analysis of progress in implementing the recommendations made during the external evaluation of Doctoral Study Domains (DD) FOLLOW-UP 2025	363 doctoral study domains from 50 IOSUDs.	AT no. 9

Some of the thematic analyses were disseminated by the Agency’s management in various internal and international conferences posted on the ARACIS website, <https://www.aracis.ro/prezentari-aracis/>.

2 EXTERNAL EVALUATION ACTIVITIES AND THE NATIONAL EXPERT EVALUATORS’ REGISTER

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

2.1 Evaluations conducted by ARACIS in 2025

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

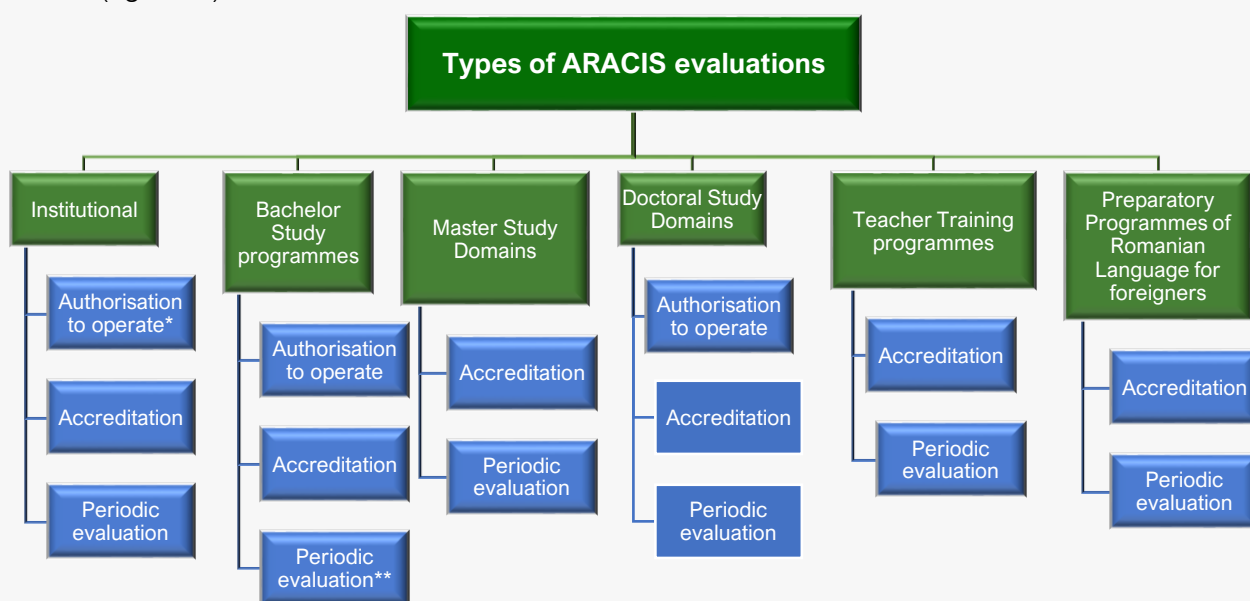


Figure 6. Types of evaluations in the ARACIS portfolio

Key:

* *Granted by the Ministry of Education*

** *Implicitly EUR-ACE evaluations*

In 2025, ARACIS received from higher education institutions / education providers:

- ❑ 417 requests for external quality evaluation of bachelor studies - 62 requesting institutions;
- ❑ 9 requests for external quality evaluation for accreditation of master study domains - 8 requesting institutions;
- ❑ 140 requests for external quality evaluation for maintaining accreditation of master study domains – 29 requesting institutions;
- ❑ 4 requests for external quality evaluation of the preparatory programme of Romanian language for foreigners - 3 requesting institutions;
- ❑ one request for external quality evaluation of the Teacher training programme for pre-university education teachers – one requesting institution;
- ❑ 61 requests for external quality evaluation of new doctoral study domains – 14 requesting institutions organising doctoral studies (IOSUD).

ARACIS also received:

- ❑ one request for external evaluation of 3 bachelor study programmes from the Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova;
- ❑ one request for external evaluation of one doctoral study domain from the “Ștefan cel Mare” Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Chișinău, Republic of Moldova;

one request for external quality evaluation of 3 study programmes from the National Technical University of Ukraine “Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute” Table 3 shows the study programmes of Romanian universities evaluated by ARACIS in 2025. Most of the evaluation activities were for accredited study programmes, evaluated periodically to maintain their accreditation.

Table 2. Total external evaluations carried out by ARACIS, by types of evaluation, in 2025

TYPE OF EVALUATION	No. of evaluations
Institutional evaluations (IE)	12
Bachelor study programmes	431
Master study domains (MD)	223
Preparatory programmes of Romanian language for foreigners	2
Psycho-pedagogical training programmes for teaching skill certification	6
Doctoral study domains (DD)	16
Total evaluations	690

Source: Processed by ARACIS

The activities carried out by each Speciality Commission are summarised in Table 3. Most of the times, the Speciality Commissions had monthly meetings.

Table 3 Number of ARACIS Council meetings, Permanent Speciality Commission meetings and evaluations in 2025

Permanent Speciality Commissions	No. of meetings	Bachelor Study programmes	Master Study domains	Doctoral Study domains
ARACIS Council meetings	18	-	-	-
C1 - Exact Sciences and Natural Sciences	9	40	21	1
C2 - Humanist Sciences and Theology	9	30	21	0
C3 - Legal Sciences	7	8	8	1
C4 - Social, political and communication sciences	7	34	18	2
C5 - Administrative Sciences, Education Sciences and Psychology	7	22	21	2
C6 - Economic Sciences I	9	51	25	2
C7 - Economic Sciences II	8	27	21	1
C8 - Arts, Architecture, Urbanism, Physical Education and Sports	9	32	13	0
C9 - Agricultural Sciences, Forestry Sciences and Veterinary Medicine	7	18	7	1
C10 - Engineering Sciences I	10	51	32	1
C11 - Engineering Sciences II	10	70	33	3
C12 - Medical Sciences	6	22	3	2
C13 – Distance and part-time learning	6	26	-	-
Total evaluated programmes	-	431	223	16

Source: Processed by ARACIS

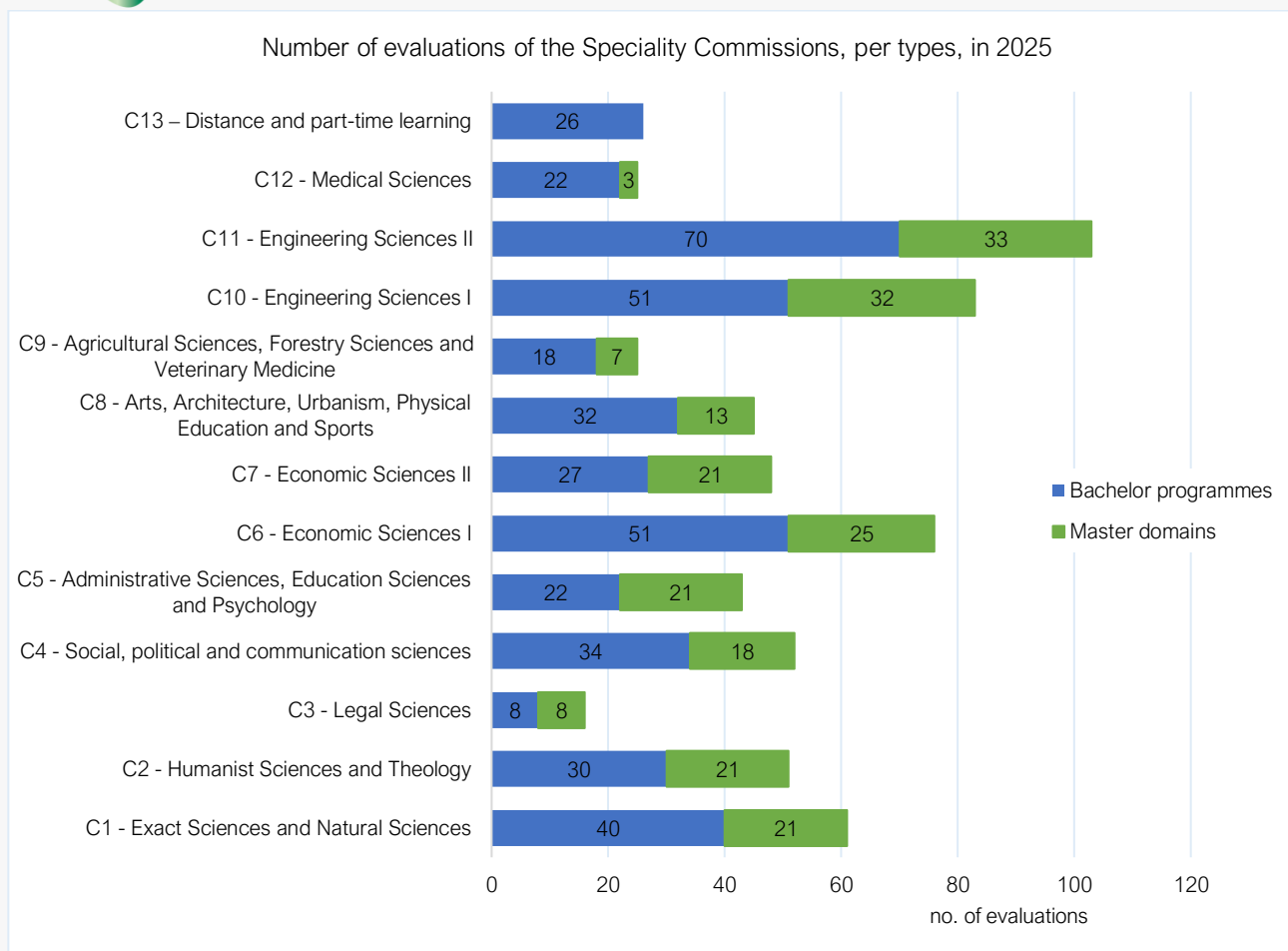


Figure 7. Number of evaluations of the Speciality Commissions, per types, in 2025

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

2.1.1 Institutional evaluations

In 2025, the figures related to the external evaluation of higher education institutions are as follows:

Table 4. Judgments obtained in the Institutional Evaluations in 2025

Indicator	Judgments obtained						Total institutional evaluations
	High degree of confidence	Confidence	Limited degree of confidence	No confidence	Institutional accreditation	Institutional non-accreditation	
No. of evaluations	9	3	-	-	-	-	12

Table 5. Study Programmes and Domains evaluated within the institutional evaluations carried out in 2025

Type of Study Programme/Domain	Form of education			TOTAL
	Full time (FT)	Part-time (PT)	Distance Learning	
Bachelor study programmes	50	0	3	53
Master study domains	-	-	-	8

In 2025, ARACIS provided the higher education institutions with the certificates attesting to the judgments awarded following the institutional evaluations performed by the Agency during the 2024/2025 academic year.

