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Newsletter

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CEENQA News

The Annual **General Assembly Meeting 2019** of the members of the Central and Eastern Network of Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (CEENQA) will take place in **Kyrenia, North Cyprus**. The Meeting will be hosted by the Higher Education, Planning, Evaluation, Accreditation and Coordination Council (**YÖDAK**), North Cyprus.

Kyrenia is a city on the northern coast of Cyprus, noted for its historic harbour and castle. Kyrenia is a cultural and economical centre, described as the touristic capital of Northern Cyprus. It is home to numerous hotels, nightlife and a port. Kyrenia has always been governed by the sea. Its natural harbour, once coveted by anyone with dreams of empire and bustling with traders and exporters, is today just as popular with visitors whose only desire is to stroll the seaside strand and hop on a boat cruise around the bay. It hosts an annual culture and arts festival with hundreds of participating artists and performers and is home to three universities with a student population around 14,000.



Message from the President

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

First of all, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to all the representatives of member agencies present to our May meeting in Tirana, for my election as CEENQA president. It is, at the same time, a great honour and a high responsibility, and I just want to express my determination to dully fulfill all obligations in this new position. However, this is clearly a joint effort, engagement from the Board members being needed, but also the support of all member agencies.

A new vice-president has also been elected in Tirana, **Duska Radmanovic**, head of Quality Assurance and International Cooperation Department at HEARS (BiH Republica Srpska), and three new members to the board: **Franci Demšar** from the Slovenian Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (SQAA), **Jolanta Silka** from the Latvian Quality Agency for Higher Education and **Stefan Handke** from the Accreditation, Certification and Quality Assurance Institute (ACQUIN - Germany), whom agreed to take the responsibility of treasurer. **Achim Hopbach**, the Managing Director of the Austrian Quality Assurance Agency (AQ Austria), has been reelected for the second mandate in the board. The new secretary general of the network is **Jessica Sabban**, who serves as project manager for international and European projects at the German Accreditation Agency ASIIN.

Our special thanks are going to **Nora Sakburskienė**, the former president, and to **Marleen Roggan**, the former secretary general, for their commitment, work and contribution brought to growing CEENQA's role and achievements. I wish them every accomplishment in their professional and personal life. Our meeting in Tirana meant not only interesting and meaningful presentations, held by **Karl Dittrich**, President of EQAR, **Christina Rozsnyai**, ENQA board member, and the CEENQA members, but also an opportunity to spend together an agreeable time at the seaside, exchanging views and ideas about quality assurance. For the entire organizational effort, program and activities, we need to thank **Prof. Dr. Dhurata Bozo**, director of Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education in Albania (ASCAL), and all members of ASCAL team. We are already looking forward to the next year meeting, which will be generously hosted by North Cyprus Higher Education Planning, Evaluation, Accreditation and Coordination Council YÖDAK. We have to reflect already on the most appropriate topics for the workshop that will take place before the General Assembly.

Secondly, I'm happy to announce that we have three new members: The Eurasian Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Health care (ECAQA - Kazakhstan), as full member, the Association for Evaluation and Accreditation of Nursing Education Programs (HEPDAK – Turkey) and Central Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (ZEVA - Germany) – with observer status. We welcome them to CEENQA, wishing that our collaboration will contribute to their growth and further development. CEENQA is now counting 34 agencies from 21 countries, and is expecting to receive new members in the near future. The network has now a new website: www.ceenqa.org, that gives a new and improved image to CEENQA, although if it is still in the process of being populated. We invite all interested parties to visit our website, and, at the same time, we welcome



suggestions of improvement from the members. To further promote CEENQA's role, values, progress, activities, results, the info will be updated regularly on the website, and a leaflet with general information and overview of the activities will be distributed to relevant events. The membership brochure will be updated at a certain point, to include the new members.

Currently, CEENQA is running a single project - the QUAERE project, aiming at improving the internal and external quality assurance system in the Ukraine. Project cooperation and collaboration is an important tool for exchanging ideas and experience, to update, innovate and ultimately change, especially in the quality assurance area. In order to do so, CEENQA is open to participate in any partnership scheme financed by EU or other international or national organization. The staff exchange program should also be continued and extended.

Finally, I am inviting you to read the news from ENQA, as well as from our members: The Agency for Science and Higher Education Croatia, the Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education ARACIS, the Association of Evaluation and Accreditation of Nursing Education Programs (HEPDAK) and the Nursing Education Association (HEMED) as well as from the Evaluation Agency Baden-Wuerttemberg (evalag). You are also invited to respond to EUA's call for papers for the European Learning & Teaching Forum 2019, as well as to the EQAF 2018 registration and call for contributions. I hope that you will find the information from the 2018 Paris European Higher Education Area (EHEA) Ministerial Conference interesting and relevant for your field of activity. I'm wishing you all a fine summer and nice holidays, and I hope that you will be able to spend as much time as possible with your families. Looking forward to "seeing" you all next fall, active in different quality assurance events and activities, and most important within CEENQA!

