



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

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# Newsletter

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## CEENQA News

### New member

As of 1 January 2013 CEENQA welcomes its newest, **25<sup>th</sup> member**, the **European Association for Public Administration Accreditation EAPAA**, headquartered in The Netherlands. EAPAA has been a member of the CEE Network before its registration in 2011. It is EAPAA's mission, as stated on its website [www.eapaa.org](http://www.eapaa.org), to

- promote the quality of European academic level public administration programmes by developing appropriate accreditation standards for such programmes through its Accreditation Committee,
- encourage curriculum development and innovation,
- provide a forum for discussion on quality and accreditation, and
- assure the quality of European Public Administration programmes by accrediting programmes when they apply for this accreditation.



# CEENQA

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## Partner in TEMPUS project

Representing CEENQA, Board member Alexander Kohler attended the kick-off meeting of the **BIHTEK Project for Benchmarking as a Tool for Improvement of Higher Education Institution Performance in Bosnia and Herzegovina** on 29-30 November at KAHO Sint-Lieven, Gent. The consortium includes, in addition to CEENQA and its member, the Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance, HEA, eight public universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Higher Education Accreditation Agency of Republika Srpska, three EU universities, the and four education ministries. The aim to reach an understanding about the concepts and practices of benchmarking in order to increase their use in higher education. A handbook for benchmarking will be presented at a conference in early 2013. For more information please visit the project website at <http://projects.kahosl.be/BIHTEK/>. The main contribution in addition to providing expertise will be quality control and monitoring project implementation.

**Now 25 CEENQA  
members**

## Message from the President

Dear Members of CEENQA,  
Dear Colleagues,

With this third CEENQA newsletter of the year, the year 2012 draws to a close. As can be inferred from the many ongoing developments in CEENQA member institutions documented in this edition, CEENQA remains the vibrant body of now **altogether 25 external quality assurance and accreditation bodies in Central and Eastern Europe** with new members scheduled to join our ranks in the course of next year.

2013 will entail new challenges for CEENQA: we are a **core partner in a brand new European Tempus project** launched at the end of November 2012 and designed to explore concepts and practices of benchmarking for the benefit of and the contribution from all our members. We are also looking forward to welcome the international Quality Assurance Community at our traditional Annual CEENQA Workshop (scheduled in combination with our 2013 General Assembly) to discuss the newest trends in European Quality Assurance while reinforcing our links with amicable partner networks around the globe.

On behalf of the members of the CEENQA Administrative Council and the CEENQA General Secretary, I wish you all a **happy and relaxing Christmas Season and a successful and healthy 2013.**

Dr. Iring Wasser  
CEENQA President



## Upcoming Events

### 29 January-1 February

#### BIHTEK meetings

The subject of the meeting is benchmarking analysis in Bosnia and Herzegovina, held in Banja Luka. Additional meetings will deal with examples of good practice in EU, in Sarajevo (15-18 April); and framework for benchmarking models and methods for Bosnian higher education, in Zenica (13-16 May).

<http://projects.kahosl.be/BIHTEK/>



## Calendar

### January

| 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  |     |     |     |

### February

| 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  |     |     |     |

### March

| 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

### HAC discusses upcoming external evaluation with Advisory Board

#### International Advisory Board meeting at HAC

The HAC's **International Advisory Board** held its annual meeting in Budapest on 26-27 October 2012. Together with nine HAC members on the first day meeting the Board discussed the main changes at HAC since the establishment of the new body in March 2012. HAC President Ervin Balázs informed the Board about the composition and tasks of the new HAC in office. On day 2 the Board discussed the HAC report on 2011/12 activities and issues related to the coming **external evaluation of HAC**.

The International Advisory Board has been operating since the HAC's establishment in 1993. For more information please go to [www.mab.hu](http://www.mab.hu).

### NCPA grants accreditation to 22 programmes

#### Changes in the NCPA Accreditation Board composition

On 10 November 2012 the General Assembly of the National Guild of Experts in Higher and TVET Education adopted amendments to the composition of the NCPA **Accreditation Board which was increased to 24 members representing Russian academic and research communities, student associations and state authorities**. The Chair of the NCPA Accreditation Board is Dr. Victor Bolotov, Vice President of the



Russian Academy of Education. The recent session of the Board took place on 7 December 2012 in Moscow, as a result of which accreditation was granted to **21 study programmes delivered by two Federal Universities** of Russia.