2.1.2 Evaluation of bachelor study programmes

A statistic report on the evaluations of bachelor study programmes evaluated by ARACIS in 2025 is given below:

Table 6. Evaluations of bachelor study programmes by form of education in 2025

Indicator	Form of education				Total evaluations
	Full-time education (FTE)	DUAL education	Part-time education (PTE)	Distance education (DE)	
No. of programmes	360	45	1	25	431

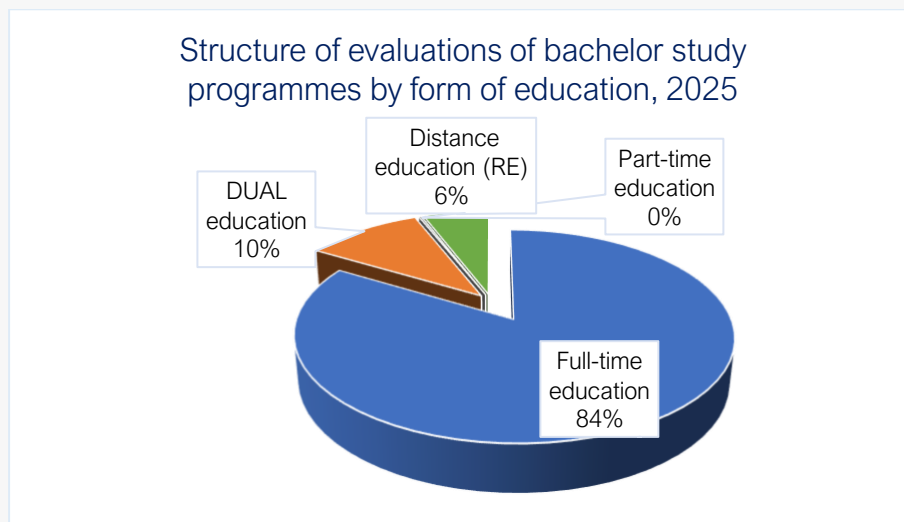


Figure 8. Structure of evaluations of bachelor study programmes by form of education

Table 7. Distribution of bachelor study programme evaluations by type of evaluation in 2025

Indicator	Type of evaluation			Total evaluations
	Provisional authorisation (PA)	Accreditation (A)	Periodic evaluation for maintaining accreditation (PE)	
No. of programmes	86	35	310	431

Structure of evaluations of bachelor study programmes by types of evaluation, 2025

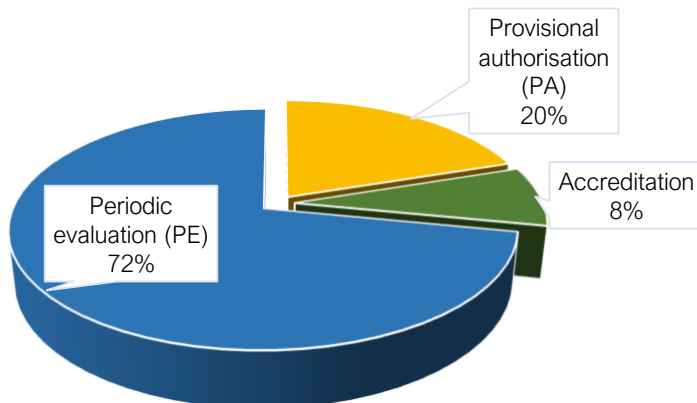


Figure 9. Structure of evaluations of bachelor study programmes by types of evaluation

Table 8. Advisory proposals obtained in the evaluation of bachelor study programmes for Authorisation in 2025

Indicator	Approvals obtained		Total
	Provisional Authorisation	Non-authorisation	
No. of programmes	85	1	86
Share %	98.84%	1.16%	100%

Table 9. Advisory proposals obtained in the evaluation of bachelor programmes for Accreditation, 2025

Indicator	Approvals obtained			Total
	Accreditation	Conditional maintaining of the provisional authorisation	Non-Accreditation	
No. of programmes	34 (out of which 1 under monitoring)	1	0	35
Share %	97.14%	2.86%	0%	100%

Table 10. Advisory proposals obtained in the evaluations of bachelor study programme for the maintaining of accreditation in 2025

Indicator	Approvals obtained		Total
	Maintaining of accreditation	Conditional maintaining of accreditation / Accreditation withdrawn	
No. of programmes	310 (out of which 4 under monitoring)	0	310
Share %	100%	0%	100%

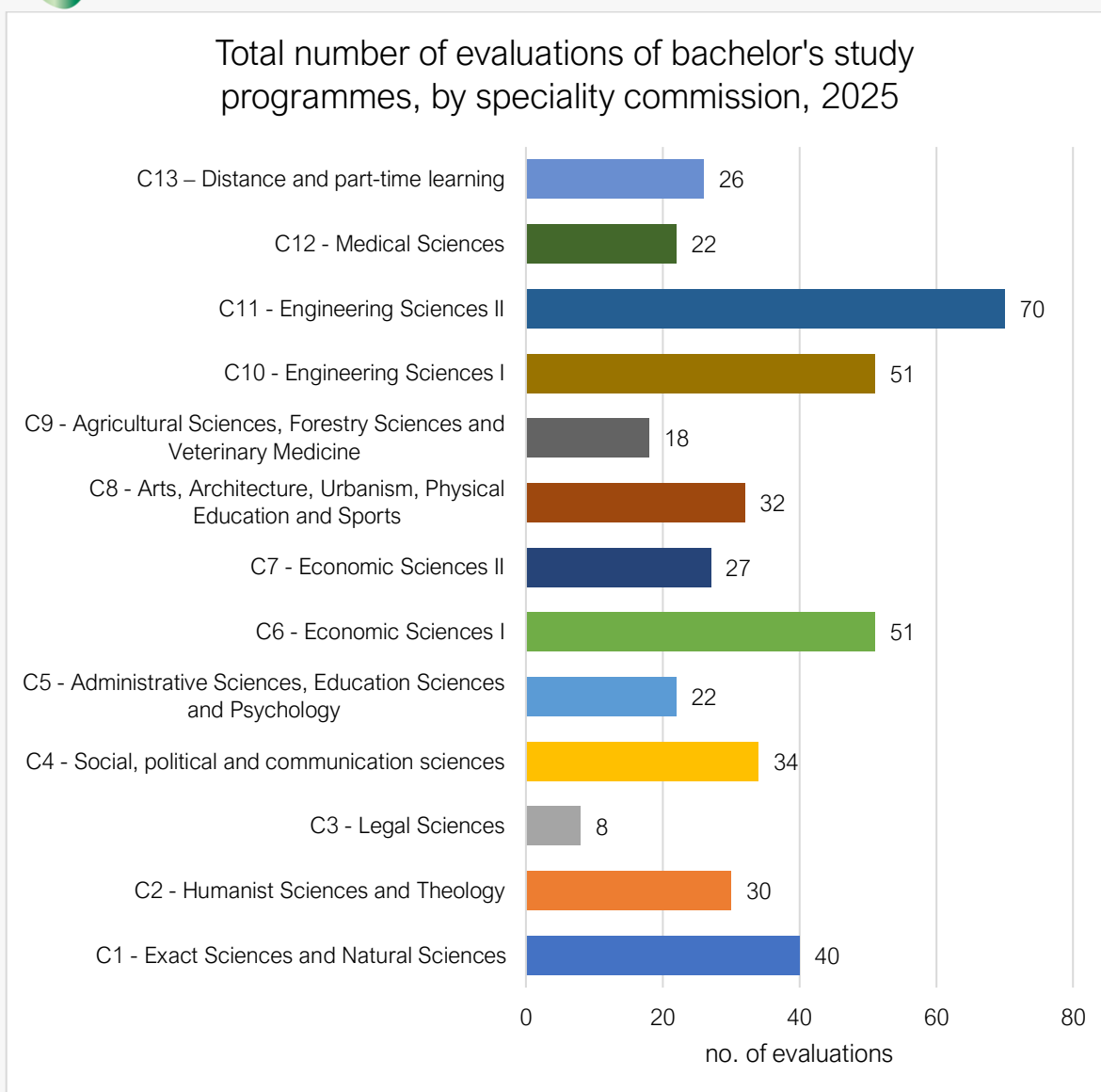


Figure 10. Total number of evaluations of bachelor study programmes, by Speciality Commission

Table 11. Number of evaluations of bachelor study programmes, by Speciality Commission

Commission	Bachelor program mes	Out of which: Authorisat ion	Accred itation	Periodic evaluatio n
C1 - Exact Sciences and Natural Sciences	40	8	4	28
C2 - Humanist Sciences and Theology	30	0	3	27
C3 - Legal Sciences	8	2	1	5
C4 - Social, political and communication sciences	34	1	4	29
C5 - Administrative Sciences, Education Sciences and Psychology	22	5	3	14
C6 - Economic Sciences I	51	3	1	47
C7 - Economic Sciences II	27	1	0	26

Commission	Bachelor program mes	Out of which: Authorisation	Accreditation	Periodic evaluation
C8 - Arts, Architecture, Urbanism, Physical Education and Sports	32	7	4	21
C9 - Agricultural Sciences, Forestry Sciences and Veterinary Medicine	18	3	1	14
C10 - Engineering Sciences I	51	20	2	29
C11 - Engineering Sciences II	70	25	10	35
C12 - Medical Sciences	22	8	1	13
C13 – Distance and part-time learning	26	3	1	22
Total evaluations	431	86	35	310

