



# CEENQA

CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN NETWORK  
OF QUALITY ASSURANCE AGENCIES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

July 2019  
Volume 9 No. 1

# Newsletter

## Contents

● CEENQA News	p. 1
● Message from the President	p. 4
● Upcoming Events	p. 5
● News from Members and Partners:	
■ AIKA/AIC	p. 6
■ ASHE	p. 6
■ ARACIS	p. 7
■ Evalag	p. 8
■ HEPDAK	p. 9
■ SKVC	p. 9
■ ZEvA	p. 10
■ ASIIN	p. 11



## *Greetings from Kyrenia*

### CEENQA News

#### CEENQA General Assembly and Workshop 17-18 May 2019

This year, the Central and Eastern Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEENQA) annual Workshop and General Assembly was hosted by YÖDAK and took place between 17-18 May, 2019 in Kyrenia, North Cyprus, gathering 42 participants from 21 member agencies.

The theme of the workshop on 17 May was *Involvement of Stakeholders in External Quality Assurance*. After welcoming words of Cristina Ghitulica, President of CEENQA, and Professor Akile Buke, President of YÖDAK, CEENQA was especially honored by a visit from HE Mustafa Akıncı, President of the Turkish Republic of North Cyprus, who welcomed all participants to North Cyprus and spoke about the *importance of quality assurance in higher education for the future development of the country*.



During the first part of the workshop, Christoph Grolimund, president of ENQA, presented an overview of the **concept of “stakeholder”** and a close reading of the ESG, leading to the result that students seemed to be the most important stakeholders for external quality assurance in HEIs. Afterwards, Monika Skadborg from ESU elaborated on the **involvement of students** and, more importantly, illustrated how to ensure that students play an active part in quality assurance. Cristina Ghitulica then presented the results of a survey among CEENQA members about **stakeholder involvement in CEENQA member agencies** and highlighted the commonalities as well as points for further discussion.

During the second section of the workshop, Iordan Petrescu from Aracis (Romania), Tiia Bach from EKKA (Estonia), Georg Seppmann from evalag Germany), İbrahim Durak from TEPDAD (Turkey), as well as Olgun Cicek from YÖDAK (North Cyprus) **illustrated the involvement of stakeholders** in their respective agencies and presented **examples of good practices of stakeholder involvement**. Last, but not least, Stefan Delplace, the secretary general emeritus from EURASHE, spoke about the evolution and perspectives of **stakeholder involvement in quality assurance from a professional HE’s point of view**.

CEENQA would like to thank all speakers for their inspiring presentations that led to fruitful discussions during and after the workshop!

On 18 May, the General Assembly Meeting took place. The GA discussed the finished and ongoing projects of CEENQA, as well as the 2018/2019 budget. Regarding membership, **ANACEC** (Republic of Moldova) was welcomed as a new **full member**, whereas **ZevA** (Germany), previously an observer, was awarded **full member** status. **Martina Vidlakova** (NAB, Czech Republic) and **Duska Radmanovic** (HEAARS, BiH Republica Srpska) were **re-elected** as board members, **Olgun Cicek** (YÖDAK, North Cyprus) was elected as a **new board member** and will thus replace Achim Hopbachs (AQ Austria). **Martina Vidlakova** (NAB, Czech Republic) was elected Vice President of CEENQA.

CEENQA would like to thank the hosting agency, YÖDAK, for the wonderful and successful organization of this event.



*Impressions from the CEENQA General Assembly and Workshop 2019*





*Impressions from the CEENQA General Assembly and Workshop 2019*



*Impressions from the CEENQA General Assembly and Workshop 2019*

## CEENQA General Assembly and Workshop 2020

The Annual **General Assembly Meeting 2020** of the members of the Central and Eastern Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEENQA) will take place in **Prague, Czech Republic**. The Meeting will be hosted by the National Accreditation Bureau for Higher Education (**NAB**), Czech Republic.

## News on CEENQA Projects

The final report of the **QUAERE (Quality Assurance System in Ukraine: Development on the base of ENQA standards and guidelines)** project has been approved by EACEA. The final instalment of payment can be expected this summer.



