

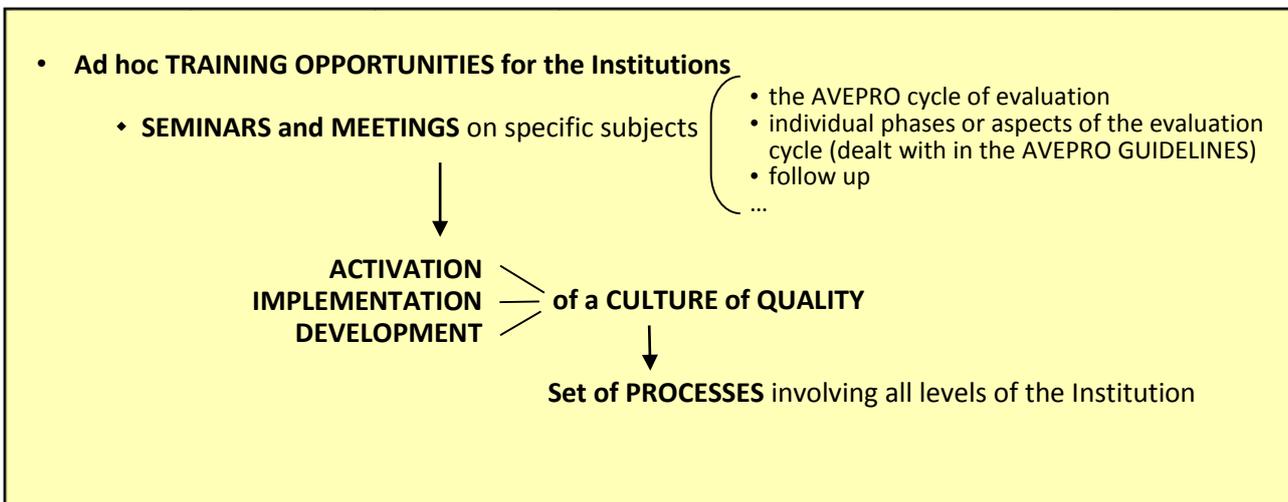
AVEPRO

THE REGIONAL/NATIONAL
PROCEDURE MODEL

Experience gained by AVEPRO over the years¹ has shown **that an approach to quality based on specific areas** (regions/nations) produces better results than an approach focused on individual Institutions.

This occurs above all because **the Ecclesiastical Institutions are an integral part of a GLOBAL NETWORK** (with specific and unique characteristics), which is **in constant dialogue with the local societies of the countries in which they are located**. Consequently, coordination among the Institutions present in a single country **provides better understanding of the effective situation** in which the Institutions operate, bringing advantages from many viewpoints:

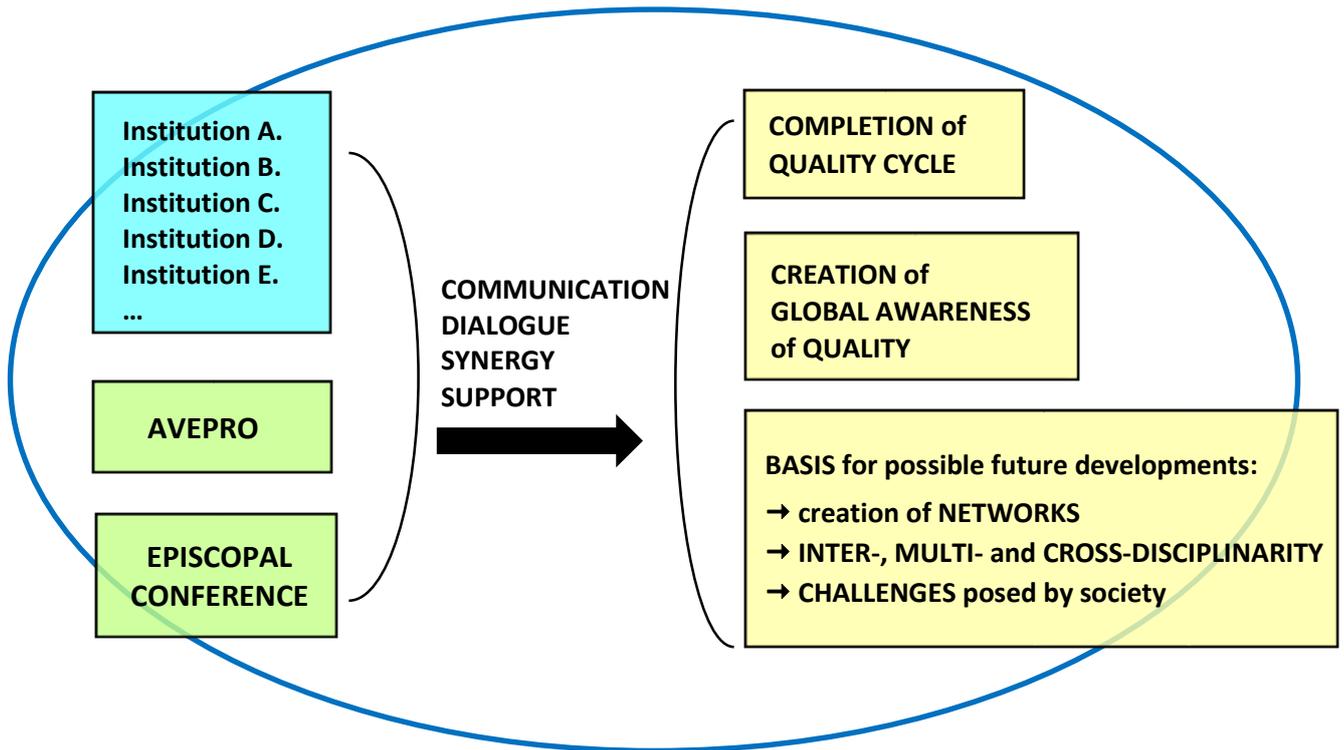
- Better understanding of the **CULTURAL CONTEXT**
- Shared specific knowledge of the **LEGAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONTEXT**
- Identification of **PROBLEMS SPECIFIC to the area**
- Creation of a **forum for DIALOGUE and SHARING of experiences and best practices** among Institutions
- Development of a **TWO-WAY CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION between AVEPRO and the Institutions**
- **Inclusion of the LOCAL CHURCH/EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE as active stakeholders in the global QUALITY PROCESS**
- Creation of a **SUPPORT NETWORK in which Institutions can:**
 - **receive help** from AVEPRO and the Episcopal Conference
 - **SHARE REAL EXPERIENCES of MANAGING ISSUES and PROBLEM SOLVING**
 - **provide MUTUAL SUPPORT**



In this context it becomes clear that the process of evaluation of each individual Institution can **benefit both directly and indirectly from the SYNERGY that arises between all stakeholders and QUALITY becomes a COMMON GLOBAL PROCESS in which all Institutions participate**, each with their own valuable characteristics:

¹ Especially in countries with a high number of Ecclesiastical Institutions: France, Italy, Rome and Spain.

VERITATIS GAUDIUM



Regarding the Ecclesiastical Institutions, the concept of **QUALITY** is defined within the Apostolic Constitution *Veritatis gaudium*, which introduces various new elements to the Holy See's higher education system (while representing a continuation² in relation to the previous Apostolic Constitution *Sapientia christiana*³):

“The most profound change does not specifically concern the contents of Institutions' work: it does not alter “what” they are called upon to do. **What changes is the “how” and “why”, i.e. the aspects of the process, the characteristics and fundamental aims that must guide the teaching, research, third mission, governance, administration and life of an ecclesiastical academic community.**”⁴

Indeed, if **quality** is considered as **each Institution's ability to achieve its set goals**, reference can be made to article 3 of *Veritatis gaudium*, concerning the purpose of the Ecclesiastical Faculties:

- ➔ **§1** defines “what is evaluated” to determine the quality of an ecclesiastical academic Institution: “**through scientific research** to cultivate and promote their own disciplines, i.e. those directly or indirectly connected with Christian revelation **or which directly serve the mission of the Church**, and therefore especially to deepen knowledge of Christian revelation and of matters connected with it, to enunciate systematically the truths contained therein, **to consider in the light of revelation the most recent progress of the sciences, and to present them to the people of the present day in a manner adapted to various cultures.**”
- ➔ **§2** identifies the “centre” of the system, i.e. the community of students: “to train **the students** to a level of high qualification in their own disciplines, according to Catholic doctrine, to **prepare them properly to face their tasks**, and to promote the **continuing permanent education** of the ministers of the Church.”
- ➔ **§3** concerns evangelization: “to collaborate intensely, in accordance with their own nature and in close communion with the Hierarchy, with the local and the universal Church **the whole work of evangelization.**”

² R. CINQUEGRANI, Quality in relation to certain challenges introduced by *Veritatis Gaudium* in Salesianum 1/LXXXI (ianuarius-martius) “*Veritatis gaudium*”, LAS 2019.