Source: Processed by ARACIS, February 2025

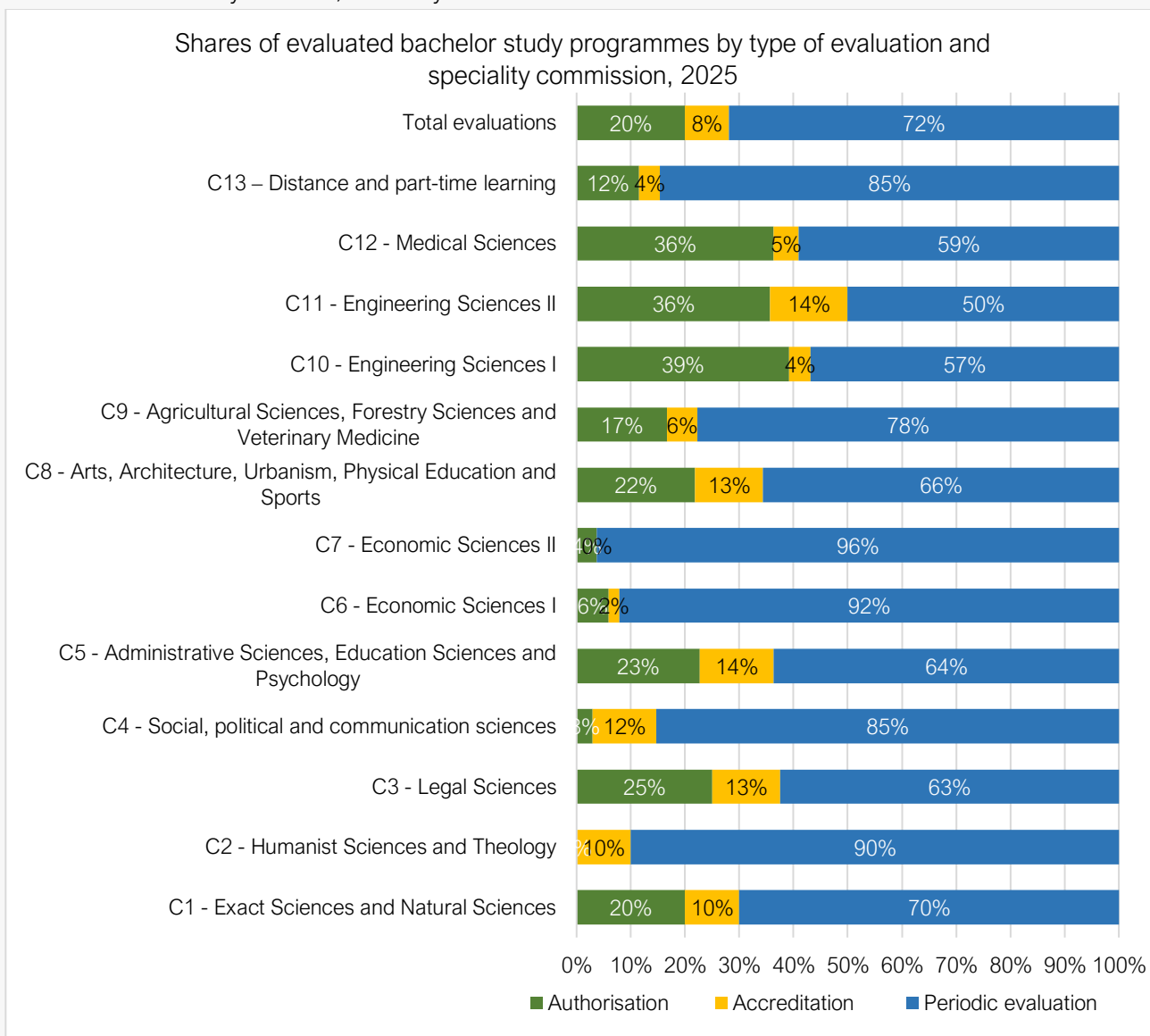


Figure 11. Structure of evaluated bachelor study programmes, by type of evaluation and Speciality Commission

According to figure no. 11, throughout the system, periodic evaluation was predominant (72%), followed by provisional authorisations to operate (20%) and accreditations (8%).

Periodic evaluations are predominant in all speciality commissions, with shares ranging between 50% and 96%, reflecting the focus on monitoring and renewal of the accreditation of existing programmes.

The highest shares of periodic evaluations were in Economic Sciences (C7 – 96%, C6 – 92%), and Humanist Sciences and Theology (C2 – 90%).

Provisional authorisations to operate have higher shares in engineering and medical domains, with 39% in C10 – Engineering Sciences I and 36% in C11 – Engineering Sciences II and C12 – Medical Sciences, which indicates a stronger dynamic of new programme initiations.

Accreditations had a relatively lower share in most commissions, with the highest values recorded for Administrative and Education Sciences and Psychology (C5 – 14%), Engineering Sciences II (C11 – 14%), and Legal Sciences (C3 – 13%).

Overall, the structure of the evaluations conducted in 2025 confirms the prevalence of periodic evaluations of existing programmes, while authorisations and accreditations account for a lower share of the external evaluation activity.

As a result of approvals for maintaining accreditation under monitoring, progress on the implementation of recommendations was evaluated for 10 bachelor study programmes.

Out of a total of 50 bachelor study programmes in engineering sciences undergoing periodic evaluations, EUR-ACE® label evaluation was requested for 9 programmes in addition to the periodic evaluations.

The list of bachelor programmes awarded EUR-ACE® label by ARACIS in 2025 is given in Table 13:

Table 12. Bachelor's study programmes awarded EUR-ACE label by ARACIS in 2025

No.	University	Bachelor study programme
1.	"Politehnica" National Science and Technology University, Bucharest	Mechanical engineering (tuition in French)
2.	"Transilvania" University of Braşov	Machine construction technology
3.		Road vehicles
4.		Engineering and management in tourism industry
5.		Medical engineering
6.	Constructions Technical University of Bucharest	Installations for constructions (tuition in French)
7.	National Technical University of Ukraine "Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute"	Automation Hardware and Software
8.		Electromechanical Automation Systems, Electrical Drive and Electromobility
9.		Energy Management and Energy Efficient Technologies

2.1.3 Evaluations of master study programmes

A statistical report on the evaluations of master domains and study programmes evaluated by ARACIS in 2025 is given below:

Table 13. Judgments obtained following the periodic evaluations of master study domains for maintaining accreditation, conducted in 2025

Indicator	Judgments obtained			Total
	Maintaining accreditation	Conditional maintaining of accreditation	Accreditation withdrawn	
No. of domains	211	1	0	212

Table 14. Judgments obtained following the evaluations of master study domains for accreditation conducted in 2025

Indicator	Judgments obtained		Total evaluations
	Accreditation	Non-accreditation	
No. of domains	10	1	11

As a result of approvals for the maintenance of accreditation under monitoring, progress on the implementation of recommendations was evaluated for 6 master study domains.

Table 15. Number of evaluations of master study domains by Speciality Commission

Commission	Master domains
C1 - Exact Sciences and Natural Sciences	21
C2 - Humanist Sciences and Theology	21
C3 - Legal Sciences	8
C4 - Social, political and communication sciences	18
C5 - Administrative Sciences, Education Sciences and Psychology	21
C6 - Economic Sciences I	25
C7 - Economic Sciences II	21
C8 - Arts, Architecture, Urbanism, Physical Education and Sports	13
C9 - Agricultural Sciences, Forestry Sciences and Veterinary Medicine	7
C10 - Engineering Sciences I	32
C11 - Engineering Sciences II	33
C12 - Medical Sciences	3
C13 – Distance and part-time learning	-
Total evaluations	223

Source: Processed by ARACIS

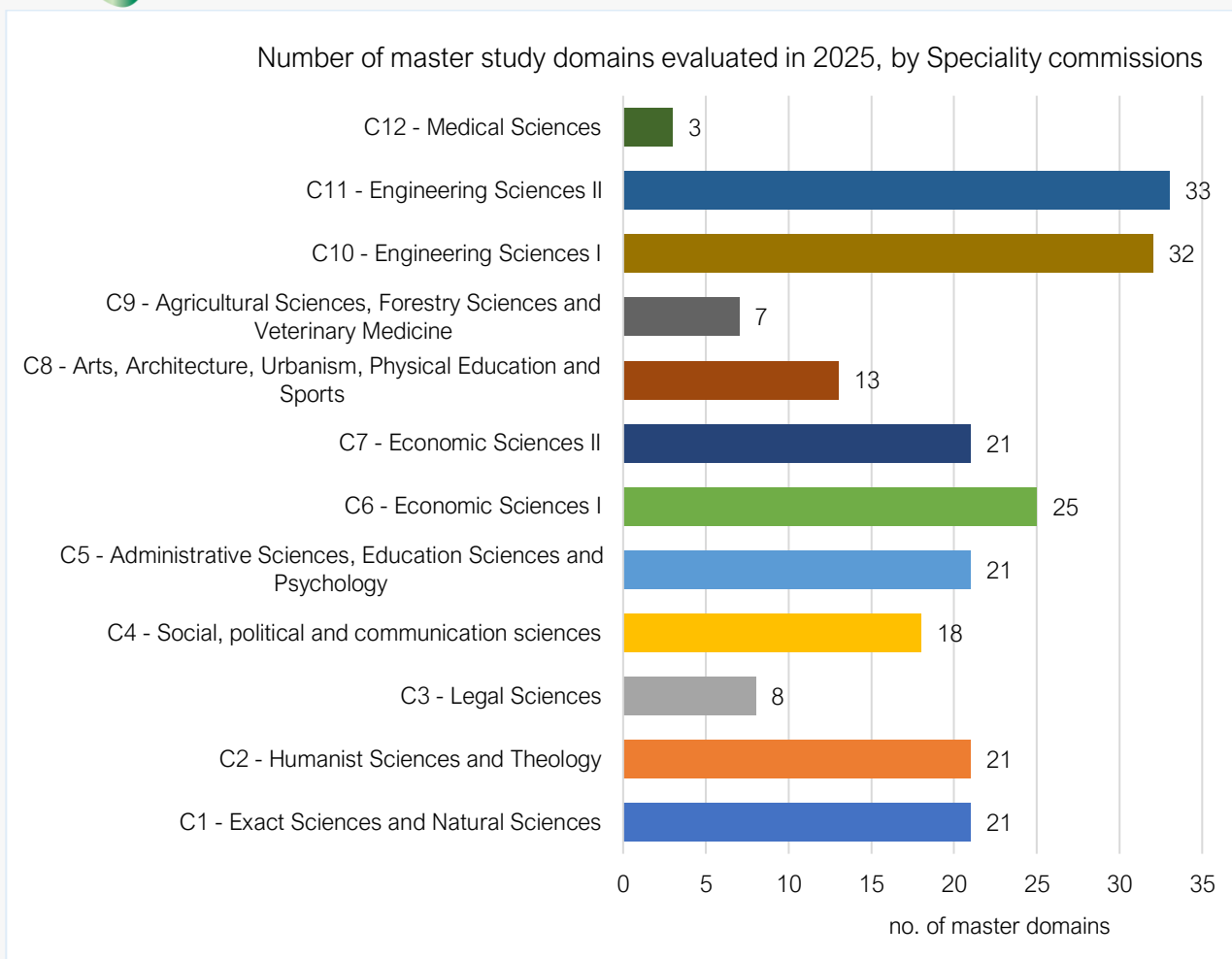


Figure 12. Number of Master study domains evaluated in 2025, by Speciality commissions

2.1.4 Evaluations of doctoral study programmes

In 2025, ARACIS carried out the external evaluations of doctoral studies for 16 doctoral study domains (DD).

