

ENQA Working Group on e-learning

To respond to the interest in many agencies to develop quality assurance procedures for e-learning provision, the ENQA Board has decided to establish a related working group.

Background and purpose of the working group

While 91% of the institutions surveyed for EUA's [2014 e-learning study](#) have integrated e-learning (whether in the form of distance learning, blended learning, problem-based learning, lectures, work-based learning, or simulation) into conventional teaching and 82% admit to offering online learning courses, the quality assurance of such provision has been given far less consideration, particularly in the realm of external quality assurance, where the authors suggest there is an apparent shortcoming, citing that only 23% of national QA agencies give special consideration to e-learning.

Although it is clear that the ESG 2015 apply equally to all modes of teaching and learning and, furthermore, it has been argued that incorporating e-learning-specific aspects and criteria does not necessarily require a revision of assessment frameworks, there is a need (according to the [2009 ENQA workshop report](#)) for improved methodological development within QA agencies.

The ENQA working group on e-learning aims to address the challenges associated with the alternative learning and teaching methods that ICT creates by exploring and sharing the ways in which QA agencies have begun to conduct themselves in this area. ENQA's attention to this issue follows considerable urging from participants at its [2015 workshop](#) in Barcelona and recommendations from stakeholders in the [e-learning community](#), while contributing to [one of the six priorities](#) within the strategic framework for European cooperation in Education and Training (ET2020), adopted at the November 2015 Education Council.

Kick-off meeting

The task of the working group will start with a kick-off meeting in which the members of the working group will discuss and agree on the expected outcomes of the working group and to formulate a structured and well defined work plan not to exceed two years.

The kick-off meeting is anticipated to take place in Brussels at the ENQA Secretariat in September 2016.

Financing of the working group

The working groups of ENQA are self-financing. Agencies are responsible for the payment of travel and hotel costs of their representatives/staff members in the working groups. The meetings will be hosted by the ENQA Secretariat or, if desired, by agencies taking part in the working group. The costs of the venue and catering will be covered by the host.

Expressions of interest

All members and affiliates who are motivated and willing to fully commit to the undertaking are invited to consider and eventually put forward expressions of interest to participate in the working

group on e-learning. The expressions should be **sent to the Director of the ENQA Secretariat Maria Kelo (maria.kelo@engq.eu) by 31 July 2016.**

The ENQA working group on e-learning will be formed from among the expressions of interest, with particular consideration given to the members' amount of expertise and/or experience with regard to the quality assurance of e-learning (a point which should therefore be elaborated in the expression of interest).

The working group will remain open for further expressions of interest after the first working group meeting has taken place.