



December 2015
Volume 4 No. 3

Newsletter



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Winter landscape with skaters by Hendrick Avercamp

Message from the President

Dear Colleagues,
Dear Friends of CEENQA,

The year 2015 is slowly but surely coming to an end, time for a final update as well as an outlook on next year's activities.

CEENQA congratulates our secretary general **Christina Rozsnyai** for being elected to the **Board of ENQA** for a three year term on the occasion of the 6th ENQA General Assembly meeting in Dublin on 22-23 October 2015. This will certainly benefit the **CEENQA-ENQA partnership agreement**, as we continue to have direct communication channels and also can interlink our activities.

CEENQA also welcomes its new project manager, **Stefanie Lochbaum**, who takes over the **international projects and financial issues in the Düsseldorf office** from Viktoria Börner. CEENQA thanks Viktoria for her time and dedication in moving the projects on and ensuring CEENQA's success in the projects with her contributions. Stefanie holds an international management degree, has a sinology background and has worked at a product certification agency prior to joining CEENQA. Stefanie is eager to manage CEENQA's continuous involvement in the various EU-projects with **BIHTEK and ALIGN being of her top priorities** for upcoming project activities and the next year. In this newsletter you will receive a further update on the current status of CEENQA projects. In the News Section from Members and Partners interesting contributions from SKVC, NCPA, ACQUIN, HEARS as well as EVALAG are provided. EUA



and ENQA have also contributed, and you will find an interesting summary of the current ASEAN-EU share program, which is aiming at integrating the Bologna reforms to the current reform agenda of the ASEAN countries. Members are encouraged to continuously update the CEENQA community about new developments in their respective agencies.

As you all know, the new **ERASMUS PLUS tender** has been issues with its various project lines: **I encourage each and every member to think proactively of how to collaborate in regional networks and also how to engage CEENQA in these endeavours** – judging by experience, these collaborative network applications have a better chance to succeed.

A couple of days ago we have received an application letter from the **Independent Agency for Accreditation and Rating of Kazakhstan to join the ranks of CEENQA** members – we will shortly get in contact with you regarding this issue.

At the closing of this year, It is important to note that the **financial worries** associated with the 2014 budget have been **completely solved** by now. **Due to the insistence of Viktoria and also Stefanie**, we have meanwhile received all of the considerable outstanding payments for CEENQA services for EU projects so that the small surplus presented at the CEENQA general assembly for the budget of last year has now materialized and we are also in line with the budget predictions for 2015.

Looking into the future, preparations for an eventful 2016 are under way. **CEENQA's general assembly and workshop 2016** is still a few months away. As a reminder: it will be conducted on **May 13th to 14th at the Jagiellonian University in the historical building Collegium Marius**. Logistics and selection of suitable hotels are being organized by the **University Accreditation Commission (UAC) from Poland** and will be communicated in the very near future.

The CEENQA **Board will meet in a teleconference on the 15th of December** to discuss the agenda and responsibilities for next year: members will be duly informed about the outcomes.

On a personal note: **ASIIN is inviting** CEENQA members and a group of international stakeholder for an International, **English-speaking conference** titled: **"The Mystery of the Untapped Potential of HE Quality Assurance and Accreditation – how we jointly can tackle the five remaining grand challenges"**, which will take place between **May 2-4, 2016** in the Steigenberger hotel in Berlin. The program and registration forms will be online in the course of next week.

Last, but not least, I wish all of you **a pleasant end of this year, a happy Christmas and a very good start into 2016.**

Iring Wasser



Upcoming Events

Future dates:

2-4 May 2016 ASSIIN Conference "The Mystery of the Untapped Potential of HE Quality Assurance and Accreditation – how we jointly can tackle the five remaining grand challenges", Berlin

13-14 May 2016 CEENQA workshop and general assembly at the historical building Collegium Maius of Jagiellonian University

Calendar

December 2015

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 2016

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 2016

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
23	24	25	26	27	28	29

News on CEENQA Projects



Regarding CEENQA´s **ALIGN project** (Achieving and checking the alignment between academic programs and qualification frameworks), it has a life span until November 30th 2016. Its goal is, as you recall, the alignment between altogether 18 academic university programs offered in 9 universities in the Ukraine, Russia and Armenia and the corresponding national qualification frameworks. Corresponding CEENQA workshops to support the national partners in the development and application of mechanisms for checking alignment of HEI's academic programs with national qualification frameworks have by now been completed in all three countries, thus a major milestone accomplished. The last of these workshops took place in the Ukraine on 11-11 November 2015 in Kiev.