Table 16. Distribution of doctoral study domain evaluations by type of evaluation in 2025

Indicator	Type of evaluation			Total evaluations
	Provisional authorisation (PA)	Accreditation (A)	Periodic evaluation for maintaining accreditation (PE)	
No. of domains	5	10	1	16

In 2025, ARACIS also carried out follow-up evaluations of doctoral studies for 371 doctoral study domains (DD).

Table 17. Distribution of doctoral study domain follow-up evaluations by type of evaluation in 2025

Indicator	Type of evaluation		Total evaluations
	Follow-up evaluation accreditation	Follow-up evaluation for	

	procedure	maintaining accreditation	
No. of domains	8	363	371

2.1.5 Evaluations of teacher training programmes

Table 18. Distribution of teacher training programmes evaluations by type of evaluation in 2025

Indicator	Type of evaluation		Total evaluations
	Accreditation (A)	Periodic evaluation for maintaining accreditation (PE)	
No. of programmes	2	4	6

2.1.6 Evaluations of “Preparatory programmes of Romanian language for foreigners”

Table 20. Distribution of evaluations of preparatory programmes of Romanian language for foreigners by type of evaluation in 2025

Indicator	Type of evaluation		Total evaluations
	Accreditation (A)	Periodic evaluation for maintaining accreditation (PE)	
No. of programmes	1	1	2

2.2 The ARACIS National Register of Evaluators

The National Register of Evaluators is composed of the National Register of Expert Evaluators (professors), the National Register of Student Expert Evaluators, the Register of International Expert Evaluators, and the Register of Employers’ Representatives (<https://www.aracis.ro/registrul-national-al-evaluatorilor/>).

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

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

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

Table 19. Number of evaluators on the RNE, by speciality commission 2025

Commission	No. of RNE evaluators
C1 - Exact Sciences and Natural Sciences	100
C2 - Humanist Sciences and Theology	88
C3 - Legal Sciences	26
C4 - Social, political and communication sciences	57
C5 - Administrative Sciences, Education Sciences and Psychology	73
C6 - Economic Sciences I	104
C7 - Economic Sciences II	85
C8 - Arts, Architecture, Urbanism, Physical Education and Sports	76
C9 - Agricultural Sciences, Forestry Sciences and Veterinary Medicine	82
C10 - Engineering Sciences I	136
C11 - Engineering Sciences II	180
C12 - Medical Sciences	72
C13 – Distance and part-time learning	36
C14. Commission of Institutional Evaluation for Managerial and Financial Activities	14
Total RNE Professors	1129
National Register of Student Expert Evaluators (RNE-S)	222
National Register of International Evaluators (RNE-I)	294
Register of Employers' Representatives (RNE-A)	106
Total RNE evaluators	1751

Source: Processed by ARACIS

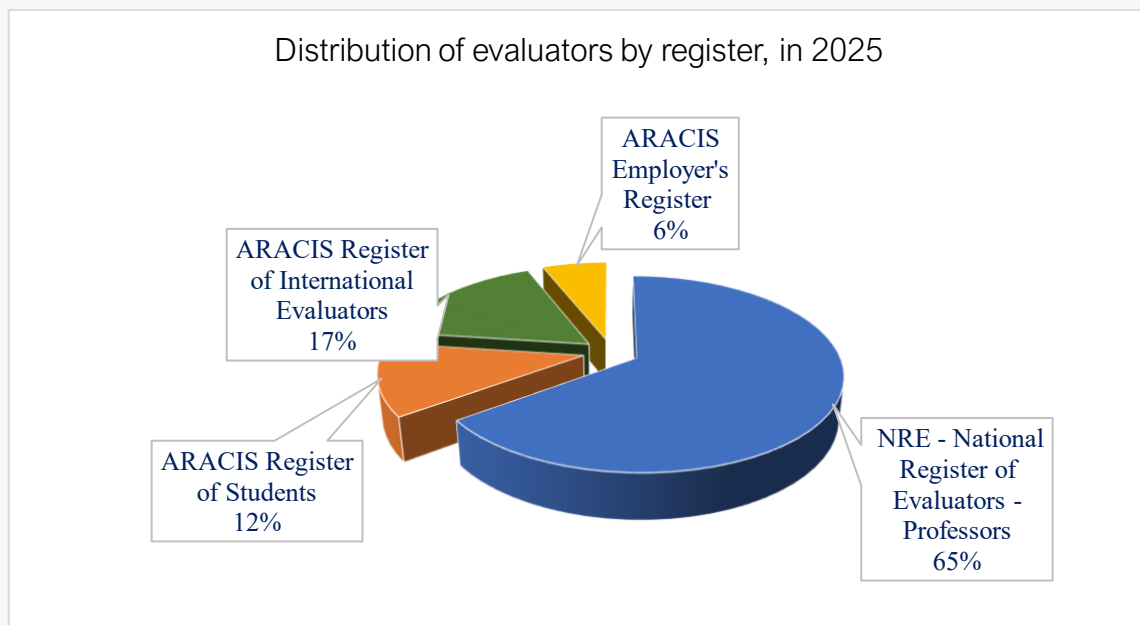


Figure 13. Distribution of evaluators, by register in 2025

2.3 Compartment for Relations with the Social-Economic Environment (CRMSE)

In 2025, ARACIS supported student federations in organising a training session for students to become ARACIS student evaluators. The student training session on external quality evaluation in higher education was conducted between 13 – 21 July 2025 and was attended by 64 students.

The student training session was structured around two components complementing each other – theoretical, hands-on training – to ensure complete training both on the conceptual and normative framework, and on how the external higher education quality evaluation methodology is applied in practice. The theoretical component was designed to help the participants become familiar with the architecture of the national and European higher education quality assurance system. Within this context, the topics approached included the organisation and operation of higher education institutions; management structures; applicable legal framework; the Bologna process; accreditation and external evaluation mechanisms, and the role and duties of ARACIS. Furthermore, presentations were given on the fundamental principles of external evaluation, standards and performance indicators used, and the methodology for drafting evaluation reports. The hands-on component was designed with the intent to help participants develop their skills by arranging a simulation of an evaluation visit. Students were involved in desk review activities, working with observation and conclusion forms, and developing a draft external evaluation report, according to the methodological requirements of ARACIS.

After this training session, according to the provisions of art. 38 para. (13) letter h) of the OOR of ARACIS, the RNE-S was updated by including 44 students and excluding 45 students (29 – ANOSR, 9 – UNSR, and 7 – USR), according to the updated lists for 2025-2026 sent by

the student federations and drafted by the student federations based on the academic records communicated by the evaluator students for the 2025-2026 academic year and depending on the availability or eligibility of the students.

Therefore, after including the new members and excluding 45 students, RNE-S has now 222 - students (99 - ANOSR, 76 - UNSR, 47 - USR) who participated in at least one training session for students on external quality assurance in education.

As of the beginning of the 2025 - 2026 academic year, the status of the evaluator students registered in RNE-S is given in the table below:

Table 22. Number of student evaluators in the RNE-S, by nationally recognised student federation, in 2025

Student' federations	Number of student evaluators
National Alliance of Students' Organisations in Romania (ANOSR)	99
National Union of Students in Romania (UNSR)	76
Romanian Students' Union (USR)	47
Total student evaluators on the RNE – S	222

3 COOPERATION

3.1 National cooperation

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

Throughout 2025, the president of ARACIS, Prof. Dr. Eng. Valentin Năvrăpescu, attended a number of events, including: the ceremony celebrating the 35th anniversary of the founding of the “Ștefan cel Mare” University of Suceava and 62 years of higher education in Suceava (7–9 March); event celebrating 165 years since the founding of the “Alexandru Ioan Cuza” University of Iași (24 October); the event celebrating eight decades of exceptional activity in medical higher education in the Republic of Moldova, organised by the “Nicolae Testemițanu” State University of Medicine and Pharmacy (20–22 October); celebration of 165 years since the founding of the “George Enescu” University of Fine Arts of Iași (24 October); event celebrating 80 years of existence of the “Regele Mihai I” University of Life Sciences of Timișoara (3 April 2025), and the meeting of the National Council of Rectors (CNR) organised at the “Nicolae Bălcescu” Land Forces Academy of Sibiu (13–14 March).

On 29 May, the Director General of ARACIS, Mrs Prof. Dr. Eng. Daniela-Cristina Ghițulică, attended the [launching of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development](#)

[\(OECD\)'s report on the evaluation of national policies in education: "Education and Skills in Romania"](#).

Furthermore, ARACIS representatives attended the [High Officials' Meeting of the Asia - Europe Meeting/ASEM cooperation platform](#), organised in Bucharest on 18-19 November by the ASEM Education Secretariat, the Ministry of Education and Research, and the National Agency for Community Programmes in Education and Vocational Training; At this event, Prof. Dr. Eng. Cristina Ghițulică, Director General of ARACIS, delivered presentations on the role of quality assurance in promoting global cooperation in higher education, the mission and activities carried out by the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), and the contributions in the working structures of the Bologna Process.