³ JOHN PAUL II, Apostolic Constitution *Sapientia christiana*, 1979.

⁴ Cf. note 2.

Veritatis gaudium also includes a precise mention of the **involvement of the Episcopal Conference as an important stakeholder which takes an active part in the Institutions' process of quality.**

In fact, article 4 of *Veritatis gaudium* states that

- ➔ “It is the duty of Bishops' Conferences to **follow carefully the life and progress of Ecclesiastical Universities and Faculties**, because of their special ecclesial importance.”

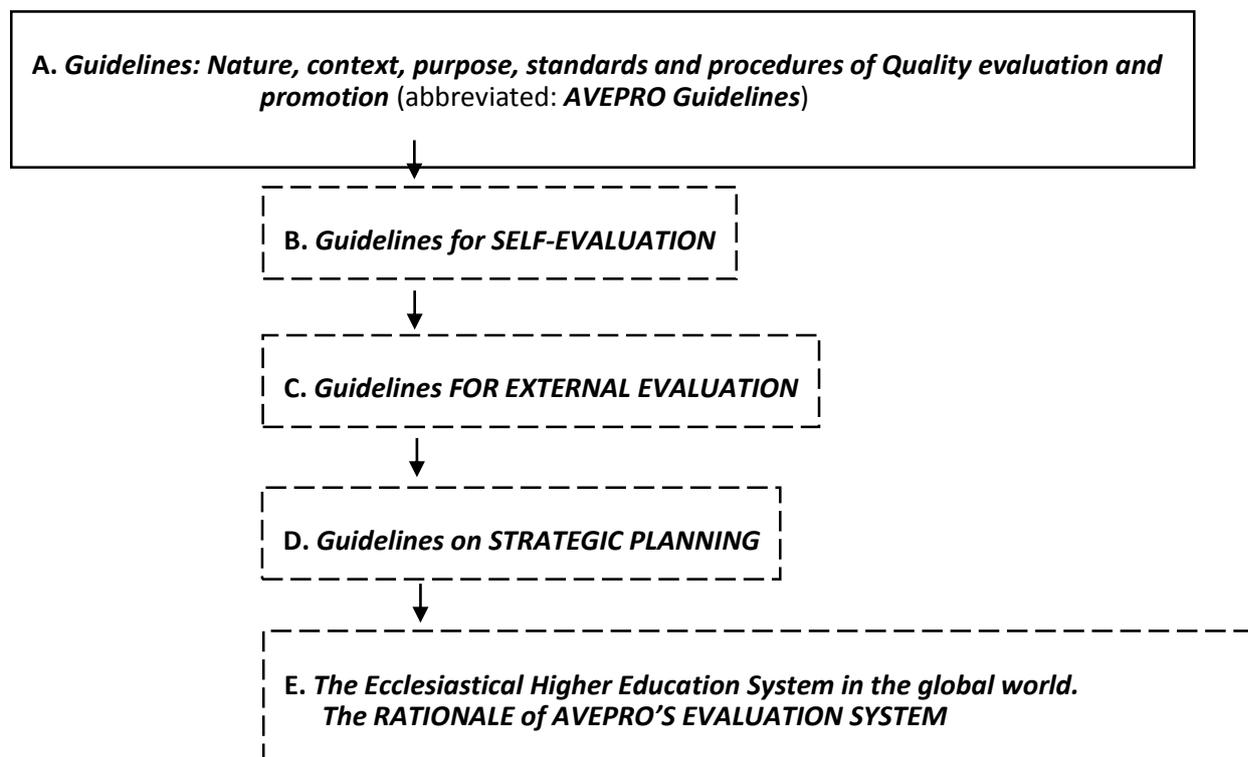
Veritatis gaudium also defines **WHAT QUALITY EVALUATES** to assess whether an academic Institution is **operating in accordance with the Constitution's provisions.**

In Foreword III the idea of a University that “goes forth” is defined, along with priorities and poles around which strategies should be constructed⁵:

