



CEENQA

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

December 2013
Volume 2 No. 3

Newsletter

Contents

■ CEENQA News	p. 1
■ Message from the President	p. 2
■ Upcoming Events	p. 4
■ TEMPUS	p. 5
■ News from Members and Partners:	
■ TEMPUS manager	p. 5
■ TWITTER	p. 6
■ EQAR	p. 6
■ SKVC	p. 6
■ AKKORK	p. 7
■ HAC	p. 8
■ FIBAA	p. 8
■ NCPA	p. 8
■ TEPDAD	p. 10
■ HEA – AQ Austria	p. 11
■ ARACIS – QAR	p. 13
■ ECA	p. 14

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and a Prosperous and Joyous New Year to All Our Readers



CEENQA News

CEENQA Members Daisuke Motoki on the ENQA Board

At its 4th General Assembly on 29-30 October 2013 in Vilnius, Lithuania, the members of the European umbrella organisation of the quality assurance and accreditation agencies (ENQA) elected a new board. New members in the ENQA board are **Daisuke Motoki**, Managing Director of the **FIBAA** and Anthony McClaran, Chief Executive of the, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA)', Great Britain. At its December Board meeting, ENQA co-opted another Board member until the 2014 General Assembly, former CEENQA president **Aurelija Valeikiene**, Deputy Director of the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (**SKVC**), to its Board.

The main responsibilities of the ENQA Board are to prepare and supervise a yearly work plan, to be discussed and approved by the General Assembly, decide on the admission of new members or the exclusion of members in breach of the Statutes, make recommendations to the General Assembly on any modification of the



Regulations, appoint the Director and to represent the interest of ENQA and their members.

Adapted from the FIBAA November 2013 Newsletter

Further information at www.enqa.eu

TEMPUS and New CEENQA Staff Member

CEENQA has started work in **three TEMPUS** projects.

In order to handle the work for the projects, CEENQA has hired a part-time staff member as project manager for two years, to be financed from project funds. **Mila Zarkh** will join CEENQA on 6 January 2014. **Please read her introduction** on p. 5.

The projects awarded and running are,

BIHTEK-Benchmarking as a tool for improvement of higher education performance
No 530696-TEMPUS-1-2012-1-BE-TEMPUS-SMGR started in autumn 2012. Its objective is the introduction of benchmarking methodology in universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

- Partners: 8 public universities in B&H, 3 EU universities, Agency for higher education and quality assurance B&H, Higher education Accreditation Agency of Republika Srpska, 4 ministries for education and CEENQA
- Duration: 36 months
- CEENQA representatives: **Alexander Kohler** and **Nora Skaburskiene**

ALIGN - Achieving and Checking the Alignment Between Academic Programs and Qualification Frameworks No: 543901-TEMPUS-1 2013-1-AM-JPGR:

- 26 partners in total: Armenia, Russian Federation and Ukraine - universities, ministries, agencies + EU partners: - universities from Germany, Poland, UK, Belgium, Ireland + CEENQA
- Duration: 36 months
- CEENQA representatives: **Hasan Bicak** and **Emita Blagdan**, ASHE Croatia

BHQFHE - Bosnia and Herzegovina Qualification Framework for Higher Education
No: 544464-TEMPUS-1 2013-1-DE-TEMPUS-SMHES:

- Partners: BiH universities, ministries and agency + EU partners: - universities from Germany, Croatia, UK and Ireland + CEENQA
- Duration: 36 months
- CEENQA representatives: **Hasan Bicak** and **Husein Nanic**, BiH.

Message from the President

**Dear Members of CEENQA,
Dear Colleagues,**

It is with great pleasure that I address our constituents and partners at the end of an eventful year, which has brought the **CEENQA community closer** together while adding **new members** to our ranks. Chances are good that our dynamic development will continue into 2014 as the door opens to a new year, which most certainly will bring along a multitude of exiting activities and capacity building initiatives leading CEENQA to a new stage of development in the near future.

For the first time in CEENQA history, **we are partner of altogether three big TEMPUS**



projects, all of them running over a period of three years with multiple partners from our region involved.

