Biographies of the Speakers

P. Friedrich Bechina

P. Friedrich Bechina is a Doctor in Dogmatic Theology from Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. In 1996 he became an ordained Priest in Pastoral Service, and taught in Feldkirch, Austria until 2001. Since 2001 he has been in the service of the Holy See (Congregation for Catholic Education), and since 2005 in charge for international relations of the Holy See in the field of higher education. He has served as a representative of the Holy See in the Bologna Process, the Council of Europe, the UNESCO Recognition Conventions and in various international organisations and initiatives regarding education and higher education. He is a member of the drafting groups for the Asia-Pacific, the African and the Global Convention for recognition of UNESCO, as well as of expert committees for higher education policy at the Council of Europe and other international organisations. He was appointed as the Undersecretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education by Pope Benedict XVI in February 2013.

Caty Duykaerts

Appointed director of AEQES in 2008, Caty Duykaerts is responsible for designing and implementing external evaluation procedures in Belgian French-speaking higher education (universities, university colleges, art schools and conservatories, and adult education centres). AEQES underwent external reviews in 2011 and 2016. Both reviews contributed to the further development of the agency and granted it ENQA membership. Committed to the field of quality assurance (ENQA Board member and Vice-President), member of EURASHE Working Group on Quality, member of the Steering Committee of the European Quality Assurance Forum (EQAF), co-founder of the French-speaking network of QA agencies), she was previously a language teacher in adult education and ran a large adult education centre in Brussels. Since 2016, she is the ENQA representative in the Harmonisation of African Higher Education Quality Assurance and Accreditation (HAQAA) Initiative, where she has been drafting the African Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ASG-QA) and a review methodology for agency reviews.

Ana Elena Guerrero

Ana Elena Guerrero holds a PhD focused on eLearning and technology by the Open University of Catalonia (UOC). She has a Bachelor in Pedagogy from the Ramon Llull University and is specialist in online education. She is Associate Professor at the Psychology and Educational Science department at UOC since 2001. She is a member of the Digital Literacy area which provides a compulsory subject related with a set of ICT competencies in all university Bachelor’s degrees. She has participated in several national and international research projects related with the teaching and learning process in distance learning environments. She focuses her research on the design of technology enhanced systems for online teaching and learning processes, focusing in the e-assessment and feedback issues through the TEKING research group (http://teking.uoc.edu/). She has developed an adaptive learning path system for online Higher Education that respond to users’ needs from both personal and educational perspectives using ICT.
She is the TeSLA (An Adaptive trust-based e-assessment System for Learning) project coordinator (H2020 European Project, Ref. EC: 688520) where her role is related with the management of the project as well as the definition of the e-assessment framework for educational institutions behind the project.

Esther Huertas, PhD, received her qualification as Agronomist Engineer from the Polytechnic University of Catalonia and her B.S. (Food Science and Technology) and M.S. (Environmental Sciences) degrees from the University of Barcelona. She has also received her Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering from the University of Barcelona. In her first appointment, she served as a researcher at the University of Barcelona and followed her professional activity as an assistant professor at the University of Barcelona for three years. She began to collaborate with AQU Catalunya as a student expert at TEEP II project, and in 2006 she got a position at the Agency. She is currently the work package leader of quality assurance in online higher education in TeSLA project and the Chair of ENQA’s working group on e-learning. Previously, she has been involved in virtual programme evaluation at the Open University of Catalunya.

Tia Loukkola is Director of Institutional Development at European University Association (EUA). In this capacity she has overall responsibility for the EUA’s activities that aim to support member universities in developing their institutional capacity in quality assurance, doctoral education and learning & teaching. In the field of quality assurance this includes the management of EUA’s Institutional Evaluation Programme, the European Quality Assurance Forum and various projects run by the association as well as representing EUA at European level policy discussion, including E4 collaboration. Before joining EUA in April 2008 she worked at the University of Turku in Finland for ten years in various capacities both in faculty and central administration. She holds a Master’s degree in French language and culture from the same university.

Dr. Dominic Orr is a British national, who has a doctorate in comparative education from the Technical University of Dresden. For over a decade he worked for the German Centre for Higher Education and Science Studies (DZHW) as senior researcher and international project leader on higher education governance and conditions of student life (project EUROSTUDENT). Currently he is Senior Researcher at FiBS-Research Institute for the Economics of Education and Social Affairs in Berlin, where he is, inter alia, leading a new study for the German government on the shape of higher education in 2030.

Paula Ranne is the Deputy Director of the ENQA Secretariat. She is responsible for several statutory and planning duties of the association, as well as for coordinating ENQA’s involvement in projects on various themes, such as the EU-funded HAQAA Initiative. She worked for ENQA in Helsinki, Finland, in 2008-2011 and joined the association again in 2014, following its relocation to Brussels, Belgium. Before rejoining ENQA, she worked in Finland in positions relating to higher education and science policies in all academic fields. She holds a master’s degree in social sciences.
Colin Tück is the Director of the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR). He has been working for EQAR since October 2007, initially as Project Manager on behalf of its founding members (ENQA, ESU, EUA, and EURASHE). He was a member of the Steering Group for the revision of the Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance in the European Higher Education Area (ESG) and is a co-author of the European Approach for Quality Assurance of Joint Programmes. Prior to joining EQAR, he was involved in quality assurance-related topics as a member of the European Students’ Union’s (ESU, formerly ESIB) Bologna Process Committee and of the Executive Board of the National Union of Students in Germany (fzs).

Aurelija Valeikienė is the Deputy Director at the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (SKVC), Lithuania since 2004. In this capacity, she oversees activities of recognition of foreign qualifications and implementation of external quality assurance. She served as a member of the ENQA Board, and was in several working groups, including on staff development, linking quality assurance and recognition of qualifications, internal quality assurance and knowledge of ESG Part 2 and Part 3. She contributed towards the revision of the methodology of ENQA Agency Reviews, and is an ENQA expert for external reviews of quality assurance agencies. She also served as Honorary Treasury, then President of the Network of Central and East European Accreditation in Higher Education Agencies (CEENQA). She was the Lithuanian delegate to the pan-European working group on structural reforms (encompassing such themes as quality assurance, qualification frameworks, recognition of qualifications, transparency instruments) at the Bologna Secretariat. Currently she serves in the BFUG Advisory Group to support Belarus in the roadmap to EHEA. She has worked as an expert locally and internationally in various projects and as a speaker in events, upon invitations from the Council of Europe, the World Bank, European Commission, European Training Foundation, and Europe-Asia Foundation.