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German proposal for a Bologna Seminar on quality assurance

Germany proposes a Bologna Seminar on quality assurance in Berlin on 15 and 16 February 2007 with a special focus on the role of the national level within the system of quality assurance.

It was an important decision for the further development of quality assurance in the European Higher Education Area to include the national implementation of the ENQUA/E4 "Standards and Guidelines" in the Stocktaking exercises.

Germany welcomes the annual European Forum for quality assurance "Embedding Quality Culture in Higher Education", which will take place in Munich from 23-25 November 2006. This E4 seminar, with its special emphasis on internal quality developments in higher education institutions, will contribute to a shared European understanding of quality assurance. There is a verbal agreement with the Forum Steering Committee that the results of the E4 seminar in Munich will be included in the discussions of the Bologna Seminar on quality assurance in Berlin.

The planned Bologna Seminar in Berlin is intended to be complementary to the Quality Assurance Forum in Munich and will have a different focus:

Based on the Bergen Communiqué, the BFUG is still discussing the function of a European Register in the process of quality assurance. In this context, the role of the national level, for instance with regard to organisational structures and standards in the area of quality assurance needs to be clarified.

Accordingly, the Berlin Seminar will take a closer look at the tasks of the national bodies in relation to both the European level and the universities. Presentations and discussions will revolve around quality assurance at the European level and at national levels, with examples from selected countries. In workshop sessions the role of the national levels with regard to standards of quality assurance, as well as with regard to institutions of quality assurance and

possible synergies between the national and the European level, will be explored in greater depth.

The discussions during the planned Bologna seminar will help the BFUG to make a recommendation for the London Communiqué on the position of the national level within the system of quality assurance.