



CEENQA

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

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Newsletter

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New Members Joined CEENQA in Bucharest



Photo courtesy Galina Motova

CEENQA News

The Annual General Assembly brought two New Members for CEENQA

Annual workshop and general assembly

The Central and Eastern European Network of Quality Assurance Agencies held its annual workshop and general assembly on **May 31 and June 1 in Bucharest, Romania**. The events were hosted by the Romanian quality assurance agency **ARACIS**.

The workshop, titled "**Benchmarking and Other Best Practices in Quality Assurance: An International Perspective**", linked to the **TEMPUS project BIHTEK** in which CEENQA partners with an international consortium led by KAHO Sint-Lieven, Belgium, with the aim of establishing good practices in quality benchmarking in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A stimulating presentation by **Catherine Connor**, head of the Quality Enhancement Unit at London Metropolitan University, laid the groundwork for the participants' contributions and discussion.

The general assembly admitted **two new members**, the Higher Education Accreditation Agency of Republika Srpska (**HEAARS**) and Association for Evaluation



and the Accreditation of Medical Education Programs (**TEPDAD**) from Turkey. With this the total membership of CEENQA reaches **27 agencies in 19 countries and a pan-European agency**.

The assembly elected a new Board: **Iring Wasser** (ASIIN, Germany, 2nd term) as President, **Alexander Kohler** (AQ Austria, 2nd term) as Vice-President, **Adrian Miroiu** (ARACIS, Romania, 2nd term) as Treasurer, and members **Ferdije Etemi** (KAA, Kosovo, 1st term), **Hasan Bicak** (YÖDAK, North Cyprus, 1st term), **Mieczyslaw Socha** (PKA, Poland), and **Ivan Leban** (SQAA, Slovenia, 1st term).

The **next workshop and general assembly will be hosted by KAA, Kosovo in June 2014**. For more information please visit the **CEENQA website** at www.ceenqa.eu.

EU projects - continued

After the first CEENQA partnered TEMPUS project BIHTEK, CEENQA member ARACIS is preparing a project proposal in the Human Resource Development Programme of the European Social Fund in Romania. The project is named '**QUALITAS** - The development of a quality culture in the Romanian higher education system' and will aim at enhancing the quality of institutions and study programmes through a couple of actions as detailed below:

1. the external evaluation of 10 - 15 higher education institutions including field visits by teams of experts (also including transnational experts with the involvement of CEENQA); elaboration of evaluation reports as well as an overall report of the Romanian HE system;
2. elaboration of evaluation indicators and benchmarks for both institutional evaluations and programme evaluations;
3. elaboration of a Quality barometer through surveys with teachers, students, employers;
4. organizations of workshops, seminars, roundtables on quality assurance, accreditation and quality enhancement topics.

The project will have a duration of 18 months.



Message from the President

Dear Members of CEENQA,

I am very happy to present to you this second edition of CEENQA's newsletter in 2013, as it is a testimony to the steady progress CEENQA is making in its different areas of activities.

In terms of membership, **CEENQA is now approaching close to 30 agencies**, with expressions of interests being voiced by further applicants in existing as well as new member countries. Also the exchange between its members is becoming more and more vibrant as can be inferred from the numerous interesting contributions of CEENQA members in this newsletter.

In the area of CEENQA networking activities, we are glad to note, that **CEENQA is more and more liaised with partner organizations around the globe**. Of special importance is hereby our support for the global INQAAHE network, as meanwhile **three CEENQA representatives assume different roles in the newly elected INQAAHE board of directors**.

CEENQA is also becoming a much appreciated **partner in new European project applications**, the latest of which is presented in this newsletter (under the acronym



QUALITAS) lead by the Romanian CEENQA member ARACIS. As we are becoming partners in more and more European QA projects, CEENQA is now also discussing to create more permanent support structures in its head office. Having said this, I am especially happy to report, that in the framework of our General Assembly in Bucharest, the contract with our long-standing General Secretary Christina Rozsnyai has been prolonged and therefore I take the opportunity to thank Christina on behalf of all CEENQA members for the outstanding work of more than a decade in the service of this organization and its predecessor.

Finally, it is important to note **that a new board of directors has been elected by the CEENQA** General Assembly under my leadership and we all are looking forward to continuing the **CEENQA success story** with the support of all our members and partners in the region and beyond.