BIHTEK – Benchmarking as a tool for improvement of higher education performance at HEIs in Bosnia and Herzegovina – is already under way and will enter its second year in 2014. We had the opportunity to discuss the issue of benchmarking during our 2013 annual assembly and this topic will certainly remain on our agenda in the coming year.

Two further projects (the **ALIGN** as well as the **BHQFHE** project mentioned above) will kick off in the next couple of weeks and will revolve around the role and functions of **Qualification Frameworks for HE development and quality assurance in the CEENQA region**. As all members of the European Higher Education Area are in the process/have completed the task to develop national QFs, we will have a chance to discuss the outcomes and benefits of these projects in the year to come.

I also would like to announce that we will devote our next newsletter to give you a detailed update on the status of these joint endeavors and hopefully show possible **synergies for the CEENQA community**. It is important to note that recently the call for the new ERASMUS+ call has been announced, which will integrate all existing European programs under one umbrella. **ERASMUS+ will be another chance to collaborate among CEENQA members**. I encourage all of you to have a close **look at the new tender** and in the application process think of how **to involve our mother body in joint activities**.

The activities have created the need to provide additional support structures within the CEENQA headquarters. On proposal of the CEENQA Board, members have agreed to employ a part time employee, who will commence her work at the beginning of the New Year. The name of the new CEENQA staff is **Mila Zarkh** and she has already taken the opportunity to present herself shortly to the members in this newsletter; on your behalf I welcome her on board. **Ms. Zarkh** will among other things help to administer and execute the above mentioned projects and also will support our Secretary General Christina for planned network activities in the months ahead.

We are entering a **new area in CEENQA communication** as for the first time and thanks to our Board member **Ivan Leban** our activities can now be followed on and commented on **Twitter**; I invite **members to make use of this new social media** device.

Let me finish by thanking all of the **CEENQA members** for their active contributions, the **Board members** for their support and last but not least our **Secretary General** for doing a marvelous job.

I wish all of you a happy Christmas Season and everybody a healthy and successful New Year!

Iring Wasser



Upcoming Events

December

25-56

Christmas holiday

January

6

Mila Zarkh begins part-time position as CEENQA project manager

February

Twinning Project "Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Quality Assurance" Stakeholders' meeting

Mark the date:

Friday, May 23-Saturday May 24

CEENQA workshop and general assembly

Calendar

December 2013

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					

January 2014

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 2014

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		



TEMPUS Projects

BIHTEK: Benchmarking manual presented - CEENQA will support the implementation of pilots at BiH universities

The **BIHTEK project aims at introducing a benchmarking methodology for universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina**. The project consortium is funded under the European Tempus programme and consists of eight universities in the country, the two quality assurance agencies **HEA** and **HEAARS**, four education ministries and other European universities. Being also partner in the project, **CEENQA** provides the experience of quality assurance agencies in Central and Eastern Europe.

The three years' project started in spring 2012. At their latest meeting on 5th and 6th December 2013 in Sarajevo, the partners discussed a **benchmarking manual**. The manual provides for an overview of different types of benchmarking practice and principles. It will now be used to start a benchmarking process between the partners.

For this purpose, **training workshops will take place in 2014** at different universities in Bosnia and Herzegovina. CEENQA will assist these workshops by supporting the institutions to initiate concrete projects. The benchmarking topics will now be identified. They may include accreditation criteria as a reference, given that BiH universities have already been working on the development of such criteria in view of implementing them in a national accreditation scheme.

News from Members and Partners

Mila Zarkh joins CEENQA as a project manager from 6 January 2014



Dear colleagues,

I am happy to join the CEENQA network as a **project manager** and to help enhance the success of the wide variety of the network's activities. I will work mainly on the Tempus and Erasmus+ projects, but also help with organizing other elements of the program, inter alia the annual conference in Düsseldorf, where I hope to meet you personally.

