

ENQA report to BFUG, 9-10 April 2014, Athens

Highlights of ENQA's activities since the BFUG meeting in November 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 revision of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area as mandated by the Ministers in Bucharest in April 2012. The seven organisations co-organised a breakfast event in Brussels, hosted by the Austrian permanent representation, on the 18th of March to present and discuss the stakeholders' proposal for the revised ESG with a wide range of practitioners and policy makers.

Statutory issues: ENQA Board and membership

The 2013 ENQA General Assembly took place on 29-30 October 2013 in Vilnius. The General Assembly elected two new Board members and a new ENQA President. The new Board members are Anthony McClaran (QAA, the UK) and Daisuke Motoki (FIBAA, Germany). In addition, Caty Duykaerts (AEQES, Belgium) was re-elected for a second term. Pádraig Walsh, the CEO of Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) became the President of ENQA. Helka Kekäläinen (FINHEEC, Finland) and Josep Grifoll (AQU Catalunya, Spain) were elected as Vice-Presidents. Subsequently, to ensure a better geographical balance in the Board, Aurelija Valeikiene (SKVC, Lithuania) was co-opted to the Board in November 2013.

The GA was preceded by a one-day seminar for all ENQA members, affiliates and partners. The day was used to present, discuss and collect feed-back for the revision of the ESG. The second theme of the General Assembly Forum explored the role of QA agencies in crossing border activities and the challenges such activities pose for the agencies' standard QA model.

Since June 2011 ENQA coordinates all its membership reviews. The agency reviews form a significant part of ENQA's work: in 2013 ENQA coordinate 10 agency reviews, and there are 17 reviews scheduled for 2014. In addition to the reconfirmation of a number of memberships ENQA has admitted a new full member, **AVEPRO**, the Agency for the Evaluation and Promotion of Quality in Ecclesiastical Faculties (the Holy See) in February 2014. The Hungarian Accreditation Committee (HAC) has been designated as ENQA Full Member under review.

Forthcoming ENQA events

ENQA will organise its 2014 **Members Forum on 24-25 April** in St. Petersburg. The main themes of the Forum will be the revised ESG and their expected impact on the work of QA agencies; the impact of external reviews on the QA agencies operations and change; and the development of ENQA's strategic plan for 2016-2020.

The **9th ENQA training of review experts** will take place in Bern (Switzerland) on 12-13 May. Training of experts for external review remains an important activity for ENQA. ENQA uses only trained experts, who have been familiarised with the European framework for QA including the use of the ESG in external reviews of QA agencies, in all its reviews. Another training session is planned for the autumn 2014.

A Seminar on **"European QA agencies' ways to comply with the ESG in an international perspective - Shaping the future together"** will take place on 2-3 June 2014 in Brussels, Belgium and will be hosted by the Quality Assurance Unit of the Flemish Higher Education Council (VLUHR QAU). The Seminar will provide information on the revision process of the ESG and its current status, explore the themes of resources, independence and system-wide analysis, as well as the links between national priorities and the European level needs.

ENQA projects

EQAREp project on "Transparency of European higher education through public quality assurance reports" has been running since October 2012. The project is carried out by ENQA in cooperation with four ENQA full member agencies, and it will come to an end in September 2014.

The **workshop on publication of QA results: purpose, structure and content** took place on 16-17 January 2014 in Zurich, Switzerland, following the findings of the QA agencies survey on the same theme. The workshop gathered ENQA member quality assurance agencies and the discussions focused on the analysis of the format and content of current summary reports of external reviews and how the summary reports could be improved for better usage by the relevant stakeholders. The agencies agreed – also informed by the outcomes of the preceding stakeholders' survey and workshop in 2013 – that while good practice recommendations could be provided for the composition of the comprehensive (full) reports, their harmonisation would not be necessary, nor desirable. At the same time, the usefulness of a European guide of content for the summary reports was strongly underlined.

The **final dissemination conference** will take place on **22-23 September** in Brussels, Belgium and is expected to gather around 100 stakeholders (policy makers, students, employers, QA experts) and practitioners from QA agencies. More information on the project and on the final dissemination event can be found on the project website: <http://eqarep.wordpress.com/>

ENQA is a partner in a new TEMPUS project on **"Enhancing Quality of Technology-Enhanced Learning at Jordanian Universities" (EQTel)** coordinated by the Foundation for the Open University of Catalonia (UOC). The project activities started in March 2014 and will end in

November 2016. EQTeL aims to improve the quality and relevance of technology-enhanced learning (TEL) at Jordanian higher education institutions in order to decrease the level of unemployment of young people and to enable the country's easier inclusion into the European Higher Education Area. The main project objective is to improve, develop and implement accreditation standards, guidelines and procedures for quality assurance of TEL courses and study programmes at a national level. More information on this project is available on the ENQA website: <http://www.engq.eu/index.php/enhancing-quality-of-technology-enhanced-learning-at-jordanian-universities-eqtel/>

ENQA has launched a self-financed project following three previous surveys on the **“Quality Procedures in European Higher Education”**. This time, the survey will focus on the international activities of the QA agencies and will be entitled **“Cooperation and competition in the provision of quality assurance services”**. The project aims to document and analyse the current methodological state-of-the-art and strategies in terms of internationalisation of QA in the EHEA and in terms of QA as a contributor to HE internationalisation. More specifically, the project will – among other things – 1) analyse the role of QA in the internationalisation of HE; 2) provide a state-of-the-art of internationalisation of QA; 3) collect views on how QA agencies feel and think about crossing borders and QA of internationalization; and 4) analyse how resources are used for international QA and QA for internationalisation of HE. The results of the survey will be published in a report which will provide information regarding the existing internationalisation policies at national level, as well as strategies and tools implemented by QA agencies across the EHEA. More information on the project is available from the ENQA website: <http://www.engq.eu/index.php/quality-procedures-project-qpp/>