Responsible bodies

According to the romanian legislation, the Ministry of National Education has the responsibility to evaluate both the education system and the educational process, according to national standards and through specialised institutions.

Evaluation of the education system and of the educational process has an internal component – entirely performed at the level of the educational institution, and an external component – performed by the following bodies:

- The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS) for the evaluation of the higher education institutions (both process and institutional evaluation);
- The Ministry of National Education for the evaluation of the entire education system.

Approaches and methods for quality assurance

ARACIS and its subordinated evaluation commissions are responsible for the evaluation and accreditation of Romanian higher education institutions. It is an independent, autonomous body, with its own structure and organization. The main duties of the ARACIS are as follows:

- To set up valid standards of academic evaluation and accreditation.
- To draw up a report (based on reports submitted by the evaluation sub-commissions subordinated to it) which proposes the issuing (or not issuing) of the provisory working authorization to each faculty, college or specialisation. This report is also submitted to the Ministry of National Education for approval.
- To draw up an academic evaluation report of all faculties, colleges and specialisations from higher education institutions, which will be submitted for approval to the Ministry of National Education every five years.
- To perform annual inspections in the institutions which they were granted the provisory working authorization, in order to verify the compliance with the standards stated when the authorization was granted.
Assurance of the quality of the educational process in higher education is accomplished through periodic evaluations. Evaluation is performed at the level of the university specialisations and/or at the level of institutional structures. The evaluation at the level of institutional structures is carried out for departments, colleges, faculties and/or higher education institutions. The evaluation process is accomplished through internal evaluation, within the respective higher education institution, and external evaluation accomplished by the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS), according to the law. Evaluation commissions by reference domain, profile and/or specialisation are established as permanent organisms subordinated to the ARACIS in order to effectively carry out the external evaluation of the higher education institution.

The academic evaluation and the accreditation [1] procedure are based on an assembly of general criteria and obligatory standards. The criteria refer to the fundamental organising and functioning domains specific to higher education: teaching staff, educational content, material basis, research activity, financial activity, and institutional, administrative and management structures. The standards refer to each criterion and specify the minimum obligatory levels during the evaluation and accreditation period (these levels are differentiated for the provisory functioning period and for the period subsequent establishment through the law). The general criteria and the basic obligatory standards are set by the law whilst the specific criteria by reference domain and specialisation of study are established by the evaluation commissions subordinated to ARACIS.

The authorisation for provisory functioning is withdrawn through Government Decision for the faculties, colleges and specialisations found below the national standards, as proved by the negative evaluation reports of the ARACIS. The respective faculties, colleges and specialisations enter a liquidation procedure starting with the first year of study. In case of the accredited higher education institutions a negative report of the ARACIS for certain faculties, colleges and specialisations determine first a warning from the Ministry of National Education. In case that after one year a second negative report is issued following a second evaluation, the respective faculty, college or specialisation enters with the first year of study in liquidation procedure through Ministerial Order.

Source URL: https://eacea.ec.europa.eu/national-policies/eurydice/content/quality-assurance-higher-education-56_en

Links