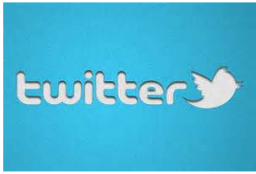
Born and raised in Russia, I have studied Romance Languages, East European Studies and Communication science in Germany, Poland, the Czech Republic and Spain and feel strongly committed to the goal of the further convergence of higher education in Europe and its neighboring countries. Before joining the CEENQA network, I have worked at the AIZ (Academy for International Cooperation), the training center of the GIZ (Society for International Cooperation), where I was responsible for the organization and planning of the academy's educational program, PR and the development of new modules and training designs. Having worked for several German and international companies and organizations, I am happy to continue my career in an international environment highly dedicated to quality assurance in education and training.

I would like to wish you all happy holidays and especially a happy new year, in which we will continue the CEENQA success story together.

Mila Zarkh



CEENQA on Twitter since November 2013



The **CEENQA logo appeared on Twitter**. Twitter is an online kind of very simple social networking that enables registered users to send and read "tweets", which are text messages limited only to 140 characters and adding a link to a website or an image. Potential users can read and send tweets, but unregistered users can only read them. Users can access Twitter login at the website or mobile device applications. Twitter is now one of the ten most visited websites in the world, and has been described as "the SMS of the Internet".

You can easily test the Twitter. Just go to <http://twitter.com/ceenqa> and read the recent tweets. You can easily register at Twitter and follow the limited interesting news. There is a simple tutorial: How to use Twitter in 15 minutes at <http://personalweb.about.com/od/howtotwitter/a/how-to-twitter-tutorial.htm>

We would be glad if you would follow CEENQA also on Twitter. You are all invited to use. This is really one of the simplest ways to gather and spread various pieces of information through the web.

Ivan Leban, SQAA, Ljubljana, Slovenia



CEENQA Members in EQAR

The Estonian Higher Education Quality Agency **EKKA**, and the Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency in Higher Education **SQAA** were registered in EQAR in November. They join **ACQUIN**, **AHPGS**, **ASIIN**, and **FIBAA** Germany, **ARACIS**, Romania, **ASHE**, Croatia, **PKA**, Poland, and **SKVC**, Lithuania in the Register.

In most European countries, higher education institutions or study programmes are subject to regular external review by a quality assurance agency. The European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) is a register of such agencies, listing those that substantially comply with a common set of principles for quality assurance in Europe. These principles are laid down in the European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance. The register is web-based and freely accessible for everyone.

Adapted from a submission by Ivan Leban and from the EQAR website <http://www.eqar.eu>



From Concept to Action: The New Lithuanian Higher Education Internationalisation Plan

On 20th of September 2013 the Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Lithuania has approved a **new action plan for internationalisation of higher education** for the period between 2013-2016. It aims at encouraging internationalisation of the study process within Lithuanian HEI, supporting mobility of Lithuanian and foreign students and teachers, encouraging activities of centers promoting Lithuanian (Baltic) language and culture studies.

The provisions of the new action plan are aligned with the strategic European and Lithuanian documents. It highlights the need of Lithuanian HE openness to various regions of the world, including enhanced cooperation with north European, Asian, post-Soviet countries. Attracting dispersed Lithuanian diaspora through academic initiatives is mentioned among other important issues.

Encouraging HE internalization and setting priority areas lies at the heart of the plan. Joint programs and studies in foreign languages, further development of the



recognition system, promotion of Lithuanian HE (www.studyinlithuania.lt), removing barriers for incoming foreigners – important steps toward fulfilling Lithuanian HE internalisation vision. Attention is given to improving consolidation of financing towards internationalization, attracting teachers and students from abroad, support towards Lithuanian (Baltic) language, culture, history studies abroad.

Significant challenge to Lithuanian HE is well-balanced mobility of incoming and outgoing students and teachers. **Countries of destination for Lithuanians are countries of Baltic Sea region, EU countries, Australia, Japan, USA, Canada, South Korea.** We are keen to attract students from Eastern Partnership countries and other post-Soviet states, Asian countries and Middle East states. Lithuanian diaspora and students of Lithuanian descent are invited from countries outside EU, EEA, or post-Soviet states.

It is expected that the number of successfully carried out joint programmes will grow by 65 percent in the upcoming 3 years period. The assessment of foreign qualifications carried out at Lithuanian HEI will increase by 10 percent. Meanwhile the amount of students receiving financial aid for practice placement abroad will grow by 100 percent.

