Highlights from EURASHE since the

latest meeting of the BFUG on 14-15 March 2013 in Dublin (Ireland)

EURASHE Seminar on the Implementation of Internal and External Quality Assurance – 24-25 October 2013, Bucharest (Romania)

EURASHE as a European stakeholders' organisation with a broad representation in the majority of countries in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA) has committed itself to providing hands-on support to higher education institutions in the implementation of the priority areas of the Bologna Reform Process.

Participants will be guided through the proceedings on the basis of a *Manual for Internal Quality Assurance in (Profession-Oriented) Higher Education*, which is being developed by experts, on the basis of their own expertise and relying on the feedback received from a consultation among our membership and stakeholders in higher education.

This second hands-on seminar of EURASHE, after the one held in September 2012 in Nicosia (Cyprus), also responds to the general need for a forum for practitioners on the institutional level, where expertise and experience on those tools and instruments are shared and exchanged, with the involvement of experts who have participated in institutional reviews, in their capacity of managers of higher education institutions and/or acknowledged quality assurance experts familiar with professionally-oriented programmes.

See also: www.eurashe.eu/bucharest-qa

Initiative on 'Testing the Feasibility of a Quality Label for Professional Higher Education Excellence' (PHExcel)

From October 2013 to December 2015 EURASHE will lead the PHExcel[1] project on Testing the Feasibility of a Quality Label for Professional Higher Education Excellence with 6 European partners: Association Européenne des Conservatoires (AEC), European League of Institutes of the Arts (ELIA), European Federation of Nurse Educators (FINE), SPACE Network for Business Studies and Languages (SPACE), KIC-Malta and Jagiellonian University in Krakow (UJ).

It aims to support professional higher education institutions across Europe to improve their professional higher education performance. PHExcel plans to achieve this by providing them with a Quality Framework that defines best practice in the professional (as compared to academic) elements of their processes. The proposal derives from the strategic consultations held within EURASHE and its membership, which showed that there is no instrument for measuring, benchmarking or assessing the

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[1] PHExcel is a project financed by the Lifelong Learning Programme of the European Union.

professional higher education performance, depriving the sector of a critical method for conducting self-improvement.

See also: www.eurashe.eu/phexcel

'Harmonising Approaches to Professional Higher Education in Europe' (HAPHE): drafting a definition for Professional Higher Education

The HAPHE project (Harmonising Approaches to Professional Higher Education in Europe)[2] has currently reached the second stage in its development and after Mapping Professional Higher Education (PHE) in Europe, the consortium will soon publish the *Country Profiles of PHE Provision* in 15 European Union countries. The next phase now consists of incorporating the findings into a discussion involving also external experts, in order to define the features of PHE and highlight quality criteria for each defined characteristic. The first in a series of drafting workshops was held on 9 September in Stuttgart (Germany) aiming at establishing a European definition for PHE.

After a stocktaking via Europe-wide PHE surveys, suggestions on an initial set of PHE characteristics were put forward, next to features on an institutional level. The workshop concluded by starting discussions on the potential qualitative features of PHE characteristics using a Diversity Matrix. A second HAPHE Expert Group meeting will be organised on 12 November and will focus on further developing the above mentioned concepts and deal with PHE Quality Criteria. The final set of proposed definition and characteristics will be presented to European stakeholders early 2014, in a series of local, national and European Validation Seminars.

See also: www.eurashe.eu/haphe

EURASHE Report on Employability and Higher Education Graduates in Europe

Taking up on EURASHE's long-standing involvement in the field of employability, EURASHE's working group on Employability and Lifelong Learning is conducting research on employability among European graduates, what it means, how to monitor and improve it. It will take the form of a *Report on Employability and Higher Education Graduates in Europe* to be published by the end of the year.

The report features an overview of the European framework on employability, a summary of the leading studies in the field, with the main identified factors favouring employment, and how it matches the professional higher education profile, a statistical overview of key countries and a selection of good practices. The report shall lead to policy recommendations and projects in the months and years to come.

More soon on: www.eurashe.eu/report-employability

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[2] HAPHE is a project financed by the Lifelong Learning Programme of the European Union.

EURASHE Workshop on Learning Outcomes – 13 December 2013, Prague (Czech Republic)

On 13 December 2013 EURASHE will co-organise with the Czech Association of Schools of Professional Higher Education (CASPHE) a Workshop on Learning Outcomes in Prague (Czech Republic). Bringing together a community of practice with international experts from Germany, Belgium and Ireland, the workshop participants will focus on learning outcomes, their implementation and assessment in teaching/learning process, where people may share their experience with the relevant themes, their approaches, good and bad practices. Sessions will be introduced by one of the speakers providing their institutions'/country case and raising some topics for 'plenary' and small group discussions.

More soon on: www.eurashe.eu/prague-lo

EURASHE 24th Annual Conference – 15-16 May 2014, Yerevan (Armenia)

On 15-16 May 2014 EURASHE will organise its 24th Annual Conference in Yerevan (Armenia). It will be organised in cooperation with the Rectors Council of Armenian State Higher Educational Institutions and hosted by the Yerevan State University of Architecture and Construction (YSUAC).

More soon on: www.eurashe.eu/yerevan

Report of EURASHE 23rd Annual Conference – 9-10 May 2013, Split (Croatia)

EURASHE has released the Report of its 23rd Annual Conference on 'HIGHER EDUCATION – MAKING THE KNOWLEDGE TRIANGLE WORK', held on 9-10 May 2013 in Split (Croatia). The report has been authored by Richard Thorn, Emeritus President of Institute of Technology Sligo (Ireland).

It summarises the contents of the discussions and debates of the 23rd Annual Conference, linking the various keynote speeches, plenary sessions and workshop contributions so as to make the whole event available even for non-participants. This provides the opportunity to go back to/discover the various input of our speakers, and to view a video message by 4 MEPs on the importance of the Knowledge Triangle and linked European Union initiatives and policies in current times.

See also: www.eurashe.eu/split