SPHERE
Support and Promotion
for Higher Education
Reform Experts

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Students in QA
- Examples from Lebanon -

Students in focus:

Student as partners in higher education governance and quality assurance

Narxoz University, Almaty, Kazakhstan

5-6 April 2017

QA in the Lebanese HE

- Law governing the Lebanese HE (285/2014) mandates HEIs to engage in both internal and external QA processes and calls for the establishment of a national QA agency
- Since 2011, a draft law in the parliament for the establishment of a Lebanese QA agency for HE
- Lebanese HEIs undergo external evaluation and accreditation by International agencies
  – Both European and American
- Lack of national students Union

Students in QA in Lebanon

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- ESG 2015
  - Standard 1.1 "Policy for QA"
    - departments, schools, faculties and other organisational units as well as those of institutional leadership, individual staff members and **students to take on their responsibilities in quality assurance**
  - Standard 2.4 "Peer-review experts"
    - External quality assurance should be carried out by groups of external experts that include (a) student member(s)

- Lebanese draft law on establishing a QA agency
  - Clause 13: Board of trustees to include 2 students

Students in QA in Lebanese HEIs

- In the HEIs
  - Students participate in the evaluation of courses
    - AUB, BAU, LAU, NDU, UOB, …
    - Often online
    - Feedback to instructors
  - … and programmes (exit surveys)
  - To my knowledge no evaluation of instructors

Students in QA in Lebanese HEIs

- Selected examples from HEIs
  - Focus group discussions to assess learning experiences [LAU]
    - Limited to graduating students
  - Students' bodies collect information and share with their administration (autonomously or on demand) [UOB, LAU]
  - Special unit to support students involvement in QA processes [BAU]
    - Students QA Unit Association (SQAUA)
    - Disseminating the QA concept among students
    - Providing feedback about the impact of the process
  - National Survey for Student Engagement (NSSE) [LAU]
    - Assess efforts spent in learning
    - Assess how university deploys resources and organises activities
  - Alumni share information about preparedness for work [AUB, BAU, LAU, NDU, UOB, …]
  - Feedback on the quality of the internships [AUB, BAU, LAU, NDU, UOB, …]

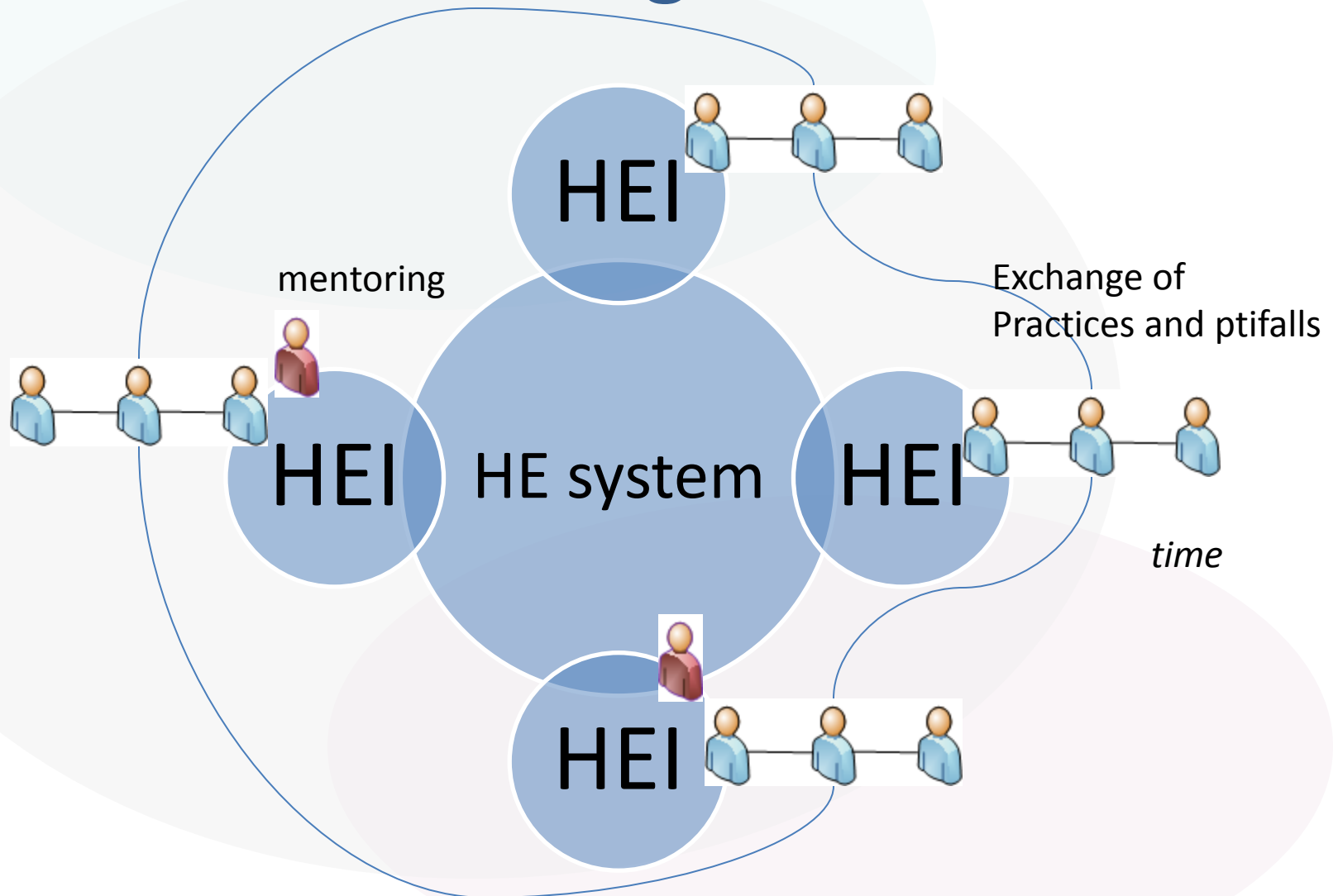# Needs and Challenges

- Culture of student engagement = Process
  - Manage a process
    - Time constants
      - Students are meant to succeed and leave…
      - … but will remain ambassadors forever
      - Seek graduating students to be on board for their experience
      - … but those are to leave first even before getting the impact of their efforts
    - Balance between
      - partners and clients
      - review experts and source of information
      - Engagement and anonymous
      - perspectives

Needs and challenges

HEI

HEI

HE system

HEI

HEI

mentoring

Exchange of
Practices and ptifalls

time

Needs and Challenges

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- Punctual needs:
  - Needs for
    - Training
    - Feedback about the impact
  - Challenges
    - Establishing a national system for QA
    - Structuring the students activities in general and the ones dedicated to QA in particular

Thank you