The new plan for 2013-2016 aims not only at improving quality in the areas identified, but **raise quality and transform opportunity into actions** that make difference in the whole system of Lithuanian higher education.

October, 2013
Vilnius

All-Russian Quality Assurance Agencies Register Project

In the framework of the Federal State Programme for Education Development **AKKORK has developed a project on All – Russian Quality Assurance Agencies Register.**

While developing the project AKKORK took into consideration the international practice on “accreditation of accreditors”: evaluation of quality assurance agencies. In particular was taken into consideration the European experience on periodic evaluation and accreditation of QA agencies and development of European Quality Assurance Register. In that Register are included agencies whose activities are recognized by all Bologna signatory countries.

The model of the All – Russian Register from AKKORK point of view should include three parts: model for monitoring the work of QA agencies, model for QA agencies work assessment and procedure for decision making on inclusion of QA agency into the Register or prolongation of the QA agency membership in the Register.

AKKORK proposes that the Register would be formed like a state body, but this body will not carry out assessment of QA agencies itself. It should delegate this function to a third party. This third party could be: a QA agency which is member of the Register and which is internationally recognized; reviewer panels which consist of representatives of the QA agencies, academic community, students, professional communities and employers communities; commission of international reviewers or international QA agency, etc. The decision on inclusion of the QA agency to the Register should be taken on the basis of QA agency accreditation. The latter is made by collegial body of the Register which consists of all stakeholders’ representatives.

Now this project is coming to an end and **by the end of 2013 will be submitted to the RF Ministry of Education** which has to make the decision on implementation of this Register.



ENQA

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

For more information you can contact Erika Soboleva: esoboleva@akkork.ru.



HAC Became Full Member Under Review in ENQA

The **Hungarian Accreditation Committee** was evaluated for ESG compliance and continued membership in ENQA. After reviewing the report of the external panel, the ENQA President wrote a letter to the President of the HAC in which he stated that the Board "found that the Agency satisfies the membership criteria, with the exception of the criteria on resources and independence", and requested additional information on the two issues. In its decision on 28 November the Board finally decided to give the HAC the status of "Full Member Under Review" for two years, after which a new review will be carried out.

THE QUALITY SEAL
IN HIGHER EDUCATION



FIBAA

A further Partner in Kazakhstan won – FIBAA and IAAR decide to cooperate

On October 8th, 2013 FIBAA and the **Independent Agency for Accreditation Rating (IAAR) signed a cooperation agreement** in the field of quality assurance and quality enhancement in higher education. The goal of this cooperation is to bundle the competencies of both agencies in order to enhance transparency in the European higher education area and to facilitate mutual recognition of accreditation decisions.

IAAR was established in 2011 as a non-profit organisation and is since 2011 **listed in the national Kazakh Register of Quality Assurance Agencies of the Republic of Kazakhstan**. Its main aim is to raise competitiveness of Kazakh Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) both at national and international level by conducting the procedures of quality assurance (at programme and at institutional level) and academic ranking. 'In Kazakhstan we see high potential. The current accelerated economic growth in Kazakhstan makes the demand for high qualified manpower increase. This poses a big challenge to the Kazakh higher education sector. In order to support HEIs in coping with this task, an elaborated quality assurance system is needed', so Daisuke Motoki, Managing Director of the FIBAA. 'With this cooperation agreement we won, additionally to the Independent Kazakhstan Quality Assurance in Education (IQAA), a further strategic partner in Kazakhstan'.

With this cooperation both Partner, IAAR as FIBAA, want to enhance transparency in higher education, facilitate accreditation of joint programmes and make mutual recognition of accreditation decisions possible'.

For further information to IAAR: : <http://www.iaar.kz>

For Further information to FIBAA: www.fibaa.org



News from NCPA

Forum of Experts in Higher Education

The **2013 Forum of Experts in Higher Education**, an annual event co-organized by the Russian National Guild of Experts in Higher Education and the National Center for Public Accreditation (**NCPA**) was held in Moscow, Russia, on 15-16 November 2013.

Representatives of quality assurance agencies, researchers, academics, policy makers, administrators and educators took part in the event by submitting their proposals for a presentation or a poster (in Russian or in English) during the Forum, or by participating in the discussions of most urgent quality assurance issues.