---

## Call for Agency News 2019

CEENQA is launching a **call to member agencies** to regularly send in agency news related to **upcoming dates, conferences and events or to any relevant activities**. These updates will be collected and published on the CEENQA website on a monthly basis. This will help reach a wider audience for each conference, event or activity, as well as generate interest in CEENQA members and CEENQA itself.

Please send your updates (key points or short text) to **Raphaela Forst** ([secretariat@ceenqa.org](mailto:secretariat@ceenqa.org)) by the **15<sup>th</sup> of each month**.



---

## Message from the President

**Dear CEENQA members,  
Dear Colleagues,**

I extend my **sincere thanks to the Higher Education Planning, Evaluation, Accreditation and Coordination Council YÖDAK**, the hosting agency of our last workshop and general assembly, which took place on **17-18 May 2019** in Kyrenia, for the wonderful and successful organization of the event. I would also like to acknowledge the extraordinary contributions of our distinguished guest speakers Christoph Grolimund, president of ENQA, Monika Skadborg, ESU board member, and Stefan Delplace, EURASHE secretary general emeritus. Moreover, I deeply appreciate the presence of our 20 member agencies, for their valuable involvement in CEENQA's activities.

Achim Hopbach (AQ Austria) has unfortunately decided to step down from the Board, and I do thank him for inspiring for so many years our activities. **Martina Vidlakova** (NAB, Czech Republic) is the **new Vice President** of CEENQA, also as a recognition of her contribution to the network's activities in her capacity of Board member since 2015, so I congratulate her for the new position. I welcome to the team our new board member **Olgun Cicek** (YÖDAK). I am sure we will greatly benefit from his extensive experience in the field of quality assurance and higher education at large.

CEENQA has expanded in the last years to 37 agencies from 23 countries, as a recognition of the network's contributions to quality assurance in the higher education field. I do welcome the new full members - **ANACEC** (Republic of Moldova), **Elbaasy** (Kyrgyz Republic) and **ILAD** (Turkey) and invite them to be actively involved in all our activities.

The present newsletter includes updates from our members, on upcoming or past events (ASIIN, Germany; HEPDAK, Turkey); on past projects or membership / registration to European organizations (AIKA/AIC, Latvia); evalag, Germany); or on changes at agency level (SKVC, Lithuania). The Agency for Science and Higher Education (ASHE, Croatia) is inviting all CEENQA members to consult the 2018 Annual Report and 2019 Activity Plan, while ARACIS (Romania) promotes the importance of research in the field of QA by publishing a scientific journal in the field (QAR Journal). New full member ZEvA (Germany) presents itself as an internationally active agency, a true example of best practice in the field. I invite you all to review the news from our members, which may serve as a valuable source of inspiration.

After reviewing 54 applications, the European Commission has finally approved project financing for 17 "European" universities. These alliances will involve 114 higher education institutions from 24 Member States and are



expected to enhance the quality of university studies, as well as increase cooperation and the mobility of students and staff. The quality assurance agencies should play a central role in this process.

A broad consultation on the future and vision of the European higher education area has been launched in June, and will involve national authorities, policy makers, academic and non-academic stakeholders, experts, etc. The deadline for communicating the outcomes is 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2019. More information on the process and how you can get involved can be found at <http://www.ehea.info/page-governance-thematic-priorities-after-2020>, as well as more information on the work of the Bologna Follow-up Group. I believe that we all should get involved, quality assurance being one of the key commitments at EHEA level.

Finally, dear colleagues, I wish you relaxing summer holidays, full of nice memories!

**Cristina Ghițulică**

**President of CEENQA**

## Upcoming Events

19-20 Sept 2019	7th UIA Associations Round Table Asia-Pacific (Pattaya, Thailand)
04-05 Oct 2019	III Central Asian International Forum on Quality Assurance (Turkestan, Kazakhstan)
27-29 Oct 2019	EBBS Muscat Workshop (Muscat, Sultanate of Oman)
04 Nov 2019	3th UIA Associations Round Table Europe (Brussels, Belgium)
21-23 Nov 2019	2019 European Quality Assurance Forum (Berlin, Germany)
09-10 Dec 2019	ASIIN 6th Global Conference (Dresden, Germany)



## News from Members and Partners

### AIKA/AIC News



#### Quality Agency for Higher Education/ Academic Information Centre (AIKA/AIC) registered on EQAR

In December 2018, the Register Committee of the European Quality Assurance Register (EQAR) made a decision on the inclusion of the Quality Agency for Higher Education/ Academic Information Centre (AIKA/AIC) in EQAR.

