



CEENQA

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

April 2013
Volume 2 No. 1

Newsletter

Contents

- CEENQA News p. 1
- Message from the President p. 2
- Upcoming Events p. 3
- News from Members and Partners:
 - AKKORK p. 3
 - NCPA p. 4
 - SKVC p. 5
 - HAC p. 5
 - EQAF p. 5

CEENQA Workshop and General Assembly in Bucharest



Hosted by ARACIS

CEENQA News

Best Practices in Quality Assurance at CEENQA Agencies: An International Perspective

Annual workshop and general assembly

CEENQA will hold a **workshop on 31 May 2013**. In light of the TEMPUS projects in which CEENQA is involved, the theme will be benchmarking quality assurance practices. The workshop will be followed by the annual general **assembly on 1 June**, where a new Board and officers will be elected or re-elected, and possibly another agency will join the Network.

The events are being hosted by the Romanian quality assurance agency ARACIS and will take place in Bucharest. Further details will be posted in the CEENQA website at www.ceenqa.net.

CEENQA involved in numerous TEMPUS projects as it prepares for a workshop and the annual general assembly

With the active participation of CEENQA Board member Boris Curkovic, CEENQA is involved in, or applying for **several TEMPUS projects**. Most advanced in the participation process is **BIHTEK**, whose main objective concerns the introduction of



benchmarking methodology in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** universities as a modern management tool and the most effective quality enhancement method. The consortium is composed of eight public universities in the country, three European universities, the Bosnian Agency for Higher Education and Quality Assurance, the Higher education Accreditation Agency of Republika Srpska, the country's four ministries for education and CEENQA. The project will run for three years. For more information on BIHTEK please visit <http://projects.kahosl.be/BIHTEK/>.

Other projects foresee the involvement of CEENQA's member agencies in Albania, Croatia, Kosovo, Lithuania, and Poland as well as partners including Armenia, Kazakhstan and Russia.

CEENQA in TEMPUS projects and INQAAHE

Message from the President

Dear Members of CEENQA,

It is my great pleasure to inform you about the latest developments in the Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education.

Our annual workshop, which traditionally focuses on key issues of higher education quality assurance and development, will this year be devoted to the core subject of benchmarking exercises as a tool of external quality assurance. In the centre of our discussions will be international good practice examples such as the ongoing TEMPUS Project **BIHTEK: Benchmarking as a Tool for Improvement of Higher Education Performance** or the results of the efforts of the **IDEA-League**. CEENQA-Members will also present Best Practice in QA.

CEENQA members continue to contribute in many areas to Network activities, such as International Exchange of international peers. In countries such as Croatia, Albania, the Baltic Countries and others, external QA reviews frequently involve colleagues from other CEENQA members. The latest example for such exchanges is reflected in a call by the **Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance (HEA) from Bosnia and Herzegovina**, which recently announced a public call for international experts who conduct the process of external QA (panel members). This call goes hand in hand with the ongoing project of CEENQA to establish a database of experts, from which CEENQA members can draw when conducting external reviews.

CEENQA continues to be an attractive partner in a considerable number of European projects: in the current round of the TEMPUS tender, **CEENQA has been asked to become a partner in five new projects**, a summary of which can be found in this newsletter.

The CEENQA family continues to grow; the Higher Education Accreditation Agency of Republika Srpska has expressed interest in applying for CEENQA membership, and if the application is submitted it will be dealt with in the upcoming general assembly of CEENQA on the 1st of June.

CEENQA is prominently represented also on the global level in INQAAHE, the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education: With **Mieczyslaw Socha and Iring Wasser** there are now two members of CEENQA serving as **INQAAHE directors**, and **Boris Curcovic and Hasan Bicek** are giving their advice in the **finance and regional networking committee**.

Dr. Iring Wasser
CEENQA President



Upcoming Events

15-16 April 2013

BIHTEK conference in Sarajevo

31 May 2013

CEENQA workshop

1 June 2013

CEENQA General Assembly

2 August 2013: deadline to submit papers for EQAF (see article below)

Calendar

April

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					

May

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		

June

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

News from Members and Partners



AKKORK Russia

International Conference on creation of an all-Russian Quality Assurance Agencies Register and the International Conference on Quality Assurance and Accreditation

On 7th of November 2012 and from 25 February - 1 March 2013 Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance and Career Development (AKKORK) has organized in Moscow several international conferences. The first one "**Development of the All-Russian Register of Quality Assurance Agencies**" and the second "**Quality Assurance and Accreditation**". The conferences were part of AKKORK activity in the framework of Federal State Programme for Education Development which is supported by the RF Ministry of Education and Science. In the conference in 2012 AKKORK had the honour to hear the speeches of **ENQA Vice-President Helka Kekalainen** and **EQAR Director Colin Tueck**. In 2013 conference at the opening plenary spoke **ENQA Board Member Radu Damian**. During both conferences the important input to the discussions on the Russian sphere of quality assurance and QAA Register was given by the representatives of ENQA and EQAR. In the conferences took part representatives of all the stakeholder groups, including the RF Ministry of Education and Science, Moscow Ministry of



Education, RF Federal Service on Supervision in Education and Science, All-Russian Students Union and representatives of different Russian Universities. All in all 300 people from different regions of Russia participated in the conferences. AKKORK has studied the experience of EQAR and ENQA while creating the presented materials on All-Russian QAA Register and QA methodology. The methodology for the Register that was presented encompasses the good European practice, especially EQAR and ENQA principles.