Almantas Serpatauskas from the Center for Quality Assessment in Higher Education in Lithuania, **Stefanie Lochbaum** and **Iring Wasser** were invited by the Ukrainian partners to conduct the final workshop. It was attached to an important Ukrainian national conference on the reform of HE and the further integration of the country in the European Higher Education Area.

The next challenge now will be pilot external evaluations of the 18 programs in summer of next year. We will call upon CEENQA members to provide experts for the EQA panels to be sent to participating universities, all of which will consist of 2 EU (CEENQA) peers, 2



locals, 1 student and 1 employer representative. Upon the receipt of the final report the HEIs will embark on revision of the newly developed tools and mechanisms.

Following the above mentioned workshop we subsequently **went to Moscow** to attend and present at a workshop organized by the **Russian TEMPUS** office under ALIGN from the 13 -14 November, about which you can read more in following sections of this newsletter.

In as far as **our BITHEK project** (Benchmarking as a tool for improvement of higher education institution performance) is concerned, the project to implement benchmarking tools in the HE sector of Bosnia & Herzegovina as main goal is also still ongoing. It has recently been prolonged for another 6 months until April 2016. A final round of site visits to all eight Bosnian partner universities will be conducted in March of next year to monitor the project progress as well as the overall project management. The final meeting and end of the project will be on the 14th of April. For having a further impact, the universities will have to prepare strategies for how to continue the benchmarking process on their own.

The **project QUALITAS has come to an end**. Due to salary distribution limitations on part of the project management, CEENQA will not further contribute to the project.

Finally, as you are aware of, CEENQA will be a partner in a new project named **QUAERE** (Quality Assurance System in Ukraine: Development on the base of ENQA standards and guidelines), which officially started on the 15th of October 2015 and is planned to end in October 2017. Its aims are better external and internal quality assurance systems on national and institutional level in Ukraine.

European partners besides CEENQA are the Politechnika Wroclawska in Poland, the University of Koblenz in Germany, the Aleksandro Stulginskio University in Lithuania, the University of Patras in Greece and a Network University in the Netherlands.

Ukrainian partners are the Sumy State University, Khmelnytsky National University, the State Higher Educational Institution "National Mining University", the Ivan Franko National University of Lviv, the Berdyansk State Pedagogical University, the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, the Yuriz Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University, the Odessa National I.I. Mechnikov University, the State Educational Institution Educational and Methodical Centre, the Ukrainian Association of Student's Self Government and the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. Kick off meetings and plans for first activities are scheduled to be designed by the beginning of next year.

News from Members and Partners



Internal Quality Assurance: Linking Central Administration and Academic Units

On 28th October, 2015 the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education in Lithuania organised an international seminar "Internal Quality Assurance: Linking Central Administration and Academic Units". The target group of the event was representatives of Quality Divisions at higher education institutions.

Prof. **Freddy Coignoul**, who is a Honorary Vice-Rector at the University of Liège, took a role of a key speaker and presented the challenges and the opportunities (in relation to the University of Liège case) higher education institutions experience in performing the evaluation of central administration. Assoc. Prof. **Mari-Jose Bezanilla**, being responsible for educational innovations at Technical Unit of Innovation and Quality at the University of Deusto, presented a model to assure quality in teaching at the University of Deusto. Head of the Study Programmes Quality Management Division at Vilnius University Assoc. Prof. **Daiva Lepaitė** shared her observations about creation of academic learning community.





The second half of the seminar was dedicated to group sessions where participants of the event had a possibility to discuss an impact of central administration in assuring quality of studies. The group sessions were moderated by Prof. Freddy Coignoul and Assoc. Prof. Daiva Lepaitė.

At the end of the seminar the discussions of the group sessions were summarised and presented to the audience.

The seminar is from series of annual events organized by SKVC to community of Higher Education Institutions. The aim of such seminars is to bring specialists and discuss relevant topics, share experience, support networking of quality officers of HEIs. Participation of foreign experts in such events is traditional to SKVC.



NCPA-HEEC cooperation in quality assurance

Due to its unique geographical position Russia lies both in Europe and Asia. And alongside developing close international cooperation with European accreditation agencies NCPA has recently been collaborating with its eastern partners Taiwan, Philippines, and particularly, China.

In the 1950-ies Russia contributed a lot to establishing modern Chinese system of education. At that time thousands of students from the Peoples' Republic of China got higher education in Russia. Since 1990-ies our two countries have been experiencing the revival of connections in the sphere of education, and this cooperation is gaining momentum.

