

ENQA report to BFUG, 7-8 November 2013, Vilnius Highlights since BFUG meeting in Dublin in March 2013

Revision of the European Standards and Guidelines

ENQA, together with the other E4 organisations, Education International, Business Europe, and EQAR has been working since June 2012 on the first proposal for the revised Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in European Higher Education to the BFUG as mandated by the Ministers in Bucharest in April 2012. The revision of the ESG has been one of the most important tasks of ENQA in the past months, and the results of the work carried out will be presented in the Thematic Session of this BFUG meeting.

New ENQA project on "Quality Assurance of Cross-border Higher Education" (QACHE)

ENQA has been successful in securing co-funding from the European Commission's Erasmus Mundus programme for a project that will look into different aspects of quality assurance of cross-border higher education (CBHE). The project will run from November 2013 until the end of 2015. The membership comprises four ENQA member agencies, the Australian QA agency TEQSA, as well as two regional networks: the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) and the Arab Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ANQAHE).

The activities of the project will include mapping of QA of CBHE in Europe; relationships between host and provider countries' QA authorities; good practice in QA of CBHE; elaboration of shared standards for QA of CBHE; and a toolkit to support HEIs and agencies in issues related to QA of CBHE. More information on the project will be available soon on the ENQA website.

Other projects

ENQA is a partner in two new European Commission LLP projects: 1) "Impact Analysis of External Quality Assurance Processes in Higher Education Institutions – Pluralistic Methodology and Application of a Formative Transdisciplinary Impact" (IMPALA) led by evalag, an ENQA member agency and 2) "Supporting Quality in e-learning European NeTworks" (SEQUENT) led by EADTU.

Recent ENQA events

The **3rd ENQA Members' Forum** took place in Prague on 25-26 April. The Forum gathered nearly 80 participants who discussed the the revision of the ESG, as well as the themes of

excellence, staff development in QA agencies, QA of lifelong learning, and involvement of stakeholders in QA.

A small-scale General Assembly meeting took place on the 26th of April. The meeting approved ENQA's 2012 accounts and voted for a new Board member to take up the remaining term of Fiona Crozier, former ENQA vice-president. Christoph Grolimund, Director of the Swiss Center of Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education (OAQ), was elected to the Board until October 2014.

The 2013 ENQA General Assembly will be held on 29-30 October 2013 In Vilnius. The General Assembly will elect three new Board members and a new ENQA President.

ENQA 2013 training session for external review experts took place on 13-14 May in Budapest. The event trained around 30 experts, and had an exceptionally high proportion of student and institutional representatives as compared to agency nominees.

ENQA will organise a **workshop for QA agencies** in January as part of the on-going EQArep project. The purpose of the event is to validate the findings of a survey on the format and content of external quality assurance reports produced by ENQA member agencies and to discuss with the agencies possible guidelines for review reports or their summaries to be implemented at the European level.

Transparency and procedures

In the interest of increased transparency, in April 2013 the ENQA Board took the decision to **publish all review reports regardless of the outcome of the review**. The reports will be published on the ENQA website under the page "[review reports and decisions](#)". The review report, as well as the Board's letter to the agency (enlisting the reasons and related recommendations) will be published. The policy will be effective for all those agencies whose review process had not yet started at the time of the decision in April.

ENQA is in the process of establishing an **external stakeholder review committee** to assess the integrity of the review process and the compliance of the ENQA membership applicants to the ESG based on the report by the external experts. The scrutiny committee will be composed of four members: three of the members are stakeholder organisation nominees and one an ENQA Board member. The review committee will have a mandate of three years.

Latest publications

In June 2013 ENQA published the outcomes of the 2012 IQA seminar, which took place in Valladolid on 7-8 June. The publication is entitled "**Internal Quality Assurance Assessing Impact: Using External Reviews and Evaluations in Internal Quality Assurance**" and contains the outcomes of a pre-seminar survey of QA agencies on their IQA activities; the impact of ENQA external reviews on the agencies' IQA systems; and the assessment of impact of external agencies' reviews on higher education institutions.

All ENQA publications are available in PDF on the ENQA website: <http://enqa.eu/pubs.lasso>.