ARACIS also attended the conference ["Ten Years of Study in Romania and Internationalisation of the Romanian Higher Education: A Systemic Transformation"](#) on 25-26 November 2025 at the Agronomy Science and Veterinarian Medicine University of Bucharest. The event was organised by the Executive Unit for Financing in Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation (UEFISCDI) in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Research (MER), the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the National Rectors' Council (CNR), and the National Agency for Community Programmes in Education and Vocational Training (ANPCDEFP). At this event, Prof. Dr. Eng. Cristina Ghițulică, Director General of ARACIS, attended the session on "Quality Assurance in Higher Education: Aspects of Internationalisation in the New Standards (ESG)", which provided an appropriate framework for dialogue with representatives of universities on topics including cross-border initiatives, organisation of study programmes in collaboration with higher education institutions from other countries, implementation of the European Approach to Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes, and how quality assurance supports the internationalisation of higher education.

3.2 International cooperation

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

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

The Agency is represented in the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) by Prof. Dr. Eng. Daniela-Cristina Ghițulică, Director General of ARACIS, who was elected President of ENQA at the ENQA General Assembly of 22–24 October 2025. Until that date, Prof. Dr. Eng. Daniela-Cristina Ghițulică was vice president of ENQA and actively engaged in promoting quality in the European higher education and strengthening international cooperation in the field.

ARACIS is an ENQA member since 2009 and undergoes periodic international external evaluation procedures to maintain this status; the last evaluation was completed in 2023, and as a result, the ENQA Board reconfirm ARACIS's ENQA member status for another period of five years until 28.02.2029.

Participation in events

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

Therefore, ARACIS representatives attended the main events/meetings organised by ENQA in 2025, namely:

- ✓ Meetings of the ENQA Executive Board between February - December 2025;
- ✓ [Meeting on developing the ENQA Strategy](#) and [annual ENQA-EQAR meeting](#), organised in Belgium between 4-7 February;
- ✓ Meetings of the Steering Board for revision of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG), held in Brussels, Belgium in March, September and December;
- ✓ [The ENQA Members' Forum](#) on "Sustainability in Quality Assurance", held in Paphos, Cyprus on 9-11 April. In the thematic posters session, Mrs Ștefania-Maria Armășelu, expert of the Quality Assurance Direction, presented a poster showing the new ARACIS methodology for external quality evaluation in higher education, structured around key points such as consolidation, simplification, relevance, quality culture, and improvement of quality assurance processes.

At the same event, Prof. Dr. Eng. Simona Lache, member of the Institutional Evaluation and Audit Commission of ARACIS, vice rector in charge with internationalisation and quality evaluation at Transilvania" University of Brașov, was selected for an April 2025-April 2027 mandate on the ENQA Agency Review Committee (ARC).

- ✓ [ENQA's workshop on "Responsible use of Artificial Intelligence in Quality Assurance Agencies"](#), organised in Tallinn, Estonia between 11-12 June;
- ✓ [Seminars organised within the ENQA Leadership Development Programme 2025](#), hosted by the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (NEAA) in Sofia, Bulgaria (4-6 June), the National Agency for Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes (ANVUR) in Rome,

Italy (8-10 October), and the Madrimasd Knowledge Foundation (Madri+d) in Madrid, Spain (26-28 November);

- ✓ [ENQA's seminar on "European Dimension of Quality Assurance"](#) organised in Brussels, Belgium on 9 September;
- ✓ [The General Meeting of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education \(ENQA\)](#), held in Brussels between 22–24 October 2025;
- ✓ Webinar on revising the standards and guidelines (ESG), ["Briefing on the revision of the ESG"](#), on 24 November, online.

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

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

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

Participation in events

- ✓ EQAR's webinar organised on 28 February on the revised version of EQAR's policy on the ESG use and interpretation.

As part of the collaboration between ARACIS and EQAR, the sustainability activities under ["The Database of External Quality Assurance Reports \(DEQAR\)" Project](#) continued in 2025; the project is coordinated by EQAR, and ARACIS was one of the partner quality assurance agencies; the external evaluation reports of ARACIS are also entered in DEQAR.

3.2.3 Activities within the ENAEE - European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education

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

EUR-ACE® label training session

Within the context of the entering into force of the new Methodology for the external education quality evaluation in higher education on 9 February 2025, ARACIS organised an online training session for expert evaluators on 24 June on the procedures for external quality evaluation for

maintaining accreditation and awarding EUR-ACE® label for bachelor study programmes in Engineering Sciences.

The session was attended by expert professor evaluators (from the following Permanent Speciality Commissions of ARACIS: C9-Agricultural and forest sciences and veterinary medicine, C10-Engineering Sciences I, C11-Engineering Sciences II, C13-Remote and Part-Time Education), student evaluators (members of the National Register of Evaluators - Students), employers' representatives (members of the Employers' Register), and members of the Agency's Council and Technical Staff.

Since ARACIS periodically undergoes the external evaluation procedures required by ENAEE for maintaining the authorisation for awarding the EUR-ACE® Label, based on the positive recommendation of the EUR ACE® Label Committee as a result of organising the above-mentioned training session, the Administrative Board of ENAEE, on its meeting of 17 December 2025, decided to extend the authorisation for awarding the EUR-ACE® Label until 31 December 2027.

Participation in events

In 2025, ARACIS was represented at the events organised by ENAEE, as follows:

- ✓ The March online meeting of the members of the EUR-ACE® Framework Standards and Guidelines (EAFSG) Revision Committee, organised after the 29th General Meeting of the European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education (ENAEE) held in November 2024 in Almaty, Kazakhstan;
- ✓ The ENAEE Label Committee meeting in London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, attended by Prof. Dr. Eng. Neculai Eugen Seghedin, Coordinator of the Institutional Evaluation and Audit Department;
- ✓ [Meeting of the European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education \(ENAEE\), and the meeting of the General Assembly of the Network](#), organised in Madrid, Spain. ARACIS was represented on 23-24 October by Mrs Ștefania Armășelu, expert at the Quality Assurance Direction; the event brought together members from everywhere on the globe to discuss accreditation standards, thus creating an opportunity to share ideas and strengthen international collaboration.

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

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

The Agency is represented at CEENQA by Mrs Professor Dr. Eng. Simona Lache, who was re-elected on 14 June 2025 on the CEENQA Executive Board.

Participation in events

ARACIS representatives continued to attend the main events organised by CEENQA in 2025, as follows:

- ✓ [Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Central Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education - CEENQA](#), attended by Mrs Prof. Dr. Eng. Simona Lache. Held in January in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the event focused on the review and approval of some strategic documents of the Network, including financial standing documents, the Operational Plan, and the admission of new members;
- ✓ [Meeting of the General Assembly of the Central Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education \(CEENQA\) and the workshop “Higher Education’s Connection with the Labour Market”](#) held in Tallinn, Estonia, attended by Prof. Dr. Eng. Simona Lache, member of the Institutional Evaluation and Audit Commission of ARACIS, and Mrs Claudia Milea, expert in the Quality Assurance Direction. At the workshop, Mrs Simona Lache coordinated and moderated this event, thus creating the opportunity for discussions on how quality assurance mechanisms can improve the professional insertion capacity of graduates, encourage collaboration with the industry, and support the continuous improvement of study programmes to respond to the evolving workforce demands.
- ✓ Periodic meetings of the [CEENQA](#) board members;
- ✓ [Periodic online meetings](#) of the CEENQA members, held on 15 January, 19 March, 21 May, 17 September, and 19 November.

3.2.5 Activities within the INQAAHE - International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education

Ever since it was established, ARACIS has been a member of INQAAHE and participates in the activities of INQAAHE, such as polls, elections for the Network’s management, promotion of the events organised by INQAAHE, etc.

The Agency continues to be represented at INQAAHE by Mrs Prof. Dr. Eng. Simona Lache, who was re-elected member of the management of the INQAAHE Board of Directors.

Participation in events

ARACIS was represented at the events organised by INQAAHE in 2025, as follows:

- ✓ The monthly meetings of the INQAAHE Board and meetings of the INQAAHE committees and working groups, held online;
- ✓ [The 18th edition of the Biannual Conference organised by the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education - INQAAHE](#), held between 13 - 16 May in Tokyo, Japan;
- ✓ Meeting of INQAAHE’s Committee for Capacity Building and Research, held online on 12 June;
- ✓ Activities of the committee for selection of the new CEO, organised by INQAAHE online between 22-23 December 2025.

3.2.6 Activities within the ECA - European Consortium for Accreditation of Engineering Education

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

CeQulnt Certification

Being a member of the Consortium, the Agency has the possibility to award the [ECA Internationalisation Quality Certification \(CeQulnt\)](#), which certifies that the study programmes or institutions successfully included significant international and intercultural dimensions in their activity.

Thus, in January 2025, ARACIS initiated proceedings to be accepted among ECA members authorised to conduct evaluation procedures for the awarding of CeQulnt certification.

At the beginning of February 2025, the ECA Secretariat confirmed approval of the Agency's application filed with ECA's Board of Directors, and ARACIS was included in the CeQulnt certification list published on the dedicated web platform: <https://cequint.eu/for-agencies/>.

The CeQulnt certification can be awarded for a study programme (bachelor, master) or at institutional level, following an external evaluation procedure conducted by ARACIS according to ECA's Methodology for evaluation of the internationalisation quality and completed with a positive result.

Hosting of the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes training

As an ECA member, ARACIS hosted the ["European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes" training session](#) organised by ECA, held in Bucharest between 16-17 September 2025.

The training was delivered by Eva Fernandez de Labastida, ECA president from Unibasq agency, and Ronny Heintze, ECA vice president, from AQAS e.V. agency. The training brought together participants from universities, quality assurance agencies and other European institutions.

Participation in events

In 2025, the Agency's representatives attended the events organised by the European Consortium for Accreditation in Higher Education - ECA, as follows:

- ✓ [Meeting of the General Assembly of the European Consortium for Accreditation in Higher Education \(ECA\), and international conference: A Decade of European Approach - Reflections and Future Directions](#), 16-17 June, Köln, Germany;
- ✓ ["ECA Success Stories 2025" webinar](#) of 10 December 2025, where our Agency delivered a presentation on the events organised throughout 2025 celebrating 20 years since ARACIS was established.

3.2.7 Activities within the GAIN - Global Academic Integrity Network

ARACIS acquired membership of the Global Academic Integrity Network (GAIN) at the beginning of 2023.

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

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

The Romanian translated version of the Open Letter is available [here](#).

Activities:

- In 2025, ARACIS representatives attended the meetings organised by the [Global Academic Integrity Network \(GAIN\)](#) on 19 February, 7 May, 10 September, 5 November.