- ➔ **Ecclesiastical academic Institutions as CULTURAL LABORATORIES** in which the Church carries out the performative interpretation of the reality brought about by the Christ event
- ➔ **MISSIONARY IDENTITY, wide-ranging DIALOGUE, INTERDISCIPLINARITY, NETWORKING**
- ➔ The need to **create a new LEADERSHIP, capable of “guiding the cultural revolution”, to deal with the anthropological crisis** and the need to **CHANGE MODELS OF DEVELOPMENT**

HOW TO EVALUATE QUALITY is defined in the *AVEPRO GUIDELINES*, which **provide a comprehensive and in-depth picture of all aspects of quality/Quality Assurance.**

The Guidelines are divided into 5 parts: a first general document, placing the whole quality evaluation process in context; and four other parts dealing in greater depth with the topics introduced in the first part:

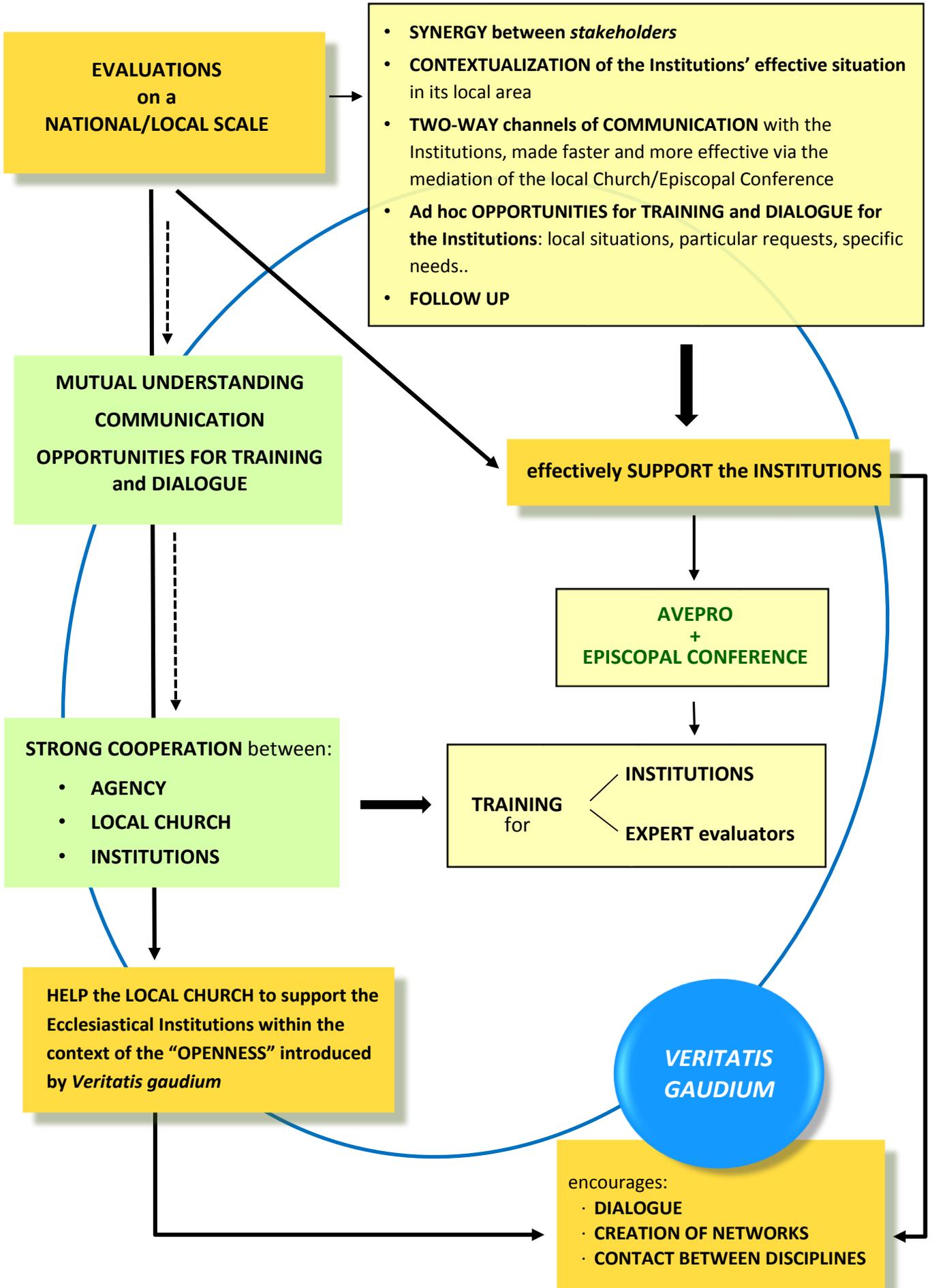


⁵ Cf. note 4.

