

HE Legislation development

- HE Law: 1999
- HE Law; 2007
- Amendments of HE Law 2007-2010
- QA in HE Regulatory Framework; 2010
- Modifications in QA legislation- 2010-2013
- New Higher Education Law; October 2015

QA Legislation; 1999

- First law on Higher education providing dispositions for establishment of the Accreditation Agency (2 staff members) and Accreditation Council.
- First Accreditation procedures for HEIs and their study programs.
- Distinction between of Public and Nonpublic HE.
- Opens the way for non-state HEI-s
- No activity until 2003;
- 2003: few pilot evaluation procedures
- 2004: the first Accreditation Council
- 2014-2005; first regular evaluation procedures
- 2006; first evaluations for accreditation purposes

QA Legislation; 2007

2. Law Nr. 9741, date 21.5.2007 – A new Higher Education Law

- A new “Public Accreditation Agency for Higher Education” – responsible for the external evaluation of HEIs and their study programs;
- Accreditation Council – 11 members from different stakeholders (Public and Private HEIs, student , foreign experts etc).
- The law provides the term evaluation and accreditation for Institutional and study programs level.
- QA system completed; Institutions and Procedures
- Quality Assurance in HEIs, internal quality assurance as a new requirement.

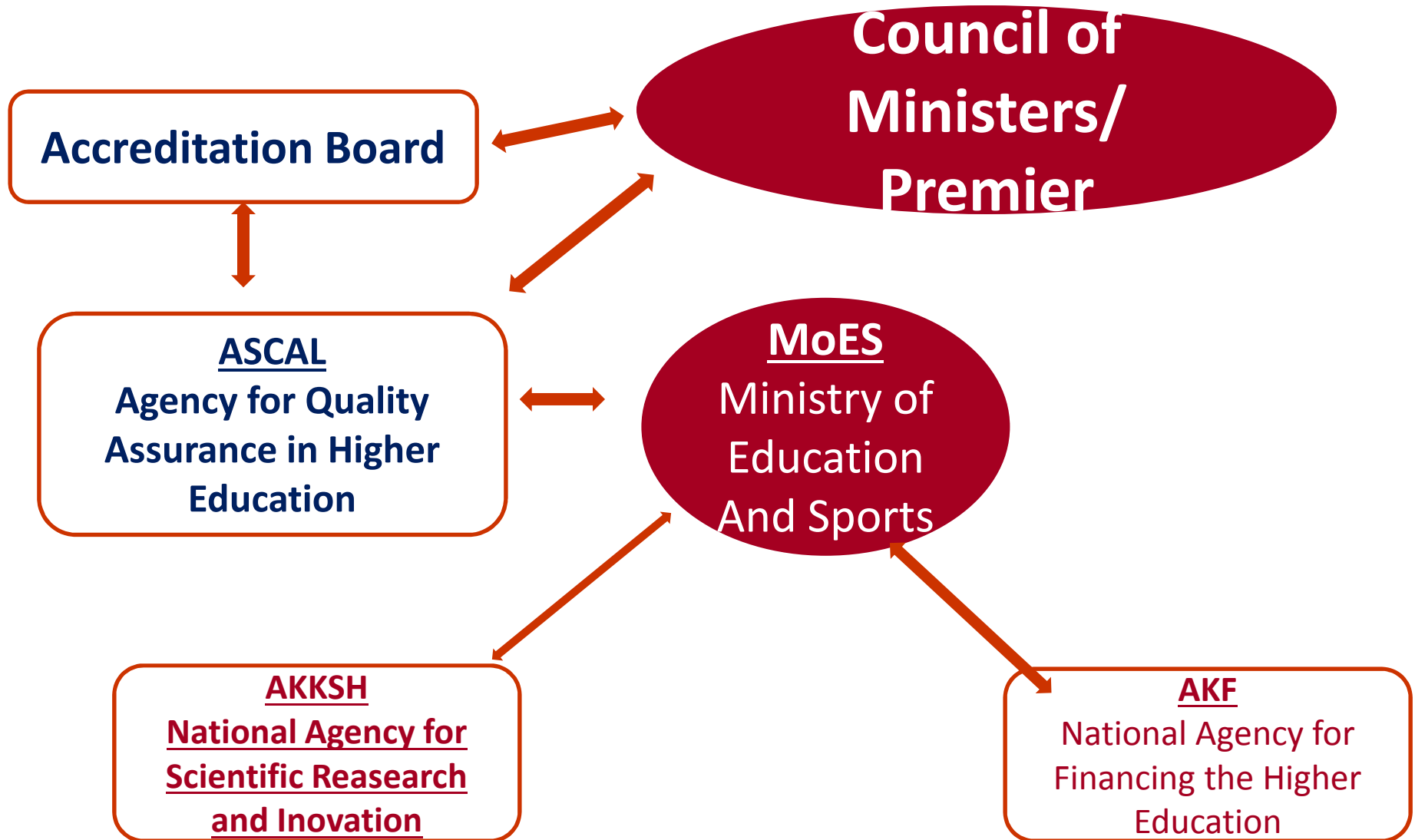
QA Legislation; 2007-2013

1. **Changes in the 2007 law – in 2010; 2011;2013; aiming the improvement of various dispositions.**
2. **DCM 424/2010**
 - New dedicated regulation for the accreditation and the organization of quality assurance institutions (PAAHE and AC)
 - Composition :
 - APAAL 15 staff members
 - AC 11; 3 international members
 - external evaluation for accreditation purpose;
 - QA for new HEIs and Programs
 - peer review process;
 - system wide analysis;

New Law Nr. 80/2015, date 17.09.2015 “For Higher Education and scientific research in HEIs”

- Improved provisions for Quality Assurance;
- More independence for the QA institutions;
Additional competences for the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (reorganization of PAAHE);
- Accreditation Board as the final decision making body for the accreditation;
- Quality Code –main document assembling all the legal dispositions and quality standards;

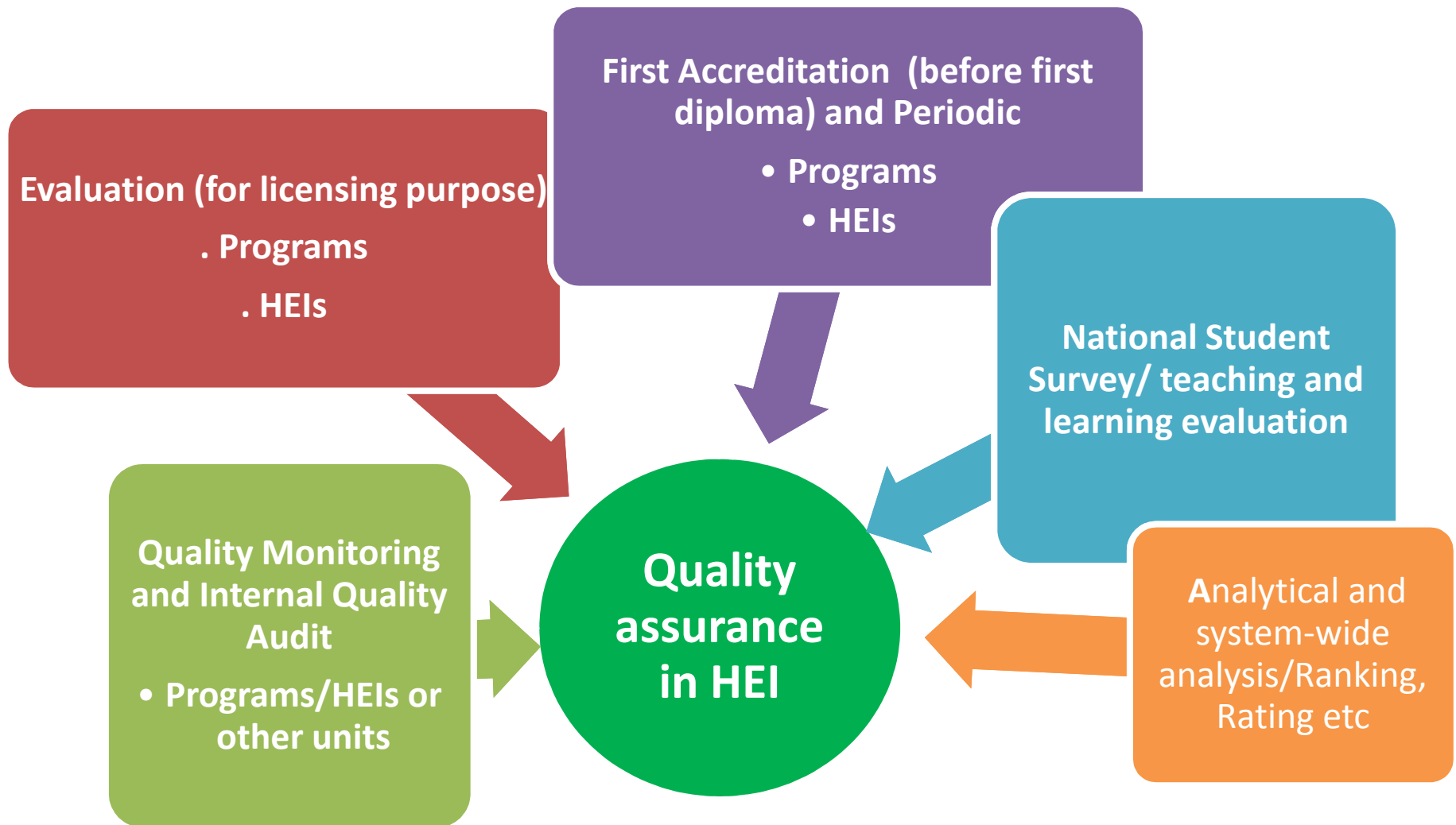
QUALITY ASSCCURANCE BODIES – LAW 80/2015