Dr. Iring Wasser
CEENQA President

Upcoming Events

30 September – 1 October 2013

Vilnius Conference

24-25 October 2013

INQA/AHE Open and Flexible Higher Education Conference

29-30 October 2013

ENQA General Assembly

Calendar

August

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	

September

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						

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
27	28	29	30	31		



News from Members and Partners



SKVC Lithuania

EU Presidency Conference on International Cooperation

Lithuania is carrying the **EU Presidency** in the second half of 2013. Within this framework, Vilnius University and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania will hold a **conference** titled "Enhancement of European International Cooperation and Eastern Partnership in R&D&I" in **Vilnius on 30 September – 1 October 2013**.

The Conference focuses on the issues of **cooperation in research, development and innovation (R&D&I) area at international level** with a special emphasis on Eastern Partnership (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine) in the context of creation of European Research Area, objectives of Europe 2020 and Eastern Partnership Roadmap.

The issues related to the EU current policies on R&D&I, the Eastern Partnership dimension and future plans for Horizon 2020, good practices among Member States and Eastern Partnership Countries will be covered at the Conference to contribute to creating synergies between different instruments and activities. The Conference will bring together the leading stakeholders, national policy makers, academia, business sector and the representatives of the European Commission.

English and Russian are the working languages of the Conference. There is a simultaneous translation from/into English and Russian.

The information about the Conference is available at the Conference homepage: www.eep.eu2013.vu.lt

Call for Experts

The Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (**SKVC**) **announces a public call for international experts** to participate in the process of external quality assessment of study programmes provision and (or) institutional reviews of HEI in Lithuania.

Experts applying should be known in their fields as researchers, teachers of the subject, or be Bologna experts, independent higher education consultants, have previous experience of participation in peer reviews in the home country or internationally, and be fluent in English.

If you are interested, please send your **Curriculum Vitae** and a short motivation letter by e-mail: kokybe@skvc.lt.

All information will be submitted into the SKVC database. The evaluation coordinator will be in contact with the selected experts with proposal to work in the particular evaluations in Lithuania.

For the programmes to be evaluated and other information please link to <http://www.skvc.lt/en/content.asp?id=383>



NCPA Russia

Forum on University Rankings and Other News

IREG Forum on University Rankings organized by the International Ranking Expert Group



(IREG), Poland Academy of Sciences, University of Warsaw and Warsaw University of Technology was held in Warsaw **on May, 16-17 2013**.

The forum was attended by **more than 130 participants** from Romania, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Ukraine, Spain, France, Italy, Kazakhstan, Canada, the Netherlands, Czech Republic, Australia, Germany, Turkey, Russia, Mexico, Estonia, Denmark, Hungary, Albania, Croatia, Sweden, China, Portugal, USA, Brazil and Latvia. Methodological issues of rankings were discussed on the forum.

The last event within the forum was the closed session of **IREG Observatory General Assembly** with the official ceremony of admission to full IREG members of the following organizations:

1. "Expert RA" Agency (Russia)
2. Jagiellonian University in Krakow (Poland)
3. Eurasian National University named after L.N. Gumilev (Kazakhstan)
4. **National Centre for Public Accreditation (Russia)**
5. National University of Political and Administrative Studies (Romania)
6. University of Bucharest (Romania)

Galina Motova, D.Sc., professor, took part in the Forum on University Rankings as the representative of the National Centre for Public Accreditation.

NCPA Director Vladimir Navodnov was given a prestigious award of the Asia-Pacific Quality Network (APQN) for outstanding achievements in the field of quality assurance, outstanding contribution in promoting quality and excellence in higher education at both national and international level in the past 10 years and **was awarded a certificate and a cup "APQN's Quality Champions Award"**.

This award is for individuals who have made outstanding contribution in promoting quality and excellence in higher education. Contribution at both national and international level in the past 10 years was considered for this award.

The director of the National Centre for Public Accreditation prof. Vladimir G. Navodnov participated in the exchange programme, which was initiated by the **Asia-Pacific Quality Network from March 25 to April 6, 2013**.

As part of the exchange programme the hosting organization, the **Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute** held a number of meetings with the director and the staff of the Institute.

From May 10 to May 20 the NCPA took a return visit of **Dr. Hui Feng, the vice-president of SEEI**. The exchange programme was held with the financial support of the Government of China.

During such a short period Dr.Feng managed to study the Guidelines, Standards and Criteria for external reviews of study programmes of the NCPA, to participate as an observer in the external review panels at two universities: Volga State University of Technology (Yoshkar-Ola) and University of Management "TISBI" (Kazan). Dr. Feng spoke highly of NCPA's accreditation procedure and stressed that the standards and criteria would be translated into Chinese and in the future would be partially used during institutional accreditation by SEEI.