Wishing you a fruitful summer,

Cristina Ghițulică

President of CEENQA



Upcoming Events

06 September 2018: ASIIN Annual Meeting. The meeting will inform the participants about the latest changes in the German Accreditation System (Programme- as well as System Accreditation) (Düsseldorf, Germany)

26-28 September 2018: QUAERE Project Final Meeting (Kiev, Ukraine)

Spring 2019: CEENQA General Assembly (Kyrenia, North Cyprus)

News from Members and Partners

ASHE News



Workshop for communications experts in Higher Education Institutions held

Strategic planning of communication activities, communication of institutional identity and values, identification of target groups and design of targeted messages were key topics discussed at the workshop on Communication Activities Planning at Higher Education Institutions, held on Friday, 18 May 2018, at the University of Zagreb. The event was organized by the Agency for Science and Higher Education in cooperation with the University of Zagreb and EUPRIO association - [European Universities Public Relations and Information Officers](#).

„[Standards and guidelines for quality assurance](#) (ESG) in the European Higher Education Area clearly indicate that Higher Education Institutions have the obligation to publish clear, accurate, objective, valid, and easily accessible information about their activities and study programmes. “Having realized the importance of this complex topic, this workshop was organized to encourage Higher Education Institutions to recognize the importance of communication within their entire work as institution and its recognition”, said director of ASHE Prof. Jasmina Havranek, PhD, during the opening of the conference. About fifty communications professionals from Croatian HEIs and other employees of HEIs involved in public relations and/or internal communication activities attended the lectures given by Paul Helbing, Director of Communications of the Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences on the topic of linking target groups with the academic profile of an institution, and in the second part of the workshop prof. dr. sc. Majda Tafra Vlahović spoke about the creation of a communications strategy.

ARACIS News



ARACIS is actively implementing the project improving public policies in Higher Education and enhancing the quality of regulations by updating quality standards (QAFIN)

The Romanian Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ARACIS) is implementing, as partner, the project “Improving public policies in higher education and enhancing the quality of regulations by updating quality standards (QAFIN)”, coordinated by the Ministry of National Education – The



Unit for the Management of Externally Financed Projects and co-financed by the European Social Fund (ESF) through the EU Operational Programme "Administrative Capacity" 2014-2020. The implementation period of the project is of 36 months.

The aim of the project, that is running between May 2017 and May 2020, is the achievement and implementation of evidence-based public policies in the field of financing of Higher Education Institutions, through the enhancement of regulations regarding external quality assurance and classification and ranking in Higher Education. Also, the project aims at the improvement of administrative capacity of the Ministry of National Education and of ARACIS, by adapting structures, optimizing processes and training human resources, and enhancing the use of transparent public consultation mechanisms that ensure citizen participation in decision-making and by applying European best practices.

The activities are implemented with **technical assistance from the World Bank experts**. **The main results** of the project are: a [Study on data and good practices](#) at European level regarding quality assurance and classification in higher education, as well as on the impact of current practices, at national level; improved methodologies and guidelines for external quality assurance, classification of universities and ranking of study programmes; updating internal regulations and procedures for ARACIS, as well as ARACIS staff trainings.

One of the outputs already worked-out by the World Bank experts is the [draft Methodology for the development of a classification of universities in Romania and ranking of study programmes](#). The first version of the draft Methodology was submitted in December 2017 and was followed by the second version, submitted in April 2018, that incorporates feedback given by a variety of stakeholders.

Public consultations were conducted in mid June 2018 in 5 university centers from Romania, with the view to ensure transparency and receive feedback from relevant stakeholders of the Higher Education system, such as academics, students, the National Council of Rectors as well as representatives of employers and trade unions. During these events, participants had the opportunity to debate aspects related to classification of universities and ranking of study programmes, such as the difference between classification and rankings, advantages emerging from classification of Romanian universities, concerns related to the classification process, indicators that are considered to be most relevant at system level as well as aspects related to preset rankings compared to user-driven ones. Regarding the envisaged advantages of classification of Romanian universities, the following points were highlighted during public consultations: need for transparent information regarding Romanian universities, focused on their specific characteristics, enhancing credibility of Romanian higher education by endorsing regulations related to classification of universities, enhancing national and international visibility of universities, enrollment of an increased number of students, improvement of university management, as well as creation of a database to offer access to information on classification. The respondents underlined the crucial role of ARACIS as project partner.