More at

[http://ncpa.ru/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=228&Itemid=370&lang=en](http://ncpa.ru/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=228&Itemid=370&lang=en)

## New director at NAA

## News from NAA

- On the 15 of November **Alexey Postnikov was appointed Director of NAA**
- On the 12-13 and on the 15-16 November NAA conducted two seminars for experts, quality assurance professionals, and the leadership of Higher Educational Institutions
- The issues of quality indicators and criteria as well as the problems of methodological provision and support of the procedures of state accreditation were discussed
- NAA's activities in 2012:
  - **730 HEIs** have undergone **the external evaluation** with the purpose of establishing the status of a state institution of higher professional education;
  - **6879 programs** have been **accredited**;
  - **595 post-graduate programs** have undergone **external review**.

## SKVC to develop subject benchmark statements in the framework of SKAR-2

## Development of subject benchmark statements in Lithuania

During the next two years the Centre for Quality Assessment for Higher Education (SKVC) will be **developing benchmark statements** for different discipline areas, all together about 50 to cover subject fields. They will be to follow for program designers and as a reference point for program reviewers as well, and thus, naturally, will serve as guiding documents to be observed in internal processes at higher education institutions.

The descriptions are produced by local teams in which stakeholders are involved.

During the period of 2004-2012, SKVC has already coordinated writing and approval of more than 20 descriptions of various subjects. However, there is a need to update subject field descriptions with recent trends in education such as offering student-centred learning, **creating descriptions in cooperation with labour market** representatives, and to firmly base study program creation, implementation and evaluation on learning outcomes.

Developing a national study fields' description system that regulates higher education studies and creates conditions for improvement of quality in higher education is the main aim of European social fund and Republic of Lithuania financed project "Development of study fields' descriptors regulating system" (SKAR-2).



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### External review of EKKA completed

## Estonian Higher Education Quality Agency (EKKA) is undergoing an External Review by ENQA

As Estonia has made a transition to a new external quality assurance system in higher education after the transitional period that lasted from 2009 to 2011. EKKA has launched **new types of external quality assurance** activities, such as **institutional accreditation** and **assessment of study programme groups** in all higher education institutions. In order to become a full member of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and be included in the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR), EKKA decided to apply for an external review of the agency in January 2012. This **review has been coordinated by ENQA**, who has approved the panel consisting of the following members:

**Séamus Puirseil**, President of the Dublin Business School, Ireland – Chair

**Aurelija Valeikiene**, Deputy Director of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (SKVC) – Secretary

**Riitta Pyykkö**, Professor of Russian Language and Culture at the University of Turku, Vice-Rector of the University of Turku since August 2012, Chair of the Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council (FINHEEC)

**Jean-Pierre Finance**, Provisional administrator of the university of Lorraine, France, and advisor for EU at the CPU (French university rectors conference) – EUA nomination

**Allan Päll**, student at the University of Tartu, Estonia – ESU nomination

The panel visited EKKA on 6-7 December 2012 and met the rectors of the Estonian higher education institutions, external evaluation experts and students as well as the Minister of Education and Research, EKKA Quality Assessment Council and the Board member of the Archimedes Foundation.

The process of self-evaluation at EKKA started already one and a half years before the actual site visit. EKKA prepared a self-evaluation report that analyses its activities and compliance of the Estonian Higher Education Quality Agency with the European Standards and Guidelines for external quality assurance agencies and with the membership criteria of ENQA. The report is available on EKKA website. As a result of the self-analysis, some of the regulations were changed and a Quality Manual was compiled.

EKKA will receive the report of the ENQA panel by the end of January 2013.

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### New accreditation rules at HEQEQ

## Foundation "Higher Education Quality Evaluation Centre" (HEQEC), Latvia

New regulations for accreditation of higher education institutions (HEI) and study directions (groups of study programs) in HEI entered in force on 19.10.2012. According to the changes in the Law On Institutions of Higher Education (entered in force on 01.08.2011) the transition period from the study program accreditation to the study direction accreditation is from 01.09.2012 until 30.06.2013 **All study**



**programs in HEI should be divided in groups according to the 29 study directions and should receive the new accreditation till 30.06.2013.**

Till the end of the year 2012 Ministry of Education and Science should start competition to find an organization (quality assurance agency (QAA)), registered in EQAR, which should organize the evaluation and accreditation of all study directions in Latvia during the three year period.

HEQEQ is finishing the last evaluations and accreditation of individual study programs, submitted according to the previous (outgoing) regulations.

**HEQEQ plans to participate in the new evaluations and accreditation of the study directions in Latvia, according to the new (incoming) regulations, as a local (national) partner** of some foreign QAA (registered in EQAR), which will win the competition, organized by the Ministry of Education and Science.