



# CEENQA

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

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# Newsletter

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## CEENQA General Assembly in Pristina, Kosovo



Photo: AAL

## CEENQA News

### CEENQA General Assembly and Workshop in Pristina

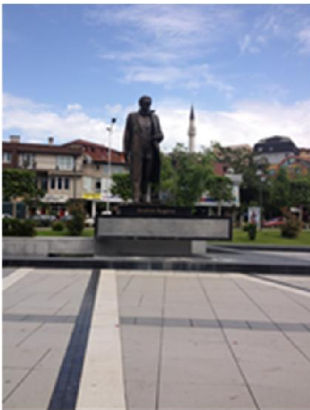
With the departure of four active Board members from their respective member agencies, **Hasan Bicak**, **Adrian Miroiu**, **Mieczyslaw Socha** and Vice-president **Alexander Kohler** also resigned from their CEENQA board membership. At the annual General Assembly in Pristina on-24 May 2014, the members expressed their gratitude for their dedication to and work for CEENQA and wished them well for their future endeavours. Due to illness, President Iring Wasser was not able to attend the meeting and addressed members by mail. The election of four new Board members, with mandates until 2016, took place.

- **Dhurata Bozo**, APAAL Albania
- **Cristina Ghitulica**, ARACIS Romania
- **Nora Skaburskiene**, SKVC Lithuania
- **Izabella Kwiatkowska-Sujka**, PKA Poland

were elected to the Board, with

- **Izabella Kwiatkowska-Sujka** elected also as Treasurer.
- Continuing Board member **Ivan Leban** was voted **Vice- President**.

Hosted by member agency the **Kosovo Accreditation Agency**, participants enjoyed not only the efficient organisation but also the generous hospitality of **KAA**. A bus trip



The Statue of Ibrahim Rugova in Pristina

to the snowy caps of Šar Mountain and the Dinarides range culminated in a delicious dinner in the historic town of Prizren.

The annual workshop, held on 23 May, was titled **Practices in Quality Assurance: Survey Results**. After **Minister of Education, Science and Technology Rame Buja** welcomed the participants to Kosovo, CEENQA Project Manager **Mila Zarkh** summarised the preliminary findings of an extensive survey sent to all CEENQA members. The survey was composed by INQAAHE on request by UNESCO to conduct a scoping study in the three sub-regions Eastern Europe, Caucasus and Central Asia, on Practices of External Quality Assurance.

**Lukas Bischof** from CHE Consult in Berlin presented the findings of a "**Study to prepare the Report on Progress in Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area**" carried out for the EU Commission. **André Govaert**, KU Leuven and **Ferdije Ehtemi**, KAA spoke about their "**Experiences with benchmarking and the quality assurance of learning outcomes**". Two Parallel Discussion Groups explored "**What makes a successful agency nationally and internationally?**" and "**Quality assurance focusing on learning outcomes and National Qualification Frameworks**".

**Nadejda Velisco** from the Ministry of Education of **Moldova** gave a presentation on the situation of quality assurance and progress in setting up a quality assurance organisation in her country, which is planned to launch in January 2015. CEENQA hopes that a new quality assurance agency from Moldova will join the network in the near future.

## International Projects

**Mila Zarkh** continues actively in participating and managing the CEENQA TEMPUS projects. For **ALIGN** (Achieving and Checking the Alignment Between Academic Programs and Qualification Frameworks) the draft guidelines are being written. **BIHTEK** (Benchmarking as a tool for improvement of higher education performance) continues with the participation of **Nora Skaburskiene**. A third project, **BHQFHE** (Bosnia and Herzegovina Qualification Framework for Higher Education), is being readied, as is the project **QUALITAS** (Develop and strengthen quality culture in the Romanian higher education system), coordinated by **ARACIS**.

## CEENQA welcomes its 27<sup>th</sup> Member

CEENQA welcomes its newest member, the **Independent Kazakhstan Quality Assurance Agency in Education!** IQAA has applied for membership in CEENQA by filing application documents in accordance with CEENQA regulations. Members deciding by electronic vote by the deadline of July 15 to accept IQAA as a new member.

**IQAA** is the **27th member of CEENQA** and the network now spans **21 countries**. More on IQAA can be found on their website at <http://www.iqaa.kz/>.



