



# CEENQA

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

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# Newsletter

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CEENQA Workshop, University of Sarajevo, 11 May 2012

## CEENQA News

### Annual workshop and general assembly

The Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education held its annual workshop **titled "New Developments in European QA"** on May 11 and its general assembly on May 12, 2012 in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. The meetings were hosted by the Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance. Read more about the meeting on the CEENQA website under News.

### New members

CEENQA welcomes its **newest member, KAA Kosovo**, which was granted CEENQA membership by circular vote on 2 October. With the merger of the three Austrian agencies into the new AQ Austria, CEENQA now has a **total of 24 member agencies**. **Another former member** has expressed interest in applying for membership in the coming weeks. Read more on the new members accepted by



the last General Assembly in the President's message below.

## New web domains

CEENQA has three **new web domains** in addition to the former [www.ceenetwork.hu](http://www.ceenetwork.hu): [www.ceenqa.net](http://www.ceenqa.net), [www.ceenqa.eu](http://www.ceenqa.eu), and [www.ceenqa.org](http://www.ceenqa.org).

## Partner in TEMPUS project

CEENQA is project partner in the approved **Project BIHTEK- Benchmarking as a Tool for Improvement of Higher Education Institution Performance**. Among the aims of the project is the development of a benchmarking methodology in Bosnia in cooperation with the Bosnian Agency for higher education and quality assurance, a member agency of CEENQA. The experience of CEENQA members in quality assurance and benchmarking will feed into the project via the contribution of individual experts, agency information exchanges on best practices and workshops and seminars where the partners exchange experiences. CEENQA will contribute to the outcome by disseminating the project results on its website.

## New CEENQA members and partnering in BIHTEK TEMPUS project

## Message from the President

Dear Members of CEENQA,  
Dear Colleagues,

It is my great pleasure to submit to you **the second edition** of the newly designed CEENQA newsletter. Following the latest **CEENQA workshop on "New Developments in European QA"** (all relevant materials and documents of this workshop can be found on the CEENQA webpage) and our **General Assembly meeting in Sarajevo** some months ago, a number of important developments have occurred.

First of all, the membership base of CEENQA e.V. has been broadened. In addition to **YÖDAK North Cyprus, AHPGS Germany, HEQEQ Latvia, AC Slovakia**, and the newly established **AQ Austria**, which joined in May, CEENQA now can officially welcome the **Lithuanian agency SKVC** as well as **CAA**, the accreditation agency from **Kosovo**. CEENQA continues to remain open to agencies from Central and Eastern Europe and encourages applications for membership; it is important however to note that from 2013 on, new membership criteria are in place; they will appear on the CEENQA webpage as soon as they are approved.

CEENQA members and Board are also striving to foster international cooperation and to intensify its alliances with other international networks: our **cooperation agreement with ENQA** was recently renewed, and CEENQA has submitted candidates for the upcoming elections of the ENQA board of directors. Being a member of **INQAAHE**, CEENQA actively takes part in a newly established **working group on funding of QA agencies** in developing countries as well as funding of international projects in QA, which came into existence after the end of the UNESCO/ World Bank GIQAC program. On the European level, CEENQA is a key partner in a newly funded **European TEMPUS Project BIHTEK - Benchmarking as a Tool for Improvement of Higher Education Institution Performance**. The details regarding this project can be checked under <http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus/resultscompendia/documents/lists> of projects



recommended for funding 25-2011.pdf.) Grant Holder of the Project is the University  
KaHo Sint Lieven of Gent.

As to upcoming events, it is already now my pleasure to invite you to the **next  
CEENQA workshop and general assembly**, which will take place **in Romania,  
Bucharest, end of May or early June 2013**.

Dr. Iring Wasser  
CEENQA President

## Upcoming Events

### 7 October 2012

#### Deadline for Applications for Inclusion on EQAR

The next deadline for applications for inclusion in the Register is Sunday **7  
October 2012**. Applications submitted to the EQAR Secretariat by that date will  
be considered by the Register Committee on 1/2 December 2012.

[Information for applicants](#)

### 9-10 November 2012

**7th Annual Conference of Experts in Higher Education** in Moscow,  
Russia, hosted by the National Centre of Public Accreditation (NCPA) and The  
Guild of Experts in HE and TVET.

### 3 December 2012

#### ASIIN Workshop

On „Fostering links between VET and Higher Education – new certification for  
further education”, on the **3rd of December in Cologne**.

<http://www.asiin-consult.de/infoveranstaltung-zertifizierung>

## Calendar

### October

MO	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

### November

MO	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

### December

MO	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

## News from Members and Partners

### Revision of the ESG

#### EQAR

#### Revision of the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG)

At the meeting in Bucharest (April 2012), the ministers of higher education called on the  
E4 Group (ENQA, ESU, EUA, EURASHE), BUSINESSEUROPE, Education International as and  
EQAR **to revise the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ESG)**. The  
aim is "to improve their clarity, applicability and usefulness, including their scope".

In the coming year these organisations will collaborate to work out a proposal. In early



2013 they will invite other organisations and individuals to contribute with suggestions for changes.

## EQAR extends activities across EHEA

### EQAR to extend activities across the European Higher Education Area

In April 2012, **European ministers of higher education agreed to "allow EQAR-registered agencies to perform their activities across the EHEA**, while complying with national requirements" (Bucharest Communiqué). Austria, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Poland and Romania already allow their higher education institutions to turn to foreign EQAR-registered quality assurance agencies for their external quality assurance obligations.

## EQAR policy on merged agencies

### EQAR Policy on Mergers of Registered Agencies

Mergers of quality assurance agencies have occurred or are being discussed in several European countries. At its last meeting in May 2012, the **Register Committee adopted a specific policy addressing mergers of registered agencies**.