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

Participation in events

In 2025, Prof. Dr. Eng. Daniela-Cristina Ghițulică, Director General of ARACIS and vice president of the BFUG, attended the following meetings:

- ✓ [The 94th meeting of the Bologna Follow-up Group \(BFUG\)](#), 9 January in Tirana, Albania;
- ✓ [Closing conference of TPG-LRC CoRE and IN-GLOBAL projects on the “Future of Higher Education: Priorities and Opportunities within the EHEA and Globally”](#), streamed online on 19 February;
- ✓ [Second meeting of the Thematic Peer Group C on Quality Assurance \(TPG C\)](#) established within the BFUG, online on 18 March;
- ✓ [First meeting of the Thematic Peer Group A on Qualifications Frameworks \(TPG A\)](#) established within the BFUG, 21 March in Riga, Lithuania;
- ✓ The third meeting of the [Coordination Group - Global Policy Dialogue \(CG-GPD\)](#) established within the Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG), organised in Bucharest at the “POLITEHNICA” National Science and Technology University of Bucharest between 29-30 September ;
- ✓ [Third meeting of the Thematic Peer Group C on Quality Assurance](#) (TPG C) established within the BFUG, on 8-9 October in Braşov;
- ✓ [The 96th meeting of the Board of the Bologna Follow-up Group \(BFUG\)](#), organised in Vaduz, Liechtenstein on 2-4 November.
- ✓ [The 97th meeting of the Bologna Follow-up Group \(BFUG\)](#), in Copenhagen, Denmark, 15-16 December 2025.

Members of the Technical Staff of ARACIS attended the following meetings:

- ✓ The seminar organised under the Thematic Peer Group C for Quality Assurance (TPG C) on “Quality assurance of flexible learning pathways”, in Brussels, Belgium on 24 October.
- ✓ “Peer Learning Activity - Academic freedom and academic integrity in the EHEA”, organised in Bucharest by the Executive Unit for Financing in Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation (UEFISCDI) under the “New building blocks of the Bologna Process: implementing a common understanding of fundamental values - NewFAV2” project.

3.2.9 Other international collaborations and activities

Cooperation with other quality assurance agencies

Visit of the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA)

On 19 November, ARACIS hosted a delegation from the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA). The meeting took place on the occasion of the presence of the MQA representatives in Bucharest at the meeting of the high officials of the Asia - Europe Meeting/ASEM cooperation platform.

The visit was an opportunity to present the higher education systems and quality assurance frameworks in Romania and Malaysia. Furthermore, the representatives discussed about the external evaluation activities performed by the two agencies, with a view to sharing relevant experience and identifying new opportunities for collaboration.

Other international events attended by ARACIS representatives

As part of the international cooperation activities in 2025, ARACIS representatives attended the following:

- ✓ [The European Higher Education Sector Scoreboard - EHES launching conference](#) in Brussels, Belgium, on 30 January;
- ✓ Workshop on new teaching and training formats, a hybrid event organised within the CIVICA Alliance of European Universities on 31 March;
- ✓ The – [Annual EAIE Conference and Exhibition 2025](#) organised in Gothenburg, Sweden between 8-14 September;
- ✓ [“Cross-border Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Ukraine”](#), online webinar organised by the National Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education of Ukraine (NAQA), 9 October;
- ✓ [The European Quality Assurance Forum \(EQAF\)](#) held at the Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary on “QA in times of crises – Ensuring stability, autonomy and international cooperation in higher education”, between 12-14 November 2025;
- ✓ [The first technical workshop of Policy Lab on the guidelines for introducing the joint European degree label](#), held in Brussels, Belgium on 18 November 2025 within the process of developing the operational guidelines, and coordinated by the European Commission.

4 TRAINING SESSIONS

Within the context of the coming into force of the new [Methodology for external education quality evaluation in higher education](#) on 9 February 2025, ARACIS organised [two events](#) on this topic. The first event was an online discussion held on 13 February, targeting quality assurance officers in higher education institutions; the second event was a training session held on the campus of the University of Agronomic Sciences and Veterinary Medicine of Bucharest on 5 March, designed for the presidents and secretaries of the permanent speciality commissions of ARACIS.

The agenda of the two sessions included the following topics:

- ✓ The methodology for external education quality evaluation in higher education, and the standards and performance indicators for the three evaluation domains (A - Institutional capacity, B - Educational efficiency, C - Quality management);
- ✓ The Guide for conducting external quality evaluation procedures for provisional authorising, accreditation or maintaining accreditation for a bachelor study programme;
- ✓ The external evaluation management platform of ARACIS;
- ✓ Specific quality standards related to delivering the activities within higher education study programmes in full-time education, cycle I education, differentiated per study domains;
- ✓ Expert training on external quality evaluation.

Furthermore, ARACIS supported student federations in organising a training session for students, enabling the participants to become ARACIS student evaluators. The student training session on external quality evaluation in higher education was conducted between 13 – 21 July 2025, and was attended by 64 students.

The student training session was structured around two components complementing each other – theoretical, hands-on training – to ensure complete training both on the conceptual and normative framework, and on how the external higher education quality evaluation methodology is applied in practice. The theoretical component was designed to help the participants become familiar with the architecture of the national and European higher education quality assurance system. Within this context, the topics approached included the organisation and operation of higher education institutions; management structures; applicable legal framework; the Bologna process; accreditation and external evaluation mechanisms, and the role and duties of ARACIS. Furthermore, presentations were given on the fundamental principles of external evaluation, standards and performance indicators used, and the methodology for drafting evaluation reports. The hands-on component was designed with the intent to help participants develop their skills by arranging a simulation of an evaluation visit. Students were involved in desk review activities, working with observation and conclusion forms, and developing a draft external evaluation report, according to the methodological requirements of ARACIS.

5 ARACIS ANNIVERSARY – 20 years

2025 was the year of the 20th anniversary of ARACIS and over 30 years from initiation of external quality evaluation processes in the Romanian higher education system.

Within the context of this anniversary, ARACIS organised a number of events on education quality assurance and evaluation throughout the year, bringing together people who played a significant part in the development of the Agency, representatives of higher education institutions from Romania, collaborating institutions and stakeholders from Romania and abroad. Thus, the Agency organised four webinars on the Bologna process and the three key commitments, a seminar on education quality assurance and evaluation, and an international anniversary conference in Braşov.

5.1 Webinars

The first webinar, “[The Bologna Process and the European Higher Education Area \(EHEA\)](#)”, offered a general presentation of the history of the Bologna Process, highlighting the context existing before the creation of the EHEA, the instruments that were introduced, the roles of the main players involved in the implementation, the current priorities, such as student-centred learning, and global challenges.

At this meeting, Prof. Ann Katherine Isaacs, former vice president of the Bologna Follow Up Group (BFUG), delivered a presentation on “What Is and How Does the Bologna Process Work?”, and Mr David Crosier, policy analyst of the Eurydice network, gave a presentation on “Implementing the Commitments of the Bologna Process”. The webinar was moderated by Prof. Cristina Ghiţulică, Director General of ARACIS.

The second webinar, “[Quality Assurance in the EHEA](#)”, focused on quality assurance in the European higher education, highlighting the commitments of the Bologna Process, the roles of ENQA and EQAR, the process of revising the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the EHEA (ESG), and the contributions of ARACIS within the EHEA and internationally.

The webinar included presentations from Mrs Anna Gover, Director of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education – ENQA, Mr Aleksandar Šušnjar, director of the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education – EQAR, and Prof. Dr. Eng. Daniela-Cristina Ghiţulică, Director General of ARACIS and vice president of ENQA and of the Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG).



The webinar was moderated by Prof. Dr. Eng. Simona Lache, member of the Institutional Evaluation and Audit Commission of ARACIS and former member of the Agency's Council.

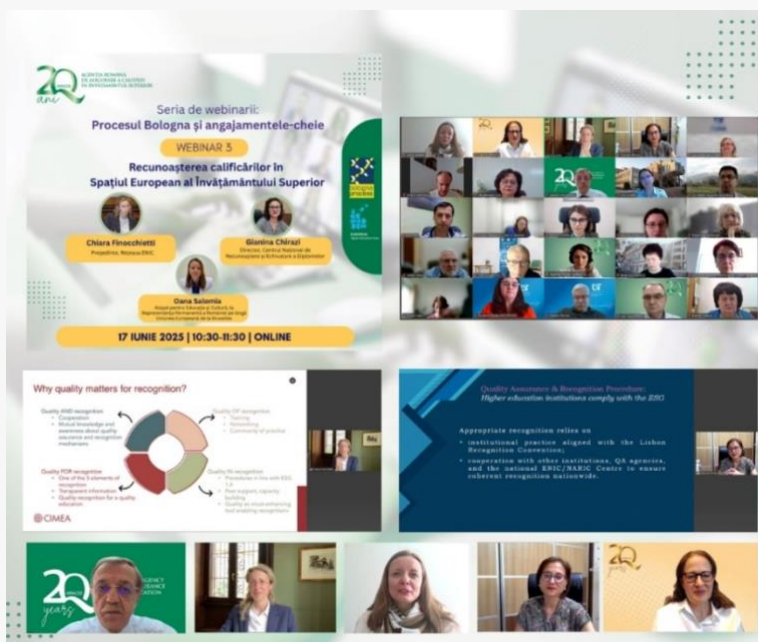


The third webinar, “[Recognition of Qualifications within the EHEA](#)”, looked at key aspects for qualification recognition, including the role that it plays in international mobility, the ENIC-NARIC networks and the legal framework, the simplification of the procedures through digitalisation, the link between recognition, quality assurance and transparency in education, and current trends, such as micro certifications, transnational education, and fraud prevention.

The webinar hosted presentations from Mrs Chiara Finocchiatti, President of the ENIC Network, and Mrs Gianina Chirazi, Director of the National Centre for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas (CNRED).

The meeting was moderated by Mrs Oana Salomia, Culture and Education Attache having the rank of minister plenipotentiary at the Romanian Permanent Representation to the European Union in Brussels.

The last webinar, “[EHEA Qualifications Framework](#)”, focused on the key commitment regarding the Qualifications Framework and the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) within the Bologna Process, applying these through learning outcomes in the EHEA, and developing the National Qualifications Framework in Romania.