National Accreditation Board

A regular meeting of the National Accreditation Board was held under the chairmanship of Viktor Bolotov, Vice-President of the Russian Academy of Education, on September 30, 2013 in Moscow, Russia.

At the meeting the **positive decision on public accreditation was made for 38 educational programmes of six Russian HEIs**. Also the National Accreditation Board supported the development of innovative projects on learning outcomes assessment: OIIO (the Open International Internet-Olympiads) and FIPE (the Federal Exam in the sphere of professional education).

Parliamentary Hearings

G.N. Motova, Deputy Director of the National Centre for Public Accreditation, **spoke at the parliamentary hearings on the issues of public accreditation** in the State Duma on October 14, 2013. Deputies of the State Duma, the Federation Council, the Public Chamber, representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation as well as more than 100 members of academic and professional community and accreditation agencies took part in the hearings.

In her presentation G.N. Motova focused on the ways of improving the procedure of independent assessment of the quality of higher education and need for the development of strict requirements for accreditation agencies conducting accreditation procedures and the experience, reputation, recognition and resources of these agencies.

This is a significant event for public accreditation in Russia as it's the **first time the issues relating to this form of quality assurance have been discussed at the state level**.

The report from the Parliamentary Hearings will be published in the 67th issue of the "Accreditation in Education" journal.

Reference Book "The Best Educational Programmes of Innovative Russia"

The **4th edition** of the Reference Book "The Best Educational Programmes of Russia" was published. The Book comprises three parts. In the first part the official results of the expert survey conducted by the National Centre for Public Accreditation, the publishing house "Accreditation in Education" and the Guild of Experts in the sphere of professional education are presented. The second part describes in detail the best educational programmes delivered in the HEIs of Russia. Finally, the third part is devoted to the issues of public accreditation in Russia.

The information on the project "The Best Educational Programmes of Innovative Russia" correlates with the market research conducted by one of the major Russian recruiting companies Superjob.

Staff Development Visit to ARACIS

In the framework of CEENQA, the Romanian Agency For Quality Assurance in Higher Education (**ARACIS**) invited **two staff members from the CEENQA agencies, Elena Savinykh** from the **National Centre for Public Accreditation (Russia)** and **Renata Grinaite** from the **Center for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (Lithuania)**, to participate in the activities of **evaluation performed by ARACIS** (14-18 October, 2013).

On behalf of the National Centre for Public Accreditation, NCPA expresses its sincere appreciation for the opportunity to communicate with the Romanian QA community members during the review process at the University "George Baritiu" in Brasov (private university) and **ARACIS' contribution to increasing the relations between quality assurance agencies from the Central and Eastern Europe**.



NCPA is greatly thankful to **Radu Damian**, Director of the Department of Quality Evaluation, ARACIS and **Oana Sarbu**, Head of the Bureau of Inspectors, ARACIS for their willingness to share professional knowledge and experience with other CEENQA agencies, and NCPA hopes for further collaboration with in the sphere of higher education and quality assurance.

Let's keep going. It's the greatest job in the world!

TEPDAD Experience of Accreditation of Medical Schools in Turkey



TEPDAD (Association for Evaluation and Accreditation of Medical Education Programs) was established in 2010 with the aim to carry accreditation of medical schools in Turkey. The process was initiated with the recommendation of the Turkish Higher Educational Council under the auspices of TEPDAD as an independent, non-profit association composed of about 70 members with sub-committees for accreditation, standard development, education and site-visitation.

The standards for Undergraduate Medical Education were developed in accordance with the standards of the **World Federation for Medical Education (WFME)** and the **Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME)** of the United States. The standards composed of basic and developmental standards of which the medical schools are expected to meet the basic standards. The standards of procedures were defined and published simultaneously with the standards.

The established standards were used as a tool for accreditation. The process of accreditation was started on 2010. The first year 16 medical schools applied for evaluation and accreditation. Among these 9 were found to meet the basic standards and were visited by **a team of five members and one student representative**. After the site visit 8 were given full accreditation and one with conditional accreditation which made the necessary changes according to the standards within one year and changes to full accreditation status. Up today 22 programs of 20 medical schools are accredited.

