

Note from the President

Dublin, 18 December 2014

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to send you the last “Note from the President” of 2014 in order to update you about current developments within ENQA; the outcomes of the General Assembly hosted by the Agency for Science and Higher Education (ASHE) in Zagreb on 16-17 October 2014, as well as the main decisions of the ENQA Board in our meetings on 15 October and 26 November 2014.

1. ENQA General Assembly 2014 recap

The General Assembly Forum on 16 October discussed the draft ENQA Strategy for 2016-2020, the SEQUENT project dealing with the quality assurance of ICT-supported learning, as well as the revision of the ENQA external review process.

The findings of the KP3 Working Group were also presented. The group’s main task was to analyse the compliance of QA agencies with part III of the ESG, and the group examined the self-evaluation reports and the review reports with positive outcomes of 24 QA agencies (as well as three negative reports) that underwent an external review between 2010 and 2013.

In the morning of the General Assembly of 17 October, a breakfast meeting was arranged for CEOs of ENQA Members and Affiliates. It included a presentation on the ENQA publication *The Concept of Excellence in Higher Education*.

During the General Assembly, members endorsed the admission of three new agencies:

A3ES - Agency for Evaluation and Accreditation of Higher Education, Portugal

KAA - Kosovo Accreditation Agency, Kosovo

Unibasq - Agency for the Quality of the Basque University System, Spain

The General Assembly endorsed the renewal of full membership for seven agencies:

AAC-DEVA - Agency for Quality Assurance in Higher Education and Research of Andalusia, Spain

ACSUG - Agency for Quality Assurance in the Galician University System, Spain

AHPGS - Accreditation Agency for Study Programmes in Health and Social Sciences, Germany

AQ Austria - Agency for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Austria, Austria

CTI - Commission des Titres d’Ingénieurs, France

IEP - Institutional Evaluation Programme

QQI - Quality and Qualifications Ireland, Ireland

Additionally, members endorsed the decision to grant **NEAA** (National Evaluation and Accreditation Agency, Bulgaria) the status of “**Full member under review**” and endorsed the decision to admit the following new ENQA affiliates:

NCFHE - National Commission for Further and Higher Education, Malta
UK-Ämbetet - The Swedish Higher Education Authority, Sweden

These changes brought ENQA’s membership total to 43, and our affiliates now number 48.

The General Assembly approved the work plan and budget plan for 2015 and decided to leave the membership fee for 2015 (the same fee as 2014) – at €4,635 annually. The affiliate fee was also kept the same and it amounts to 2,317 € per annum.

Furthermore, the General Assembly was informed that, beginning on 1 October 2014, ENQA has become a mixed-VAT taxpayer, which means that ENQA is required to pay and charge VAT for some of its activities while being exempt for others. This new status has no impact on ENQA’s membership fees, but it means that fees collected from ENQA-coordinated reviews are now subject to VAT. ENQA members are encouraged to inform the Secretariat (at secretariat@enga.eu) about their VAT numbers in order to arrange any financial transactions accordingly (such as membership fees).

At its November meeting, the Board discussed the results of the General Assembly feedback survey. Suggestions and comments concerning logistics of the programme and election were shared, and we aim to address your criticisms and observations in the future as best we can. As always, we sincerely appreciate your time and involvement.

2. ENQA Board 2014-2015

The General Assembly elected new members of the Board on 17 October, 2014.

I (Chief Executive of Quality and Qualifications Ireland, QQI) was re-elected to the ENQA Board and also re-elected as President. Christoph Grolimund (Director of the Swiss Centre of Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education, OAQ) was re-elected to the ENQA Board; he and Helka Kekäläinen (Head of Unit for the Finnish Education Evaluation Centre, FINEEC) were elected Vice Presidents. Teresa Sánchez Chaparro (Executive Director of Commission des Titres d’Ingenieur, CTI) was elected to her first term as an ENQA Board member and she was also chosen as Treasurer.

At the Board meeting following the General Assembly on 26 November, the ENQA Board approved the co-option of Christina Rozsnyai (Programme Officer for Foreign Affairs, Hungarian Accreditation Committee), an expert in quality assurance of higher education, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe. Her term as a full Board member began with immediate effect and lasts until the General Assembly in 2015.

The Board’s composition is now as follows:

Padraig Walsh President	Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI)
Helka Kekäläinen Vice-President	Finnish Education Evaluation Council (FINEEC)
Christoph Grolimund Vice-President	Swiss Center of Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Higher Education (OAQ)
Teresa Sánchez-Chaparro Treasurer	Commission des Titres d’Ingenieur (CTI)

Tove Blytt Holmen	Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (NOKUT)
Caty Duykaerts	Agency for Evaluation of Higher Education Quality in the French Community of Belgium (AEQES)
Rafael Llavori	National Agency for Quality Assessment and Accreditation of Spain (ANECA)
Anthony McClaran	Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA), UK
Daisuke Motoki	Foundation for International Business Administration Accreditation (FIBAA), Germany
Christina Rozsnyai	Hungarian Accreditation Committee (HAC), Hungary - <i>co-opted Board member</i>

Finally, during the 2014 General Assembly, ENQA bid farewell to its outgoing Board members, Josep Grifoll (AQU Catalunya) and Aurelija Valeikiene (SKVC).

