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Fondul Social European



GUVERNUL ROMÂNIEI  
Ministerul Dezvoltării Regionale  
și Administrației Publice



Inovație în administrație  
Programul Operațional  
"Dezvoltarea Capacității  
Administrative"

Proiect cofinanțat din Fondul Social European, prin Programul Operațional "Dezvoltarea Capacității Administrative", în perioada 2007-2013

## Outline Workshop 1B: *The Meaning of 'Quality' in Teaching and Research*

**Time: 11.00-12.30**

**Room: Eliade A**

'What does 'quality' mean?' It is impossible to avoid this question when you try to measure it. But we are far away from arriving at a consensus about what quality means. Currently, different evaluation instruments use hundreds of variables and performance indicators. While these may be complementary in some cases, there are obvious inconsistencies as well. For instance, while the quality assurance scheme is based on minimum standards for all universities, the classification is based on nominal categories for universities.

What is important about these inconsistent criteria is that they lead to a confusing picture for the academics, let alone for students. A university can receive, in principle, high trust in the accreditation process, but categorised as a 'C' university in the classification, and ranked in the middle of the distribution. To achieve a higher ranking, it may have to shift resources away from education to scientific production, which may in turn lower its status in the accreditation system. In other words, these different instruments send confusing messages to the universities about what is required from them, and do not help the wider Romanian society to understand what is going on in the field of higher education and research. This workshop aims to discuss this problem by asking the following questions:

1. How do policy instruments define the quality of education and research?
2. Are these measures seen as legitimate by professors, students and employers?
3. How can we come to more valid measurements of the quality of teaching and research?

The session will be conducted as follows:

The **chair** (Oana Sarbu) will introduce the session.

The **speaker** (Koen Geven) will make a presentation of maximum 15 minutes to the session.

The **respondents** (Doinita Ciocirlan and Daniel Luches) will take 5-10 minutes to respond critically to the presentation and to provoke a discussion among the audience.

The **chair** (Oana Sarbu) will then guide the discussion of the session.

The **rappporteur** (Irina Geanta) will prepare a short report (1 page) with the main points of the discussion and recommendations for future policy in this area.

The session will be conducted in **English**.