Three categories of quality assurance are determined by

- **Internal quality assurance systems** and mechanisms are under the responsibility of the HEIs themselves, but adjusted with the external QA processes.
- **External evaluations**, performed by PAAHE/ASCAL or any other agency that is a member of ENQA, as stated in the Law for Higher Education.
- **Licensing and Accreditation**, which is the process of formal recognition of HEIs and their programmes in the Albanian territory. Based on the outcomes of external peer reviews, the AC makes recommendations for the accreditation decisions

Schematic scheme of goals and duties of PAAHE/ASCAL



Procedures performed by PAAHE/ASCAL

- **Cyclical evaluation** and accreditation of the existing institutions and programmes in public and private HEIs. The interval between two subsequent evaluations is not more than six years.
- **Evaluation and pre-accreditation** (so-called initial evaluation) of new HE programmes in both public and private HEIs.
- Initial programme evaluation and institutional project evaluation are prerequisites for private HEIs **to obtain the licence to open and operate**.
- **A process of evaluation and accreditation both at institutional and programme levels (first accreditation)**. If the institution does not have a positive decision of accreditation, the institution and/or programme will not be formally recognised in Albania.
- Contributing to the analytical and system-wide analysis
- Assisting HEIs in setting up and implementing internal QA systems.
- Publishing information and data dealing with evaluation and accreditation processes and outcomes.
- Publishing information and data on HEIs and programmes for the public

Accreditation Board

- Independent collegial body – 11 Members (Albanian and foreign representatives, experts of quality assurance) with fully independence for judgment and decisions for accreditation purpose.
- Decision-making – Final decision making for the accreditation of HEI and their study programs. AB independent from MoES
- International Expertise– Involvement of external international experts, as member of AB, with a international and more objective decision making process, in compliance with ESG.

Standards and Criteria for assessment (1)

- In 2011, four sets of standards were issued
- State Quality Standards of Higher Education Institutions;
- Standards for Accreditation of First Cycle Study Programmes;
- State Quality Standards for Evaluation and Accreditation of Second Cycle Study Programmes of Higher Education Institutions;
- State Quality Standards for Evaluation and Accreditation of Third Cycle Study Programmes of Higher Education Institutions;
- Quality Code !

PAAHE/ASCAL activities

- Manual for the Internal System of Quality Assurance in Higher Education Institutions
- Guidelines for the establishment and functioning of the Internal Quality Assurance Unit (IQAU) at institutions of higher education
- Handbook – QAA_UK - PAAHE

Problems and Challenges (2)

- Internationalization of HEI and QA processes
- Increasing of public sensitivity to HEI and QA
- Harmonization of QA, recognition, employability
- Consolidation of quality assurance units in HEIs
- Improvement the cooperation with business and stakeholders
- Required a national study on labor market
- Students Involvement