For information:

Federal State Programme for Education Development is a programme of support of the education sphere development by the Russian Government. It aims at provision of qualitative education to everybody. The tasks of the Programme are:

- Modernization of pre-school and school education;
- Bringing the contents and the structure of the professional education into correspondence with demands of the labour market;
- Development of the education quality assurance system.

In 2011 AKKORK has won several tenders in this programme one of which was the **creation of the methodology and procedures for the All-Russian QAA Register** and another one on creating the methodology and criteria of quality assurance.



NCPA Russia

Two news items

1. On March 1, 2013 the **National Accreditation Board** held a meeting with the purpose of making an independent collegial decision on the quality of study programmes offered in Kazan State Medical University, M.K. Ammosov North-Eastern Federal University in Yakutsk, Dagestan State University and A.S. Pushkin State Institute of Russian Language.

Evaluation of the quality of educational programmes was carried out by the external Review Panels which included both European and Russian Experts. The geographic background of the members of the ERP was wide and included experts from such countries as Estonia, Germany, Latvia and Kazakhstan.

More on <http://www.ncpa.ru>

2. Russian Information Agency "Novosti"

On March 15 within the project "Social Partner" RIA "NOVOSTI" hosted the conference on admission of prospective students 2013 **"What to look for when choosing university or study programme?"**

The director of the National Center for Public Accreditation, Professor **Vladimir G. Navodnov** presented the project of Public Accreditation of universities in Russia and the reference book "The Best Educational Programmes of the Innovative Russia". The reference book is disseminated within Russia and beyond.

For more information please check out our video at <http://www.ncpa.ru>



SKVC Lithuania

Most study programmes in Lithuania evaluated by international experts

As SKVC (Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education, Lithuania) states, last year, the **majority of existing study programmes were assessed** by mixed panels, consisting of foreign and local experts. 35 international teams, which consisted of **experts from 23 countries**, evaluated 186 (81 percent) study programmes of Lithuanian Higher Education Institutions.

This allows greater objectivity of assessments, also provides an opportunity for the evaluation of study programmes in an international context by experts having international evaluation experience. Higher education institutions also welcoming and trust international teams.

Meanwhile, **20 Lithuanian teams evaluated 43 study programmes** which make 19 percent of all evaluated programmes in 2012.

Expert teams are built so that they involved academics of the study field, students and employers' representatives. Following the spirit of ESG, every expert panel involved at least one student representative, who received a separate training before joining the team. Employers' representatives also took part in most of expert teams, contributing the labour market perspective to the reviews.



HAC Hungary

Upcoming external review for renewal of ENQA membership

The Hungarian Accreditation Committee is preparing for its **third external review**. Following an evaluation by an external team in 1999/2000, the HAC was reviewed in line with the European Standards and Guidelines in 2007/08 and has now agreed on the Terms of Reference with ENQA to again renew its full membership in the association. The HAC has **submitted its self-evaluation report in mid March**.

Meanwhile, the HAC has launched its **upcoming round of institutional accreditation procedures**, with self-evaluation reports to be submitted in the coming weeks. The disciplinary accreditation of programs is still under discussion between the HAC and the Ministry of Human Resources, the government authority in charge of education.



8th European Quality Assurance Forum

21 – 23 November 2013: Working together to take quality forward

The 8th European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF) will take place at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, on 21-23 November 2013. Through a mix of plenary and parallel sessions, the 2013 EQAF, entitled "Working together to take quality forward", will **combine practice-oriented or research-based discussions** that will take place in the paper sessions and workshops with presentations of current developments in quality assurance. This year the Forum will specifically explore how both individuals and organisations can better understand the role that quality assurance can play in their daily lives, **get engaged and work together to take quality forward**.

The Forum organisers, ENQA, ESU, EUA and EURASHE, have now opened a call for contributions from QA practitioners in higher education institutions and quality assurance agencies, students, institutional leaders and researchers in the field. Two types of contributions are sought: papers and workshops. The **deadline to submit contributions is 2 August 2013**. The call for contributions and proposal submission forms are available here: <http://www.eua.be/eqaf-gothenburg.aspx>

Should you have any further questions related to the call for contributions, please contact Ivana Juraga (Ivana.Juraga@eua.be).