The webinar hosted presentations by Robert Wagenaar, professor at the University of Groningen, The Netherlands, and Tiberiu Dobrescu, president of the National Qualifications Authority (ANC).

The webinar was moderated by Horia Șerban Onița, coordinator of the Secretariat of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), former President of the European Students Union (ESU).



By organising this series of webinars, ARACIS reaffirmed its commitment to promoting quality assurance and strengthening European collaboration in higher education.

5.2 Seminar on quality assurance and quality evaluation in education

The Seminar on Quality Assurance and Quality Evaluation in Education organised by ARACIS was held

between 19-20 June in Constanța. The event brought together over 80 quality assurance officers from 67 higher education institutions in Romania, representatives of the Ministry of Education and Research, National Qualifications Agency (ANC), National Center for Recognition and Equivalence of Diplomas (CNRED), as well as members of the ARACIS Council, the Permanent Speciality Commissions and the Agency's Technical Staff.

The main topics covered at the seminar were:

- ✓ A general presentation of the external quality evaluation framework;
- ✓ Quality culture in universities: between policies and practice;
- ✓ Learning outcomes: European landmarks and psycho-pedagogical principles for drafting;
- ✓ External evaluation procedure management platform;
- ✓ Recognition and quality assurance in higher education;
- ✓ Romania's National Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning.

The seminar included presentations and parallel working sessions, thus providing an optimal framework for interaction and dialogue on relevant topics related to quality assurance in higher education.

5.3 International Anniversary Conference

An important moment of the anniversary year of 2025 was the organisation of the international conference “ARACIS – 20 years” on 6–7 October 2025 in Braşov. The event brought together over 180 participants from Romania and abroad, including representatives of higher education institutions, the Ministry of Education and Research and the Romanian Academy, former ministers of education between 1992–2024, students’ federations, the social-economic environment and other stakeholders.

The event was also attended by representatives of the partner institutions of ARACIS, the National Qualifications Authority (ANC), the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Pre-University Education (ARACIP) and the Executive Unit for Financing in Higher Education, Research, Development and Innovation (UEFISCDI), the European Commission, the European



Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) and the European Students Union (ESU), and representatives of international quality assurance agencies cooperating with ARACIS under signed memoranda of cooperation, together with experts and representatives of other relevant higher education organisations.

The conference agenda included a variety of panels focusing on the following topics:

- The “[ARACIS after 20 years](#)” session brought together former presidents of the ARACIS Council, Messrs Iordan Petrescu (2013-2021), Mădălin Bunoiu (2022-2023), and the current president, Mr Valentin Năvrănescu, and former member of the ARACIS Council, Radu Mircea Damian, who presented the evolution of the national quality assurance system in higher education. During the session, Mrs Daniela-Cristina Ghiţulică, Director General of ARACIS, presented relevant aspects regarding the setting up and mission of ARACIS, the evolution of the legal framework on quality assurance, external evaluation activities, cross-border quality assurance, quality assurance in transnational education, ARACIS projects, etc..
- The panel on a “[European Perspective on Quality in Higher Education](#)” included presentations from Mr Douglas Blackstock, ENQA President, and Mr Stéphane Lauwick, President of the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR); the session was moderated by Mrs Simona Lache, Vice Rector of the Transilvania University of Braşov.
- The panel on the “[Evolution of the legal framework of quality assurance in education](#)” brought together former ministers of education between 1992-2024, initiators of the normative papers

that laid the foundation for the development of the higher education quality assurance system in Romania. The panel was moderated by Mr Alexandru-Mihai Ghigiu, President of the Education Commission of the Chamber of Deputies of the Romanian Parliament.

- The panel on “[Stakeholder engagement in building the quality assurance system](#)” brought together representatives of the state and private universities of various profiles, and representatives of higher education unions, employers and students. The session was opened by Mr Abdi Hassan, head of British Council Romania, special guest on the panel. The panel was moderated by Mr Marius Petrescu, Secretary General of the ARACIS Council.
- The session on the “[Role of quality assurance in the development of European Universities Alliances](#)” was moderated by Mr Romiță Iucu, President of the Orientation and Strategic Analysis Council of the Bucharest University and of the ARACIS Advisory Commission, with valuable interventions from the representatives of the European Commission, ENQA, EQAR, ESU, and the Ministry of Education and Research.
- The session on the “[Future of higher education](#)”, moderated by Mr Mircea Dumitru, member of the Academy, Vice President of the Romanian Academy, brought together valuable interventions from national and international experts who provided valuable views outlining the future directions in higher education within a global context defined by complex challenges.



More details on the information mentioned above is available at

<https://www.aracis.ro/conferinta-aniversara-internationala-aracis-20-de-ani-6-7-octombrie-2025-brasov/>

6 INFORMATION DISSEMINATION AND COMMUNICATION

6.1 The ARACIS web page

The ARACIS webpage, www.aracis.ro was the main means used for communicating the activities carried out by ARACIS during 2025. The webpage was constantly updated with information of public interest, including evaluation results, schedule of external evaluation visits, details on the recent developments in our activity and events organised by ARACIS, as well as other relevant actions.



The ARACIS website was upgraded at the end of 2025, and is now available with a more accessible and dynamic version. The new website provides an improved browsing experience, with a visitor-friendly interface, modern design, clearly structured information, and tools that enable quick access to key data:

- external evaluation reports, reorganised for improved accessibility and clarity;
- schedule of external evaluation visits;
- ARACIS communiques and decisions, presented in a modern format;
- sections for professors, students and universities, and access to the latest news and evaluation procedures.



The upgraded website offers the following new features:

- extended thematic pages, with detailed explanations about evaluation processes and quality standards;
- a chat feature with included artificial intelligence, for quick support in finding the information you need;
- the possibility to subscribe to ARACIS's regular newsletter, including relevant news in quality assurance;
- integrated accessibility function through an application module that allows the website content to be presented for visually or hearing-impaired people.

6.2 The ARACIS Facebook page

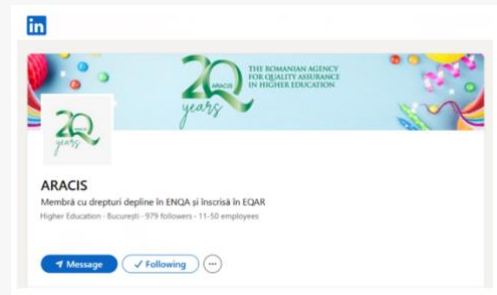
In 2025, ARACIS remained active on the [Facebook page](#), and constantly informed the audience of its activities. At the end of the year, the page had over 3,100 followers. In 2026, the Agency will continue its efforts to increase the transparency of its activities and decisions, at the same time promoting information and dialogue in the field of quality in higher education at both national and international levels.



6.3 The ARACIS LinkedIn page

In 2025, ARACIS continued its activity on its [LinkedIn page](#), aimed at increasing the accessibility and visibility of the information regarding ARACIS's international activities, so that such information can reach a wider audience interested in higher education quality assurance.

Furthermore, in 2026, the Agency will continue to promote events and relevant information on higher education quality assurance.



6.4 Newsletter

In 2025, ARACIS continued developing a regular [online Newsletter](#) disseminated through publication on the Agency's web page and sending to the representatives of higher education institutions and other stakeholders interested in quality assurance in higher education.

6.5 National press monitoring

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

6.6 Press releases and news

Furthermore, in 2025, ARACIS drafted and issued numerous press releases, offering key information about its activities and initiatives. The role of these press releases was to disseminate relevant information to the Romanian audience, ensuring increased transparency of the Agency's actions and facilitating access to important information.

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

6.7 Subscriptions with international publications

To keep up to date with the current status and the trends in quality assurance in higher education in Europe and disseminate its own experiences related to the quality of higher education in Romania, ARACIS uses electronic and printed information means. Thus, in 2025 as well, ARACIS extended its subscription to the "Internationalisation of Higher Education - Policy and Practice" publication.

6.8 Subscriptions with national publications

In 2025, ARACIS extended its subscription with the national publication “Market Watch”, a valuable source of qualified information in higher education, relevant for the activity of the Agency.

7 PROJECTS

7.1 International projects - ongoing in 2025

7.1.1 The SIQA project

Overview

In April 2025, the European Commission approved the proposal for the “Support for the enhancement-oriented implementation of the quality assurance key commitment (101228795 – SIQA)” project, funded under Erasmus+, where ARACIS is a coordinator. The project funding agreement was signed in June 2025.

The project will be implemented over a period of 36 months, between June 2025 - May 2028.

The SIQA project intends to support the activity of the [Thematic Peer Group C on Quality Assurance-TPG C](#) established within the Bologna Follow-Up Group-BFUG.

The SIQA project is implemented by ARACIS as coordinator, in collaboration with three other national accreditation and quality assurance agencies and two stakeholder organisations as partners, namely: the National Centre for Vocational Education and Quality Assurance in Armenia (ANQA), the High Council for Evaluation of Research and Higher Education, France (Hcéres), the Engineer Title Commission, France (Cti), the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), and the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR).

The project was awarded funding amounting to 481,961.27 EUR.

Project aim

[The SIQA project](#) The project aims to support TPG C activities, thus actively contributing to implementing the key commitment of the Bologna process regarding promoting a “quality culture in higher education, fostered by fit-for-purpose quality assurance processes in line with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG)”, as included in the Tirana communique.

Thus, the SIQA project aims to support TPG C members, through thematic peer support and learning activities, transnational dialogue, and exchange of good practice.

Work packages

1. Project management
2. Quality assurance, monitoring and evaluation
3. Dissemination

4. Support for promoting the development and implementation of fit-for-purpose quality assurance processes, in line with the ESG
5. Study visits
6. International external quality assurance activities
7. Innovation in higher education and quality assurance

ARACIS coordinates the work packages related to project management, the organization of thematic peer support and dialogue activities during the periodic meetings of TPG C members, as well as the organization of good practice exchanges, the promotion of transnational dialogue, and fostering of mutual learning in the field of quality assurance through study visits among TPG C members; the Agency is also engaged in the activities of the other work packages coordinated by the project partners.

Activities

The main activities carried out under the project in 2025 were:

- 17 July: [SIQA project launching meeting](#) organised online and attended by representatives of ARACIS and project partners.
- 8-9 October: [The third meeting of the Thematic Peer Group C on Quality Assurance – TPG C](#), organised in Braşov.
- 24 October: ARACIS representatives attended the [seminar on “QA of flexible learning pathways”](#), organised in Brussels, Belgium by the French Engineering Accreditation Commission (CTI) and the High Council for Evaluation of Research and Higher Education (Hcéres).