The vice-president also visited two HEIs: Higher School of Folk Arts and Saint-Petersburg State Institute of Technology (former Technical University). Both universities gave a brief description of their unique histories, educational structures, forms of management and research. Saint-Petersburg State Institute of Technology presented its internal quality management system.



The visits confirmed that Russia and China have a lot in common in the field of quality assurance. The relationship will continue.

As a result of both visits an **agreement on cooperation** between the National Centre for Public Accreditation and the Shanghai Education Evaluation Institute was signed.

NCPA and the Free Economic Society of Russia

The Free Economic Society of Russia and the National Centre for Public Accreditation signed a **cooperation agreement** for the purpose of mutual cooperation in the field of improvement of higher education quality and development of the bilateral relations in the sphere of analytical and expert activities.

Vladimir Navodnov, Director of the National Centre for Public Accreditation, took part in the contest committee organized by the Free Economic Society of Russia on June, 3 2013 in Moscow, Russia. The Free Economic society is one of the oldest academic societies in Russia, which was established in 1765.

The contest committee summed up the results of the **nationwide competition "The Best Department of Economics – 2013"**. 30 winners from 21 regions of the Russian Federation were selected in 11 nominations. The contest gave an opportunity for identifying problems and development prospects of the work of economics departments and staff training quality improvement in compliance with the requirements of Russian economics and international standards.

According to the signed agreement between the Free Economic Society and the National Centre for Public Accreditation and following the decision of the jury of the contest "The Best Department of Economics – 2012" 9 educational programmes in Economics and Management will be included in the reference-book "The Best Educational Programmes of Innovative Russia – 2013".

FINEC - FINHEEC Seminar

The joint seminar on quality assurance of Russian higher education was held in Saint-Petersburg State University of Economics and Finance (**FINEC**) on May, 28 2013. The event was organized by the Finnish Higher Education Evaluation Council (**FINHEEC**).

The objective of the seminar was to familiarize with the accreditation activities conducted by the national agencies and the internal quality assurance of Russian universities.

Methods of evaluation, systems of external and internal quality assurance and role of students in national and institutional quality assurance were discussed within the seminar.

Galina Motova, Deputy Director of the National Centre for Public Accreditation, took part in the seminar and presented the key report "The Russian system of higher education and quality assurance".



AKKORK Russia

AKKORK on the New Board of Directors in INQAAHE

In the beginning of April 2013 in Taipei was held an **annual conference** of International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (**INQAAHE**). At the General Assembly of the Network where new **Board of Directors** was elected. Now it comprises for the first time in the history of Quality Assurance in the Russian Federation a representative of that country: **Erika Soboleva**, head of International Relations office in **AKKORK**. More detailed information, could be found here:

<http://www.inqaahe.org/main/about-inqaahe/board/board-members-126>



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FIBAA Germany

FIBAA breaks into Eastern European Regions

FIBAA and PKA declared officially their intention of cooperation

In May 2013 **PKA and FIBAA signed a Letter of Intent with the objective of concentrating their know-how** in order to advance transparency and comparability within international higher education system. The German-Polish cooperation exceeds the exchange of experience and cognition: a mutual understanding of quality systems shall be promoted; comparable assessment procedures are to be developed in order to **enable mutual recognition in accreditation** – especially in joint programmes.

YÖDAK and FIBAA acknowledged their mutual interest in a long-term cooperation

From 3rd until 6th of June, 2013, **Daisuke Motoki, Managing Director of FIBAA**, followed Professor **Dr. Hasan Ali Biçak's** invitation, **President of YÖDAK**, and visited selected Higher Education Institutions in North Cyprus. During this visit, both YÖDAK and FIBAA have expressed their interest in a long-term cooperation in a **Memorandum of Understanding**, signed on 5th of June in Nicosia. By developing eligible standards and common assessment methods, transparency and comparability within the North Cypriot Higher Education sector is to be enhanced.



FIBAA and IQAA Signed a Cooperation Agreement

On 28th of June, 2013, **FIBAA and the Kazakh accreditation agency IQAA have signed a cooperation agreement** in order to enhance transparency in the European Higher Education Areas and among international organizations in the field of accreditation at a global level.

Furthermore the cooperation aims to provide essential information on the quality of foreign institutions and programmes for students, higher education institutions and the labour market and to facilitate joint quality assurance procedures and mutual recognition of quality assurance decisions.

