

ENQA update to the Bologna Follow-Up Group, 2-3 October 2007

1. Introduction

The present document updates the BFUG on the current developments in the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) since the BFUG meeting in Berlin of 5-6 March 2007.

2. Activities related to Bologna Process

ENQA has participated actively in the work of the E4 Group (ENQA, ESIB, EUA and EURASHE). Following the adoption of the final report on the Register by the London Bologna ministerial meeting, the E4 organisations have set up a working group on developing the practicalities of implementation of the European Quality Assurance Register in Higher Education (EQAR). ENQA has applied for, and will manage, the EC grant for setting up the Register. ENQA has also been involved in the Steering Group of the Quality Forum 2007, to be held in Rome in November.

3. External reviews of ENQA member agencies

ENQA's membership criteria require that its members should undergo an external review on a five-yearly basis. These are normally organised through national arrangements but, if this is not possible or the agency so requests, they can also be co-ordinated by ENQA.

Several ENQA member agencies will have undergone a national review by the end of 2007 and around ten reviews have been scheduled for 2008. Most of the ENQA member agencies have started planning for a review and have informed the ENQA Board accordingly. Three ENQA-coordinated reviews have been organised in 2007 and three requests for an ENQA-coordinated review have been received for 2008. ENQA has the capacity of coordinating 2-3 reviews annually.

The ENQA Review Committee has developed appropriate procedures to manage the scrutiny of increasing number of review results.



4. Workshops and seminars

The annual ENQA General Assembly was held in Oslo on 20-21 September 2007 and was hosted by the ENQA member Norwegian Agency of Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT).

The Higher Education and Training Awards Council (HETAC) hosted an ENQA Workshop on Quality Assurance and Qualifications Frameworks on 7-8 June 2007.

ENQA will also organise two regional seminars on the current trends in the European Quality Assurance in November, one in Sofia, Bulgaria, hosted by the National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency (NEAA), and the other in the Vatican City, hosted by the recently established Agency for the Evaluation and Promotion of Quality in Ecclesiastical Faculties (AVEPRO).

5. Projects

In addition to the three ongoing ENQA coordinated reviews (AQA, AQU and ANECA), ENQA is conducting a Quality Procedures Project in order to update the survey on Quality Procedures in European Higher Education (2003).

6. Publications

ENQA arranged for the layout and publication of the E4 report for the London Ministerial meeting. ENQA will shortly publish a workshop report on Quality Assurance and Qualifications Frameworks.

7. Networking

ENQA participated in the first meeting of QA regional representatives in conjunction with the INQAAHE conference in Toronto in April 2007. This is scheduled to take place on an annual basis and will provide opportunities for ENQA to establish deeper relationships with QA agencies and networks around the world.