3. Membership and affiliate issues

At the October meeting, the Board agreed on a procedure for agencies whose membership expires during the first half of 2015 and who plan to undergo an external review according to the revised ESG (rather than the current ESG), which awaits approval at the Yerevan Ministerial Conference in May 2015. The transitional arrangements have been posted on the ENQA website and are available here: <http://www.enqa.eu/index.php/reviews/transitional-arrangements-for-enqa-reviews-in-light-of-the-revised-esg/>.

Also in October, the ENQA Board reconfirmed the full membership of VLUHR (Belgium's Flemish Council of Universities and University Colleges – Quality Assurance Unit).

At its November meeting, the Board granted full membership to NCPA (National Centre of Public Accreditation, Russia) and reconfirmed the full membership of evalag (Evaluation Agency of Baden-Württemberg, Germany).

Additionally, the Board acknowledged a change in French law which transferred the property, rights, and obligations formerly possessed by ENQA member AERES (Evaluation Agency for Research and Higher Education, France) to HCERES (the High Council for the Evaluation of Research and Higher Education, France).

4. Events and activities

The Members' Forum will take place in Córdoba, Spain on 16-17 April 2015 and will be hosted by the Andalusian Agency of Knowledge, Department of Evaluation and Accreditation (AAC-DEVA). Further information about the programme and registration will be announced in January. The General Assembly will be hosted by Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI) on 22-23 October 2015 in Dublin, Ireland. **Mark your calendars!**

In November, the ENQA Board approved a complaints policy in order to appropriately respond to concerns from individuals or organisations relating to 1.) a full member's compliance with the ESG or 2.) the integrity of the external review and decision-making process on the basis of which an agency

was admitted as a full member of ENQA. The policy was published online and is available here: <http://www.enqa.eu/index.php/enqa-agencies/members/full-members/enqa-complaints-policy/>.

5. European and International Cooperation

The revised version of the ESG, which was endorsed by the Bologna Follow-Up Group in September (but still awaits formal approval at the Yerevan Ministerial Conference in May 2015) has been published. It is available here: <http://www.enqa.eu/index.php/revised-european-standards-and-guidelines-esg-endorsed-by-the-bfug/>. The statutes of ENQA will need to be changed in due course as the membership criteria must correspond to the ESG; the Board has already begun discussion concerning this topic. ENQA will, together with the E4 group, promote the revised ESG and the underlying principles among policy makers in the Bologna Follow-up Group (BFUG) meetings both leading up to and following their expected adoption in May 2015.

ENQA will continue to participate as a consultative member in the BFUG and continue to be involved in BFUG working groups on internationalisation and mobility, reporting, and structural reforms, and in the future structures to be established after the Ministerial Conference in May 2015.

6. Committees and Working Groups

During its November meeting, the ENQA Board decided on the composition of the four external review sub-committees, whose job it is to assist the Board with the decision-making process and to make recommendations to the Board with regard to ENQA membership. The members include:

Scrutiny Committee A	Helka Kekäläinen Anthony McClaran Tim Wenniges (BusinessEurope)
Scrutiny Committee B	Caty Duykaerts Christoph Grolimund Teresa Sanchez
Scrutiny Committee C	Tove Blytt Holmen Daisuke Motoki Radu Damian (ARACIS)
Scrutiny Committee D	Christina Rozsnyai Rafael Llavori Achim Hopbach (AQ Austria)

In 2015, ENQA will continue to promote and facilitate discussions and sharing of experiences in key areas of QA and the operations of QA agencies through its working groups on the following topics:

- ENQA's 4th Quality Procedures Project (QPP) on the internationalisation of QA agencies
- Impact
- Excellence
- KP3 - Knowledge on Part 3 of the ESG
- Staff Development
- QA and Recognition (new)

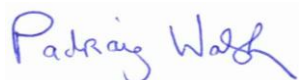
7. ENQA meetings and events

13 January	Brussels	KP3 Working Group meeting
23 January	Brussels	Excellence Working Group meeting
23 January	Macau	QACHE Regional Forum
6 February	Brussels	QPP meeting
6 March	Brussels	ENQA Board meeting
16-17 April	Córdoba	ENQA Board meeting (morning of 16 April) ENQA Members' Forum
16 June	Brussels	ENQA Board meeting
15 September	Brussels	ENQA Board meeting
21 October	Dublin	ENQA Board meeting
22-23 October	Dublin	ENQA General Assembly
19-21 November	London	European Quality Assurance Forum
24 November	Brussels	ENQA Board meeting

The next issue of the ENQA newsletter will be published at the end of January. Those wishing to submit contributions are requested to do so (by email to secretariat@enqa.eu) by **12 January 2015**.

On behalf of the ENQA Board and Secretariat, we wish you all the best during the holiday season and very much look forward to working on your behalf in the year to come.

Yours sincerely,



Padraig Walsh
President of ENQA