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## ABOUT QFORTE

This project is funded with support from the **European Commission** under the **Erasmus + Program**

**PROJECT TITLE:** *Enhancement of Quality Assurance in Higher Education System in Moldova*

**REFERENCE NUMBER:** 618742-EPP-1-2020-1-MD-EPPKA2-CBHE-SP

**ACRONYM:** QFORTE

**TYPE OF THE PROJECT:** national/structural project

**TOTAL BUDGET:** 992.363,00 EUR

**PROJECT PERIOD:** 15/11/2020 – 14/11/2023 (36 luni)

**COORDINATING INSTITUTION:** Moldova State University

**PROJECT COORDINATOR:** Nadejda VELIȘCO [qforte.project@usm.md](mailto:qforte.project@usm.md)

**INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATOR:** Andrei Chiciuc

**OFFICIAL WEBSITE of the project:** <https://qforte.usm.md/>

### 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, the 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 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 coordinators in HEIs and QA operational staff.

#### **GENERAL OBJECTIVE:**

To contribute to the integration of the Republic of Moldova in the EHEA (European Higher Education Area) by improving quality assurance in the higher education system.

#### **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:**

OB1. Promoting and consolidating the culture of quality assurance in the Republic of Moldova and establishing a national consensus of key actors on development issues by November 2023.

OB2. Development and promotion of a national legislative framework and stimulation of regulatory changes regarding quality assurance in higher education institutions in the Republic of Moldova by November 2023.

OB3. Improving the quality assurance management of higher education institutions in the Republic of Moldova through international institutional accreditation by November 2023.

OB4. Strengthening the institutional capacities of higher education institutions (HEIs) in the Republic of Moldova for the efficient implementation of the quality assurance reform by November 2023.

## **EXPECTED ACHIEVEMENTS AND OUTCOMES**

### **National level**

- Recommendations for the revision of the Methodology on institutional accreditation in quality assurance;
- Amendments to the Education Code of the Republic of Moldova;
- External quality evaluation procedures for accreditation of joint study programs;
- External institutional quality evaluation guide developed.

### **University level**

- University strategies for the development of quality assurance developed and adopted by each partner institution;
- Modernized quality assurance manuals at each national university involved in the project;


- Action plans to strengthen quality assurance developed after the international accreditation process (project sustainability);
- The methodology of external institutional quality evaluation implemented by HEIs;
- Active online platform for external evaluation of institutional quality.

### **Moldovan society**

- Development of the culture of quality assurance in the Republic of Moldova;
- National consensus of key actors on quality assurance;
- Advancing the national legislative framework on quality assurance in the Republic of Moldova;
- Improving quality management in higher education institutions in Moldova through international institutional accreditation.

### **QFORTE TEAM**

#### **APPLICANT INSTITUTION**

 <p>Moldova State University (Moldova)</p>	<p><a href="http://www.usm.md">www.usm.md</a></p>
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### **EU PARTNERS**









 <p>University of Montpellier (France)</p>	<p><a href="http://www.umontpellier.fr">www.umontpellier.fr</a></p>
 <p>UNIVERSIDAD DE SALAMANCA CAMPUS DE EXCELENCIA INTERNACIONAL</p> <p>University of Salamanca (Spain)</p>	<p><a href="http://www.usal.es">www.usal.es</a></p>
 <p>UNIVERSITÄT LEIPZIG</p> <p>Leipzig University (Germany)</p>	<p><a href="http://www.uni-leipzig.de/">www.uni-leipzig.de/</a></p>
 <p>European Policy Development and Research Institute</p> <p>Institute (Slovenia)</p>	<p><a href="http://www.epdri.com/">www.epdri.com/</a></p>



Central and Eastern European  
Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher  
Education (Germany)

[www.ceenqa.org/](http://www.ceenqa.org/)