The signing of Memorandum of Cooperation between the National Centre for Public Accreditation (NCPA, Russia) and Higher Education Evaluation Centre of the Ministry of Education (HEEC, China) is another step in this direction. The Agreement, which was signed by NCPA Director Dr. **Vladimir Navodnov** and HEEC's Director General Dr. **Wu Yan**, involves conducting joint procedures of quality evaluation of education programmes in both Russian and Chinese HEIs.

The official ceremony was held in Beijing on the 21 of September 2015, and already in October 2015 representatives of HEEC took part in the external evaluation of 10 clusters of educational programmes at Immanuel Kant Baltic Federal University. This procedure was followed by the external evaluation of 2 clusters of educational programmes at **Lobachevsky State University of Nizhni Novgorod** (Russia), which was held on November 10-12, 2015.

For its part, Russian experts participated in the evaluation procedures held at Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications, and Tsinghua University.

The experience of joint international reviews was unique for both Russia and China. The procedures involved a lot of work in aligning standards and criteria. Representatives of two agencies coordinated the work of external review panels.

Both sides have big plans and ideas for future cooperation in the sphere of quality assurance, which has a potential to develop into a lasting mutually beneficial project.

Annual Forum of Experts in Higher Education

Moscow, Russia, November 13 - 14, 2015

On November 13-14, 2015 an annual Forum of Experts in Higher Education was held in Moscow. This year's Forum was co-organized by the NCPA, the Guild of Experts in Higher Education and Moscow Pedagogical State University with the participation and financial support of the TEMPUS-1-2013-1-AM-TEMPUS-JPGR.



The Forum brought together representatives from expert, academic, professional and student communities from **Russia, Armenia, Ukraine and EU countries: Belgium, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Poland**. There were over 160 participants (64 of them were ALIGN project partners).

The first day's presentations focused on the issues of education quality and relevance of students' learning experience. One of the key speakers at the plenary session was CEENQA president Dr. **Iring Wasser**, whose presentation was devoted to the important issue of learning outcomes and their implementation in the Russian higher education system. This issue from the point of view of LO assessment was developed in the presentation of **Vladimir Navodnov**, Director of NCPA. Another topic which kindled the interest of the audience was "nostrificating" the new European quality standards in Russia addressed by Dr. **Galina Motova**.

During the second day the participants were engaged in the discussions of three working sessions: Writing and Using Good Learning Outcomes for Quality Progression of Students; Tools and Mechanisms for Assessing Students' Learning Outcomes; Achieving Excellence in Higher Education through Quality Assurance

In the opinion of those, who attended this notable event, the Forum deepened our understanding of importance, factors and driving forces, as well as impacts of education quality and relevant learning outcomes on improving students' performance within EHEA countries.

ACQUIN

Akkreditierungs, Zertifizierungs- und
Qualitätssicherungs-Instituts

Acquin: Bringing Ukraine in: The Development of an Accreditation System in Higher Education

As one of the last countries in the European Higher Education Area (EHEA), Ukraine is starting to establish a system of quality assurance and accreditation in the higher education system. The German Accreditation, Certification and Quality Assurance Institute (ACQUIN) accompanies this project with institutional support and joint activities.

After the initial consultations during the **Ukrainian-German Forum "Education Science, Innovations at Universities: Current Challenges"**, which took place in March 2015 in Kiev as a project of the Germany and Ukrainian Ministries of Education, the implementation of an accreditation system was resolved.

With the aim to put Ukrainian stakeholders in the position to found institutions, such as independent accreditation bodies and a single rulebook on the basis of the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG), a first workshop has been held on 12 - 13 October 2015 at the **Shevtsenko University in Kiev**. This seminar has been organized by the German Rectors Conference (HRK) and the Ukrainian Rectors Conference.

Within two days, the participants from Ukrainian universities discussed recent developments in the national system of higher education and European quality standards to be implemented at universities of the country. To initiate a dialog among stakeholders, the managing director of ACQUIN, **Thomas Reil**, presented the new ESG and recent changes in European quality assurance approach. This input was complemented by a report on empirical insights about international accreditation procedures, which **Nina Soroka** (ACQUIN) contributed. Finally, practical examples of dealing with accreditation and quality assurance at German universities have been shown by Prof. Dr. **Christian Brauweiler** (University of Applied Science Zwickau) and **Lisa Unger Fischer** (University Regensburg).

Participant of the workshop and the rectors' conferences of Germany and Ukraine agreed upon the continuation of the project and established a working group for the further development of quality assurance standards. Members of the group are representatives of the leading universities of Ukraine, the Ukrainian Rectors Conference, HRK and ACQUIN.