FIBAA Welcomed a Delegation from the Moscow State University of Civil Engineering

Representatives of the **Moscow State University of Civil Engineering (MGSU)** visited Bonn in the context of an **educational journey organised by the International Academy of Management and Technology (INTAMT)**, Düsseldorf, within the scope of the Russian year in Germany 2012/13.

For many years the organizer of this journey, the INTAMT, has supported the sustainable relations between the states of the GUS and the EU. The academy did manage to establish a continued and seminal experience exchange in many fields through cooperation and other measures.

AKKORK and FIBAA consolidate on further cooperation

In the scope of a meeting on 23rd of July, 2013 at the office of FIBAA in Bonn, the Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance and Career Development (**AKKORK**) used the opportunity to introduce its new **Managing Director, Sergey Anisimov**, and accompanied by the **Head of International Projects Office, Erika Soboleva**, to give an account of the recent changes in the Russian higher education system. In this meeting, both **AKKORK and FIBAA emphasised the wish to maintain the mutual partnership** in the field of quality assurance in order to combine the existing know-how and benefit likewise from the keen insight into their respective countries. The next meeting is contemplated on the AKKORK conference in Moscow.



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ASIIN Germany

ASIIN introduces new concepts for peer training

ASIIN has supported the **Armenian and Georgian accreditation agencies** (the National Center for Professional Education Quality Assurance Foundation, **ANQA**, and the National Center for Educational Quality Enhancement, **NCEQE**) in developing **new training concepts for peers**. During the two day workshops at the ASIIN office in Düsseldorf, the new training concept has allowed the agencies to define a modular training based on the needs of and expectations towards peers. The modular concept takes into account the need for training at different levels of peer experiences as well as different tasks to be implemented by peers, but also the specific setting of accreditation in post-Soviet countries. Training modules can be combined to achieve a more thorough training or can be used individually in order to deepen peers competences in selected areas. The ASIIN workshops were developed and implemented in the framework of the Tempus-project PICQA – Promotion of Internationalization and Comparability of Quality Assurance in Higher Education as part of the capacity building for the national agencies in Armenia and Georgia. The project is management by ASIIN and runs since October 2010.

ASIIN's approach to peer training complements the workshops already on offer for staff of higher education institutions and quality assurance agencies about both internal and external quality management as well as training in Bologna-related issues such as learning outcome oriented curriculum development and assessment.



YÖDAK North Cyprus

Prof. Dr. Hasan Ali Bicak Attended International Conference on Learning Outcomes in Saudi Arabia

President of YÖDAK, Prof. Dr. Hasan Ali Bicak was invited by the National Commission for Academic Accreditation and Assessment (**NCAAA**) of **Saudi Arabia** to attend to the **Third International Conference on "Learning Outcomes and Quality of Teaching and Learning in Post-Secondary Education"** organized at the Dammam University on 27-29 April 2013. The International Conference was a major event in which more than 20 quality assurance experts from a number of countries presented papers on specific aspects of higher education quality assurance that are significant for the development of higher education. The conference had an important influence not only on quality assurance activities in institutions but also on the **development of government strategies to promote the quality** and contributions by the higher education sector to economic and cultural development. At the International Conference **Prof. Bicak, chaired the session on "The Support of Education and the Quality Criteria"** and had the opportunity to meet the senior officials of the quality assurance agencies and networks mainly from the Arab and Islamic World and the invited experts from various countries.



Dr. Iring Wasser Attended the Honours Celebrations of the Girne American University Of North Cyprus

Girne American University (GAU) of North Cyprus, celebrating its accreditation of degree programs from various recognized accreditation organizations, invited **Dr. Iring Wasser as the Managing Director of ASIIN** among the other senior officials of accreditation organizations. GAU has its engineering programs accredited from ASIIN, its Tourism Programs from TEDQUAL, its English Teaching Programs from EQUALS and its Business Administration Programs from IACBE.

Dr. Iring Wasser in his very short visit to North Cyprus, **visited Higher Education Planning,**





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Evaluation, Accreditation and Coordination Council (YÖDAK) and met its President Prof. Dr. Hasan Ali Bicak. They had the opportunity to discuss various issues concerning CEENQA and YÖDAK-ASIIN relations.