AIKA/AIC is the **first Latvian higher education quality assurance agency that is included in EQAR**, although external quality assurance in higher education has been present in Latvia since the restoration of independence in the early 1990s. In fact, Latvia was among the first European Higher Education Area (EHEA) countries to introduce a quality assurance system.

AIKA/AIC as a national quality assurance institution in Latvia was established in 2015 and has since then made significant progress. Inclusion of AIKA/AIC in EQAR was an objective that was defined already in 2015 when the Academic Information Centre (AIC) took over the responsibility for external quality assurance and the Quality Agency for Higher Education (AIKA) was established. Since March 2016, the achievement of this goal was supported by a European Social Fund project No.8.2.4.0/15/I/001 "Support for meeting the requirements set for EQAR agency".

The decision on AIKA/AIC's inclusion in EQAR is an achievement that follows the decision of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) to grant AIKA/AIC the full membership in ENQA. This is a joint achievement of the Latvian higher education community, which certifies the compliance of the external quality assurance system in Latvia with the Standards and guidelines for quality assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG). It fosters the enhancement of the quality and recognition of the Latvian higher education and states that AIKA/AIC has been recognised as a reliable and trustworthy cooperation partner in the higher education area.

### ASHE News



#### Croatian ASHE 2018 Annual Report and 2019 Activity Plan

The Agency for Science and Higher Education (ASHE) published the „ASHE 2018 Annual Report and 2019 Activity Plan“, an **overview of all activities carried out in 2018**, as well as **plans for 2019**.

For the agency, 2018 was very a dynamic year, resulting in a variety of valuable improvements, new partnerships and overall satisfying results. The process of pilot re-accreditation was carried out at 7 Croatian higher education institutions, evaluation of 16 doctoral programmes was conducted at 10 higher education institutions, 7 applications for initial accreditation of scientific activity were received and settled and pilot procedure for audit was carried out at 3 higher education institutions.





The conference “**The future of higher education: Quality assurance as a promoter of change**” was held in Zagreb, as well as various seminars, workshops, roundtable discussions and meetings that ASHE organized with the aim of highlighting different aspects and challenges in the higher education today.

ASHE also participated as a coordinator and a partner in 10 **international projects** among numerous other international activities in 2018.

ASHE 2018 Annual Report and 2019 Activity Plan is available at the [link](#).

## ARACIS News



### Sharing ARACIS Quality Assurance Dissemination Practice With CEENQA Partners

The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education continues to carry on the **publication of QAR Journal** – a bilingual magazine in English and Romanian (Abstracts in English) – with two issues per year. QAR – Quality Assurance Review for Higher Education is published in both paperbound (ISSN 2066 – 9119) and electronic formats (ISSN 2069 - 2188), hosting contributions from a wide range of stakeholders in higher education in general and from ARACIS national and international activities.

2018 [No.1](#) and [No.2](#) of QAR included topics on:

- *The Shift from Institutional to Programme Evaluation: the Potential of External Examining* (EN) ([Cathal de Paor](#))
- *The Profile of the Romanian Student* (EN) ([Emilia Gogu](#) and [Mihaela Mureșan](#))
- *The Quality Governance for Accreditation of Master and Doctoral Programmes* (EN) ([Gyöngyvér Hervainé Szabó](#))
- *Benchmarking Analysis to support the proposal of a “Medical Physics” 1st Cycle („licență”) Study Programme at University „Dunărea de Jos” of Galați* (RO) ([Simona Condurache-Bota](#) and [Luminița Moraru](#))
- *Expectations from Career Services in Higher Education Institutions Across Countries* (EN) ([Bogdan Danciu](#) and [Mihai Andronie](#)), for which data was collected from universities of different countries in the Project Erasmus+ 2015-1-RO01- KA203-014972 “Quality Assurance of Career Services in Higher Education - QAREER”
- *On Some Factors Aiming at Enhancing Quality of Higher Education in Romania* (RO) ([Dorin Lixăndroiu](#))
- *Role of Ethics and Ethics Commissions in Quality Assurance in Romanian Higher Education* (RO) ([Cristina Mihaela Salcă Rotaru](#)).