The accreditation is given for 6 years with an interim evaluation at the third year. The programs are required to meet the basic standards at the end of the third year and are re-accredited at the end of sixth year. A certificate of accreditation is given to the medical schools after completion of the process.

TEPDAD is recognized by the Turkish Higher Educational Council as a quality assurance association. This year **TEPDAD was evaluated with a site-visit by the World Federation for Medical Education** and was accredited and recognized as an accreditation body for 10 years.

At the current state yearly 4 medical schools are applying for accreditation to the association in average which seems ensure an interest of the medical schools for this process. We believe this process will have a significant impact on standardization and the quality of medical schools educational program in Turkey and improve and sustain the quality of the programs which will in turn impact the quality of graduates and the health services given.

By Iskender Sayek M.D.,FACS



Kick-off Event

of the EU-Funded Project “Strengthening Institutional Capacities for Quality Assurance”

Banja Luka, 8 October 2013 – The launch of the EU-funded Twinning Project “Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Quality Assurance” was officially marked at a kick-off event held in Banja Luka on 8 October. The project represents **a partnership between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Austria** and it is funded by the EU under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA 2011) in the amount of EUR 1 million.

The overall objective of the project is to **contribute to increased mobility and employability of labour force through the quality improvement** of higher education institutions in line with the Bologna Process. The project purpose is to improve and strengthen human resources and institutional capacities for quality assurance in higher education. The **main partner for the project implementation is the Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance of BiH (HEA)**, while other partners are the BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs, entity and cantonal ministries of education, the Education Department in the Government of the Brčko District of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the **Higher Education Accreditation Agency of Republika Srpska (RS HEAA)** and student associations, Rector's Conference and higher education institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina. On behalf of Austria, the project will be implemented by the Agency for European Integration and Economic Development (AEI), while the **Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria (AQ Austria)** will provide the appropriate expertise during the two years of project implementation, in cooperation with relevant experts.

The kick-off event was opened by Mr Adnan Husić, Assistant Minister in the Sector for Education of the BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs, and Ms Jadranka Mihić, a representative of the EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Dr **Husein Nanić, Director of HEA** and the Project Leader in the Beneficiary Country, highlighted the significance of this project for the whole higher education system in Bosnia and Herzegovina but for HEA as well. He reminded that, by signing the Bologna Declaration, Bosnia and Herzegovina has accepted a common European policy in higher education with all the commitments contained therein, where establishment and further development of quality assurance system is essential. The key goal of this project is implementation of the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG) in the higher education system in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Nanić pointed out, adding that the Agency and other partners, ministries and higher education institutions will get the necessary expert support through the project, with the aim to further develop the quality assurance system in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The representative of AQ Austria and the **Project Leader** of the Member State, Mr **Alexander Kohler**, stressed the importance of the project for Austria in the sense of establishment of the regional partnership and mutual learning. He presented the project activities, stressing that AQ Austria, in cooperation with international experts in this field, will provide expert assistance, transfer of knowledge and experience with the aim to achieve the project objectives. „This partnership will support Bosnia and Herzegovina in moving closer to the European Higher Education Area and to secure trust in the quality of its universities. The success of the project will clearly depend on the willingness of BiH authorities and interest groups to set necessary reforms and to implement them in practice.” said Kohler.

The kick-off event in Banja Luka gathered representatives of competent ministries of education in Bosnia and Herzegovina, higher education institutions and student associations.

The Twinning Project „Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Quality Assurance“ consists



of four components: analysis of the legal provisions in BiH, strengthening capacity of the Agency, application of quality management system at higher education institutions and providing support in the organization of external evaluations of higher education institutions and study programmes.

The project's duration is 24 months, starting from 13 September 2013 until September 2015.



Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Quality Assurance in Bosnia and Herzegovina – Analysis of Legal Provisions Started

The Agency for Development of Higher Education and Quality Assurance (HEA) has started under the **IPA-funded Twinning Project "Strengthening Institutional Capacity for Quality Assurance"** with the implementation of Component 1 that consists of an **"Analysis of Legal Provisions in BiH"**.

