



Dr. Susanna Karakhanyan currently is employed as Higher Education Policy & Regulation Director at the Abu Dhabi Department of Education and Knowledge in the United Arab Emirates. Is Immediate Past President of the *International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education* (INQAAHE), which is a global umbrella network of tertiary education quality assurance providers, more than 350 members worldwide. She consults governments on policymaking, governance as well as external and internal QA systems in a diversity of contexts globally. Dr. Karakhanyan has worked with some 35 governments, authored and delivered capacity building events and external reviews of governance structures, legal and policy frameworks and QA systems worldwide. She has led a variety of projects under the auspices of the Council of Europe, UNESCO, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, Open Society Institute, IREX, to name but a few. Dr. Karakhanyan holds M.S.Ed in Educational Administration /Leadership from the University of Pennsylvania, the USA and PhD in Social Sciences from Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands.



Mr. Jakub Grodecki, currently serving as Vice President of the European Students' Union. His primary focus within the organization is Quality of Higher Education, Bologna Process, European Higher Education Area Policy and digitalization in Higher Education. He is also member of the Advisory Council on Youth in the Council of Europe. Previously, he worked as Quality Assurance expert of the Polish Accreditation Committee (PKA) and ESU QA Pool of Experts. He has an academic background in Mechanical Engineering (B.Eng) and Management and Production Engineering (MSc) done at the University of Science and Technology (AGH) in Kraków (Poland).



Dr. Daniela Cristina Ghițulică has extensive experience in the field of quality assurance, being elected in 2018 as member of the *European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education* (ENQA) Board, and since 2019 she is Vice President of the organization. She was President of the *Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education* (CEENQA), while since 2014 she was member of the Board of the network. Ms. Ghițulică is Vice-President (2015 – present) and member of the Council of the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS) (2013 – 2014), as well as external evaluator and member of the Distance Education Experts Permanent Commission, since 2009.



Prof. dr. Don F. Westerheijden is a recently retired (2021) researcher on quality management in higher education from the Center for Higher Education Studies (CHEPS), the Netherlands. He studied quality assurance and accreditation and their impacts, as well as university rankings and performance (indicators, contracts). Prof. Westerheijden was involved in thesis supervision (bachelor, master and Ph.D.), as well as post-experience training and consultancy in projects for higher education ministries, the European Commission, quality assurance agencies, and higher education institutions across Europe, in Asia, the United States, and Africa.



Dr. Eugenijus Stumbrys is head of Science Policy and Assessment Unit of the Research Council of Lithuania. In 2002–2009 he was director of SKVC. Was member of the Board of Governors of the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (2014–2017), member of Selection Board of Erasmus Mundus Programme under the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency established by the European Commission (2007–2008). Serves as expert in various working groups of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sport of the Republic of Lithuania, the Research Council of Lithuania, the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Innovation. Has extensive experience in management of higher education and research assessment. His fields of interests are assessment of higher education and research, policy and instruments of higher education and research. E. Stumbrys has a PhD in physics from Vilnius University in 1992. He is co-author of 18 books and a CD about Lithuanian higher education system, and more than 30 articles.



Mr. Vytautas Kučinskas is President of the Lithuanian Students' Union (LSS). LSS represents students at the national level and unites the self-governments of students of Lithuanian higher education institutions. V. Kučinskas has been active in student organizations for more than five years. He started this activity at his Alma Mater, Vytautas Magnus University Student Representation. V. Kučinskas became involved in activities of the Student Parliament, the Senate, the Faculty Council and the Study Programme Committee. He was also Coordinator of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Student Representation, member of the Board and Chairman of the Audit Commission. At LSS continued to operate successfully as a member of the Supervisory Committee and the Board, then elected President in 2021.



Ms. Neda Žutautaitė is President of Vilnius University (VU) Students' Representation (VU SA). Represents students at the University, various commissions and working groups related to the development of educational initiatives, renewal of the study programme's model, quality improvement. Former member of the Senate, currently a member of the VU Council. She also represents students at the national level in the Parliament, working groups of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports. Participates in developing the financing model of HEIs, contributes to the development of the plan of the social dimension in higher education in Lithuania. Regularly participates in the implementation activities of the ARQUS University Alliance, European Higher Education Area policy and various projects.



Mr. Arminas Varanauskas is Head of the Knowledge Economy Forum Association in Lithuania. Former member of the Senate, Studies and Strategic Management Committee of Vilnius University, he participated in the preparation of the study quality assurance and improvement system. He has also contributed to the preparation of the self-assessment for external evaluation and has also participated in the institutional and study program evaluation as an external expert. He is currently member of the SKVC Council, in addition – member of the Science, Technology and Innovation Council under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania, and a member of the Smart Specialization Coordination Group.



Assoc. prof. Dr. Vitalija Bartuškevičienė is Deputy Director of Utenos Kolegija, Chairwoman of the Academic Committee of the Lithuanian College Directors' Conference, Member of the SKVC's Appeal Commission. Has worked as Bologna Expert in the Bologna Process Monitoring Working Group under the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania, as expert in higher education and professional development programs, on strategic documents. Is member of the editorial boards of research journals at Kauno Kolegija and Utenos Kolegija, a member of the Lithuanian Educational Research Association, actively participates in other expert, scientific and project activities, reads reports and prepares publications on youth entrepreneurship education and various other higher education issues.



