

ENQA Seminar – Quality Assurance in the European Context 14-15 June 2018

Biographies of the Speakers



Pieter Caris

Pieter Caris studied Biology at the KU Leuven (Belgium) and got his PhD in Science (Botany) from the same university. From 2006 till 2009, he worked as a staff member in the Educational Support Office of the Faculty of Science at KU Leuven, where he contributed to the implementation of student-centered learning, innovative teaching and learning strategies and a project on peer-assisted learning. In 2010, he was appointed as Study Programme Advisor and coordinator of the Student Administration Office at the Science Faculty of the University of Antwerp (Belgium). In September 2015, he was seconded to NVAO, initially focusing on the development and implementation of the pilot round of institutional reviews in Flanders. Since the end of the pilot, he is involved in the development of the new QA system with institutional reviews in Flanders.



David Crosier

David Crosier joined Eurydice, the European Commission's education information network, in September 2008. He is responsible for coordinating the network's reports and activities on higher education and has been involved in the production of the Bologna Implementation Reports published in 2012, 2015 and 2018. Before joining Eurydice, he worked for the European University Association where he was responsible for a variety of projects focusing on different aspects of implementation of the Bologna Process.



Karl Dittrich

Karl Dittrich is the President of the European Quality Assurance Register for Higher Education (EQAR) since 2017. He started his career as a political science researcher and lecturer in Leiden, Florence and Maastricht. He chaired the Executive Board of the University of Maastricht from the 1990s until the early 2000s. He was the inaugural chairman of the Dutch-Flemish Accreditation Organisation (NVAO) from 2005 to 2012. In that capacity, he also held functions on the ENQA Board and in the European Consortium for Accreditation (ECA). As VSNU Chairman, he has also sat on the Council of EUA. He was Chair of the Association of Universities in the Netherlands (VSNU) until October 2017.



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.



Klara Engels-Perenyi

Klara Engels-Perenyi is a Policy Officer at the European Commission. In the higher education policy unit of the Directorate-General for Education and Culture she is responsible for the policy areas of quality assurance and the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS). She is coordinating a working group of ministry officials on the Modernisation of Higher Education, which supports member state reforms to maximise the potential of higher education systems to provide high quality higher education, increasing Europe's innovation capacity and contributing to growth and jobs.



Adam Gajek

Adam Gajek is the Vice President of the European Students' Union (2017/18), and a former member of the Executive Committee of ESU. His main focus lies in the area of quality of higher education, with an emphasis given to quality assurance, prior learning recognition and meaningful students' participation in HE governance. He is a member of the Steering Committee of the ESU Quality Assurance Student Experts' Pool and a former QA expert of the Polish Accreditation Committee (PKA). He has been engaged in the students' movement for many years, formerly served as an International Officer of the Students' Parliament of the Republic of Poland (PSRP) and an elected representative of the Students' Union of the University of Warsaw. He has an academic background in economics and political science. He has been elected as the President of ESU as of 1 July 2018.



Agnė Grajauskienė

Agnė Grajauskienė joined the ENQA Secretariat in October 2015. As ENQA's Reviews Manager, she is mainly responsible for the ENQA-coordinated external reviews of quality assurance agencies. She is also responsible for the training sessions for agency reviewers and for the coordination of an ENQA working group in charge of the internal quality assurance of the agency external review process (ENQA-IQA). She previously worked as Senior Officer for the Centre for Quality Assessment in Higher Education (SKVC) in Lithuania. She also has experience working as an external evaluator of project proposals for mobility in the field of higher education under service contracts with the Education Exchanges Support Foundation in Lithuania. She holds a master's degree in legal psychology from Mykolas Romeris University.



Tove Blytt Holmen

Tove Blytt Holmen, Master of Science in Dairy Technology, has been working in higher education since 1976. In the beginning as a teacher and researcher, then as an administrator – Director of Studies – at the Norwegian University of Life Science. After a one-year intermezzo as Director of division for higher education, Ministry of Agriculture, she became the first Director of external quality assurance of Norwegian Higher Education at the predecessor of NOKUT (The Network Norway Council) in 1998. In 1999 – 2004 she also joined the first ENQA steering committee. She was again elected as an ENQA Board member in 2012 and will leave this position in October 2018 when her term ends. Through the years she has represented ENQA and NOKUT in a variety of arrangements, even talked about quality assurance in Japan. She has contributed in reviews and evaluations as well as to the training of quite a few reviewers both in Norway and in ENQA. She has stepped down from the position as a deputy director in NOKUT and is currently a senior advisor at the agency until she retires next spring.



Esther Huertas

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.



Maria Kelo

Maria Kelo is the Director of ENQA, the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (since 2011). Her tasks within ENQA include: to manage the work of the ENQA Secretariat, act as Secretary to the ENQA Board, support and coordinate ENQA member agencies, manage projects, and represent the association. She previously worked as Senior Officer for the Academic Cooperation Association, where she was actively involved as an expert in higher education policy developments and reforms at national and European level (Bologna, ET2010); higher education internationalisation and international cooperation; mobility; student services and attractiveness of European higher education; trans-national education. She is a graduate of University College London and London School of Economics.



Tia Loukkola

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.



Paula Ranne

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

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).