Public consultations will be further conducted by the means of an **online questionnaire**, which is expected to be available in early July on the websites of the Ministry of National Education and ARACIS.

More details: www.aracis.ro/en/projects/qafin/



ENQA News

ENQA General Assembly designates KAA as Member under review

During ENQA's April General Assembly meeting, members approved the Board's earlier decisions to renew the membership of the Estonian Quality Agency for Higher and Vocational Education (EKKA), the National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation of Spain (ANECA), and the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (NEAA, Bulgaria). The Commission for Accreditation and Quality Assurance (CAQA, Serbia), was granted Member under review status.

The General Assembly also approved the Board's proposal to designate the Kosovo Accreditation.

Agency (KAA) as Member under review. This designation is in response to concerns that were raised regarding the agency's independence, and thus its compliance with the ESG, following the September 2017 dismissal of the Board and Director of KAA by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Kosovo.

The Association further endorsed the granting of affiliate status to the Accreditation Agency Curaçao (AAC) and the Accreditation Council for Entrepreneurial and Engaged Universities (ACEEU, the Netherlands).

ENQA helps bring quality dual education programmes to Asia

The European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) is a partner in the EU-funded [Towards Excellence in Engineering Curricula for Dual Education \(TEEDE\)](#) project.



The TEEDE project consortium met at Tomsk Polytechnic University in June

Within the TEEDE framework, European partner universities are sharing their experiences implementing dual education programmes (sometimes called alternance training, where students alternate periods at school and on the job) with Higher Education Institutions in Cambodia, China, India, and Russia. While ENQA is responsible for carrying out the project's quality plan, it is also



responding to a need from non-European partners, as they develop and pilot dual education programmes in their own institutions, to share recommendations and good practices relating to the quality and quality assurance of dual education programmes in Europe.

Of the information shared already, partners have found the Commission des titres d'ingénieur's (CTI) standards and guidelines (called "[références at orientations](#)") helpful, as well as examples of evidence that are collected during CTI's external reviews. [The Quality Code's indicators of sound practice for managing higher education provision with others](#) (Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, United Kingdom) and the European Network for Accreditation of Engineering Education (ENAAE) [EUR-ACE® Framework Standards and Guidelines](#) have also been useful. [ENQA](#) invites institutions and agencies with experience in dual education programmes to share their good quality practices for further dissemination to TEED project partners.



HEPDAK News

Impressions on the symposium "The Future of Nursing Education: Accreditation, Standards, Best Practice Samples" 19-20 June 2018 Izmir-Turkey. The Symposium was organized by the Association of Evaluation and Accreditation of Nursing Education Programs (HEPDAK) and Nursing Education Association (HEMED).

Association of Evaluation and Accreditation of Nursing Education Programs (HEPDAK) and Nursing Education Association (HEMED) which has been working to contribute to the improvement of nursing education in Turkey, organized a symposium on "**The Future of Nursing Education: Accreditation, Standards, Best Practice Samples.**" The event was kindly and generously hosted by Ege University Nursing Faculty in Izmir on **19-20 June 2018**. This symposium was born of a need arising in the direction of applications, inquiries and requests made to these associations from many schools.

During this symposium programme, the challenges in nursing undergraduate education, areas that need improvement as well as the accreditation process and current developments in education were discussed. Symposium explored "The Future of Nursing Education: Accreditation, Standards, Best Practice Samples with a number of higher education experts as speakers. Sessions also were planned on "consult the specialists" to answer questions about the accreditation process and guiding sessions for nursing undergraduate program directors and nurse academicians who intend to be accredited.

During this symposium, more than 230 nurse academicians, nursing faculty deans and nurses as participants had the opportunity to share their experiences and ideas on nursing education. Consequently, the symposium was a fruitful one and reached its goals. The participants expressed their satisfaction and could get new knowledge of best practices.

The first day program started with a welcoming note and the opening speeches of director of HEPDAK (Prof. Dr. Gülseren Kocaman) and director of HEMED (Prof. Dr. Hülya Okumuş) and continued with a nice ceremony and 16 HEPDAK Evaluators were honoured with a certificate of appreciation. The two day program continued with the sessions. The details of the event can be found on the next page.



