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**MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION**

**BETWEEN**

**ITALIAN NATIONAL AGENCY  
FOR THE EVALUATION OF UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES**

**AND**

**QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCY IN HIGHER EDUCATION**

**Tiranë/Rome**

**November 2022**

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**Italian National Agency For The Evaluation Of Universities And Research Institutes**  
(hereinafter ANVUR), represented by **Mr. Antonio Felice Uricchio**

**And**

**Quality Assurance Agency in Higher Education (hereinafter ASCAL)**, represented by  
**Mrs. Xhiliola Bixheku**, hereinafter referred to as the “Parties”,

*Given that* ANVUR, an ENQA member agency and ASCAL an affiliated member both  
operating in Higher Education Area (EHEA);

*Considering* the need for inter-institutional cooperation between our two countries;

*In order to* deepen our relations in the field of quality assurance in higher education and  
increase trust by promoting fruitful collaborations;

*To ensure* that the cooperation will contribute to increasing the quality of higher education  
and respecting the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher  
Education Area (ESG);

*In order to* promote the implementation of Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in  
the European Higher Education Area (ESG) in higher education systems;

*With the aim* of cooperation in meeting the criteria and recommendations of the European  
Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and the European Quality  
Assurance Register (EQAR);

*The parties* have agreed to enter into this Memorandum of Cooperation:

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## Article 1

### Purpose

1. ANVUR and ASCAL agree on mutual cooperation in ensuring quality in higher education, maintaining quality standards and promoting and improving the quality of Higher Education Institutions and the programs they offer.
2. ANVUR and ASCAL aim to provide mutual cooperation in meeting the criteria and recommendations of the European Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR).

## Article 2

### The object of cooperation

ANVUR and ASCAL commit to cooperate in:

1. Exchanging of best practices between the two countries in the field of quality assurance in higher education, quality improvement and quality culture;
2. The exchange of information about the quality, results and accreditation of Higher Education Institutions and the programs they offer;
3. Promoting the exchange of experts and evaluators in their mutual participation in external evaluation procedures, focusing mainly on the areas of special interest and competence of these agencies;
4. Applying in joint international bilateral/multilateral projects in the field of quality assurance in higher education;
5. Exchanging knowledge about regulations, instructions, manuals or any other legal act that regulates the field of quality assurance in higher education;
6. Contributing to the internationalization of their national institutions of higher education;
7. Staff exchanging with the aim of exchanging experience between them.

## Article 3

### Coordination between parties

ANVUR and ASCAL will coordinate the implementation of this cooperation by:

1. Assigning contact points for cooperation between the respective institutions;
2. The contact persons from both parties will be available at all times for communication and coordination in order to reconcile the actions that must be taken case by case;
3. Establishing working groups for certain areas of cooperation;
4. Organizing workshops, seminars, trainings and regular meetings on an annual basis on specific issues related to their mission (such as diversity, inclusion, sustainability or impact).

## Article 4

### Rights and obligations

ANVUR and ASCAL undertake to:

1. Provide to each other reliable information regarding the external evaluation processes in Higher Education Institutions and the programs they offer.
2. Maintain a continuous communication between them and to exchange any information necessary for the fulfillment of their duties. Communication will be carried out in writing or electronically via e-mail.
3. Guarantee that the information provided to the parties is not to harm each other and in any case of submitting a request, the parties undertake to provide an answer within 15 days.
4. Protect personal data in respect and according to the respective national laws of each party.
5. Communicate and consult about issues of common interest, in order to coordinate the activities of the respective Agencies and not to contradict each other.
6. Until the termination of this Memorandum, the parties will adhere to the terms and conditions derived from this Memorandum, in terms of information and documents exchanged before the date of its termination.

## Article 5

### Confidentiality

The parties undertake to keep confidential any information, document or other material that they will exchange between them and to apply the legal provisions of each country for the use of personal data.

## Article 6

### Duration

1. This cooperation has a time limit of 5 years and the right of silent renewal in case the parties do not express their intention to terminate it.
2. If either party wishes to terminate this cooperation, the other party must be notified at least 3 months in advance of the action taken.

## Article 7

### Changes

The Memorandum may be amended only with the mutual written consent of the parties.

## Article 8

### Dispute Resolution

1. This Memorandum of Cooperation does not conflict with the internal legislation of both parties.
2. In the event of a dispute or claim that may arise regarding this Memorandum of Cooperation, the parties undertake to make all possible efforts to resolve them through consultations and negotiations.

## Article 9

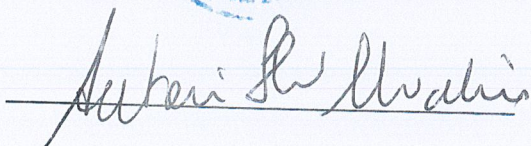
### Final provisions

1. This Cooperation Memorandum enters into force immediately after its signing by the representatives of the parties.
2. Each party undertakes to recognize the institutions structures with the obligations of this Memorandum, as well as to respect and implement the obligations arising from it.
3. For any case of non-fulfillment of the above obligations, each party must inform the head of the respective institution.
4. Any annex on which the parties will agree and sign in the future, which will be issued based on and for the implementation of this Memorandum, will be considered as an integral and inseparable part of it.
5. Activities derived from this cooperation agreement do not include any financial commitment from the parties.
6. This Memorandum of Cooperation is signed in 2 (two) original copies in English, where one copie is deposited in the Italian National Agency for the Evaluation of Universities and Research Institutes and one copie is deposited in the Albanian Quality Assurance Agency in Higher Education.

This Memorandum of Cooperation was signed today, on 10 / 11 /2022.

FOR THE ITALIAN NATIONAL  
AGENCY FOR THE EVALUATION OF  
UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH  
INSTITUTES

Prof. Antonio Felice Uricchio



FOR THE ALBANIAN QUALITY  
ASSURANCE AGENCY IN HIGHER  
EDUCATION

Dr. Xhiliola Bixheku

