



April 2016  
Volume 5 No. 1

# Newsletter

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Photo: @4Corners 2013

## CEENQA News

### CEENQA xxx

As CEENQA is preparing for its annual **workshop and general assembly in Krakow** it looks forward to revisiting the wonderful city **where it was formally established in 2001**. Generously hosted by the Polish University Accreditation Commission and the Polish Accreditation Committee, participants will focus on how to deal with the quality assurance of international provision, a subject that has gained momentum with the adoption by the Ministers of Education in Yerevan in May 2015 of the "European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes".

At the General Assembly, CEENQA members will vote on admitting the Latvian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education **AIKA as its 29th member**.

Of the four Board members up for election this year, one position is certain to change, since **Dhurata Bozo** from the Albanian CEENQA member agency **AAAL** is not standing for re-election in order to focus on the considerably quality assurance innovations in her country. The new Board will continue to focus on CEENQA activities, its **partnership in international projects, networking among members**, and **staff and expert exchanges** especially on bilateral levels. **CEENQA as a network is especially well placed to contribute to the quality assurance of international provision.**



## Message from the President

**Dear Colleagues,  
Dear Friends of CEENQA,**

In less than a month, on the **13-14 May 2016**, the CEENQA community will reunite on the premises of the **Jagiellonian University in Krakow** to hold its traditional **Annual Workshop** in conjunction with our Annual **General Assembly**. The workshop this year is devoted to the topic "**Quality Assurance of Transnational Higher Education**", hosted by our Polish members, the **Polish Accreditation Committee** as well as the **University Accreditation Commission**. Among the speakers figure leading representatives of SKVC Lithuania, AQ Austria as well as the British QAA and our cooperation partner ECA, the European Consortium for Accreditation, please have a look at the [Workshop Program](#). As to our General Assembly Meeting, members will decide among other things on **refined criteria for CEENQA membership**, the **application of the Latvian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (AIKA)** for CEENQA membership and on the **election for four of the seven board members**. An attractive social program including a visit to **Wavel Royal Castle** forms part of our meetings, the outcomes of which will be communicated in due time.

I am also happy to announce that the **CEENQA membership brochure** has now been finalized. It gives first of all a comprehensive overview of who we are and what we do, including summative information about important CEENQA events and milestones dating back to the first origins of CEEN in 1995. Moreover you will find detailed information about our **28 national agencies in 19 countries** with regard to the respective legal bases/membership structures, the EQA services provided by members as well as references to its International activities and contact information. The brochure can also be loaded down from our webpage [www.ceenqa.eu](http://www.ceenqa.eu) from late April.

CEENQA continues to be active in a considerable number of **EU projects**, the latest one being labelled **QUARE**, which is designed to build a reliable **quality assurance system in the Ukraine** in line with the European Standards and Guidelines. This project fits well with the aspiration of CEENQA to be a quality hub for the region and assisting QA bodies in the Central and Eastern Europe to build internationally recognized EQA systems.

Member activities continue to strive, as is documented also in this latest version of the CEENQA newsletter and is evidence for a viable membership organization.

We are looking forward to hearing from you/seeing you in the very near future at our reunions

Thanks for your continued support,  
**Iring Wasser**



## Upcoming Events

**4-6 April** QUAERE kick-off meeting

**5-6 April** BIHTEK dissemination conference

**5 and 6 May 2016** Warsaw ECA training **Assessing the Quality of Internationalisation**

**9 and 10 May 2016** Cologne **Assessing Joint Programmes**

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

**June** ALICGN site visits

## Calendar

### April 2016

MO	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
				1	2	<b>3</b>
4	5	6	7	8	9	<b>10</b>
11	12	13	14	15	16	<b>17</b>
18	19	20	21	22	23	<b>24</b>
25	26	27	28	29	30	

### May 2016

MO	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
						1
2	3	4	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	7	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	11	12	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
16	17	18	19	20	21	<b>22</b>
23	24	25	26	27	28	<b>29</b>
30	31					

### June 2016

MO	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
		1	2	3	4	<b>5</b>
6	7	8	9	10	11	<b>12</b>
13	14	15	16	17	18	<b>19</b>
20	21	22	23	24	25	<b>26</b>
27	28	29	30			