Higher Education
Accreditation Agency
of Republika Srpska

Agencija za vaninstitucijsko akreditovanje
visokoznanih ustanova Republike Srpske

HEARS Seminar Series on Learning Outcomes and Qualification Standards

Higher Education Accreditation Agency of Republika Srpska is currently preparing a practical seminar titled „Creation and development of study programs: Learning outcomes and standards of qualifications” that shall be held in three cities: **Istocno Sarajevo (24.11)**, **Bijeljina (26.11)** and **Banjaluka (03.12)**.

Lecturers on the seminar are experts from the country and the region with many years of experience in creation of NQF, qualification standards and occupational standards as well as development of study programs for all three cycles.

Seminar is intended for HEIs' employees working on development and monitoring of study programs (vice rectors, vice-deans, heads of study programs, heads of departments, members of teams for creation and monitoring of study programs).

Predicted learning outcomes of the seminar refer to the possibility of recognising the qualification standards in the situation of insufficiently developed NQF, creation of competence matrix with measurable learning outcomes, successful implementation of Bloom's taxonomy of educational objectives for the creation of study programs etc.

Higher Education Accreditation Agency of Republika Srpska has taken part in the first regional meeting of regional quality assurance agencies organised by Agency for Science and Higher Education of Croatia. Meeting was held in Zagreb, on 13th November, 2015 and was attended by the representatives of seven regional agencies.



INQAAHE Research Project On Sustainable Quality Enhancement In Learning And Teaching

The Evaluation Agency Baden-Württemberg (**evalag**) in Mannheim was granted a fund from INQAAHE for a research proposal. The research project is entitled “On the Way to Sustainable Quality Enhancement in Learning and Teaching. Comprehensive **Set of Performance Indicators Based on the ESG and an Integrative Comparison of the AHELO Study, Program Accreditation and the Creative Classroom Research Model**”. The results of the project will be published in the journal “Quality in Higher Education”.

International Events

Two New EUA Publications On Internal Quality Assurance



EUA has recently launched **two new publications** in a continuation of its work to support institutions in developing their internal quality assurance systems and fostering quality cultures.

The EUA occasional paper **[ESG Part 1: Are universities ready?](#)** sets out the current trends in institutional quality assurance in Europe and explores the consequences for universities of the recent introduction of a revised version of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG). While much of the evidence shows progress in recent years, in light of the revised ESG, the paper highlights a number of areas that may need further attention from institutional leadership and quality assurance managers. These include the need to link quality assurance with strategic management, the need to demonstrate implementation of student-centred learning, and the need to develop robust measures for reviewing programmes.



In order to support institutions that are developing their internal quality assurance systems, and in the framework of its [EUREQA project](#) (Empowering universities to fulfil their responsibility for quality assurance), EUA has also published [EUREQA Moments! Top tips for internal quality assurance](#). This takes the form of a practical and concise guide to the core features of internal quality assurance systems, while presenting good practice drawn from the three-year long EUREQA project. It focuses in particular on issues that foster the development of institutional quality cultures, for example, balancing formal and informal approaches, ensuring implementation and communication of follow-up actions, and adapting measures so they are appropriate for the institutional and national context. The publication has also been translated into Albanian, Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian, available [here](#).

RECENT ENQA EVENTS

The ENQA General Assembly - October 2015

The ENQA General Assembly voted in October to fill four Board vacancies, and the resulting outcome saw **Tove Blytt Holmen** (NOKUT, Norway), **Christina Rozsnyai** (HAC, Hungary), **Anne Flierman** (NVAO, Netherlands), and **Salvador Rus Rufino** (ACSUCYL, Spain) - with Salvador Rus Rufino filling the vacancy left by Anthony McClaran's September departure from the Board - selected to the Board. The subsequent election for the positions of ENQA's Vice Presidents resulted in the announcement that **Christoph Grolimund** (AAQ, Switzerland) and **Caty Duykaerts** (AEQES, Belgium) would undertake those responsibilities for the next year. During the General Assembly, ENQA members also approved the 2014-2015 annual activity report, 2016 work plan, 2016 budget plan, and agreed that the membership and affiliate fees would remain unchanged for the forthcoming year.