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## Message from the President

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

With everybody preparing for a well-deserved summer break, we are very pleased to submit to you this latest edition of the CEENQA newsletter. Not being able to be with you during the CEENQA annual conference as well as our General Assembly meeting, I am all the more happy having received very positive reports related to the **organisation and hospitality of our colleagues in Kosovo**, the wide attendance as well as the vibrant discussions in those days in Pristina. There also has been a major



changing of the guard in the composition of the CEENQA Board, including the election of a new Vice-President and a Treasurer, and we will therefore after the summer break **convene a board meeting** to assign and fine-tune the different responsibilities of the seven Board members, discuss our ongoing and new projects and how to best associate the CEENQA members with these responsibilities; the results of this meeting will of course be communicated to all CEENQA members in a timely manner.

In the international QA arena, it is interesting to note that the topic of **impact of (external as well as internal) quality assurance is coming to the forefront** of the agenda; as a matter of fact, in the **upcoming INQAAHE biannual assembly**, which will take place at the very beginning of March 2015, this will be one of the umbrella themes of the conference; I am positive that CEENQA can submit substantial contributions, building on the results of the UNESCO/World Bank survey, which especially targeted the CEENQA region.

In terms of CEENQA membership composition, I am pleased to inform you, that the **Independent Kazakhstan Quality Assurance Agency in Education (IQAA)** has been accepted into the family of CEENQA agencies. It is also encouraging to note that the last remaining "white spots" on the external quality assurance side in our region, namely, **Moldova** but also the **Ukraine** as well as **Belorussia** are slowly but surely being filled. CEENQA will assist in this process to the best of its abilities.

I wish you all a pleasant and restful summer break!

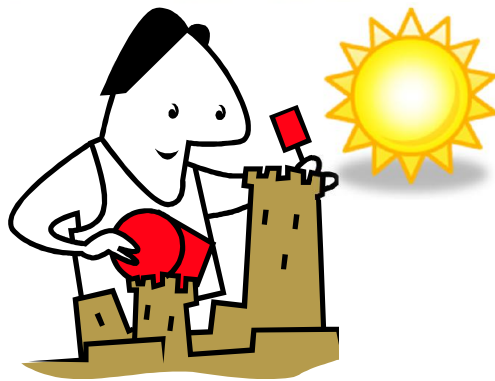
**Iring Wasser**



## Upcoming Events

# Summer Holidays

Ձմռանը Հոլիդայս



### Dates to note:

- 16-17 October 2014** - ENQA General Assembly in Zagreb
- 13-15 November 2014** – European Quality Forum EQAF in Barcelona
- 30 March-3 April 2015** – INQAAHE biannual assembly in Chicago

## Calendar

### July 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  |     |     |     |

### August 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  |

### September 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  |     |     |     |     |     |

## News from Members and Partners



### ARACIS: Evaluation/accreditation of Master Domains in Romania – from „Study programs only” to more flexibility and university autonomy of the academic offer for the 2nd Bologna cycle

Starting with the academic year 2013-2014 „**Accredited Master Studies Domains**” were approved by Governmental Decision. Such domains include at the moment Master Programs previously accredited by ARACIS until 30 June 2013. The Higher education institutions running such accredited Master study programs are considered as „Accredited HEIs” for the corresponding Master Studies Domains, by Order of the Ministry of National Education. The **periodic evaluation of Master Studies Domains shall be performed by ARACIS** according to the „Specific Procedure for external evaluation of accredited Master Studies Domains”, approved in 2014 by Order of the Ministry of National Education. Accredited Master Studies Programs judged by ARACIS with „Limited Confidence” and the Master Studies Programs which have not yet been re-evaluated within the legal time limit of 5 years following accreditation shall be re-visited by ARACIS, which, after evaluation, shall advise the Ministry of National Education on the possibility to allow them



to continue the academic offer or, if quality standards are not met, to have their accreditation cancelled.

The procedures applied by ARACIS for accreditation/periodic evaluation of Master Studies Domains are the included into three categories:

- Periodic external evaluation of existing Master Studies Domains;
- Periodic external evaluation for accreditation of a new Master Studies Domain; a new Master Studies Domain is generally defined as a domain for which a HEI does not have any accredited Master Study Program;
- Periodic external evaluation for including a new Master Studies Program intended by a HEI into an existing accredited Master Studies Domain.

The new procedure is intended to **allow HEIs to be more flexible** and effective in adjusting their academic offer to the demand of the labour market. In the same time, Master Study Programs can also be evaluated by ARACIS using for the moment the existing Methodology, if this would be the case.

## News from NCPA



### ENQA Forum - 2014

**4th ENQA Members' Forum was held on April 24-25, 2014 in St Petersburg**, Russia. The Forum was organized by National Centre for Public Accreditation and Saint-Petersburg State University of Economics (FINEC). The event was attended by 77 participants who represented 48 accrediting agencies from 32 countries.