First day 19 June 2018

Conference: Case Study on Nursing Education Practices Chair persons: Prof. Dr. Kadriye BULDUKOĞLU, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Elif ÜNSAL AVDAL,

Session 1: Practices and Targets in Nursing Programs

Chairpersons: Prof. Dr. Zeynep CONK, Ph.D. Lecturer. Member. Fahriye VATAN

10:50 - 11:10 Learning Objectives of Clinical Practice in Nursing Programs

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Fatma ORGUN

11:10 - 11:30 Living Difficulties Related to Implementation Targets and Evaluation in Accreditation Process

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ayla KEÇECİ.

Consult the specialists (Accreditation Standards 1-2)

11:40 - 12:40 Prof. Dr. Ayla BAYIK TEMEL, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ayla KEÇECİ, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Şenay ÜNSAL ATAN (Standart 2)

Session 2: Efficient Use of Skill Labs

Chair persons: Prof. Dr. Ayfer KARADAKOVAN, Prof. Dr. Yasemin TOKEM

13:40 - 14:00 Skill Laboratories: Living Problems and Solution Suggestions

Prof. Dr. Ayten ZAYBAK

14:00 - 14:20 Standardized Patient and Simulated Patient Use in Skill Training

Research Asst. Hale SEZER

14:20 - 14:40 Skill Laboratories with the perspectives of nursing students

Student nurse Şebnem ÖZCAN

Consult the specialists (Accreditation Standards 3-4)

15:20 - 16:00 Prof. Dr. Hülya KAYA (Standart 3) Prof. Dr. Perihan GÜNER (Standart 3), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dilek ÖZMEN (Standart 4)

Dual conference : Preceptoring for nursing students in clinical practice

Chairs : Prof. Dr. Fisun ŞENUZUN AYKAR, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hatice MERT

16:00 - 16:20 Preceptoring / Qualifications / Standards of Nursing Education Practices

Prof. Dr. Hülya OKUMUŞ

16:20 - 16:40 Example of a Training Program for Clinical preceptoring of nursing students

Prof. Dr. Ayişe KARADAĞ

Consult the specialists (Accreditation Standards 5-6-9)

16:50 - 17:50 Prof. Dr. Zeynep ÖZER (Standart 5), Prof. Dr. Nadiye ÖZER (Standart 6) Assoc. Prof. Dr. Emine TÜRKMEN (Standart 9)



Second day 20 June 2018

Dual conference : Program Evaluation; Principles, Models, Processes

Chair persons: Prof.Dr.İnci EREFE, Prof.Dr.Gülseren KOCAMAN

09:00 - 09:20 Prof. Dr. Berna MUSAL

09:20 - 09:40 Assoc. Prof.Dr. Ayşe Hilal BATI

Panel discussion: Examples of Best Practice in Undergraduate Nursing Education

Chair persons: Prof. Dr. Sevgi HATİPOĞLU, Assoc. Prof.Dr. Dilek ÖZMEN

10:20 - 10:40 Continuous improvement in nursing education programs

Assoc. Prof.Dr. Yurdanur DİKMEN

10:40 - 11:00 Measuring and evaluation of nursing education programs

Assoc. Prof.Dr. Handan ZİNCİR

11:00 - 11:20 Blended learning

Prof. Dr. Aynur UYSAL TORAMAN

Conference : Student-Centered / Experiential Learning

Chair person: Prof. Dr. Ayla BAYIK TEMEL

13:30 - 14:30 Prof. Dr. Mustafa ÖZCAN

Areas Needing Improvement in Nursing Education in Terms of HEPDAK Standards

Chair persons: Prof. Dr. Ümit SEVİÇ, Prof.Dr.Şeyda SEREN İNTEPELER

15:00 - 15:20 Lifelong Learning Strategies in Nursing Education

Prof. Dr. Hülya KAYA

15:20 - 15:40 Student Centered Education and Training Technologies

Dr. Yusuf YILMAZ

15:40 - 16:00 Student-Centered and Lifelong Learning with the perspectives of nursing student

Research Asst. Selin DEMİRBAĞ

16:00 - 16:10 Discussion

16:10-15:20 Questions and discussions , Closing Remarks



EUA News

European Learning & Teaching Forum 2019: Call for papers

The call for papers is now open for the European Learning & Teaching Forum 2019 '[Towards successful learning: Common ground and controversies](#)'.

The Forum, organised by the [European University Association \(EUA\)](#) and hosted by the University of Warsaw, Poland, on 14-15 February 2019, seeks to explore how to engage and empower students and teachers in developing their learning and teaching. During the event, paper sessions will provide opportunities for more detailed discussions about research, policy initiatives and practical case examples of how to ensure successful learning through promoting active learning, supporting teachers in developing their teaching skills and progressing in their careers, and evaluating learning and teaching.