The **current issue** can be found at <http://www.aracis.ro/en/publications/qar-magazine/current-issue/>. One important element evidencing the **role of external stakeholders in ARACIS activity** is the recent contribution of Cristina Mihaela Salcă Rotaru from University „Transilvania” of Brașov on the role of ethics commissions in quality assurance. In this contribution the author, based on the published external evaluation reports of higher education institutions, analyses over a longer time interval the activity of ARACIS in evaluating the ethical dimension of HE. The comparative analysis of the 78 institutional evaluations reports from 2014 – 2018 reveals a change in the evaluators’ scrutiny, from a mere mention, to a more careful and critical presentation of the fulfilment of the ethical requirements - criteria, standards and



performance indicators - to be met by universities. The results of this analysis confirm that the agency is continuously improving its external evaluation procedures towards a more focused approach on the ethical dimension of higher education, as part of its policy.

QAR is **open to contributors** from Romania and abroad – we kindly invite ENQA, CEENQA and INQAAHE partners to send contributions, as per the calls for papers published periodically [here](#). The magazine is included in the following catalogues and databases: EBSCO, UlrichsWeb and J-Gate.



## evalag News

### E-TALEB project successfully completed

Since the funding of the **project "E-TALEB - Professional Standards Framework for Excellence in Teaching and Learning in Lebanese Universities"** by ERASMUS+ is coming to an end, evalag (Evaluation Agency Baden-Wuerttemberg) conducted a **three-day strategy workshop** with all project partners to secure the results and to set the agenda for future activities.

Over the last three years, the E-TALEB partners from Lebanon, Germany, France and UK exchanged **good practices and experiences in teaching and learning**. This was to support the initial and continuing professional development of teaching staff and foster dynamic approaches to teaching and learning through creativity, innovation and continuous development in diverse academic disciplines and/or professional settings.

In Lebanon, where universities are predominantly private and often influenced by political and religious sectarianism, such a cooperation project can be seen as an exception. evalag is pleased with the results achieved in three years:

- For the first time, there is a **reference framework for teaching standards** that is increasingly being accepted by universities even from outside the original project network.
- Several **learning centres** have been set up **for university didactic training**, many of them in cooperation by more than one university with resources shared.
- A **modular concept for a "Certificate in University Teaching"** has been developed and is currently being implemented all over the country. The first certificates are expected to be awarded this summer.

In Potsdam, the participating partner universities worked on **strategies for future sustainability**. The event's theme, "Solutions lurk everywhere", invited participants to leave known paths and strike out in new directions, including getting inspiration from others. Till Heyer-Stuffer from the University of Potsdam gave a detailed insight into the Network Study Quality Brandenburg (sqb), how it is organized and how it works; Martina Mörtz, Managing Director, welcomed the participants at the Berlin Center for Higher Education (BZHL) and explained the Berlin certificate for university teaching.





*Impression from the E-TALEB Strategy Workshop in Potsdam*

Further information and the results of E-TALEB are available at [www.etableb.org](http://www.etableb.org)



## HEPDAK News

### **The future of Nursing education in Turkey II - Measuring and evaluation, Program Evaluation, Continuous Development Scientific Program**

The Association of Evaluation and Accreditation of Nursing Education Programs (HEPDAK) and Nursing Education Association (HEMED), which has been working to contribute to the improvement of nursing education in Turkey, are organizing a second symposium on **"The future of Nursing education in Turkey II - Measuring and evaluation, Program Evaluation, Continuous Development Scientific Program"**. The event will be held on 5. - 6. September 2019 in Izmir, Turkey. The symposium will be held in Turkish, but the organizers welcome and encourage international participants.

The conference programme and further information can be found [here](#).



## SKVC News

### **New Director, Changes in Lithuanian Laws and QA System, Current Projects**

1) Ms. Nora Skaburskienė left her role as the Director of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education. Nora Skaburskienė has been working at the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education since 2001. **Mr. Almantas Šerpatauskas** has been appointed as **Acting Director** of the SKVC. Until now, he worked as Head of the Study Programmes Evaluation Division.

2) The Lithuanian Government launched an **optimisation of the network of institutions of higher education**. Several merges of public universities were issued. Due to this also **changes in quality assurance system** were initiated (point 4).