Furthermore, the “[Policy brief - External quality assurance of flexible learning pathways in the European Higher Education Area](#)” dedicated to external quality assurance of flexible learning pathways was developed under the project. The document was developed by Hcéres and CTI, based on a mapping of practices from 28 countries of the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), and shows that most systems already include flexible learning pathways in their quality assurance frameworks, although implementation remains uneven in some domains. The document presents specific actions for ministries, quality assurance agencies and higher education institutions.

- 3 November: launching of the first [call for applications for the staff mobility programme on quality assurance](#), targeting TPG C members: ministries in charge with higher education, quality assurance agencies, higher education institutions and stakeholder organisations.

7.1.2 The IMINQA project

Overview

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

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

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

Project aim

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

Work packages

1. Project management, quality assurance, communication, monitoring and evaluation, dissemination;
2. Organising the meetings of the Thematic Peer Group C on Quality Assurance (TPG C);
3. Staff mobility;
4. Peer learning activities;
5. Quality assurance for micro certifications;
6. Quality assurance for the European University Alliances;
7. Digitalisation of quality assurance processes.

Activities

- The [Digitalisation of External Quality Assurance Procedures and Practices in quality assurance agencies from the EHEA Countries](#) paper was developed under the project, and the completion of this deliverable was coordinated by ARACIS.

7.1.3 The START project

Overview

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

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

The project started on 1 June 2022 and continued between June 2022 - November 2025.

Specific objectives of the project

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

Work packages

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

Activities

- 17-18 November 2025: [Closing conference of the START](#) („Social Inclusion, Tolerance, Acceptance and Realization for all sTudents”) project, at the University of National and Global Economy of Sofia (Bulgaria). At the conference, Prof. Dr. Eng. Adrian Opre, expert in the project, delivered a presentation on “Testing the probability of positive reception and integration into higher education institutions of a social inclusion mechanism: a simulation model”, which covered the results of the research on the social inclusion of disabled and immigrant students in the Romanian higher education.

The conference brought together quality assurance experts, professors, student representatives and representatives of stakeholders of quality assurance in higher education, attending presentations and discussions on various topics, such as: project results and key conclusions; ARACIS’s experience with implementing the START project; applicability of micro certifications and legislative proposals for the higher education system in Bulgaria; social inclusion and lifelong learning through recognition of prior learning.

- Throughout the year, ARACIS developed the following documents under the project:
 - ✓ [Ensuring the Social Dimension of Romanian higher education for students with disabilities and foreign/immigrant students: an exploratory study: an exploratory study](#)
 - ✓ [Recognition of Prior Learning Best Practices in the European Area and a Validation Methodology](#)
 - ✓ [Development and Testing of Pilot Mechanisms for Integrating Micro certifications and Prior Learning into the Higher Education System](#)
 - ✓ [Policy Recommendations Related to the Validation of Prior Learning](#)
 - ✓ [Public Policy Recommendations Regarding Micro Certifications in the Higher Education System](#)

7.1.4 “Academic Ethical and Integrity Conduct” project supported by QAAs

Overview

The main objective of the project is to analyse how quality assurance agencies evaluate and support compliance with the values of academic ethical and integrity conduct in higher education institutions.

The project is funded by [INQAAHE Research and Innovation Funding Scheme](#) and implemented by ARACIS as coordinator.

Activities

- A survey was conducted in 2025 under the project, targeting quality assurance agencies and disseminated with the support of INQAAHE and ENQA. The survey will help analysing external quality assurance practices and policies with respect to academic integrity, focusing in particular on how external quality assurance in the field of academic integrity adapted as a result of the impact of artificial intelligence.

7.2 International projects where ARACIS is an associated partner

7.2.1 UNITA Recipes for internationalisation project

Overview

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

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

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

Partners

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

Implementation period: December 2023-2026

Specific objectives of the project

- ✓ Promote internationalisation of study programmes;
- ✓ Develop a digital handbook for the internationalisation of study programmes ([UNITA Recipes Handbook for Internationalisation](#));
- ✓ Create a digital tool to support self-evaluation of the level of internationalisation of higher education study programmes;
- ✓ Training in internationalisation.

7.2.2 European Campus of City-Universities, EC2U project

Overview

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

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

Partners

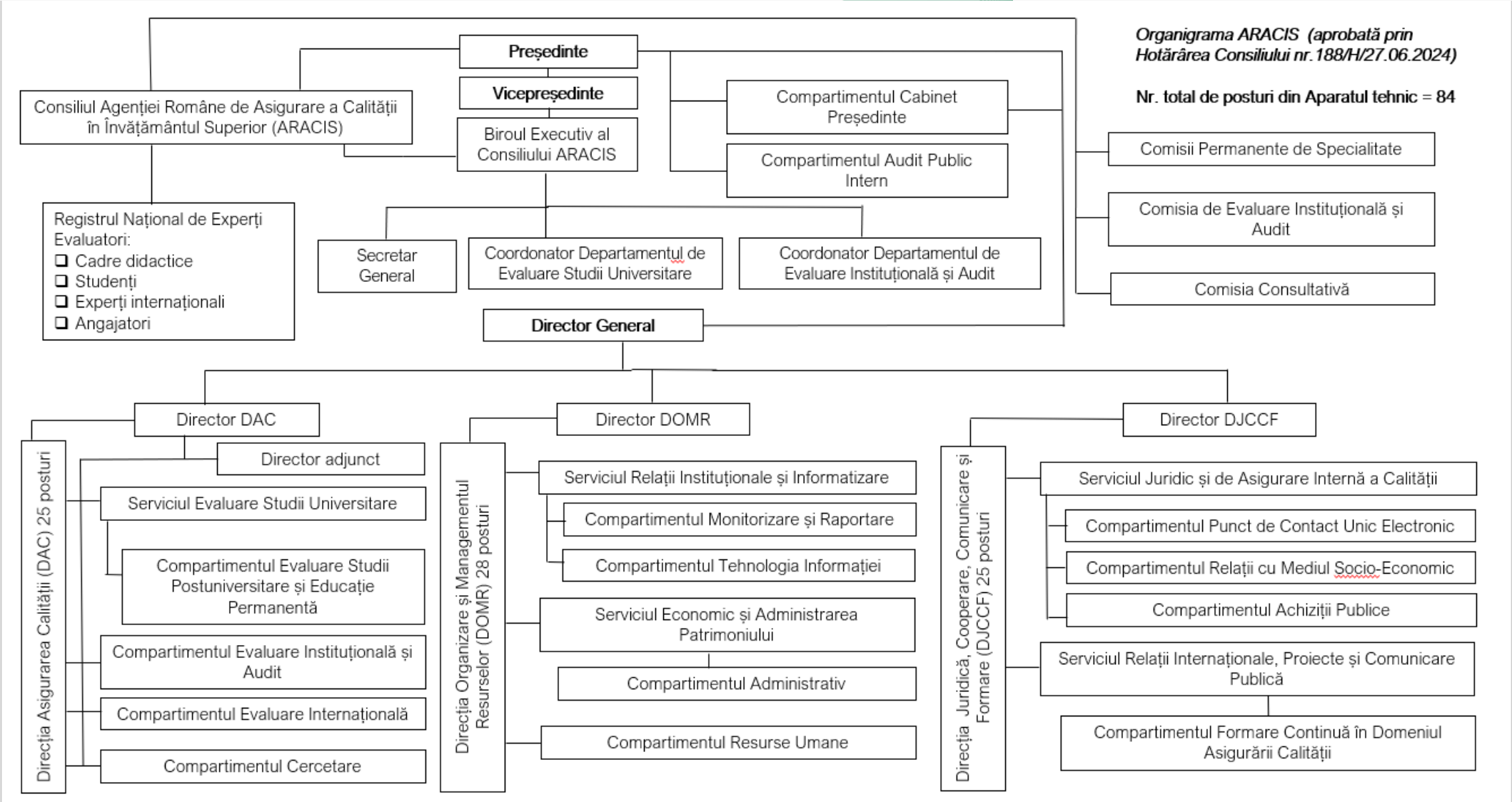
The project is implemented by an alliance composed of eight universities in various regions of the European Union: University of Coimbra (Portugal), University of Iași (Romania), University of Jena (Germany), University of Linz (Austria), University of Pavia (Italy), University of Poitiers – coordinator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

Implementation period: 2023-2027

Specific objectives of the project:

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

ANNEXES



Annex 1 – ARACIS organisational structure

Annex 2 – Members of the ARACIS Council - 2025

Position	Name, surname
President:	1. Prof. Dr. Eng. Doicin Cristian -Vasile
Vice-President:	2. Prof. Dr. Eng. Trașcă Teodor-Ioan
Secretary General:	3. Prof. Dr. Eng. Petrescu Marius
Institutional Evaluation and Audit Department Coordinator	4. Professor Dr. Vidican Roxana
Members of the Institutional Evaluation and Audit Department	5. Professor Dr. Ionescu Ecaterina 6. Professor Dr. Prelipcean Gabriela 7. Prof. Dr. Eng. Roșca Ioan Călin 8. Professor Dr. Munteanu Daniela Lucia 9. Prof. Dr. Eng. Bîzdoaică Nicu George 10. Professor Dr. Bács Miklós 11. Dr. Eng. Erbașu Romeo-Cristian 12. Student Covaci Sergiu - ANOSR
Coordinator of the Department for Evaluation of Higher Education Studies:	13. Prof. Dr. Eng. Nicoleta-Claudia Moldovan
Members of the Department for Evaluation of Higher Education Studies:	14. Prof. Dr. Eng. Hadăr Anton 15. Professor Dr. Anton Mihail 16. Professor Dr. Andreica Anca-Mirela 17. Professor Dr. Ciolan Lucian-Ion 18. Professor Dr. Mihai Florin 19. Professor Dr. Roman Teodora Cristina 20. Professor Dr. Rusu Horațiu Mihai 21. Student Pascaru Romina Cătălina - UNSR

Appendix 3 – ARACIS Advisory Board

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

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The report was analysed and approved in the ARACIS Council.

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

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59, Mărăști Bvd., district 1, Bucharest, Romania
tel. 021.206.76.00
Email: office@aracis.ro, www.aracis.ro