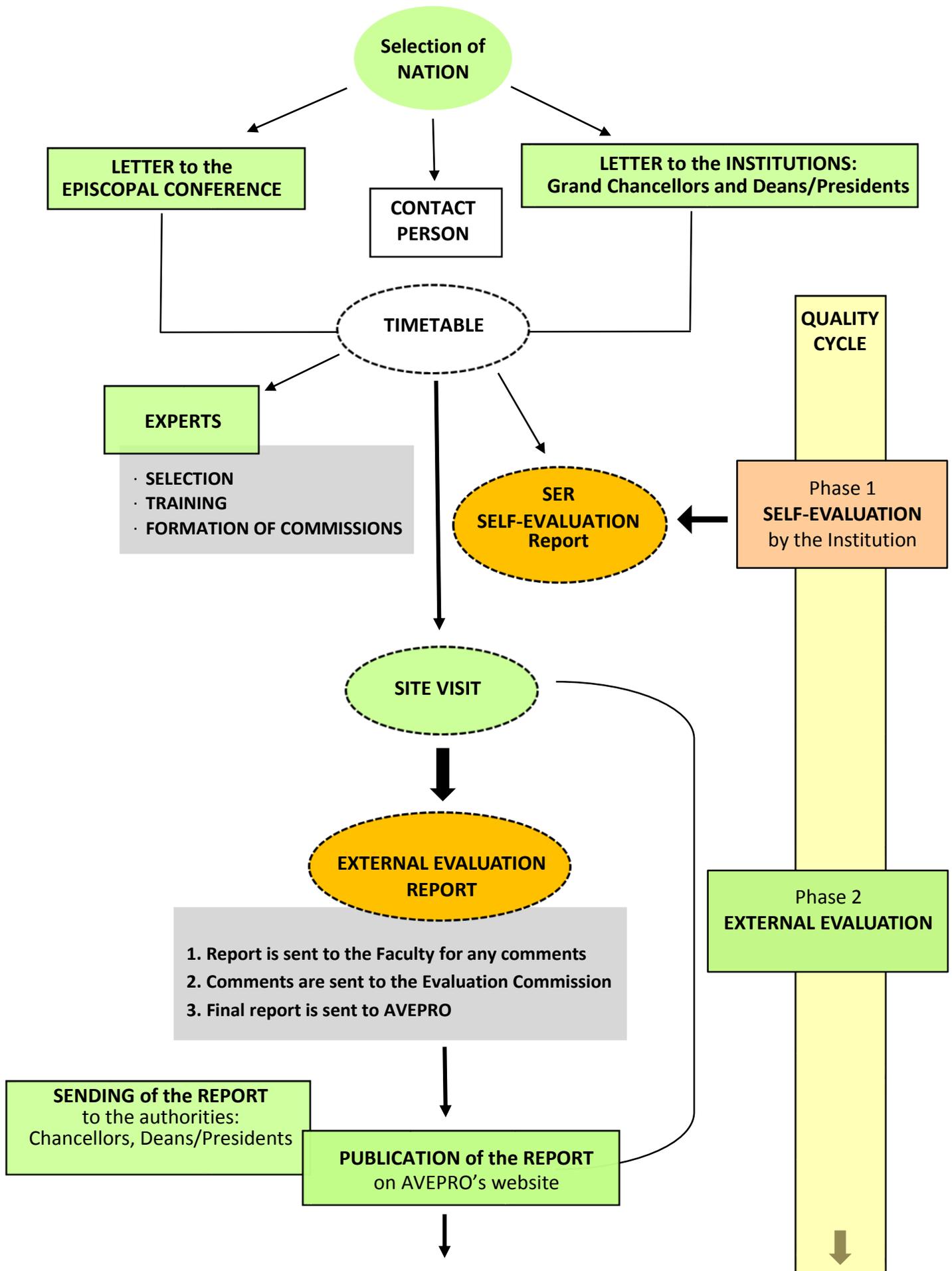
Summary diagrams

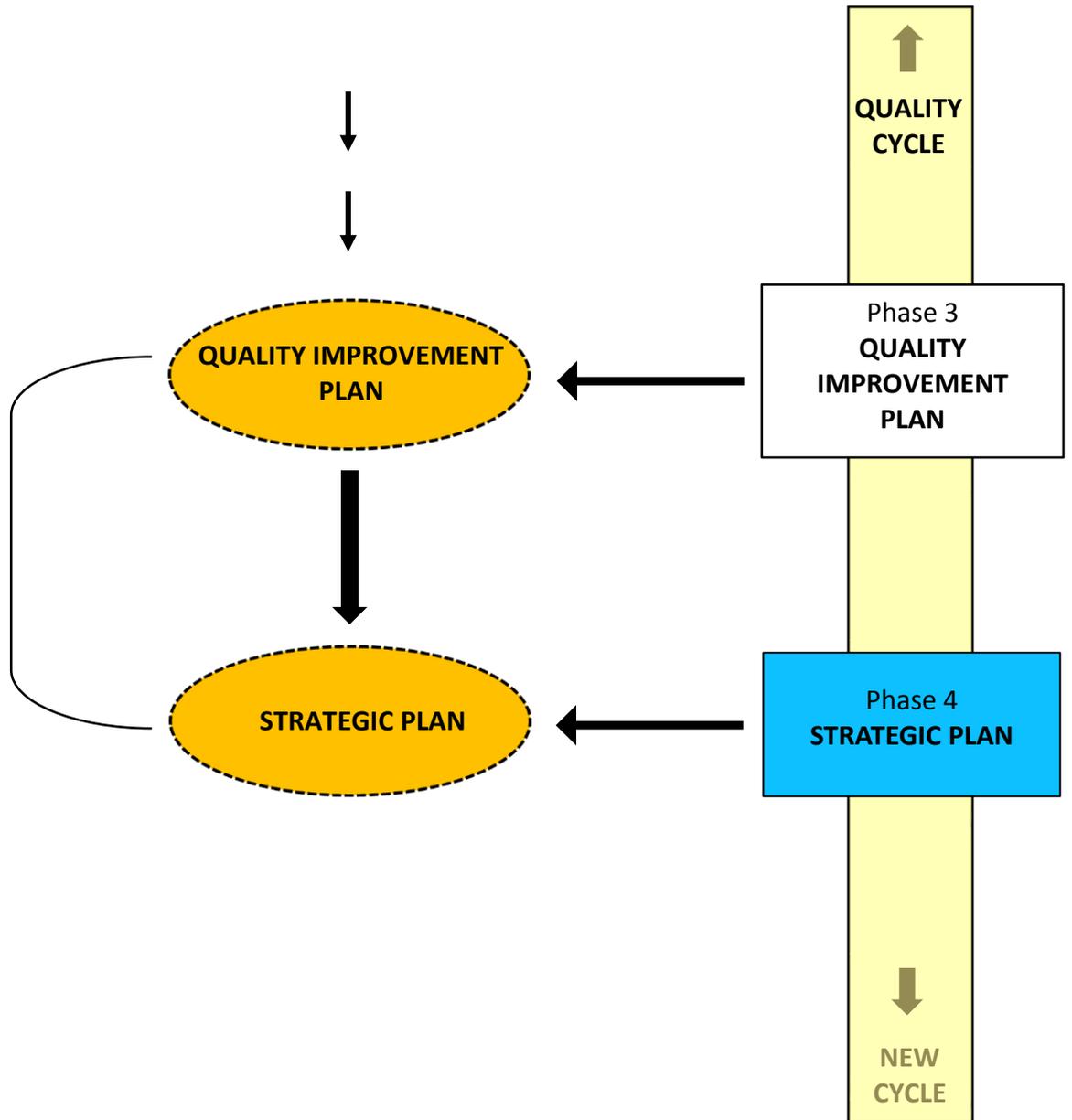


NATION-BASED Model – GENERAL DIAGRAM



NATION-BASED Model – QA PROCEDURE and CYCLE





**PROCEDURE for a CYCLE OF EVALUATION
in an INSTITUTION with MORE THAN ONE FACULTY**