EUA is therefore seeking proposals for papers from leadership and management in Higher Education Institutions, academic staff, researchers, students, policy makers and other interested stakeholders in the field. Each selected paper will allow one reduced fee to attend the Forum.

For more information about the call and the Forum itself, please consult [the event webpage](#). The deadline to submit papers is 12 October 2018. The full programme and registration information for the Forum will be available this autumn.

For any questions, please contact LTForum@eua.eu

EQAF News

Register now for EQAF 2018

Registration is now open for the 2018 European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF), which will take place on 15-17 November 2018 in Vienna, hosted by WU (Vienna University of Economics and Business) and AQ Austria

EQAF is the largest annual gathering of the European Higher Education Quality Assurance (QA) community. This year's Forum will explore how institutions and QA agencies can build QA systems that encompass a broad range of activities, including learning and teaching, research, governance and administration, and service to society.

Registration information, the preliminary programme and practical information are now available on the [EQAF website](#). The programme will be updated throughout the summer and you can stay up to date with the latest news by following [@EQAF](#) on Twitter. The deadline for the early-bird registration fee is October 1, 2018. After this date, late registration fees will apply. However, we encourage you to register as soon as possible as





capacity is limited and registrations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

About EQAF

EQAF has been co-organised by [ENQA](#), [ESU](#), [EUA](#) and [EURASHE](#) since 2006. The Forum aims to bridge national boundaries by facilitating a Europe-wide discussion on current trends and forthcoming developments in research, policy and practice. EQAF provides a unique opportunity to share experiences and network with a wide range of stakeholders, including representatives from Higher Education Institutions and QA agencies, students, researchers and policy makers from across Europe and beyond.

EHEA News

New developments within the European Higher Education Area

The **Ministerial Conference** of European Higher Education Area Countries, which is currently encompassing 48 countries participating at the Bologna process, **took place in Paris**, between **May 24 - 25, 2018**. The conference is including the Bologna Policy Forum, having as objective to foster dialogue and cooperation between EHEA and non-EHEA countries.

The Ministerial Conferences are taking place every two or three years, with the objective to evaluate the progress that has been made in the implementation of the Bologna Process, as well as to discuss and decide the next steps to be adopted for the future. Between the conferences, the Bologna Follow-up Group (BFUG), which includes delegations from all member countries, but also from the European Commission and other consultative members and partners, is the body in charge with monitoring the process and taking forward the matters delegated by the ministers. Among other things, BFUG is preparing the Bologna Process Implementation Report – The [European Higher Education Area in 2018](#), a valuable instrument for countries to know where they stand and where to go in terms of reforms in Higher Education area.

In 2018, quality assurance remains a core value of EHEA, as a tool for increasing mutual trust, mobility of students and teaching staff, as well as for a fair recognition of qualifications. Consequently, the Paris Communiqué decided the founding of a structured peer support approach based on solidarity, cooperation and mutual learning, one of interest areas being quality assurance in compliance with the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area. I believe that all CEENQA countries, members of EHEA, should register to become part of this peer learning group, as a major opportunity for sharing experience and learning from each other.

More information regarding the decisions taken at the Paris Ministerial Conference, the messages of consultative members such as ENQA or EQAR can be found on the [website with the conference documents](#).



evalag News

The European Commission funded Lifelong Learning project IMPALA ("Impact Analysis of External Quality Assurance of Higher Education Institutions"), which was led by evalag (see also <https://www.evalag.de/en/research/impact-analysis/the-project>), has recently been completed by a special issue of European Journal of Higher Education (EJHE, 2018, Vol. 8, No. 3). The issue includes nine articles written by altogether 19 authors coming from seven European countries. The articles deal with theoretical and empirical issues on impact analysis of quality management in universities and also comprise case studies from universities in Finland, Germany, Romania and Spain.

CEENQA Projects

News on CEENQA Projects

Regarding the project **QUAERE (Quality Assurance System in Ukraine: Development on the base of ENQA standards and guidelines)**, the development of criteria for reviewing degree programmes and development of a template for the Self-Assessment-Report (SAR) has been completed. A training workshop was organised in Greece in May 2017 in order to prepare eight Ukrainian universities to develop their Self-Assessment-Reports based on the criteria for selected degree programmes. The CEENQA members ACQUIN (Germany), AIKA (Latvia), ANQA (Armenia) and ASIIN (Germany) have conducted **the piloting visits in May and June 2018**. CEENQA's tasks are completed now. We would like to thank all colleagues who took part in the project for their dedicated work and effort. The project is going to be completed during the final meeting in September 2018 in Kiev.