The breakout sessions were devoted to the revision of ESG-ENQA and to the role of the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education in promoting and assuring the quality of work of accrediting agencies.

On the General Assembly Meeting the resolutions of the Assembly Meeting in Vilnius were adopted, new members and affiliated members of the Association were approved, new candidates for ENQA Appeal Committee were elected and ENQA Audit Reports for 2013 were considered and adopted.

The programme included the discussion and preparation of **ENQA Strategic Plan** for 2016-2020. The following priority tasks were identified:

- internal quality assurance of accrediting agencies
- representation of ENQA at the political level
- involving more stakeholders in the activity of the Association
- professional development in the sphere of quality assurance
- development of guidelines on best practices
- strategic management, interaction between agencies and HEIs, internationalization.

On the first day of the event welcome dinner was organized at the panoramic Le Vernissage Restaurant, where the guests could see the historic city centre from the bird's-eye view. Besides, the participants of the Forum had an opportunity to visit the sights of Saint Petersburg, which is famous for its cultural heritage.

Please see additional information and photos from the event on the [official website of NCPA](#).



## Cooperation Agreement with ARACIS

A cooperation agreement between The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education - ARACIS, Romania and the National Centre for Public Accreditation, Russia was signed in April, 2014. The event was attended by **Padraig Walsh**, President of the European Network for Quality Assurance in Higher Education.

## External Review of the National Centre of Public Accreditation (NCPA)

National Centre for Public Accreditation underwent the **ENQA external review** on March 4-6, 2014. The review was aimed at evaluating the way in which and to what extent NCPA fulfils the criteria for the ENQA membership and thus the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area. Consequently, the review also provided information to the ENQA Board to aid its consideration of whether NCPA should be granted Full Membership of ENQA.

The first day of the site-visit of the external review panel took place in Moscow, Russia. Events of the second day of the review were conducted in Yoshkar-Ola, Russia. The panel was composed of the following members:

- **Riitta Pyykkö**, Vice Rector, University of Turku, Finland – Chair
- Patrick van den Bosch, Staff member Quality Assurance, Flemish Council of Universities and University Colleges (VLUHR), Belgium – Secretary
- **Oana Sarbu**, Head of Experts and Inspectors Department, Quality Assurance Expert, Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS), Romania
- **Jean-Pierre Finance**, Provisional administrator of the university of Lorraine and advisor for EU at the Conférence des Présidents d'Université (CPU – French university rectors conference), France – EUA nomination
- **Asnate Kažoka**, Master's degree in IT project management, University of Riga Executive Board Member, Higher Education Quality Evaluation Center (HEQEC), Bologna expert in project "National Teams of Bologna experts, 2011 – 2013, Latvia", State Education Development Agency, Latvia – ESU nomination

The evaluation is scheduled to end in June 2014.



## Eastern Mediterranean University receives FIBAA Quality Seal for 16 programmes

On June 12th **Daisuke Motoki**, Managing Director of **FIBAA**, handed over the FIBAA **Quality Seal for 14 accredited study programmes and for 2 certified continuing education courses** to the representatives of the **Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU)**, North Cyprus. The ceremony took place at the campus in Gazimagusa in the presence of the executive committee, the deans, the faculty and administrative staff members.

At the beginning of the ceremony Professor **Dr. Adullah Y. Öztoprak**, Rector of the EMU, informed the audience about the 14 accredited study programmes and the 2 certified continuing education courses. He emphasized the importance of an international accreditation and particularly the significance of the FIBAA Quality Seal for his Higher Education Institution.

In his inaugural address, Mr. Motoki complimented the EMU on its hospitality, its excellent smooth organisation of the site visit and its remarkable efforts to meet European and international standards. 'During the accreditation and certification procedures EMU proved to be a modern Higher Education Institution, which offers contemporary, sustainable and high-quality education in accordance with international standards. EMU



conducts research at international level, contributes to the needs of the society and prepares its students for the challenges of the international labour market with help of transfer of the necessary knowledge and high quality student support and counselling services. The panel members were particularly impressed by the **strong international profile of the study programmes, the integration of theory and practice and the focus on employability** of the certified continuing education courses', stressed Mr. Motoki.



*From left to right: Professor Dr. Mustafa Ilkan, Professor Dr. Adullah Y. Öztoprak,, Daisuke Motoki, , Professor Dr. Cem Tanova, Professor Dr. Mehmet Altinay*

Professor Öztoprak used the opportunity to thank all the staff members, who made this success possible. Furthermore, he expressed his gratitude to **Professor Dr. Hasan Ali Bicak**, former President of the Higher Education Planning, Evaluation, Accreditation and Coordination Council (YÖDAK), for his active assistance.