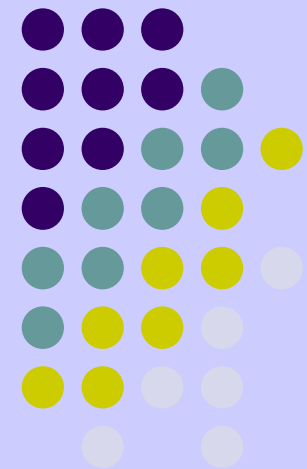


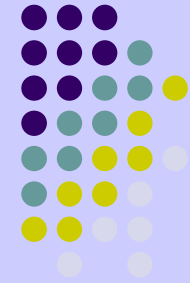
ARACIS
ENQA full member agency
Dublin
February 11- 12, 2010

**ARACIS EXPERIENCE ABOUT ENQA
COORDINATED REVIEW**

*Director of the ARACIS Evaluation
Department*
Prof. Radu Mircea Damian



Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education



HOW ARACIS PREPARED FOR THE ENQA - coordinated REVIEW?

Why ENQA full membership? European dimension, improved responsibility for the agency becomes a must

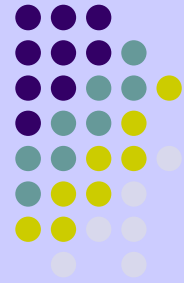
Previous experience:

- *three external evaluations: national, ESU and EUA coordinated! Same standards ENQA - ESG! Same conclusion: substantial compliance.*

Philosophy:

- *national and international evaluations: not only to judge upon compliance with the ENQA/ESG standards but also to improve the activity of the agency.*

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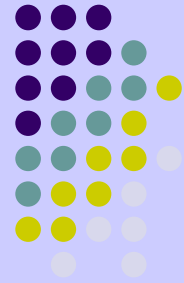


HOW ARACIS PREPARED FOR THE REVIEW?

Understanding (1):

- twofold role of evaluation: objective judgment on the level of compliance with prescribed standards AND further quality enhancement and institutional development of the agency***
- need for realistic self - evaluation reports (describing reality in the local context; attention to details)***
- importance of permanent dialogue with the panel performing the review***

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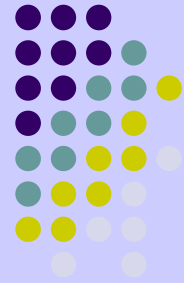


HOW ARACIS PREPARED FOR THE REVIEW?

Understanding (2):

- ESGs/ENQA standards represent reflections of undisputed good practices all across Europe, but should not be translated directly or used solely as a checklist***
- any national agency is expected to develop its own policies that best serve the interests of the national Higher Education System, in compliance with the ESG and European QA policies***

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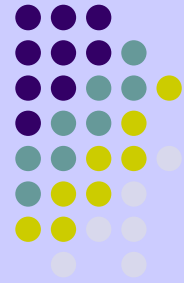
HOW ARACIS PREPARED FOR THE REVIEW?

Understanding (3):

UNDECLARED (!) CHALLENGING THINGS:

- try “to anchor” an international review panel to the national academic reality and previous efforts, judged in an unfamiliar and sometimes surprising context***
- terminology: what English ?***

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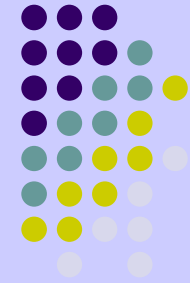


HOW ARACIS PREPARED FOR THE REVIEW?