Merged agencies can remain provisionally registered, subject to strict conditions and requirements, and for a maximum period of two years. Provisional registration will only be open to cases where all agencies involved have already been registered and the new, merged agency will have to undergo an external review against the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG) within two years.

[Read the full Merger Policy](#)

## Three conferences hosted by ASHE

### ASHE

### Agency for Science and Higher Education hosts three international conferences in 2013

The Croatian Agency for Science and Higher Education (ASHE) will host three important international conferences in 2013.

The European Commission, Council of Europe and UNESCO have accepted ASHE's application to host the **20<sup>th</sup> annual ENIC and NARIC conference, to be held in Split in 2013**.

ASHE and the Croatian Council of Universities and University Colleges of Applied Sciences will organize the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual [European Association of Higher Education Institutions EURASHE conference](#), which will gather representatives of around 1200 higher education institutions from 47 countries. The conference will be held under the auspices of the Croatian president prof. dr. Ivo Josipović and the minister of science, education and sports doc. dr. sc. Željko Jovanović, and the topic will be "Making knowledge work".

Finally, the **Embassy of Israel in Croatia and ASHE** will cooperate on organizing a conference titled "Excellence in research: a motor for growth or elitism?" to be held in April 2013.



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**Conference of HE experts held in Russia****NCPA Russia****7th Annual Conference of Experts in Higher Education, 9-10 November 2012, Russia, Moscow****Implementation of the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance Systems**

The 2012 **Conference of Experts in Higher Education**, an annual event co-organized by The National Centre of Public Accreditation (NCPA) and The Guild of Experts in HE and TVET will be held **in Moscow, Russia, on 9-10 November 2012**.

The conference is open to representatives of quality assurance agencies, researchers, academics, policy makers, administrators and educators who are invited to take part in the event by submitting their proposals for a presentation or a poster (in Russian or in English) during the Conference, as well as by participating in the discussions of most urgent quality assurance issues.

Programme overview and registration information are available at <http://www.ncpa.ru>

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**Change in NAA seat and leadership****NAA**

The National Accreditation Agency of the Russian Federation (NAA): There has been a recent change in the management and legal address of NAA. The head office has **moved to Moscow**, and Yoshkar-Ola is the seat of NAA's branch **office**. The former Director Irina Tatarinova was replaced by **Denis Ponomarev**, who is currently **Acting Director**. The focus of NAA's activity is institutional and program accreditation. The accreditation of post graduate programs is being introduced. NAA has a data base of over 4000 experts, at present the process of their certification is under way.

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**CeQuInt Project to assess internationalisation****ECA**

In October 2012, [a consortium of 14 partners from 11 countries](#) will implement a new project called a **Certificate for the Quality of Internationalisation (CeQuInt)**. The partnership consists of the quality assurance agencies from Austria, Belgium (Flanders), Croatia, Germany (2), Finland, France (2), the Netherlands, Poland, Slovenia and Spain (2), the Academic Cooperation Association (ACA ) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). The Accreditation Organisation of The Netherlands and Flanders (NVAO) is the coordinating agency. The overall aim of the project is **to assess, reward and enhance internationalisation**.

CeQuInt will provide programmes and institutions insight into their level and quality of internationalisation and provide them, where necessary, with recommendations for improvements. The project is based on a framework agreed by the consortium, focuses on improvement and excellence, and builds on [NVAO's experience with the assessment of internationalisation](#).

The project will develop an assessment framework (i.e. methodology) that can be used to assess the internationalisation of a programme or an institution. The framework and methodology are then tested in a series of twelve pilot procedures. Panels of experts will thereby test and evaluate the developed assessment framework. A positive



assessment by an expert panel will lead to the award of the European Certificate for Internationalisation. This certificate confirms that a programme or institution has successfully included an international and/or intercultural dimension in the purpose, function and delivery of its education.

The consortium hopes that **the European Certificate for Internationalization will lead to a significant improvement in the transparency of internationalisation**. Higher education institutions will be kept informed about the progress of the project through workshops, conferences and publications. Additionally, a European platform will be developed to share good practices in the field of internationalisation.

More information: <http://www.eacaconsortium.net/main/projects/cequint>

## Certification of learning outside traditional programmes

### ASIIN

ASIIN is organizing a **Workshop on „Fostering links between VET and Higher Education – new certification for further education”**, on the 3rd of December in Cologne.

**Lifelong learning** is becoming increasingly important for individuals and organizations in today's working environment. A growing number of providers of further education and Higher Education Institutions cater to this need, offering modules, courses and programmes for the further development of skills and competences. This process comes with its pitfalls: Students face the challenge of having to choose among numerous providers while HEIs have to deal with recognizing qualifications and credits gained outside the traditional system of higher education. At the same time, no consistent external quality assurance system has been established in the field of further education which would allow for all sides to receive reliable information about the quality of programmes and courses on offer. In order to facilitate the recognition of further education, **ASIIN has developed a certification scheme for all offers outside the traditional degree programmes**. The certificate is based on an outcome-oriented assessment approach and may include the alignment of the offer with the European or a National Qualifications Framework.

ASIIN will organize a one-day event about the links between higher and other education, focusing on the issues of recognition and mobility on **3 December 2012** in **Cologne, Germany**. During the event, the **Secretary General of EURASHE**, the European association representing institutions which mostly offer short-cycle programmes, will bring an international perspective about the relations between the Bologna and Copenhagen processes. Information is available (in German) at <http://www.asiin-consult.de/infoveranstaltung-zertifizierung>.