

## ENQA report to BFUG, 28-29 August 2012, Nicosia

### ENQA Highlights since the Ministerial Conference 2012

#### *Revision of the European Standards and Guidelines*

ENQA, together with the other E4 organisations, Education International, Business Europe, and EQAR has started the process of preparing a first proposal for the revised European Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in Higher Education to the BFUG as mandated by the Ministers in Bucharest in April 2012. The revision of the ESG will be one of the most important tasks of ENQA in the coming year.

#### *New ENQA project on “Transparency of European higher education through public quality assurance reports”*

ENQA has secured funding from the European Commission for a project on “Transparency of European higher education through public quality assurance reports”. The aim of the project is to develop European standards for quality assurance reports and thus to improve the capacity of QA to provide transparent and accessible information to stakeholders.

The project will map the current publication practices, explore the different needs of stakeholders for transparent and comparable information, develop standards for different types of quality assurance reports in the EHEA, and evaluate whether a European template for quality assurance reports is feasible. The project shall result in recommendations to quality assurance agencies on the content and form of informative and approachable quality assurance reports.

The project is carried out by ENQA in cooperation with three ENQA member agencies. It will be implemented between October 2012 and September 2014.

#### *ENQA Working groups*

To respond to the needs of its member agencies and to help fulfill its mission, ENQA has established five working groups on quality assurance of **lifelong learning, excellence in higher education, the impact of quality assurance, involvement of stakeholders in QA, and staff development in QA agencies**. The working groups are open to all ENQA members and

affiliated bodies, and have met with great interest, with each workshop being attended by between 10 and 25 participants. A number of surveys, information collection, and analyses will take place in the coming months and results will be shared with the BFUG in due course.

#### *Recent ENQA events*

The **ENQA Members' Forum**, took place in Paris on 23-24 April 2012. The main themes discussed at this event were the impact of QA, independence of quality assurance agencies, and the perspectives of the Bologna Process after the Bucharest 2012 Ministerial meeting.

In early May 2012 ENQA organised a **workshop on "Development of QA procedures and alignment to the ESG"** in Belgrade, Serbia. In addition to agencies in the Balkans, the event targeted and was attended by several new agencies across Europe. The purpose of the workshop was to support the effort of these agencies in aligning their procedures to the ESG, and thus to progress on the path to ENQA full membership.

The **6th ENQA training of experts for external reviews** took place in May 2012, in Córdoba. The experience gained over the last years on the use of the ENQA membership criteria in the external reviews of ENQA member agencies, and the parallel use of the European Standards and guidelines (ESG) as the criteria for EQAR listing, emphasised the importance of experts being well prepared for the agency reviews. ENQA will continue to train external experts and will only use trained experts for all ENQA coordinated reviews. The 7th training of experts will take place in Mannheim, Germany, in September 2012.

The annual ENQA **Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) Seminar** has held in June, in Valladolid. The theme of this year's seminar was "Assessing impact – Using external reviews and evaluations for internal learning". The seminar created the opportunity to present the results of an "impact survey" completed beforehand by ENQA member agencies "General principles of IQA", "The Internal Impact of External Reviews" and "Assessing Impact of Evaluations for Internal Learning", and to share experiences between agencies on these issues.

#### *Latest publications*

In June ENQA published the **2011 IQA Seminar report "Internal Quality Assurance and Benchmarking"**. The report presents a general overview of benchmarking in IQA and discusses common features and differences of the benchmarked agencies' IQA activities in performance indicators, follow-up on feedback, and staff competence/development.

In April ENQA published an **occasional paper entitled "Quality Procedures in the European Higher Education Area and Beyond – Visions for the Future"**. The publication is the result of the third ENQA survey on quality procedures of quality assurance agencies across Europe and beyond. It presents a collection of current features of good practice in external quality assurance, highlighting the connection between the practices and the expected benefits for higher education institutions and stakeholders.

The publications are available in PDF on the ENQA website: <http://enqa.eu/pubs.lasso>.

### *ENQA President*

The President of ENQA Achim Hopbach was appointed as **Director of the Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria (AQ Austria)** and started in this role on the 16<sup>th</sup> of July 2012.