

Report to the Bologna Follow-Up Group (BFUG) meeting on 28/29 August 2012

1. This report updates the BFUG on developments related to EQAR since the last BFUG meeting on 19/20 March 2012 in Copenhagen.

Admissions to the Register and Renewals

2. The Register Committee convened for its first meeting in 2012 on 4/5 May in Munich. The Swiss Centre for Accreditation and Quality Assurance (OAQ) was admitted to the Register. The Register now includes 28 quality assurance agencies.

3. The Committee also approved applications by AQAS and FIBAA (both Germany) for renewal of their inclusion on the Register for further five years.

See also:

www.eqar.eu/register/search.html

Recognition of Registered Quality Assurance Agencies

4. According to a new law adopted by the Flemish parliament, higher education institutions in the Flemish Community of Belgium may opt for their accreditation review to be carried out by any EQAR-registered agency.

5. Kazakhstan has established a new national register of accreditation agencies. Higher education institutions may seek accreditation by any agency from the new register. Agencies from EHEA countries can be included on the national register subject to being registered on EQAR.

Merger Policy

6. The Register Committee adopted a specific policy addressing mergers of registered quality assurance agencies, in the light of several such mergers being planned or ongoing in the EHEA.

7. Registered agencies that have merged may remain on the Register for up to two years, during which the new, merged agency will have to undergo an external review against the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG).

8. This provisional registration is subject to strict conditions and requirements, and will only be open to cases where all quality assurance agencies involved have already been registered. Registration will be limited to those quality assurance activities and procedures that have been reviewed against the ESG.

See also:

<http://www.eqar.eu/publications/official.html>

Ministerial Conference

9. The Strategic Priorities and Follow-Up to the External Evaluation of EQAR were published together with the EQAR Annual Report 2011 and made available to delegations at the Bucharest Ministerial Conference.
10. The key messages were presented in an additional Message to Ministers that was distributed at the conference.
11. The Ministers' agreement to "allow EQAR-registered quality assurance agencies to perform their activities across the EHEA, while complying with national requirements", will be an important contribution to realising EQAR's strategic priority to enhance international trust and recognition of registered agencies.

General Assembly and Membership

12. The second part of the 6th EQAR General Assembly took place on 20 March after the BFUG meeting. Members took note of the report by the Register Committee (part of the Annual Report 2011), agreed on the Plan of Work 2012-2013, approved the annual accounts 2011 and the budget for 2013.
13. Turkey was welcomed as a new Governmental Member at the General Assembly. 29 European governments are now members.
14. The General Assembly elected a new Executive Board for a two-year mandate. Board members will be assuming the following functions until the General Assembly in 2013:

President:	Lesley Wilson (EUA)
Vice-Presidents:	Maria Kelo (ENQA) and Allan Päll (ESU)
Treasurer:	Stefan Delplace (EURASHE)

15. The General Assembly also approved the nominations to the Register Committee for the period July 2012 – June 2014. Anca Prisacariu replaced Tanel Sits (nominated by ESU), while all other members were re-nominated. The composition of the Register Committee is available at:

<http://www.eqar.eu/about/register-committee.html>

2nd EQAR Members' Dialogue

16. The 2nd EQAR Members' Dialogue will take place on 11/12 October 2012 in Bucharest. This event is open to all governmental and stakeholder members of EQAR.
17. This year's Members' Dialogue will focus on discussing a strategic plan for EQAR, based on the strategic priorities agreed by the EQAR General Assembly in January 2012.

13 August 2012