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

Acronym**: QFORTE**

**Type of the project:** National/ Structural project

**Total Budget:** € 992.363,00

**The Project`s period:** 15/11/2020 – 14/11/2023 (36 months)

**Coordination institution** – Moldova State University

**QFORTE SUMMARY:**

The quality of European education and of higher education in particular, has been identified as one of the key factors which will allow Europe to succeed in a global competition. In 2003 in Berlin the Ministers for higher education stated that the primary responsibility for quality assurance lies with higher education institutions. Further, various policies and action lines have been developed to improve quality; among other initiatives, European degree structures have been revised, mobility of students and teachers is encouraged, and transparency and comparability of qualifications is promoted.

Improving the quality of teaching and learning has been at the heart of the [Bologna Process](https://eua.eu/issues/10:bologna-process.html) reforms and continues to be of crucial importance for the further implementation of these reforms. The growth in interest in rankings, as well as recent student protests further illustrate the need for universities to reiterate their continued commitment to improving the quality of teaching and learning.

Quality assurance is the QFORTE project`s key areas of activities. QFORTE will seek to ensure that the views of the university sector are taken into account at national-level policy discussions on internal and external quality assurance. It also will support its members in developing internal quality systems and aims to promote institutional quality cultures.

The project's key target groups are the representatives of the Ministries responsible for higher education; representatives of the Agencies for Quality Assurance, Bologna promoters at national level; heads and senior managers of universities. The secondary target groups are directors of QA departments, Bologna co-ordinators in HEIs, QA operational staff.

**OVERALL OBJECTIVE:**

To contribute to deeper integration of Moldova into EHEA through the enhancing of quality assurance in higher education system

**SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:**

OB1: To promote and strengthen the QA culture in Moldova and to build national consensus of the key-actors on the development issues by Nov, 2023.

OB2: To develop and advance a national legislative framework and stimulate regulatory changes on QA in HEIs in Moldova by Nov, 2023.

OB3: To enhance the QA management of HEIs in Moldova through International institutional accreditation by Nov, 2023

OB4: To build the institutional capacities of HEIs in Moldova for efficient and effective implementation of QA reform by Nov, 2023.

**The key activities of the QFORTE project are expected to result in:**

- international institutional accreditation of five national universities;  
- improvement of the methodology of external quality assessment for institutional accreditation;  
- external quality assessment of joint higher education programmes based on the European experience in the field;  
- development of quality guidelines;  
- enhancing the capacity of internal quality assurance structures;  
- promotion of the national quality culture.

**PARTNERS:**

**Moldova:**

1. Moldova State University (P1-USM)- **coordinator**
2. Academia de Studii Economice din Moldova (P2-ASEM)
3. Balti State University (P3-USARB)
4. Cahul State University (P4-USC)
5. Comrat State University (P5-KDU)
6. Academy of Music, Theatre and Fine Arts (P6- AMTAP)
7. University of Political and Economic European Studies (P7-USPEE)
8. National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education and Research (P8-ANACEC)
9. Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova (P9 – MERRM)

**EU:**

1. University of Montpellier, FRANCE (P10-UM)
2. University of Salamanca, SPAIN (P11 – ES)
3. Leipzig University, GERMANY (P12 – DE)
4. European Policy Development and Research Institute, Maribor, SLOVENIA (P13-EPDRI)
5. Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (P14-CEENQA)