## News from Members and Partners

### CEENQA Vice-President Ivan Leban appointed as Vice-Chair of ECA

On 4 December 2015 the ECA members have appointed **Ivan Leban (SQAA, Slovenia) as Vice-Chair of ECA**. Prof. Dr. Ivan Leban became Director of the Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency (SQAA) in 2013. He was Professor of Chemistry at the University of Ljubljana till 2012. From 2001 to 2005 he was Vice-rector of Ljubljana University. He is an evaluator of EUA IEP since 2006. In 2015 he was re-elected as Vice-President of CEENQA. (From ECA Newsletter December 2015)



### HAC to host ENQA Members' Forum

On **April 28-29**, the **ENQA Members' Forum** takes place in **Budapest**, hosted by the Hungarian Accreditation Committee. For details on the Forum please visit [the Events on the ENQA website](#).

The meeting was held at Hotel Mercure in the center of Budapest. Participants enjoyed dinner on **boat cruise along the Danube** and a **sightseeing tour of Budapest** after the meeting. See the online [Presentation](#) given by HAC at the ENQA general assembly in Dublin.





## SKVC News

On March 9-10, 2016, Director of Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (SKVC) together with Lithuanian state institution officers and representatives of social partners took part in a **meeting with European Commission** (EC) representatives in Brussels.

The meeting was carried out 2 weeks after the planned publishing date of the EC Staff working document Country Report Lithuania 2016.

"It was a great opportunity not only to meet EC representatives, ask questions and get answers, but also provide our opinion both regarding actions, that could positively affect Lithuanian economic growth potential and society welfare, and regarding the reasoning behind the EC report", – Nora Skaburskienė, director of SKVC, said.

In the area of education EC emphasizes that the number of people that have not graduated from secondary school is low and the number of students that get higher education is high. Therefore Lithuania is doing good progress in achieving the main "Europe 2020" strategy goal related to education.

The secondary education results could be improved if the means of the policy that was recently approved are applied, e.g. applying mandatory early phase education and care for children starting from 5 years old and development of country-wide pupil abilities assessment system.

It is also notable that it is mandatory to **improve the preparation of teachers and the usage of innovative training methods**. Teacher society gets older and it is getting harder to attract young people to choose teacher profession.

The low rate of reading, poor mathematics results and the low level of participation in the programs of primary preparation and education are mentioned.

Even though the rate of higher education graduates is high, the acquired competences often do not meet the needs of employers.

R&D infrastructure and resources are scattered which does not allow to achieve internationally recognized results.

Higher education institutions and science institutes are more focused on education and fundamental researches lacking orientation to promotion of innovation and cooperation with business.

A smaller part of adults take part in life-long education programs (5% compared to EU average - 10,7%).



## NCPA News



For 5 years NCPA together with the Guild of Experts in Higher Education and the journal Accreditation in Education has been carrying out a project "**Best Educational Programmes of Russia**". The goal of the project is to **identify study programmes which have achieved excellent results in professional training of specialists**.

During these 5 years over 9000 answers to the surveys have been obtained, among the respondents are rectors and vice rectors, leading scholars, deans, heads of departments, representatives of educational and methodological associations, certified experts, leaders of major industrial companies and regional employers.

The project on education quality evaluation was launched in 2010, and by now the **5th round has been completed**. It is important to know that the project has been in constant development from stage to stage.



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In the first four rounds the evaluation model was based on the opinion of people who were interested in the quality of Russian education. The evaluation was intentionally based on the assessment by a wide range of stakeholders through internet surveys.

2015 is a **turning point in the project development**. First of all, the methodology of selecting the best educational programmes has been changed. For the first time independent assessment of learning outcomes has been taken into consideration, that is the achievements of the programmes' students have become part of evaluation.

Within the framework of the project an analysis of international, national and regional Olympiads, contests and competitions has been made.

3439 study programmes from 554 Russian HIEs were **recognized as the best programmes, which made up 13, 62% of the total** number of programmes.

The results of each round of the project with the list of the best programmes are published in annual reference books "The Best Educational Programmes of Innovative Russia" (2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 and in 2015 the reference book was for the first time published in English). The Internet version of the reference books is available at [www.best-edu.ru](http://www.best-edu.ru); [www.moeobrazovanie.ru](http://www.moeobrazovanie.ru); [www.akvoabr.ru](http://www.akvoabr.ru).