Prof. habil. dr. Alfredas Račkauskas for many years served as expert of the formal evaluation of research at SKVC, also chaired the SKVC Study Program Evaluation Commission for two terms, and led the preparation of the subject benchmark statement of Mathematical Sciences. He was member of the Vilnius University Senate, chairman of the study committee, founded the Department of Econometric Analysis, and led the first and second cycle study programme *Econometrics*. Was a member of the Supervisory Committee of MOSTA, member of the National Study Program Management Group, led and worked on various scientific projects. Field of research – probability theory and mathematical statistics and its applications. In 1986 he was awarded the USSR Young Scientists Prize, in 1998 – the Lithuanian Research Prize. Co-author of monographs published by Kluwer Publishing, has published about 100 scientific publications, including more than 70 scientific articles, more than 40 articles in Thomson Reuters Web of Science database citations, has delivered more than 10 guest papers at international conferences, has been invited many times for presentations at research seminars at various universities around the world, did research at the universities of Bielefeld (Germany), Lille (France). Supervised nine Phd students who successfully completed their dissertations.



Mr. Linas Leonas is Chairman of the Study Quality Assessment Commission at SKVC, has been participating in the activities of this commission since 2010. Other activities related to the quality of studies include various national and international research projects on the quality of studies and study policy, training of experts, as well as participation in public events and discussions on higher education and education. At the Lithuanian University of Health Sciences he completed medical studies and a residency in neurology. He was a member of the University governing bodies (Senate, Rectorate, University Council), the Study Quality Monitoring and Assurance Commission, and led the project on implementation of a problem-based learning system at the Faculty of Medicine. Currently, he delivers university courses for students on cognition and experimental psychology, and for teachers – post-experience training on development of didactic competences, methodologies of student-centered and other innovative teaching.



Mr. Almantas Šerpatauskas – Director of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (SKVC). He has been participant, expert and leader of various national and international projects in the field of quality assurance of higher education and vocational education and training, funded by Tempus, PHARE, European Social Fund, TWINNING and other programmes. He was member of the Board of the Latvian quality assurance agency (AIKA). Since March 2021 he has been a member of Competition Commission for the selection of members for the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance (NAQA) in Ukraine. As expert serves for ENQA in external reviews of quality assurance agencies for their compliance to the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG).



Dr. Sonata Mačiulskytė Vice-Rector for Studies of Klaipėda University, Chairwoman of the Study Committee of the Conference of Rectors of Lithuanian Universities. She studied at Klaipėda University and Vytautas Magnus University (Lithuania), Linköping University (Sweden), and obtained a doctorate in social sciences (social work) at the University of Lapland (Finland). Currently, she is also an associate professor at the Department of Social Work, intensively teaching. Areas of academic and research interests include aging and long-term care for the elderly and social policy. During her 21 years of career, has served on (almost) all levels of university administration. Prior to becoming the Vice-Rector, she held the position of Vice-Dean of Studies at a faculty of Klaipėda University for a number of years.



Dr. Laima Taparauskienė is Director of the Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology of the Ministry of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Lithuania. She is responsible for coordination of the implementation of studies, research and experimental development policy. Has academic experience at the university related to the coordination of study processes, initiation and preparation of new study programs, quality assurance and organization of study programmes assessment. Has served as Vice-Rector for academic affairs at Aleksandras Stulginskis University, then Vytautas Magnus University. Was Chairwoman of the Study Committee of the Conference of Rectors of Lithuanian Universities Has participated in external institutional evaluation abroad.



Dr. Simona Pilkienė – Doctor of Education, expert in the development and evaluation of study programs, lecturer of seminars. Has more than 15 years of professional experience in the higher education sector, preparation, implementation and improvement of study programs, development of the study quality system, formation of study policy and preparation and development of strategies. Member of the national working groups for the drafting of legal acts regulating studies, expert. Currently, she is Vice-Rector for Studies at Vytautas Magnus University, also Chairwoman of the Appeals' Commission of the SKVC, and member of the Academic Council at the Department of National Minorities under the Government of the Republic of Lithuania.



Ms. Aurelija Valeikienė – Deputy Director of SKVC, Lithuanian external QA agency and the ENIC/NARIC centre. Her expertise areas are external quality assurance of higher education, academic recognition, and internationalisation. Currently is member of the European Commission's expert group on micro-credentials and the Bologna Process peer support group on academic recognition in line with the Lisbon Recognition Convention. Served in working groups on structural reforms in EHEA, and in the Advisory Group to support Belarus roadmap to the EHEA. Worked on the ENQA Board, is ENQA expert for agency reviews against their compliance to the ESG. Served as President of CEENQA. Acted as expert upon invitations from the Council of Europe, World Bank, European Training Foundation, Europe-Asia Foundation etc.