The analysis is relevant to understanding the potentials for and the barriers to the implementation of a quality assurance system in BiH. A number of interest groups and stakeholders are involved in the activity. Interviews with various stakeholders, representatives of ministries of education, higher education institutions, students and BiH quality assurance experts were conducted in the course of two expert missions that took place in November in Banja Luka and Sarajevo. These groups of stakeholders will also be invited to take part in an event in February next year when the recommendations resulting from the November and December activities will be presented to them.

There were also two expert missions planned for December, when the legal framework for quality assurance was analyzed against the ESG II and ESG III.

An analysis of HEA's internal capacities with respect to the implementation of an effective external quality assurance system which is in compliance with the national legislative framework, as well as the ESG, constitutes the core objective of Component 2. HEA will prepare a self-evaluation report in view of the external assessment for ENQA full membership. HEA's activities within Component 2 will also include the preparation of its medium-term strategic plan; work on the improvement of its internal quality management and consolidation of its accreditation criteria and procedures, all falling within the same component.

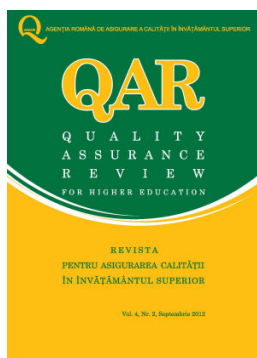
The activities falling within Component 3 will encourage higher education institutions to further develop their internal quality management strategies and activities.

Under Component 4, HEA will, in cooperation with education authorities, perform accreditation procedures at BiH higher education institutions, in accordance with the Framework Law and other relevant pieces of legislation. The core objective will be the improvement of external evaluation processes.

The Twinning Project has a duration of two years (24 months). The project commenced mid-September 2013 and is to end by September 2015.



This project represents a partnership between Bosnia and Herzegovina and Austria and it is funded by the EU under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA 2011) in the amount of EUR 1 million. It is implemented by the **Austrian Agency for European Integration and Economic Development (AEI)**. The **Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation of Austria (AQ Austria)** provides the relevant expertise concerning the project. The project purpose is to improve and develop human resources and institutional capacities for quality assurance in higher education in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The overall objective is to contribute to increased mobility and employability of the labour force through the quality improvement of higher education institutions in line with the Bologna Process.



Call for Papers

Quality Assurance Review

Vol. 6, No. 1, 2014

Quality Assurance Review:

Recommendations and proposals for improving internal evaluation instruments for quality assurance within higher education institutions

Edited by: The Council of the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education - ARACIS

Place of publication: Bucharest, Romania

Publication type: printed, online

Publication date: May 2014

Submission deadline: March 15, 2014

Quality Assurance Review is an academic publication which focuses on aspects related to quality assurance in higher education in Romania. The journal aims to become an instrument for the transfer of best practices and to support communication between internal and external experts, as well as to contribute to the development of a quality assurance culture. QAR was created for those interested in the theory, practice and policies related to quality assurance.

The editors encourage the submission of research results, especially those that evaluate the impact of quality assurance systems, procedures and methodologies. Furthermore, theoretical analyses of quality assurance in higher education, comparative evaluations and analyses of international topics regarding policies and practices that focus on identifying methods, systems and transferable best practices are also welcomed.

QAR is edited from the ARACIS's own funds and assures the sustainability of the „Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Romania in the European context. Developing the management of academic quality at systemic and institutional level - ACADEMIS” project, POSDRU/2/1.2/S/1 contract, project code 3933.

The topic of the 6 (1) issue focuses on the development and dissemination of proposals for improving the internal assessment tools and practices of quality assurance at the level of higher education institutions. The editors encourage the submission for publication of articles that challenge and analyze different aspects which they consider relevant for the internal quality assurance process, in order to increase the quality of the data and effects which are obtained after applying evaluation instruments at the internal level. At the same time, authors are encouraged to bring recommendations regarding the possibilities of increasing the use of evidence and effects which are obtained in order to facilitate the institutional development of higher education institutions. Examples taken from the experience of implementing institutional development projects (internal or European funded) can also be used.