## PARTNERS FROM THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

 <p>Academia de Studii Economice a Moldovei</p>	Academy of Economic Studies of Moldova	<a href="http://www.ase.md/en/">www.ase.md/en/</a>
 <p>UNIVERSITATEA DE STAT "ALECU RUSSO" DE BALTI</p>	State University "Alecu Russo" of Balti	<a href="http://www.usarb.md">www.usarb.md</a>
 <p>UNIVERSITATEA DE STAT DIN CAHUL</p>	State University of Cahul	<a href="http://www.usch.md/">www.usch.md/</a>
 <p>KOMRAT DEVELET UNIVERSITETI</p>	State University of Comrat	<a href="https://kdu.md/">https://kdu.md/</a>
 <p>ACADEMIA DE MUZICA, TEATRU SI ARTE FINE</p>	Academy of Music, Theater and Fine Arts	<a href="https://amtap.md/">https://amtap.md/</a>
 <p>USPEE CONSTANTIN STERE</p>	University of European Political and Economic Studies "Constantin Stere"	<a href="https://uspee.md/">https://uspee.md/</a>
 <p>ANACEC</p>	National Agency for Quality Assurance in Education and Research	<a href="http://www.anacec.md">www.anacec.md</a>
 <p>Ministerul Educatiei al Republicii Moldova</p>	Ministry of Education and Research of the Republic of Moldova	<a href="http://www.gov.edu.md/">http://www.gov.edu.md/</a>

## PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Within the project, 7 Work Packages and a set of specific activities are planned and implemented:

### **WP1. Preparation. Activities**

- A1.1.2/ Elaboration of the Project's Handbook
- A1.1.3/ Elaboration and signature of Partnership Agreements
- A1.2.1/ Development and completion of QA evaluation questionnaires
- A1.2.2/ Elaboration of country profile

### **WP2. Development and advancement of national legislative framework on QA. Activities**

- A2.1.1/ Setting up the National Policy Task Force on QA
- A2.1.2/ Country workshops on QA development
- A2.1.3/ Study visit on institutional QA development at system level (members of the NPTF from MD)
- A2.2.1. / Elaboration and adoption of QA tools
- A2.2.1.1 / Recommendations for reforming the national methodology on institutional QA accreditation
- A2.2.1.2 / Amendments to the Code of Education of the Republic of Moldova
- A2.2.1.3 / Adoption and publishing of evaluation procedures for accreditation of joint programs and final
- A2.4.2/ Translation, publishing of the institutional QA External evaluation guide

### **WP3. Advancement of university integrative function on QA. Activities**

- A3.1.1/ Setting up the university QA working groups (UQA)
- A3.1.2/ Study visit on UQA strategy development (University of Montpellier/France)
- A3.1.2/ Study visit on UQA strategy development (study visit to the University of Salamanca /Spain)
- A3.1.2/ Study visit on UQA strategy development (study visit to the Leipzig University / Germany)
- A3.1.3/ Development, adoption of institutional QA strategies (including the Action Plan)
- A3.3.1/ Training seminars on QA development and International institutional accreditation
- A3.3.2/ Developing the application for international accreditation

### **WP4. Enhancement of institutional capacities for implementation of QA reform. Activities**

- A4.1.1/ Training seminars for university staff on institutional QA implementation
- A4.1.2/ Consolidation of the university structures for QA
- A4.1.3/ Acquisition, installation of the equipment

- A4.2./ Elaboration of the Action Plan following the external evaluation reports on institutional accreditation

**WP5. Quality plan. Activities**

5.1.1/ Elaboration of monitoring & evaluation manual

A5.2/Elaboration of advisory recommendations

A5.3/ Fine tuning of procedures and regulations

A5.4./ External financial audit

**WP6. Dissemination, Exploitation and Impact maximization. Activities**

A6.1.1/ Elaboration of project`s dissemination strategy

A6.1.2/ Design of project`s identity, promo materials &web page

A6.1.3/ Launching and concluding conferences

A6.2.1/ Country workshops

A6.2.2/ Mass-media dissemination

A6.3.1/ Institutional dissemination events

A6.3.2/ Publication of articles

A6.4./ TG satisfaction survey

**WP7. Project Management. Activities**

A7.1.1./ Day by day project coordination

A7.1.2./ Consortium meetings

A7.1.3./ Interim & Final reports

## **NEWS AND EVENTS**

For details on the events of the project, go to <https://qforte.usm.md/events/>