## ASHE re-accreditation of doctoral study programmes

The Agency for Science and Higher Education **started the process of re-accreditation of doctoral study programmes**. The process was driven by the findings of thematic evaluation carried out in 2013 and 2014 which showed that it was necessary to undertake activities to improve the quality assurance system at the doctoral level. All doctoral study programmes should be accredited during 2016 and 2017, and this year re-accreditation will be carried out in the **technical, biotechnical, natural science and biomedical fields**.

The primary goal of the re-accreditation of doctoral study programmes is to ensure that the higher education qualifications that award the academic title "doctor of science" reflect study programmes of high quality, which are internationally comparable and aligned with minimal legal conditions. Re-accreditation will make sure that all the doctoral study programmes in Croatia meet the minimum requirements, and that the academic titles "doctor of science" and "doctor of arts" reflect the degree of knowledge and skills equivalent to the highest level of higher education. In addition to checking the legal requirements, re-accreditation includes an external quality assessment by internationally renowned experts, experienced in quality assurance at the doctoral level and recognized for their research excellence, as well as the adoption of a final positive or negative outcome, that is, decision for each programme.

The evaluation criteria were developed by the Agency in 2014 and 2015 in cooperation with the academic community and public universities.

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## HAC Expert at IQAA in Astana, Kazakhstan

HAC program officer for foreign affairs and CEENQA Secretary General Christina Rozsnyai took part as an international expert in the accreditation of a Bachelor and a Master program in "Translation Studies" in Astana, Kazakhstan.

The work was commissioned by IQAA, a CEENQA member agency.

Following the two-day site visit, agency director Sholpan Kalanova gave a tour of the agency premises, where Christina also had a chance to meet some of the staff. The visit provided helpful insight into the organization of a partner quality assurance agency.

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## CEENQA Projects

### News on CEENQA Projects



In as far as our **ALIGN project (Achieving and checking the alignment between academic programs and qualification frameworks)** is concerned a project meeting took place in February in Poznan at which major decisions for the upcoming pilot evaluations in Ukraine, Russia and Armenia were made. Overall 18 programs are involved.

The next challenge will be the **pilot external evaluations of the 18 programs, 6 in Ukraine, 6 in Russia and 6 in Armenia**. The panels will consist of 2 EU members from EU partner universities, 1 EU member from CEENQA, 1 member from the quality assurance agency for the host country, 2 locals from the host university, 1 student/recent graduate/alumni from one of the aligned academic programs and 1 employer/external stakeholder. Furthermore during the meeting it was agreed upon inviting external observers to attending the site-visit meetings for it will be beneficial to the overall learning impact. **Site-visits will take place in June and September 2016**. Upon the receipt of the final report the HEIs will embark on revision of the newly developed tools and mechanisms in the internal and external quality assurance.

Regarding the **BIHTEK project (Benchmarking as a tool for improvement of higher education institution performance)**, the final quality monitoring visits were conducted from 14-18 March 2016 by Nora Skaburskiene (SKVC) and Stefanie Lochbaum (ASIIN). Although there were some major delays at the beginning of the project the prolongation has helped to close the gap and the project has had a major impact in the development of **the 8 Universities in Bosnia & Herzegovina**. The final report of the quality monitoring visit will also be uploaded to the CEENQA website as one of the outcomes. A **final conference** for dissemination of the results and sharing the lessons that universities have learned will take place on **05-06 April 2016**. End of the project will be 14 April 2016.

Moreover finally there has been an agreement on the kick-off meeting for the new project **QUAERE (Quality Assurance System in Ukraine: Development on the base of ENQA standards and guidelines)**. It will take place on **04-06 April 2016** where a major framework for the project will be discussed.

Last but not least **several project applications with CEENQA as partner** have been handed in. The outcomes will be published in our next newsletter.



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## Partner Workshop

### ECA trainings in May 2016

In May ECA will be organising two trainings: **“Assessing the Quality of Internationalisation”, 5 and 6 May 2016, Warsaw**. This training suitably prepares participants for the assessment of the quality of internationalisation in the framework of the ECA Certificate for Quality in Internationalisation (CeQInt).

**“Assessing Joint Programmes”, 9 and 10 May 2016, Cologne**. This training prepares participants regarding the assessment of joint programmes, with special emphasis on the use of the European Approach for QA of Joint Programmes.

For more information please visit <http://ecahe.eu/register-eca-trainings-may/>.

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