Contact persons: Nicolae Toderaș, Ana-Maria Stăvaru (Editors)

Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS)

Bd. Șchitu Măgureanu, no. 1, Sector 1, Bucharest, 050025

Phone: +40 21 206 76 00; Fax: +40 21 312 71 35

E-mail: qar@aracis.ro

Website: <http://www.aracis.ro/en/publicatii/qar-magazine/numarul-curent/>

QAR is indexed in the following international catalogues and databases: EBSCO, SCIOPI, Index Copernicus, UlrichsWeb, Open J-Gate and Directory of Open Access Journals.

Steps to follow in order to publish a paper in QAR:

- Send the paper according to the submission guidelines to the following e-mail address: qar@aracis.ro, where you can request submission guidelines and additional information.



EENQA

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

eca
european consortium for accreditation

JOQAR

ECA's JOQAR Dissemination Conference

The JOQAR Dissemination Conference "**Quality Assurance and Recognition of Joint Programmes: The Art and the Passion**" took place in Círculo de Bellas Artes in Madrid on 20-21 June 2013. The JOQAR project is co-funded by the European Commission and is the acronym of: Joint programmes - Quality Assurance and Recognition of degrees awarded.

Today, quality assurance and recognition of joint programmes are still a major challenge. The conference provided higher education institutions, recognition authorities, quality assurance and accreditation agencies, and policy makers with the latest update on the solutions developed by the **European Consortium for Accreditation (ECA)** in the framework of the JOQAR project.



23 speakers volunteered their energy to support new solutions in the field of quality assurance and recognition of joint programmes on behalf of various organisations: European Commission, joint programmes, ENIC-NARICs, QA and accreditation bodies, ESU, EUA, EURASHE, BusinessEurope, Erasmus Mundus Alumni Association, ACA. They shared their insights and expertise with 120 participants from 25 countries including Colombia, Japan and Taiwan. This is a telling illustration of the fact that the solutions elaborated by the JOQAR project constitute a response to truly global needs.

The global nature of the issues discussed was further confirmed by the fact that the first QA agency outside of Europe- Consejo Nacional de Acreditación (CNA), Republic of Colombia - has joined the Mutual Recognition Agreement of Accreditation Results regarding Joint Programmes (MULTRA). The agreement was signed by Patricia Marfines Barrios, Deputy Minister of Higher Education of the Republic of Colombia. In the following weeks the MULTRA was signed by the Agentur für Qualitätssicherung durch Akkreditierung von Studiengängen e.V. (AQAS), Germany. So far the MULTRA has been signed by 12 agencies.

The conference participants discussed the **QA of joint programmes, single accreditation procedures and MULTRA**. Moreover, the participants got familiar with Guidelines and Good Practices on awarding joint degrees and issuing joint diploma supplements. These guidelines as well as guidelines for fair recognition by the competent authorities have been elaborated in close cooperation with ENIC-NARICs. In addition, the participants got a thorough introduction to the role and the benefits of the Coordination point, which will be established to assist higher education institutions and agencies regarding external quality assurance procedures of joint programmes. It will also provide relevant information on internal and external quality assurance of joint programmes and the recognition of their degrees. The latter will be realised through on-line database driven tools - Crossroads and a Joint Programmes portal on **ECApedia** - designed to bring together the information on QA and recognition of joint programmes in a user-friendly and interactive manner.

The conference format allowed the organisers to establish a constructive dialogue with the participants through panel discussions with the stakeholder organisations and breakout sessions on the newly elaborated instruments by the JOQAR project. These comments and suggestions will be used to improve the new instruments and methodologies before the JOQAR project ended in October 2013.

The final recommendation of the conference is clear: More flexibility and determination is required from national governments to make the cross-border recognition and QA of joint programmes a reality and to replace multiple national accreditations by a single accreditation of which the results are accepted in all countries where joint programmes are provided.



EENQA

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

Links:

JOQAR Project:

<http://www.eacaconsortium.net/main/projects/joqar>

JOQAR Dissemination Conference:

<http://www.eacaconsortium.net/main/events/detail/quality-assurance-and-recognition-of-joint-programmes/24>

MULTRA:

<http://www.eacaconsortium.net/main/documents/mutual-recognition-agreements>

