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**Project acronym: QFORTE**

**Project title: QFORTE - Enhancement of Quality Assurance in Higher Education System in Moldova (Ref. nr.: 618742-EPP-1-2020-1-MD-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP)**

## **Recommendations for reforming the national Methodology on institutional QA accreditation - implementation stage**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Country Workshop  
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# Methodology of external evaluation – current developments



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- The Methodology of external quality evaluation for the authorization of provisional operation and accreditation of vocational education and training, higher education and professional continuous training study programmes and institutions from the Republic of Moldova, GD nr. 616/2016 – **amendments approved by the Government on 16.02.2022**
- *Aim* – Aligning the provisions of the Methodology to the international experience in the field of external evaluation in order to ensure the quality of study programmes offered by HEIs, VET and continuous professional training institutions, in order to streamline the activity of institutions with attributions of quality assurance in education and research, as well as based on the experience of ANACEC in the process of external evaluation of the quality gained during its activity.

# New provisions (1)



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- 1) Vertical and horizontal approach to external evaluation of study programs;
- 2) Authorization for provisional operation / accreditation of doctoral schools;
- 3) The state quality control in education and research;
- 4) External evaluation of joint programs;
- 5) New conditions for the initiation of study programs;
- 6) Duration of the external evaluation procedure;
- 7) Initiation of the accreditation procedure;

# New provisions (2)



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- 8) New conditions for the initiation of the accreditation procedure for study programs;
- 9) International experts in the external evaluation panels;
- 10) Duration of the site visit prolonged. Online site visit included;
- 11) Interruption of the external evaluation process;
- 12) Decision making process changed;
- 13) Follow-up procedure introduced;
- 14) Thematic studies introduced;
- 15) The role of the Profile Committees introduced.

# Proposals for amendment



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Many of the changes correspond with suggestions made by CEENQA

Further proposals for amendment of the Methodology:

- Complete definition of competences and processes for appeals and complaints
- Revision of requirements for experts

# Additional comments on new provisions



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The new version of the Methodology raises some questions in the following areas:

- Issue of state control: What does it mean? Is it compatible with freedom of science and teaching and the independence of quality assurance agencies (ESG 3.3)?
- Introduction of accreditation of groups of programmes: What are the implications? What rules and processes need to be adapted?
- How should the relationship between programme accreditation (individual or in groups) and institutional accreditation be set up?
- Technical detail: Having had graduates for five consecutive years is impossible in initial accreditation