General Director of FIBAA Mr. Daisuke Motoki Visited North Cyprus and Gave a Seminar to the Quality Assurance Officials of the Universities

The **Managing Director of the Foundation for International Business Administrative Accreditation (FIBAA) Mr. Daisuke Motoki** paid a visit to North Cyprus upon the invitation of Higher Education Planning, Evaluation, Accreditation and Coordination Council (**YÖDAK**). FIBAA is one of the 10 accreditation organizations authorized to accredit degree programs and also carry out system accreditations in Germany (and institutional accreditation outside Germany). **Mr. Motoki gave a Seminar at the Eastern Mediterranean University**, Senate Hall on the "FIBAA Accreditation, Standards and Policies" to the Deans of Faculty of Business Administration and Economics, Head of Departments and Lecturers who are responsible from the universities internal quality issues. Currently, there are 9 universities in North Cyprus with over 55,000 students whose 60% are coming from Turkey and 20% more than 70 different countries.



President of YÖDAK, Prof. Hasan Ali Bicak Reviewed the Business Administration Programs of King Saud University

President of YÖDAK, Prof. Dr. **Hasan Ali Bicak's** was invited by the **National Commission for Academic Assessment and Academic Accreditation (NCAAA) of Saudi Arabia** to review the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) Program of the College of Business Administration at King Saud University.

King Saud University (KSU) located in Riyadh was founded in 1957 and it is one of the leading universities in Saudi Arabia. Currently, it has 74,584 students studying in its 23 Colleges organized under Humanities, Science, Health and Community headings. The College of Business Administration (CBA) is placed under the Science heading and it has 6 undergraduate and 11 postgraduate programs where 4,019 students are registered.

The **Review Panel which Prof. Bicak chaired** was composed of 4 members with, Prof. Inger Boyett from Manchester Business Faculty, Prof. Julia Connell from Curtin University of Australia, and Prof. Marios Katsiloudes from Qatar University. The Review of the BSBA Program took place between 4-8 May 2013 during which the Panel Members carried out their site visits during the first 4 days and wrote the first draft of the report on the last day.



INQAAHE

Workshop, Conference, General Assembly and Regional Networks Meetings

Taipei – Taiwan, 8-12 April 2013

This year **INQAAHE International Conference and GA Meeting** took place in Taipei and hosted by the Higher Education and Evaluation Council of Taiwan (HEEACT). The International Conference on "**Managing Diversity: Sustainable Quality Assurance Processes**" addressed 4 themes:

1. QA of Trans-border Education
2. Innovative Approaches to External QA in Tertiary Education
3. Impact of QA and the Effects of External and Internal QA
4. National Qualifications Framework and their Links to QA



More than 200 full, associate, affiliate members and non-members participated in the Conference.

Hasan Ali Bicak from YÖDAK, North Cyprus, represented CEENQA and gave a brief report about the network. CEENQA members **Mieczyslaw Socha from PKA**, Poland and a member of the INQAAHE Board, **Adrian Miroiu and Radu Damian from ARACIS**, Romania, and **Erika Soboleva from AKKORK**, Russia also attended.

A **workshop took place on the 8th of April**, a day before the start of the International Conference. The topics were:

1. Qualifications Frameworks
2. Quality Assurance of Joint Degree Programs
3. Learning Outcomes and Assessment (postponed to 10th April)
4. Training the Experts

The **new Board Members of INQAAHE** took office with their new **President Carol Bobby**, President and CEO of Council for Accreditation of Counselling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).

A **Regional Members Meeting** was chaired by David Woodhouse, and attended by the new President Carol Bobby. Out of **15 Regional Networks** attended the Meeting while 7 were absent.

Participating Networks: ANQAHE, AQAN, APQA, AQAAIW, CANQATE, CEENQA, ECA, INQAAHE

Absent Networks: CAMES, CANQA, EAQAN, ENQA, ENAEE, RIACES, AfriQAN

Each Network was given 5 minutes to talk about their achievements, if they would like to.

A brief information about **CEENQA's recent achievements** was given: CEENQA increased its number of members from 15 to 25 agencies (from 18 countries and 1 European), not restricted to its geographical area and thus global in its actions, 3 additions of Newsletters were published, Board Meetings take place over the internet, TEMPUS Project, GA Meeting on 31 May – 1 June hosted by ARACIS in Bucharest, Romania.

At the Regional Networks Meeting 4 issues were discussed:

1. Dissemination of Good Practices – H.A. Bicak
 2. Training Reviewers – J. Patil
 3. Joint Degrees – M. Frederiks
 4. Outreach and Communication to Other Regions – D. Woodhouse.
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