Preparing the visit of the panel:

- Logistics for the visit: travel, accommodation, space for meetings, other;***
- Documents (SER, additional);***
- Staff: be ready for interviews but do not stop current activities;***
- Being nice but not pushy!***

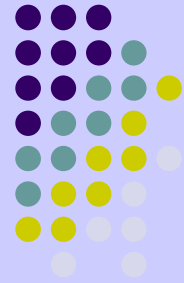
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Additional questions asked (review panel, before the visit)

- What are the human and financial resources available to the Agency?***
- How is student involvement in the quality assurance processes ensured?***
- How is the governing structure organized?***
- What are the selection and appointment procedures for the expert panel members? What is the composition of the panels?***
- How is the Competition Commission appointed?***
- How is the independence of the Council members from the HEIs effectively ensured?***

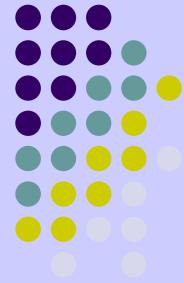
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Additional questions asked (review panel, before the visit)

- What is the difference between “evaluation” and “review” in the activities of ARACIS?***
- How are the reports made public?***
- How is the quality policy of the Agency made public?***
- What are the internal feedback mechanisms of the Agency? Are there any follow-up or improvement?***
- Which were the sources used in drafting the Code of professional Ethics?***

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Higher Education***

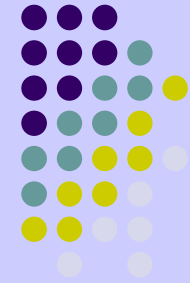


VISIT OF THE ENQA - NOMINATED PANEL (3 days)

***TYPES OF INTERVIEWS THE ENQA REVIEW PANEL REQUIRED
TO CONDUCT (1):***

- 1. executive board;***
- 2. dept. of quality assurance + the dept. of accreditation;***
- 3. some chairs (and/or members) of permanent commissions;***
- 4. the consultative committee;***
- 5. ARACIS-staff;***
- 6. evaluators, possibly one or two also from outside Romania;***

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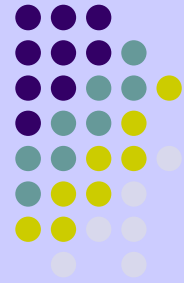


VISIT OF THE ENQA - NOMINATED PANEL (3 days)

TYPES OF INTERVIEWS THE ENQA-REVIEW-PANEL REQUIRED TO CONDUCT (2):

- 7. representatives of public and private universities + rectors conference;***
- 8. teacher trade union;***
- 9. students (preferably also a few who participated in evaluations);***
- 10. stakeholders (e.g. employers);***
- 11. representatives of the Ministry (and/or Parliament/Senate);***
- 12. representatives of the two private QA agencies and EDU-CER
(common meeting) challenging the activity of ARACIS;***
- 13. final meeting with the board.***

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Higher Education***



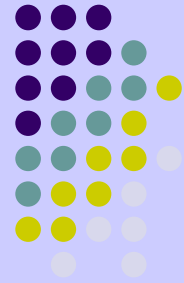
***How ARACIS benefits from the review
process?***

Main conclusions:

ARACIS was encouraged:

- to continue the work of improving the quality of its evaluations by recognizing its efforts and good recommendation for the future***
- to seek further European recognition of the Agency***

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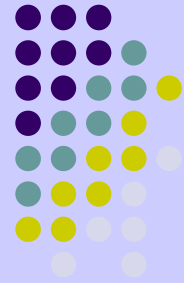


How ARACIS benefits from the review process?

Recommendations:

- ***Internal QA procedures should be more developed. A further opening up of the work of ARACIS to the outside world is recommended. ARACIS should have a clear description and implementation of its internal QA system. The appeals procedure should be more clearly described;***

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Higher Education***

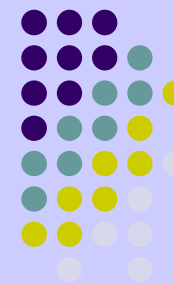


**How ARACIS benefits from the review
process?**

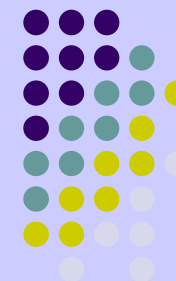
Recommendations:

- ***A system-wide analysis should be developed;***
- ***Stakeholder participation in the Council: the Council should incorporate views from outside the HE community.***

***Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in
Higher Education***



***ARACIS would like to thank ENQA
and the ENQA-coordinated panel
for the excellent collaboration,
support, patience and
fair judgment***



Thank you for your attention