3) **Amendments to the Law on Higher Education and Research** regarding special clauses for universities in exile were issued. Status of University in Exile



was given to the European Humanities University from Belorussia by Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Further amendments in orders on institutional as well as on study programme evaluation are pending.

4) Currently, after finishing the regular institutional reviews by the scheme and criteria of 2011 (2016), the **scheme for new regular institutional reviews** is being drafted and there will also be a **switch from study programme evaluation to study fields evaluation** (currently drafting the order for new regular evaluations of study fields).

5) **National and international projects** in implementation

ESF Project in Latvia: The aim of the project is to provide support for fulfilling the requirements for EQAR (European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education) registered agency, including support for enhancing the quality of activities and capacity building.

LIREQA - Linking Academic Recognition and Quality Assurance: The project aims at contributing to fair recognition of qualifications by developing recommendations to relate academic recognition and both internal and external quality assurance.

SKAR-3 - Development of a system for the description of studies: The main aim of the project is the development of a system of the descriptors for Lithuanian study fields.

## ZEvA News

### Short Presentation of ZEvA's International Profile

Since 1995, ZEvA has been a **major actor in the field national and international accreditation**. We carry out different types of quality reviews in- and outside of the European Higher Education Area and support higher education institutions in enhancing their quality. The focus may be on study programmes or on the entire higher education institution and its internal quality management system.

We consistently apply the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ESG) in all national and international reviews. As members of ENQA and ECA, we also apply their standards, guidelines and codes of good practice. The **project officers** of our international department are **bi- or multilingual** and **familiar with working in international settings**. They provide all-round support to their clients throughout the assessment procedure.

Currently, ZEvA is consolidating its **international profile**. In the past five years, we regularly accredited study programmes in Russia within a wide range of different subjects. Amongst our clients were renowned higher education institutions such as the Higher School of Economics, the Moscow State Institute of International Relations and the St. Petersburg State University (please find further information at <https://www.zeva.org/international/information-in-english/projects-and-references>). **Strengthening its ties to Eastern Europe** is one of the core elements of the internationalization strategy of ZEvA.

Additionally, ZEvA is the main actor in the establishment of a quality assurance system in Iraqi Kurdistan. Moreover, we have submitted an Erasmus+ project with eight partners through the ECA network and are pursuing an application for an EU-run project in Tunisia. ZEvA is very much looking forward to **advance innovative approaches** and **shared projects** with the agencies of the CEENQA network!





## ASIIN News

### Save the Date: ASIIN 6th Global Conference on 09.-10. December 2019

Save the date - the **ASIIN 6th Global Conference** "The Game is On – Pioneering Strategies for Tomorrow's Higher Education" will take place on **09.-10. December 2019, in Dresden, Germany**.

At ASIIN's 6th Global Conference, we take a look at the profound shifts taking place in industry and society and their implications for higher education and quality assurance. For those offering and seeking higher education, three major developments are identifiable: the **disruptive role played by technology**, the **increasingly global nature of education** and the **increased need for and shift towards life-long learning**. Higher Education providers need to be prepared to offer further, specialized education for everyone, everywhere at any time. By the same token, these three shifts have opened the door for alternative education providers, companies and institutions. The traditional university system may be facing its final stage if it does not prove capable of improvising, adapting and overcoming these challenges. In three sessions we will examine and answer the following questions:

- What are the major developments in teaching and learning Higher Education Institutions will have to face in the near future?
- Through which tools and method can Quality Assurance within the changing Higher Education environment be safeguarded?

During the two days of the conference, we will discuss the new trends, technologies and challenges, and highlight the roles and opportunities for new Quality Assurance approaches. These topics will be presented and discussed by leading international experts representing the most important stakeholder groups in higher education and the QA sector.

<b>CEENQA e.V.</b> c/o ASIIN e.V. Mörsenbroicher Weg 200 40470 Düsseldorf	Represented by Cristina Ghitulica, Martina Vidlakova  Register entry Vereinsregister (Association Register) Register Number: VR 10561 Register Court: Amtsgericht Düsseldorf	Contact Information Telephone: +49 211 900 977 20  E-Mail: <a href="mailto:info@ceenqa.org">info@ceenqa.org</a>  Internet address: <a href="https://www.ceenqa.org">https://www.ceenqa.org</a>
--	--	--