Conference on quality assurance of cross-border higher education - November 2015

The main output of the [QACHE project](#), the [Toolkit](#), was unveiled at the [Conference on quality assurance of cross-border high education](#) (CBHE), the final dissemination conference of the [QACHE project](#), which took place in Paris on 5-6 November and gathered almost 120 colleagues from 38 countries. The Toolkit, which was also recently presented at the 2015 EQAF in London, aims to provide practical advice on how QA agencies can strengthen cooperation in the quality assurance of CBHE. It sets out general principles and recommendations for enhanced inter-agency engagement, filling a gap in existing international guidance on CBHE. The recommendations presented within the Toolkit are based on information sharing, cooperation in quality assurance, and networks of agencies. The Toolkit is available on the ENQA website: <http://www.enqa.eu/wp-content/uploads/2015/11/QACHE-toolkit.pdf>.

EU Support to Higher Education in ASEAN Region (SHARE)



What is SHARE? - SHARE is a 10M Euro EU Grant funded project with an overarching objective to **strengthen regional cooperation, enhance the quality, competitiveness and internationalisation of ASEAN higher education institutions and students**, contributing to an ASEAN Community beyond 2015. The main aim is to enhance cooperation between the EU and the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and to create lasting benefits from the harmonisation of higher education across ASEAN.

Who are the partners and what are they going to deliver? - A consortium led by British Council, comprising the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), EP-Nuffic, Campus France, the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and the European University Association (EUA) will be working between 2015 and



2018 with ASEAN counterparts to implement SHARE. There are 3 main components (called Result Areas) during the implementation of SHARE, as follows:

Result 1 - Policy Dialogues: Led by British Council - Policy dialogues will be conducted at two levels. *Firstly*, High-level dialogues at ministerial and political levels with ASEAN states, to raise awareness, gain legitimacy for activities and resolve systemic blockages. *Secondly*, operational level dialogues focussing on technical dimensions, providing vertical and horizontal linkages to enable joint actions to cut across other Result areas. Research will be commissioned to direct dialogues and findings will be published to disseminate results. The first Policy Dialogue is planned for August 2015 in Jakarta.

Result 2a and 2b – ASEAN Qualifications Reference Frameworks and ASEAN Quality Assurance: Led by DAAD working with European partners ENQA and EUA - Building on the ASEAN-Australia/New Zealand Free Trade Area (AANZFTA) project which is developing the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRf) and the work of the related AQRf Task Force, studies will be conducted to determine the state of play in ASEAN qualification reference frameworks and quality assurance, and ASEAN degree structures. DAAD will organise a study visit to Europe for a delegation of ASEAN Qualification Framework and Quality Assurance officials, and technical working group meetings.

Result 3a - ASEAN Credit Transfer System (ACTS) & Result 3b - ASEAN-EU Credit Transfer Systems (AECTS): Led by Campus France- Results 3a and 3b operate in parallel. In Year 1 Result 3a and 3b will map existing Asia-based credit transfer systems (CTS), provide needs identification of ACTS and AECTS, support HEIs to implement them and support Result 3c. The method and instruments for CTS will be designed and include development of a common platform for online credit transfer, ACTS/AECTS will then be piloted via this common platform, and results and impact will be evaluated.

Result 3c ACTS & AECTS Student Mobility with Scholarships: Led by EP-Nuffic - Scholarships will be designed with transparent and flexible online application, addressing criteria for student selection adapted for different countries (e.g. academic quality and merit, geographical origin, gender, minority groups, needs and subject area). A promotion and outreach strategy will be developed and delivered in collaboration with selected HEIs who will generate candidates for the short-term intra-ASEAN and ASEAN-EU mobility with credit transfer. In Year 1 Result 3c will develop inventory of current/past mobility initiative in ASEAN region, design scholarship modality and procedures.

Who are the main Stakeholders?

- The European Union (EU), represented by the European Commission in Jakarta
- ASEAN Secretariat in general, represented by Education, Youth and Training Division (EYTD)

Who are the target groups? - SHARE is aimed at a cluster of target groups and beneficiaries. At regional level, these include ASEAN agencies involved in the harmonisation of higher education sectors such as:

- ASEM
- AUN
- AQAFHE Task Forces
- AQAN
- AQRf
- SEAMEO RIHED.

At national level, target groups include:

- government departments responsible for overseeing higher education sector



-
- university leaders associations
 - higher education institutions with ambitions for internationalisation and desire to improve the quality of education provision

Students and employers will directly benefit from SHARE as recipients of quality academic programmes delivering higher level skills and knowledge, improved mobility (borderless education) and enhanced employability skills.

How will it be managed? - A Project Management Unit (PMU) comprising 2 full time staff (team leader and project finance officer), 2 part-time staff (programme manager and programme officer) supported by 2 short term experts (for PR and Communication, and for Monitoring and Evaluation) will be based in Jakarta, within the ASEAN Secretariat. The PMU will coordinate the timely preparation and coordination of all general meetings and reporting.
